



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

JOHN 20:1



## Bit by Bit

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**L**ooking for proof of the resurrection is like looking for proof of love. Sometimes, we realize only gradually—bit by bit—that we are loved. John's Gospel abounds with images of light and darkness. So when this Sunday's Easter Gospel recounts Mary of Magdala going to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark, the gospel is not simply marking the time of day. It's noting that what was taking place was before they believed in the resurrection, when they were still in the dark. All sorts of hints about the resurrection begin to occur: Mary sees the stone rolled away; Peter and the other disciple go to the tomb and find the burial cloths. They see the cloth that had covered his head rolled up and set aside. No apparition of Jesus, no men in white garments, no angels. Only hints that with the resurrection of Jesus,

God has made all life new and destined for resurrection.

What, then, might one do who is plagued by doubts? Look for hints of resurrection, of life coming about where one expects only death (as if to symbolically enter the tomb). What types of hints? Going for counseling, as frightening as that may be, and finding peace. Talking through a problem in marriage. Finding that empty-nesting gives way to new life. Discovering retirement's gifts. Making a dreaded move to a new city or school. The resurrection of Jesus means God makes all life new. We only need to see it and discover that, bit by bit, it leads to faith. ●

### Reflect

***What are the hints of resurrection surrounding me? Have I missed any?***



## St. Thomas More

302 Chestnut Street

Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-663-6201

Email: thomasmore32@gmail.com

### Adoration Room at STM

Open Daily from 9 am - 6 pm

## Holy Trinity Catholic Church

212 S Main Street

PO Box 159

Cherry IL 61317

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com



### Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number: 779-248-2164**

### Confession Info

Confessions: Saturday morning, alternating between STM & HT 10:30 am-11:15

### Upcoming/Ongoing Church Events

Fundraiser: STM Rav/Tort | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone number/order) | \$9.00/bag

### CCD Classes

Sunday, April 20th-NO CCD CLASS

Sunday, April, 27th- K-7th Grade Last Class

Confirmation students Test



### Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of April 21, 2025

Monday	4/21			† No Mass
Tuesday	4/22	9:00 am	STM	† Mary Nave & Mary L. Baker
Wednesday	4/23	5:30 pm	HT	† Kathy Sondgeroth
Thursday	4/24	9:00 am	HT	† Bob & Marlene Greskiwcz
Friday	4/25	9:00 am	STM	† For the Purgatory Souls

### Mass Intentions for the weekend of April 26-27, 2025

Saturday	4/26	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More	† The Lavern Eiten Family
Sunday	4/27	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† For the Parishioners



## Jesus' "Empty Tomb", What Is the Meaning of It?

The word empty is immensely powerful in the Easter context, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is impossible to talk about Easter without the "empty tomb". If the tomb was not empty when Mary of Magdala came to the grave or when Peter and John arrived after hearing about the resurrection (John 20:1-9), Christ did not rise from the dead.

Another fact that explains that Jesus Christ was nowhere in the tomb on that third day is the presence of the burial clothes dumped by the side and the napkin that covered the face of the Lord, which was carefully rolled up to a separate corner.

### The "Empty Tomb" and The Power of the Easter:

The joy of Easter begins with the "empty tomb"; that is where the story begins. The account of John (20:1) starts by telling us that Mary of Magdala saw the stone removed from the tomb. That sight made her run to inform Simon Peter and John that the Lord had been taken away, which means He was not there. The "empty tomb" tells us that the Lord fulfilled His promise of rising from the dead. Earlier in Mark's Gospel (9:31), He said: "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill Him, and after three days, He will rise." The resurrection of Jesus Christ celebrates victory over sin and death. We could recall that the sin of Adam brought death (Romans 5:12), but through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, that sin cleared (John 19:30), and His resurrection restored us to life.

Easter is an amazing gift from God that has all we need to go through life's challenges as we journey to God. If you look at the word EASTER very attentively, you will discover that it has a message from the resurrected Lord who emptied all satanic threats and is eternally risen.

The challenge is for us to start living the resurrected life. St. Paul advised us in his letter to the Colossians (3:1-4) to change our focus from seeking things below to searching for realities above where the risen Lord sits at the right hand of the Father. We cannot have a risen Lord while still living like those in the grave of sin and damnation. This is the time to rise from all spiritual, material, and mental limitations, and we can do it because it is most necessary for us Christians. (Excerpted from Fr. Boniface's article "frbonnie.com".)

### Easter Flower Donations in Memory of.....

Jim Smith  
Tony Taylor  
Nina Tunget Weisheit  
Michael Campbell  
Alan Hahn  
Wayne Pinter  
Deceased Members of The Herrmann Family



### A Note of Thanks

Thank you to Karen Smith and Kathy Hoschied who were representatives and attended the Chrism Mass on Tuesday April 15th at the Cathedral in Peoria to receive sets of Holy Oils on behalf of our churches.

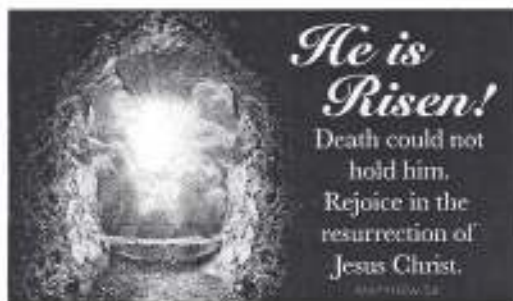
### Easter Blessings

We like to wish all our parishioners a very Holy and Grace-filled Happy Easter.

### Latest Offering's

April 13th Weekend

HT - \$1284  
STM - \$937  
SP- \$345



### Confessions

Next Confession will be  
Sat. May 3rd  
10:30 am-11:15 am  
Holy Trinity  
in the confessional



# Dear Padre,

***I was baptized as a baby, but I never really went to church. Lately, I've been attending Mass. Are there steps I should take before I receive Communion?***

The first step is to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). This is a wonderful opportunity to be officially welcomed back into full practice with the Church. After such a long absence, it is important to examine your conscience and celebrate the forgiveness of the Lord before you receive holy Communion.

I would also recommend that you "beef up" your understanding of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. You might do this by participating in your parish's process for the Christian Initiation of Adults (called OCIA or sometimes RCIA). The Liguori Publications program, *Journey of Faith*, is one resource used by many parish communities. Another possibility is to use some of the resources offered online, such as Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire* website, which has a fine reputation.

I am happy you have responded to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within you and answered the call to deepen your spiritual practice and journey. The Church needs you. The people of God welcome you. You are beloved among us, and your response in faith is a powerful witness, a reminder to those who may be tempted to take for granted the gift of faith. Thank you. ●



A candidate and his sponsor sit for a photo after an Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class. LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27
Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Second Sunday of Easter /
Acts 2:14, 22-33	Acts 2:36-41	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:1-12	Acts 4:13-21	Sunday of Divine Mercy
Mt 28:8-15	Jn 20:11-18	Lk 24:13-35	Lk 24:35-48	Jn 21:1-14	Mk 16:9-15	Acts 5:12-16
						Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
						Jn 20:19-31

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***We welcome the Easter message: "Peace be with you!" Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!... Let there be a decision for peace.... Please, please, let us not get used to war!... May the leaders of nations hear people's plea for peace.***

**URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME, APRIL 17, 2022**