

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Each year as we listen to the **Easter** story of **Jesus' Resurrection**, we are amazed as we ponder the true meaning of this miracle story. We all know that Jesus' Resurrection is one of the key central mysteries of our Catholic faith. We realize that **Jesus' Resurrection** gives meaning to our lives since it is **the** source of our **hope**. We are keenly aware that **Easter** is the day that Jesus snatched victory from the jaws of death, that the **Easter** miracle story vindicates Jesus' life and teachings and that **Easter** confirms **our** faith and trust in Jesus and His word. We also realize that **Easter** is not merely a miracle event that happened some 2000 years ago but rather **Easter** is also the power of God's constant amazing grace that is seen daily in our inner experiences of **newness of life**. **Jesus' Resurrection** is **the** sign of God's love and interest in our world. Jesus' Resurrection is **the** sign of God's generous gift of happiness and everlasting life for each one of us.

Jesus' Easter Story speaks to our hearts and spirits. This story also addresses our anxieties, disappointments, and fears depending on our life's circumstance and situation. Where we are on our journey to Calvary affects **what** we hear in the **Easter Story** and **how** we understand it. If we are celebrating the birth of a child or the safe return of a loved one, the "empty tomb" is the **assurance** of God's protection for us as we journey a dangerous road in the dark night. If we are lamenting and mourning the death of a loved one, the angel's question: "why do you seek the living Jesus among the dead" becomes the first light of **hope** that illuminates our broken heart with the promise that Jesus has brought our beloved one to His Father's dwelling place. If we are unemployed or struggling financially, the moving of the immovable stone blocking the entrance of the tomb is a sign of God's **grace** and **help** for us. With the stone rolled away, God extends His hand towards us, lifting us out of our despair, fear, hopelessness, and worry. God empowers us to realize our abilities and the resources that are available so that we can restore meaning and purpose to our life.

The **Easter** story begins in the darkness of the early morning as Mary Magdalene stands before Jesus' tomb. Mary senses the outside darkness surrounding her and feels the painful inner darkness within her heart as she mourns the death of her beloved Jesus. Mary is experiencing a void of hopelessness, a crushing sense of loss, and tremendous grief as she stands before Jesus' tomb. But in the midst of her pain and anguish she continues to hold on to her **faith**, having the courage to **hope** that the story of her beloved crucified Jesus is not yet over. Mary's faith and hope is realized when she eventually encounters the Risen Jesus and He reassures her that He is truly alive and that death could not contain Him.



Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 3	8:30 p.m.	George Donaldson
Sun Apr 4	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Apr 4	10:00 a.m.	In Thanksgiving
Sat Apr 10	8:30 p.m.	Jim Alt, Kathy Sehlhorst Len + Sally Rieman
Sun Apr 11	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Apr 11	10:00 a.m.	Jan Schulte, Beth Schroeder

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$1,975.00	Loose \$387.00
	Total	\$2,362.00
	46 envelopes returned = 23%	



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for April 10 & 11, 2021

Money Counters: Chad Wolford, Courtney Gerten

4:00 p.m.

Cantor:
Ushers: Dave and Shirley Siefker
Lector: Jason Swartzlander
E.M.: Jeanne Parinello
Servers: Evan Grothause

8:00 a.m.

Cantor:
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor:
Ushers: Mike and Rhonda Maag
Lectors: *Volunteer*
E.M.: Jim Tabler
Servers: Ethan Hoffman

Readings for April 11, 2021

Divine Mercy Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 4:32 – 35

2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1 – 6

Gospel Reading: John 20:19 – 31

