



*Then the other disciple also went in,  
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,  
and he saw and believed.*

JOHN 20:8

## Life without a Blankie

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**F** aith can have the look of high dives and learning to ride a bike without training wheels and life without one's "blankie." All are confrontations with the specter of death asking us to have faith. From youth to old age, our lives seem to be laced with the loss of control, and unless we embrace such moments, not only will we never really grow up, neither will we ever become people of faith who live in the resurrection.

The Easter Gospels are about women and men who arrive at the tomb but hesitate going in; it is the home of death. Yet they become believers after they have entered that home of death and discover it to be abandoned. Over the years, I have become convinced that the only way to become a believer in the resurrection is to walk into the tomb yourself and there discover that where you thought death

was present now has been abandoned. That is the pattern of coming to faith.

Usually such moments do not have the look of faith. They tend to seem more akin to death than any promise of new life—like having to move to a new city or a new school, or abandoning an addiction, or confronting a problem through counseling, or aging, or grieving over lost love. They all can have the look of tombs yet they are also where we find the beginnings of new life. Risk it often enough and so discover new life, and we begin to believe in the reality of resurrection—Jesus' and ours. ●

### Reflect

*Have you ever experienced life flowing  
from what appeared to be a death?*



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and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

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**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall  
Sunday, March 31st - No Class Easter Sunday  
Sunday, April 7th - 5th & 6th Grades  
Sunday, April 7th - Children's Mass for 6th Grade

**Remember in prayer, family & friends of Wes Hoscheid - HT**

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of April 1, 2024**

Monday	4/1			† No Mass
Tuesday	4/2	9:00 am	STM	† No Mass
Wednesday	4/3	5:30 pm	HT	† Daisy Kopek
Thursday	4/4	9:00 am	HT	† Linda Rutoski
Friday	4/5	9:00 am	STM	† Joyce Mitchell

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of March 30 - 31, 2024**

Saturday	4/6	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Clydia Marena
Sunday	4/7	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† For the Parishioners
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† Laurence Fonderoli
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Temporarily Suspended



# 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 you can do it because it is a choice.

*(Excerpted from Fr. Boniface's article "frbonnie.com")*

## Easter Flowers

### HT

Gillan Family  
Ron & Joyce Hoscheid  
Michael Campbell  
Alan Hahn  
Wayne, Leroy & Lucille Pinter

### SP

Jim Smith  
Tony Taylor  
Louis Pierard Family  
Bartoli & Goryl Families  
Joseph Klein Family  
Irvie Bonnell & Silvio Fonderoli Families

### STM

Hart & Brust Families  
Nina Tunget Weisheit  
Mike Bacidore



## A Note of Thanks

Thank you to Sheila Campbell, Judie Hahn and Carol Lauer who were representatives and attended the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 26th at the cathedral in Peoria to receive sets of Holy Oils on behalf of our 3 churches.

## A Round of Applause to Our Confirmands

Fr. Thaddeus & all CCD staff want to congratulate all our confirmation students – Class of 2024 – for having successfully passed their tests. As they get ready for their confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Peoria on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>, may the Holy Spirit fill them all with His precious gifts.

## LATEST OFFERING'S

MAR 24TH WEEKEND

HT – \$857.00

SP – \$584.00

STM – \$895.00



## CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. APRIL 6TH

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST PATRICK

IN THE CHAPEL



# Dear Padre,

**Where did the idea of an Easter bunny come from?  
What about the Easter egg?**

The Easter bunny is really a hare which, according to an Egyptian legend, is a symbol of the moon. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs after the twenty-first day of March. Put this together, and we have an Easter bunny.

Early Christians gave new meaning to the Roman proverb *Omne vivum ex ovo*, which means, "All life comes from an egg." A hatching chick represented the risen Christ emerging from the shell of a tomb on Easter morning. Consequently, eggs were prohibited during the Lenten fast and were reintroduced at the Easter meal and also shared as decorated gifts. In 1610, a prayer by Pope Paul V blessed the egg "that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating in thankfulness to Thee, on account of the Resurrection of Our Lord."

In some parts of the world, children carry baskets and torches and sing Easter carols as they go from place to place. They are given brightly colored eggs to put in their baskets. In other places, eggs are carried to church and blessed by the priests. The eggs are taken home and placed in the center of the table as the main dish at the Easter feast. Visitors to the house during Easter week are offered this sacred food of the resurrection. Happy Easter! ●



SHUTTERSTOCK/SHUTTERSTOCK

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6	April 7
<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>
Acts 2:14, 22-33 Mt 28:8-15	Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18	Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35	Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48	Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14	Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15	<i>(Sunday of Divine Mercy)</i> Acts 4:32-35 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31

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## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured. Where there was death, now there is life. Where there was mourning, now there is consolation. In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread throughout the world.*

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