

## ~ Our Pastor's Message ~

Happy Easter! We can be happy even in this different experience of Easter. We can be thankful that God is still with us. Celebrating Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil will be a prayerful experience. While I know that many of you join our Jesuit Community spiritually, still I will miss your smiles, seeing the children all dressed up and, of course, the hugs that usually accompany such celebrations. Easter is here among many deaths and much suffering, but Easter, the time of hope and new life, is here.

My plan is to celebrate Easter Sunday with the Eucharist and later a bit of chocolate, snacks between meals, and maybe a slice of pie or cake. But after Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, my plan is to return to my Lenten penance of not eating between meals and no sweets until the stay at home request is lifted. I cannot control the outcome of this virus situation, I cannot control the number of those getting sick or the number of deaths around the world, but I can continue to ask God to have mercy on his people and to show God that I believe in his power to save. For me this Lent is not over until this Covid-19 has been addressed. Because we love Jesus and know that he suffers with and for each one of us, we need to continue to pray, and to make our feeble sacrifices as a way of joining our sufferings to His.

We have been told that this week the death toll from Covid-19 in New York will reach its peak, then hopefully the number of deaths will begin to decrease. But this wave of deaths and peaks will move across America and the world before this danger is beyond us. Our faith in Christ, our pleading for the mercy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus can help to bring about lower peaks and a quicker end to all this evil.

God is with us and we need to stay focused on God, on the good of our neighbor, and the good of our world. Together with Jesus, our faith will move our world to a better place. With God, who is good all the time, all the time is good the end of this virus will soon be at hand, AMEN and HAPPY EASTER! I love you all and pray that you stay safe. Hallelujah!

*Warren J. Broussard SJ*

Fr. Warren J. Broussard, SJ, Pastor



SUNDAY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS  
The Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord  
~ April 12 ~

First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 10: 34a, 37-43*  
Peter preaches about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23*  
Rejoice in this day of the Lord.

Second Reading: *Colossians 3: 1-4:* Having been raised by Christ, be concerned with what is above.

Gospel Reading: *John 20: 1-9*

Mary of Magdala finds that the stone has been removed from Jesus' tomb.

Background on the Gospel Reading: Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because, in first-century Jewish society, women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen. (It is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body.)

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the

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SUNDAY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS  
The Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord ~  
April 12 ~ continued

disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

FAMILY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS  
The Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord  
~ April 12 ~

In the Easter Gospel, we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we, too, might receive this gift of faith from God.

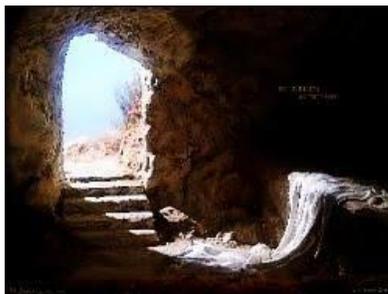
Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these:

- ✧ If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think?
- ✧ What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened?

Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118:

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.*



*Holy Week Online Resources:*

[THE EASTER TRIDIUM](#) (Dan Schutte, composer & musician, St. Louis Jesuits)

[ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE HOLY WEEK](#)

[America Magazine | The Jesuit Review](#)

Where you can live-stream Jesuit Masses every day of the week: <https://americamagazine.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=638077ef72a53c785713d1aa2&id=80c496c060&e=a78cfd72ee>

Join us as we offer a special presentation of the Gospel, Passion and Resurrection narratives.

<https://americamagazine.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=638077ef72a53c785713d1aa2&id=83281bff5&e=a78cfd72ee>

Coronavirus ethics begins with a recognition of our limitations: <https://americamagazine.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=638077ef72a53c785713d1aa2&id=c1c4ac2021&e=a78cfd72ee>

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network: Join the Jesuit community in as we pray the Rosary for those most vulnerable to this virus. Complete the Rosary on your own time with our guide: [www.jesuits.org/coronavirus-rosary](http://www.jesuits.org/coronavirus-rosary)

**AN EASTER PRAYER**

Through the resurrection of Jesus,  
God has redeemed us and made us his children.

May God bless us with joy.

**Amen.**

Our Redeemer has given us lasting freedom.

May we inherit everlasting life.

**Amen.**

By faith, we rose with Jesus in baptism.

May our lives be holy,  
so that we will be united with Jesus for ever.

**Amen.**

May almighty God bless us,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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