

A Blessed
Easter!



"This is the day the Lord has made; let
us rejoice and be glad." -Psalm 118



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Mass Intentions
for the Week
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**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION
APRIL 9, 2023**

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Easter Vigil

7:30PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, APRIL 10

Monday within the Octave of Easter

7:30AM The Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

7:30AM Robert F. Armstrong—Birthday Remembrance

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

7:30AM Dec'd of Zaino & Mattiace Families—Memorial

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Thursday within the Octave of Easter

7:30AM Fr. Wilfred G. Gregoire—Memorial

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Friday within the Octave of Easter

7:30AM Lorraine M. Sedlock—10th Anniversary

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

8:30AM Fay Masterson—Birthday Remembrance

Mass of Anticipation for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

5:00PM Rose Doyle—Memorial

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Second Sunday of Easter

7:30 AM Mary Proia—8th Anniversary

9:00AM Arlene Roberti—Memorial

10:30AM Bill Gebhard—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish





Dear Parishioners:

Happy Easter! *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!"* Easter is the feast of all feasts, as the saints have proclaimed throughout the ages. We rejoice for the new members of our Church baptized and received at the Easter Vigil.

Easter is a great cause for rejoicing because it is the promise of eternal life fulfilled. Jesus, our Lord and Savior, has broken the bonds of death and restored us to life. Saints have announced the message unceasingly from past to present. Pope St. John Paul II said: *"We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!"*

"Easter" comes from Old English, meaning the "East." The sun, which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christians of the rising Christ, the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle, blessed at the Easter Vigil, with its Light breaks through the darkness of the night. It is a central symbol of this divine Light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout the Easter Season.

The Easter Vigil is the *"Mother of All Vigils,"* and Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays. Easter is the principal feast of the Church year. Pope St. Leo the Great teaches that Easter is "the greatest feast" and Christmas is celebrated only in preparation for Easter. Therefore, the season of Easter is the most important of all liturgical times.

The octave of Easter comprises eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday of Easter. It is a

way to prolong the joy of the initial day. There are 50 days of Easter, from the first Sunday to Pentecost. Our celebration of the joy of glorified life and the victory over death is expressed most fully in every Christian's great resounding cry: *Alleluia!*

The Catechism of the Church teaches: *"The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness."* Thus, all faith flows from our faith in the resurrection of Christ from the dead. St. Paul teaches us: *"If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith."*

If it truly happened, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most extraordinary and amazing event in human history. If it did not, our religion is no more than singing happy songs, having wishful thinking, and being nice people.

It is easy to rejoice in Easter and focus only on the beauty of spring and the hope of eternal life. Still, these are only mere sentiments if Jesus didn't rise from the dead. But he did! So rejoice in the real reason for the season!

Let the crucified and risen Christ fill our lives with his Light as we begin this glorious season! What we hear in the Gospel and what we celebrate at Holy Mass are not simply a historical remembrance of things past. Scripture, the Sacraments, and the mysteries of redemption are living realities here and now.

We sing *"Alleluia"* at Easter because the Risen Christ is alive and active, not some historical figure. Jesus is always

"present" in both dimensions, having passed outside space and time. Therefore, Easter is "today" every bit as much as it was 2,000 years ago.

From the earliest centuries, Christians have always recognized that every first day of the week, every Sunday, is "a little Easter." St. Jerome writes: *"Sunday is the day of the resurrection. It is the day of Christians; it is our day."* The earliest Christians observed Sunday at all costs, even though it was a secular workday in the ancient world. Sometimes, they paid with their lives.

The early martyrs of North Africa said to their Roman persecutors: *"Without fear of any kind, we have celebrated the Lord's Supper because it cannot be missed; that is our law. We cannot live without the Lord's Supper."*

As we continue to rejoice at Easter, may we echo the words of the martyrs: *"We cannot live without the Lord's Supper."* Sunday Mass is our true feast of faith! It would be a tremendous Easter gift and great spiritual kindness if we were to bring back our relatives, friends, and neighbors who do not regularly attend Sunday Mass. On this Easter Sunday, as you enjoy Easter Brunch or Dinner with them, ask God for the courage to invite them back!

Fr. Mahoney and I wish you and your families a blessed, joyful, grace-filled Easter. Be well. Do good. God Bless! A Happy and Holy Easter!

Father Healey

Easter

ON EASTER Sunday, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. On this day, the disciples saw the empty tomb, and the Risen Christ began to appear to them. Easter celebrates our belief in life after death. It ranks first among the feasts of the church.

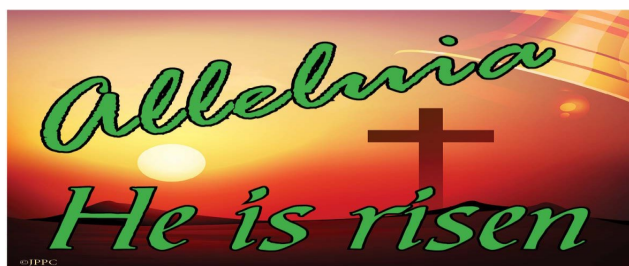
The Easter Sunday Mass differs a bit from others. The new Paschal candle is lighted and stands near the ambo. Having omitted the Glory to God throughout the season of Lent, we sing it again. The Easter sequence is said or sung after the Second Reading. During Lent, we sang a different acclamation before the Gospel, but now we again sing “Alleluia.” In the United States, the Creed may be replaced with the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the sprinkling of holy water on this day.

There are small changes to the Eucharistic Prayer. If you are alert, you will hear during the Preface that Christ became our paschal sacrifice “on this day.” If the priest is using Eucharistic Prayer I, he announces that this is the day of the Resurrection of the Lord and that the community prays especially for those newly baptized at the Easter Vigil.

At the end of the Mass, the deacon or priest adds two “alleluias” to the words of dismissal, and you respond, “Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.”

Attendance is strong on Easter, as all those who profess faith in Christ join together in a single celebration. Many worshipers like to dress up for the occasion. The main Easter liturgy is the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, and all Catholics should make every effort to participate in it. But Easter Sunday remains a popular choice for affirming one’s faith in the Risen Christ.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.



Weekly Collection

April 2, 2023

Weekly.....	\$11,908.00
EFT.....	\$3,985.00
	Total=\$15,893.00
Outreach.....	\$2,305.00
Rice Bowl.....	\$11,933.00

April 3, 2022

Weekly.....	\$16,370.00
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Leave a Legacy of Faith for the next Generation! Remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

Second Collections

**This Week: The Easter Collection
Next Week: Building & Grounds**



**2023 Parish Goal=\$190,000
Total Pledged=\$219,817.00
Total Donors=397
Average Gift=\$554**

Over Goal!! Thank You for Your Support!

2022 Catholic Charity Appeal

OLM Parish Goal=\$190,000
Total Pledged=\$262,643
Total Number of Donors=440
Average Gift=\$597

EASTER
Blessings



Religious Education NEWS

RE Schedule

- **Sunday, April 9:** Happy Easter! No classes today!
- **Sunday, April 16:** 5:00pm Mass followed by Class for Grades 5, 6 & 7 in the OLM School Gym (*Last class*)
- **Sunday, April 23:** 9:00am Mass followed by Class for Grades 1 & 2 First Communion 2023 in the OLM School Gym (*Last class for Grade 1*); Mandatory Meeting for All 1st Communion Parents at 7pm in Olm School Gym
- **Saturday April 29:** Mandatory First Communion Interviews for all students & parents with Fr. Healey & Fr. Mahoney, 10:00am-2:00pm
- **Sunday, April 30:** 5:00pm Mass followed by Class for Grade 8 Confirmation 2023 (*Last class*)



Outreach Update

- **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. **All food items should be unexpired and non-perishable.** We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.
- **OLM Bereavement Group:** Next meeting **Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 4:00pm** in Mercy House. All those adults experiencing sorrow, grief or loneliness are most welcome to attend for prayer and discussion.
- **For more information,** please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

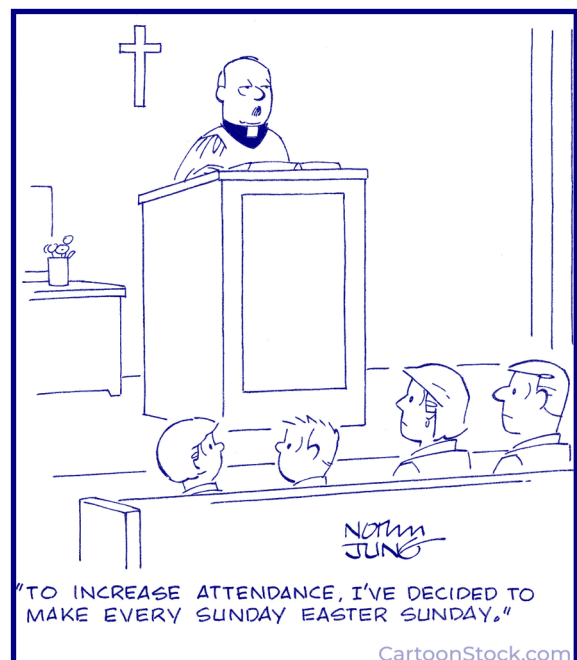
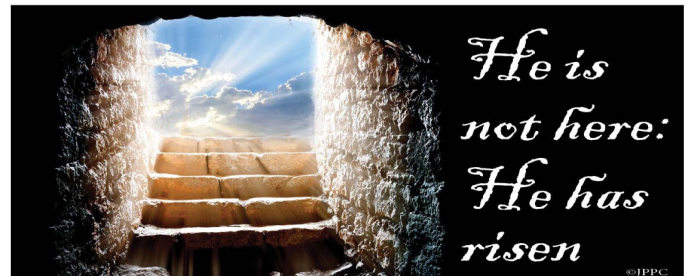
Upcoming Events

- **Monday, April 10-Monday, April 17 :** No School Easter Vacation
- **Monday, April 17:** School resumes
- **Tuesday, April 18:** Weekly School Mass at 8:15am; PTG Board Meeting at 6:00pm
- **Wednesday, April 19:** 8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC

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Apply today, space is limited!



**“Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.”
-The Exsultet**



Exsultet

ON SPECIAL family days you bring out the best stuff—decorations, place settings and clothes that don’t get used on other days of the year. We keep some treasures hidden away and bring them out for only the most important occasions. If you miss the celebration for some reason, you won’t enjoy the treats it brings for another year.

The Exsultet, or “the Easter proclamation,” is one of those special treasures owned by our church family. We bring it out once a year at our most important celebration, the Easter Vigil. If you miss the Vigil, you don’t get to enjoy it till next year.

The Exsultet proclaims the meaning of Easter. It was written to be sung by a deacon at the beginning of the Easter Vigil. It comes during the first part of the service, the *Lucernarium*, or service of light. The Vigil begins outdoors where a new fire is blessed and the new Paschal Candle is lit for the first time. Then the assembly processes into the church, carrying tapers lit from the same fire and proclaiming, “The Light of Christ. Thanks be to God.”

Once inside, in a church aglow with new light, we hear the meaning of this night in the Exsultet. First,

the proclamation calls on the angels, the earth, and the Church to rejoice. “[L]et the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our might King’s triumph!” Then it begins to sound like a Preface. “It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God.”

Finally, the Exsultet tells us how special this night is: “These, then, are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb.” The Easter Vigil celebrates the Christian Passover, complete with banquet, freedom from slavery, light from darkness, cleansing from sin, restoration of holiness, and resurrection from death.

No wonder the Exsultet proclaims the sin of Adam to be a “happy fault,” a “necessary sin.” Because of Adam’s fall, we have been restored at Easter through Christ.

Someone other than the deacon may sing the Exsultet if he lacks the skills to sing or if the parish lacks a deacon. It has a long and short form. It proclaims the meaning of Easter, so we save it for this, the single most important night of the Christian year.