

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



HAPPY EASTER! Happy Easter! Or as most other languages prefer: Blessed Pasch—Passover! Pasqua, Pascua, Páscoa, Pâques! Israel's Passover through the Red Sea to the Promised Land! Jesus' Passover through the Cross to resurrection! Our catechumens' Passover last night, and ours once upon a time, through Baptism's waters to our family's Eucharist! Welcome, everybody! As someone once said of the Catholic Church, "Here comes everybody!" So in this Jubilee, we make our own Saint John Chrysostom's Easter welcome from fourteen hundred years ago: "Let everyone enjoy this radiant feast! You who fasted from Lent's beginning, and you who didn't fast at all, rejoice! The table's richly set! Come, take from it, everybody, no worries, no embarrassment! All of you, taste the banquet of faith! Enjoy the feast of forgiveness! Let no one grieve for having sinned again and again: pardon has risen from the tomb!" Happy Easter! Blessed Pasch! Welcome, everybody!

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REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

I can remember as a child being afraid of the dark. Not all the time—just usually after seeing a horror movie. For nights after, I would peer into the darkness, trying to make sure there was nothing out there. Even as an adult there have been times when I walked through a dark place feeling an uneasiness that was hard to shake.

Easter in the Gospel of John begins in the dark. Night still holds the earth in its embrace. Darkness also gripped the hearts of Jesus' followers—the darkness of grief, sorrow, and hopelessness. Jesus of Nazareth—who had preached in a way no one else ever had, who had worked deeds of great power by curing the sick, healing lepers, giving sight to the blind, lifting up the lame, and who had even called the dead back to life—had been crucified and laid in the tomb. A large stone had been rolled in front of the entrance, death's final punctuation mark.

Only John tells us there was a garden where he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. From this garden God decided to begin creation anew, so while it was still dark God breathed once again into a human figure, and the new Adam was raised up and would never die.

Not all darkness is to be feared. Sometimes it may even be

necessary, summoning God to create once again, dispelling the shadow of death and despair that can settle over the human heart.

—James A. Wallace, C.S.S.R.

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Celebrate the Baby by Helping Babies!

The parish will be collecting baby items during the month of April to donate to the Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center.

► **BABY DONATIONS to include:**

- Diapers – Sizes 4-6, Wipes,
- New or gently used Baby Clothes, preferably 12 months and up,
- Baby Lotions, and Baby Shampoo.

You can bring your donations to any of the Masses.

¡Celebra al Bebé ayudando a los bebés!

La parroquia estará recolectando artículos para bebés durante el mes de abril para donarlos al Centro de Crisis de Embarazo de Mujeres.

► **DONACIONES PARA BEBÉS para incluir:**

- Pañales - Tallas 4-6, Toallitas húmedas,
- Ropa de bebé nueva o poco usada,
- preferiblemente de 12 meses en adelante,
- Lociones para bebés y Champú para bebés.

Puedes llevar tus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas.

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

next Sunday, April 27th

EXTRAORDINARY GRACES

What graces are available and how do we receive them? In her Diary, St. Faustina records a special promise given to her by Jesus. He told her to communicate it to the whole world:

In three places in her Diary, St. Faustina records our Lord's promises of specific, extraordinary graces:

I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy (1109).

Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (300).

The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (699).

● To receive these graces, the only condition is to receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday (or the Vigil celebration) by making a good confession beforehand and staying in the state of grace and trusting in His Divine Mercy.

Fr. Josh will be available for confession at Immaculate Heart, from 12 noon-6pm; with Adoration during that time as well.



Holy Saturday, April 19th 8:30PM-IHM

For the People of Nolan County

Easter Sunday, April 20th

8:30AM - Grupo Misionero y en acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de José Aguayo, Luz Cano, Aurora Ruiz, Erick y Omar Rico; Por el bien estar de familia Solis Solis

11:00AM – In thanksgiving for the birthdays of Joclyn Madrigal, Sandra Kelly, Carmen Wilson, Roberto y Raquel Acevedo; +Ezequiel, Albina, Delia y Teresa Gonzalez; Rafael y Concha Acevedo

Tuesday, April 22nd 9:00AM - HF

+Miguel Ortiz, Tomasita Alcaras, Alfonso, Sara & Benjamin Gonzales

Wednesday, April 23rd 6:30PM-IHM

For the conversion and well-being of Miguel Angel Aguirre

Thursday, April 24th 9:00AM - HF

+Vicky Soto

Friday, April 25th 9:00AM - HF

+Marcelina Martinez

Saturday, April 26th -

5:00PM-IHM – +Maria Morales & Carlos C. Guerrero & Rodolfo Morales; In thanksgiving for Victor, Jr. and Stephanie Rubio’s birthdays

Sunday, April 27th

8:30AM – Por la gente de Nolan County

11:00AM – +Vicky Soto, Si & Gloria Acuña; In thanksgiving for Nellie Fontaine and Cassie Saenz’s birthdays

April 12/13, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$5689.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1509.59
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$7198.59

Thank you for your generosity

NOTE: MASS CHANGES –

- Beginning Sunday, June 22, 2025, the 8:30AM Spanish Mass will be moved up to 8:00AM
- Mass will be celebrated @ Holy Family at 9:30AM beginning June 22nd and every 3rd Sunday of the month thereafter.
- No Sunday morning confessions on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Same schedule for the other weekend Masses.

CONGRATULATIONS to the children of our parish who received their First Holy Communion on Holy Thursday! May they continue to receive this greatest gift of love.

WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS to all who received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil Mass.

BLESSING OF BREAD – on Easter Sunday after both morning Masses; 8:30 & 11:00.

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION – to David Alvarez & the CCD Confirmation students who reenacted the Live Stations of the Cross on Good Friday; to the parents of the Confirmation Class -- thank you for bringing and sharing the food with all of us after the stations. We thank our choir, ministers, all who decorated our church, and everyone else who participated in any way for the Holy Week & Easter Liturgies.

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR CRS RICE BOWLS

WEDNESDAY – Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until 8:30pm @IHM.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE – The Guadalupana members will be selling Raffle tickets after the weekend Masses. Proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund. Applications are available in the parish office. Deadline is May 2nd.

MANUEL & REFUJIA HEREDIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP–Applications are available in the parish office. You must be a 2025 Graduating High School Senior and a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Sweetwater, Texas to apply. Deadline is April 25, 2025 by 6:00 p.m.

BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

- **CCD - NO CLASSES:** Sunday, April 20th – Easter
- CLASSES RESUME:** Wednesday, April 23rd; Sunday, April 27th

ULTREYA– meets Monday, April 21st, 7:00pm at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don’t have to be a cursillista .

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

April 26 – Grupo Misionero May 3 – Guadalupanas

ATENCIÓN! ¿Quiere aprender más sobre la fe? Entonces, está invitado a participar en las clases de catecismo para adultos en español. El curso comenzará a finales de abril y se prolongará durante todo el verano hasta que se hayan impartido todas las clases. La primera clase será miercoles 30 de abril, 2025, a las 7:00p.m. en el Salón de Inmaculado Corazón en 507 W. Alabama Ave. El catequista será Victor Rubio Jr. Note mas informacion en la entrada de la iglesia.

#25 – Blessing and Dismissal

It is normal for a parent to bless their children before they go on a journey. Now God offers his blessing to us before we journey out into the world. In the Old Testament, Isaac blessed Jacob before he died. Moses blessed Joshua before he died. And the journey began for Jacob and Joshua. Now it is our turn.

Jesus blessed his disciples before he ascended into the heaven. Now we receive that same blessing.

The word blessing means “good word.” The entire Mass is a conversation with God the Father in Jesus Christ. As we receive a blessing at the end of Mass, God speaks his Word to us and sends us into the world to speak His Word to others so that the Kingdom of Heaven may be present here on earth.

At this point in the Mass we have heard the Scriptures explained to us by the Lord, we have received the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, and now the Lord is sending us out as his messengers. What we received in Mass, we must now take out into the world. Just like we see a lit sign above the door that says EXIT, we are invited to get out of the Church. Get a move on! Not because the Church is a bad place, but because Christ wants us to go and preach the Gospel. Think of the story of the ascension. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles stood there looking at the sky, and Jesus had to send an angel to tell them to get a move on!

There are four dismissals that we might hear at the end of Mass. Go in Peace. Go in Peace glorifying the Lord by your life. Go forth the Mass is ended. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. Each dismissal begins with the word “Go.” We are commanded to go and work in the world. The word “Mass” is connected with the word “missile.” We are sent off like missiles into the world to transform everyone and everything we encounter. We do battle with the fallen world to restore everyone who is broken by sin to the loving power of Christ. We do not say, I don’t know what to say or how to do it. We let our Lord guide us as he sends us forth. “When they lead you away and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say. But say whatever will be given to you at that hour. For it will not be you who are speaking but the holy Spirit.” (Mark 13:11)

#25 - Bendicion & Despedida

Es normal que un padre bendiga a sus hijos antes de que salgan de viaje. Ahora Dios nos ofrece su bendición antes de que emprendamos nuestro viaje por el mundo. En el Antiguo Testamento, Isaac bendijo a Jacob antes de morir. Moisés bendijo a Josué antes de morir. Y el viaje comenzó para Jacob y Josué. Ahora nos toca a nosotros. Jesús bendijo a sus discípulos antes de ascender al cielo. Ahora nosotros recibimos esa misma bendición.

La palabra bendición significa “buena palabra.” Toda la Misa es una conversación con Dios Padre en Jesucristo. Mientras recibimos una bendición al final de la Misa, Dios nos habla su Palabra y nos envía al mundo para hablar Su Palabra a los demás para que el Reino de los Cielos pueda estar presente aquí en la tierra.

Hasta este punto de la Misa hemos escuchado las Sagradas Escrituras explicadas por el Señor, hemos recibido la presencia del Señor en la Eucaristía, y ahora el Señor nos envía como sus mensajeros. Lo que recibimos en la Misa, ahora debemos llevarlo al mundo. Así como vemos un letrero iluminado sobre la puerta que dice SALIDA, estamos invitados a salir de la Iglesia. ¡Apresúrense! No porque la Iglesia sea un mal lugar, sino porque Cristo quiere que vayamos y prediquemos el Evangelio. Pensemos en la historia de la ascensión. Después de que Jesús ascendió al cielo, los apóstoles se quedaron allí mirando al cielo, y Jesús tuvo que enviar a un ángel para decirles que se apresuraran.

Hay cuatro despedidas que podemos escuchar al final de la Misa. Vayan en paz. Vayan en paz glorificando al Señor con su vida. Vayan, la Misa ha terminado. Vayan y anuncien el Evangelio del Señor. Cada despedida comienza con la palabra “Vayan.” Se nos ordena ir y trabajar en el mundo. La palabra “Misa” está relacionada con la palabra “misil”. Somos enviados como misiles al mundo para transformar a todos y todo lo que encontramos. Luchamos contra el mundo caído para restaurar a todos los que están quebrantados por el pecado al poder amoroso de Cristo. No decimos, no sé qué decir o cómo hacerlo. Dejamos que nuestro Señor nos guíe mientras nos envía. “Cuando los lleven y los entreguen, no se preocupen de antemano por lo que van a decir. Pero digan lo que se les dé en esa hora. Porque no serán ustedes los que hablarán, sino el Espíritu Santo.” (Marcos 13:11)