



ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH 31, 2024 / 31 DE MARZO 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9:00 AM-4:00 PM
*closed for lunch
12-1:00 PM*

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses:
8:00 AM in English
9:30 AM in Spanish
11:00 AM in English

DAILY MASS

9:00 AM
Monday-Saturday

MISSION

*The Mission of St.
Joan of Arc Parish is
to put Jesus first in
our lives by seeking
to know Him in
Scripture,
Encountering
Him in Prayer,
Celebrating His
Presence among us
in praise and worship
and uniting with one
another in loving
service.*



EASTER SUNDAY

He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Easter Gospel Reflection



Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, “Oh my God!” Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn’t joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn’t peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples’ shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

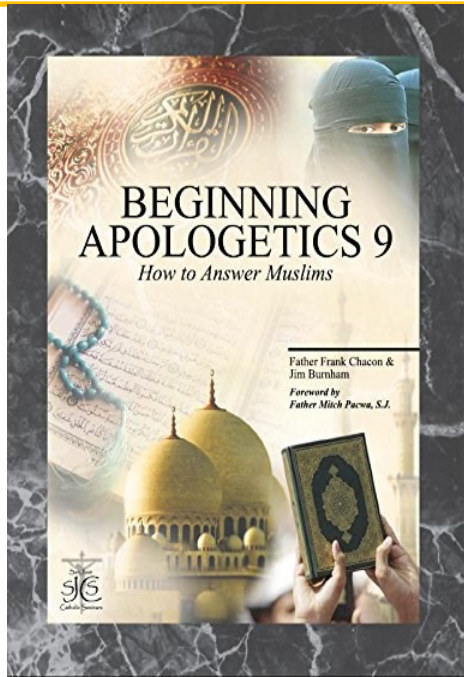
We all have our own places of the dead, too, don’t we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our “cemeteries” where we don’t expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

— Father John Muir

Happy Easter

BEGINNING APOLOGETICS WITH MARYJO WAGGONER!!

The course on Beginning Apologetics 9, How to Answer Muslims will begin on Thursday, Apr 4th, at 1pm. Mary Jo Waggoner will be the teacher. We will meet for approximately two months. You may purchase the book from Amazon.com.



Please return your Operation Rice Bowls to the containers located at the exits of the church. Thank you for your support, and don't forget to visit Deacon Tom's blog for weekly Gospel reflections and contemporary conversations at Deaconspod.com.

Our **St. Vincent de Paul Society**, are part of an International lay organization that was founded in France in 1833. We belong to the Hernando/Citrus District at St. Joan. The others are St. Frances Cabrini, St. Mary, St. Thomas, and St. Ann. We six Conferences are part of the National Southeast Regional Division. The six founding fathers agreed in 1833 to "do what is agreeable to God". Therefore we must do what our Lord Jesus did when preaching the Gospel. Let us go to the poor! And that is what we do. Please bring your food donations on Sundays and place in the bin by the front door. Your donations serve the needy in our area. Please be generous to those in need.



Prayer for the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit! Enlighten us! Embolden us!
Inflame us! Stir our hearts anew!

You have called us to live and minister in this time, in these spaces, to these souls. Set us on FIRE with fresh inspiration and sacred direction! Amen.

Father Pat's Gospel Reflection

There is a story with a happy ending about a man who was driving along the road. He saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting, but he could not do so. The basket of eggs and candy went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman pulled over and asked what was wrong. The man said, "I accidentally hit the Easter Bunny. Can you call the doctor?"

The woman said, "relax. Everything will be fine. This has happened so many times before. I know exactly what to do." She sprayed the Easter Bunny. Immediately he came back to life. The Easter Bunny was back to his normal self, ready to deliver his gifts to boys and girls across the world.

The man felt much better. The Easter Bunny said thank you and then left. The Easter Bunny then waved goodbye. The Easter Bunny kept on waving even as he went further and further away. The man who was totally amazed asked the woman what that stuff was that she sprayed on the Easter Bunny. She said, "It's hair spray and adds a permanent wave."

For many of our children, the Easter Bunny and his eggs and other delicacies are the most important things about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for adopting local cultural traditions and putting a Christian spin on it. For example the name Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon spring festival in honor of the goddess Easter. Her symbol was the rabbit, and the giving of eggs were signs of new life, while winter was coming to an end. In the same way Christ has given us new life through his death and Resurrection. Through our Baptism we are heirs to the kingdom of heaven by being the adopted sons and daughters of the Lord.

This is exactly what we celebrate today; new life with Christ. We celebrate Jesus Christ being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus's Resurrection. They are in the empty tomb and the apparition of Christ. In today's Gospel reading we see the passage of the empty tomb of Jesus. In that passage, we see how Mary Magdalene urges Peter and John to run to the tomb. When Peter and John get there the tomb is empty. This is the initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

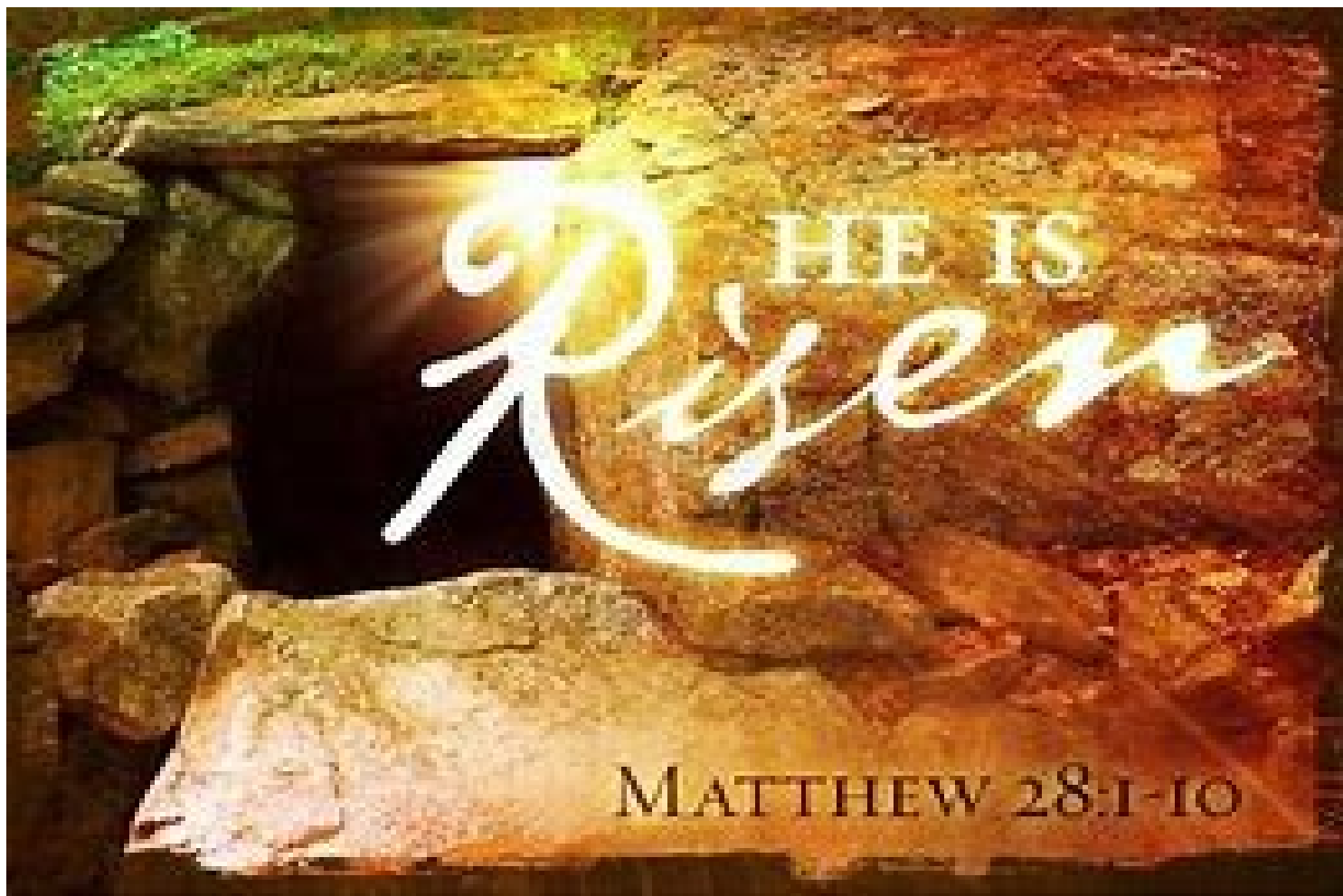
We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus while he was in the tomb. This is more than a resuscitation like we see in the Gospel of John 11: 1-45, which was last year's Gospel reading. In that Gospel Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. Jesus was not resuscitated, He was resurrected on His accord without any human help. This is why Jesus had a glorified body. As a result none of his friends could recognize Him. His glorified body was not the same as His human body because with His glorified body Jesus could be encountered in several places at the same time. He was in the upper room with His Apostles and also on the Road to Emmaus. Both times Jesus was seen and then vanishes from their sight.

However the apostles and disciples experienced Jesus they knew that Jesus had actually died and was buried. They had a personal encounter with Jesus who was crucified. We as Christians have also encountered Jesus in various ways. He suffered, was resurrected and is very much alive. Jesus and His Father are with us in prayer. This is why we pray to the Lord. Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew 22:22 and Mark 11:24 that if we pray our Lord will answer us. We may not always get what we want, but we get what we need. Jesus also tells us in Mt 18:20 where two or more are gathered in his name, that He is present. Jesus is also with us when we receive Him in the Eucharist. He is there when we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as the Sacrament of the sick. When we seek the Lord He is truly present.

Hopefully we will celebrate this day with our family and close friends. We may have ham, lamb, with all the fixings. We may also have an Easter egg hunt with our children and grandchildren. As we are relaxing having a good time with our loved ones we can also remember what Easter is all about. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us that we may truly live. We can also take time to thank the Lord for giving us the greatest gift possible salvation. When the Lord calls us home we can share eternity with the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit. In John 14:27 Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. With that perfect peace which comes from above, we never have to worry or stress out. With God in our life we will have this perfect peace and harmony. We cannot earn or merit this love of God. All we can say is thankyou Lord.

Now I would like to end with a quote written by St. John Chrysostom in 406 A.D.:

Hell took a body and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you o death, are destroyed? Christ is Risen and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its death; for Christ, having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever Amen!



**Heavenly Father and God of mercy,
we no longer look for Jesus among the dead,
for He is alive and has become the Lord of Life.
From the waters of death,
you raise us with Him and
renew your gift of life within us.**

**Increase in our minds and hearts
the risen life we share with Christ
and help us to grow as your people
toward the fullness of eternal life with you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



**Thank you for your generosity!
March 17 offertory**

Attendance: 768 Sunday Offertory: \$6658.00

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2024

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/
Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7
Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15

OBSERVANCES WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2024

Easter Sunday
Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter; April Fools' Day
Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Thursday: Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Friday: Friday within the Octave of Easter
Saturday: Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays 5:30PM
4th Degree Knights 2nd Tuesday 7:00PM
Knights of Columbus Board 2nd Thursdays 2:00PM
Knights of Columbus Meeting 2nd Thursdays 7:00PM
Prayer Group in English every Thursday 6PM
Youth Group—every Wednesday 6:30-8:00PM
St. Vincent de Paul 2nd Monday 9:30AM
CCW—2nd Thursday after Mass

Adult Ed—Thursdays 1:00PM
OCIA—Sunday 9:00AM
Rosary Making - every Wednesday 9:30 AM
Estudio de la Biblia los lunes a las 6:00PM
Legionarias de María cada miércoles 9:30AM
Adoración los martes 9:45AM
Adoration Tuesdays at 6:00PM

MASS INTENTIONS JOIN IN PRAYER-DAILY ROSARY IN THE CHURCH BEGINNING AT 8:25 AM—MON-FRI

SATURDAY MARCH 30

9:00 AM NO MASS

8:00 PM PARISH COMMUNITY

SUNDAY MARCH 31

8:00 AM † MICHAEL LOVELOCK FROM NANCY LOVELOCK

9:30 AM MICHELLE BIRTHDAY BLESSING FROM LOVING MOM

11:00 AM † NORMA KRAUSE FROM MARY DELUCA

MONDAY APRIL 1

9:00 AM † JOHN HOEFLE FROM JOYCE THOMAS

TUESDAY APRIL 2

9:00 AM † LOGAN VENTI FROM LOVING FAMILY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3

9:00 AM † JOSE RAMIREZ FROM LOVING WIFE TRIS.

THURSDAY APRIL 4

9:00 AM † BRIAN STOTESBURY 1 YR ANNIVERSARY FROM JOHN HERRON

FRIDAY APRIL 5

9:00 AM † HUSBANDS OF THE WIDOWS GROUP FROM WIDOWS GROUP

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Patrick Rebel
Asst. Priests: Rev. Edward Reiter
..... Rev. Michael Kouts
..... Rev. Dennis Kaelin

Deacons: Deacon Jose Cruz
..... Deacon Tom Casey
..... Deacon Jim Riveiro

Pastoral Consultant Mark McGovern

Business Manager Melinda Pataki
..... Sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

Director of Faith Formation Deacon Jim Riveiro
..... FFOfficesjoa@gmail.com

Director of Junior High and Youth Ministry Nancy Lovelock
..... Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com

Director of Music Joyce Thorpe
..... Sjoaorganist@gmail.com

Director of Adult Education Mary Jo Waggoner

SACRAMENTS

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 10:00 am-11:00 am or by appointment.

BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

Please call the Parish Office to pre-register. (352) 688-0663.

Workshop is 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6pm.

MATRIMONY If you are contemplating marriage at St. Joan of Arc Church, please be mindful that there is a six month, prior Notice Request, required.

PARISH INFORMATION

OFFICE EMAIL

Sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

BULLETIN EMAIL FFOfficesjoa@gmail.com

WEBSITE: StJoanofArcfl.org

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

FFOfficesjoa@gmail.com & Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com

RCIA/RCIC

Rite Initiation into the Catholic Faith

“IN HIS FOOTSTEPS” SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

Served in our Parish Family Hall the 4th Thursday of each month from Noon-2:00 pm & on 2nd Thursdays lunches are delivered to our homebound.

MARY & MARTHA’S GIFT SHOP

SjoaGiftShop@gmail.com

Saturday 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Sunday 7:00 am-12:30 pm

Wednesdays 9:30 am-10:30 am

Closed during all Masses.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

(352) 556-3670

NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

(352) 683-0755

www.ndcsfl.org