

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, April 16, 2017
Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of the Lord

7:30 AM
11:00 AM

Gathering: Festival Canticle BB 567

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118)

This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice, let us be glad. This day was made by the Lord. Let us rejoice in salvation.

Sprinkling Rite: *God, you have moved upon the waters, you have sung in the rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and daughters, make us people of the water and your name*

Preparation Ye Sons And Daughters BB 169

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion: Ubi Caritas (Choir)
 Come To Me And Drink BB 358
 Bread For The World BB 349

Recessional: Alleluia, Alleluia BB 164

9:00 AM

Gathering: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today BB 161

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Alleluia! Let the heavens and earth rejoice! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sprinkling Rite: *If we have died to ourselves in Jesus, then we shall arise to new life in Him, Alleluia, alleluia!*

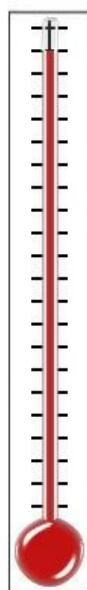
Preparation Christ Be Our Light BB 156

Mass Parts Mass of God's Promise

Communion: Song Of The Body Of Christ BB 332

Recessional: Alleluia, Alleluia, Let The Holy Anthem Rise BB 165

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠



280,000.00
 274,788.19

Thank you for your generosity to our parish. Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

April 2, 2017

Offertory \$7,650.22
Property Mgmt \$2,145.57

Based on a weekly budget need of \$7,000.00, the top amount indicates where the Parish should be as of the current week. The bottom amount indicates the total offertory given so far this year.

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged *Parish Giving* to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smart phone. You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend. Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| April 16, 2017 | Easter |
| April 23, 2017 | Fuel |
| April 30, 2017 | No Second Collection |
| May 7, 2017 | Property Management |

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

| Annual Income | 5% Commitment annually/weekly | 3% Commitment annually/weekly |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$100,000 | \$5,000/\$100 | \$3,000/\$60 |
| \$75,000 | \$3,750/\$75 | \$2,250/\$45 |
| \$60,000 | \$3,000/\$60 | \$1,800/\$36 |
| \$50,000 | \$2,500/\$50 | \$1,500/\$30 |
| \$40,000 | \$2,000/\$40 | \$1,200/\$24 |
| \$30,000 | \$1,500/\$30 | \$900/\$18 |
| \$25,000 | \$1,250/\$25 | \$750/\$15 |
| \$15,000 | \$750/\$15 | \$450/\$9 |

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

| Your Current Offertory Contribution | 25% Increase | 30% Increase | 40% Increase |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| \$75.00 | \$93.75 | \$97.50 | \$105.00 |
| \$50.00 | \$62.50 | \$65.00 | \$70.00 |
| \$40.00 | \$50.00 | \$52.00 | \$56.00 |
| \$35.00 | \$43.75 | \$45.50 | \$49.00 |
| \$30.00 | \$37.50 | \$39.00 | \$42.00 |
| \$25.00 | \$31.25 | \$32.50 | \$35.00 |
| \$20.00 | \$25.00 | \$26.00 | \$28.00 |
| \$15.00 | \$18.75 | \$19.50 | \$21.00 |
| \$10.00 | \$12.50 | \$13.00 | \$14.00 |
| \$5.00 | \$6.25 | \$6.50 | \$7.00 |

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

HEART-FELT THANKS

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all parishioners of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish for supporting the St. Luke's Youth Group Bake Sale that was held on the weekend of March 25 & 26. Your generous donations allowed us to raise \$1,228.57! The money raised will help support our trip to the Steubenville East Conference held July 14 – July 16 at UMass Lowell in Lowell, MA. This conference is a wonderful opportunity for us to strengthen our relationship with Christ.

We are grateful for all that you do to support our efforts. Please keep us in your prayers.

With faith, hope & love, The St. Luke Youth Group

THANK YOU FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our St. Patty's Meal on Saturday, March 11th. We had about 200 people who enjoyed a great corned beef and cabbage meal along with a huge selection of delicious desserts. We had some fantastic entertainment provided by some very talented young ladies who did a number of Irish traditional and step dances. There were some very nice Irish Theme Baskets and other gifts that were raffled off during the meal.

We realized a net profit of over \$1,400.00. The monies will be used by the Knights to purchase food baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas for St. Luke's Food Pantry and the leftover money will be donated to the Food Pantry.

The Knights would like to thank Fr. Albert for helping to promote the event and for the use of the Parish Center. We also thank our Chairpersons, Dave and Stephanie Meader, Chef Rudi Ferrandi, and last but not least, Marie Farren for all of her help and support of this event.

The Knights are looking forward to our next fundraising meal this Fall when Chef Rudi will prepare his homemade meatballs and sauce which are an 11 on a scale of 1 to 10 and not to be missed!



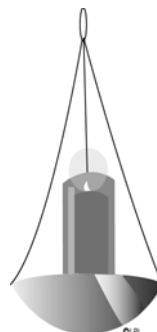
Out of respect, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST WEBSITE:

<http://stlukenh.org>



First Communion will take place in our parish on the following **Sundays: April 30, May 7, & May 14** at both the 9:00 AM Masses in Newton and the 11:00 AM Masses in Plaistow. Please pray for our First Communicants and their families as they prepare for this joyous celebration!

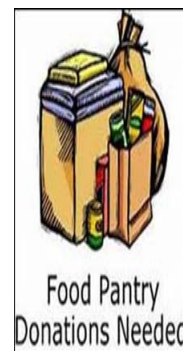


The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **George Moulaison** by his wife, Tess

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week for the **Intentions of the Daniels family**

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at 603-819-4949.

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Spring even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Spring months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------|
| <u>Sunday, April 16</u> | | |
| 6:00 PM | Vespers & Benediction | Newton |
| <u>Monday, April 17</u> PARISH OFFICE CLOSED | | |
| <u>Tuesday, April 18</u> | | |
| 6:00 PM | Finance Council Meeting | Plaistow |
| <u>Wednesday, April 19</u> | | |
| 9:30 AM | Eucharistic Adoration Begins | Plaistow |
| 6:30 PM | Eucharistic Adoration Ends | Plaistow |
| 7:00 PM | St. Vincent de Paul Open House | Plaistow |
| <u>Thursday, April 20</u> | | |
| 8:30 AM | Eucharistic Adoration Begins | Newton |
| 9:00 AM | Intercessory Prayer | Plaistow |
| 8:30 PM | Eucharistic Adoration Ends | Newton |
| <u>Saturday, April 22</u> | | |
| 3:00 PM | Sacrament of Reconciliation | Plaistow |
| <u>Sunday, April 23</u> | | |
| 4:00 PM | Pastoral Council Meeting | Newton |
| 6:00 PM | Vespers | Newton |

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, April 15 ~ Holy Saturday

*Gn 1:1—2:2; Gen 22:1-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 54:5-14;
Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28;
Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10*

8:00 PM Great Vigil of Easter
Plaistow

Sunday, April 16 ~ Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of The Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

7:30 AM People of the Parish
Newton

9:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

11:00 AM Intentions of Mary Coltin & Paul & Lucia O'Leary
by Mark & Colleen Hammond
Plaistow

Monday, April 17 ~ Monday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Mt 28:8-15
No Mass

Tuesday, April 18 ~ Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18

8:00 AM Sheila Deal (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Wednesday, April 19 ~ Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35

6:30 PM Jesselyn Driscoll (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, April 20 ~ Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48

6:30 PM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, April 21 ~ Friday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14
No Mass

Saturday, April 22 ~ Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 4:13-21; Mk 16:9-15 (Day)

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, April 23 ~ Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

7:30 AM People of the Parish
Newton

9:00 AM Michelina & Louis Inzero
(Wedding Anniversary Remembrance)
by the Stanley family
Newton

11:00 AM W. Ralph Sampson by his wife and family
Plaistow



PLEASE HELP US

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, and return your music book and Mass card to their proper place at the end of the pew. Thank you for your cooperation.

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



OPEN HOUSE

Oh no! It snowed! Not to worry - we have rescheduled the **SVDP Open House** to the April meeting! Hopefully, you can join us on **Wednesday, April 19th** for light refreshments and a chance to learn more about this great organization! Plan to stay for the meeting, too! We look forward to seeing you on April 19th!

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box
on your way out of church.

Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those
who need a hand up, not a hand out.

If you seek assistance or need information about the St.
Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



PASCHAL VESPERS and BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Paschal Vespers are sung at Newton at 6:00 PM on the first two Sundays of Easter, **April 16 & April 23**. Join us for a quiet time of prayer and reflection. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will follow Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

Plaistow – Wednesday

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Newton – Thursday

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

MASS FOR THE HEALING OF THOSE AFFECTED BY CHILD ABUSE

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, Bishop Libasci and the Diocesan Safe Environment Council invite all the Catholic faithful to a special Mass on **Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 PM**. Please join them in praying for all those who were abused as children, particularly those abused by people representing the Catholic Church. The Mass will be celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Concord, NH. For more information, please contact Joseph Naff at jnaff@rcbm.org or call him at 603-669-3100, ext. 110.

RCIA

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. **RCIA** is intended to serve:

- Those not Baptized who would like to learn more about the Catholic religion.
- Those Baptized in another religion who think they might like to become Catholic.
- Those Baptized Catholic but have not been raised in the Faith.

If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 11:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, May 7, 2017** in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according to Church Canon Law) and practicing (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Parish Office | 382-8324 |
| Parish Prayer Line | 382-8324 x 314 |
| St. Vincent de Paul Society | 382-8324 x 315 |
| St. Luke's Food Pantry | 819-4949 |
| Preschool | 382-9783 |
| Presentation of Mary Convent | 382-2744 |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Fr. Albert Tremblay | fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Cathy Smith | csmith@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Joyce Szczapa | jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Jackie Tremblay | jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Thomas Kondel | tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Val Barczak | mvmbarczak@comcast.net |
| Robin Thompson | rthompson@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Julie Lamere | jlamere@stluketheevangelist.net |
| Parish Council | parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net |

✠ **Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese** ✠



SEEKING A UNIQUE HELPER

DO YOU HAVE \$13K - \$17K TO GIVE ST. LUKE'S?

We didn't think so, but you COULD help St. Luke's make \$17,000 or more by volunteering to be a Lead Coordinator for the annual Christmas Craft Fair starting early 2018!

Each year the Christmas Fair proves to be an extremely profitable fund-raiser and friend-raiser for our parish. This would be a wonderful opportunity for YOU to get involved in a meaningful way with the Parish.

The general organization of the Christmas Craft Fair requires a person, or persons, with a friendly manner and the ability to attend to details. The 2017 craft fair will be held on Saturday, November 4 and planning has already begun.

Please give Elaine Kindler a call at 603-819-8691 or email her at stlukenhfair@gmail.com for more information or answers to questions regarding expectations. Thank you!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

The annual Divine Mercy Service will be held on **Divine Mercy Sunday on April 23 from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM** at Sacred Hearts Church in Bradford, MA. This year's program will include: exposition of the Most Blessed sacrament, private and public prayer, recitation of the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 PM. There will not be a mass during this time. Priests will be available to hear confessions. All are invited to attend. Remember to start the Novena on Good Friday. For more information, contact Gerald & Ann Marie Johnston at (978)-372-3824.

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please visit www.AmazonSmile.com today and register to start shopping and donating! For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose: **St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**



CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS WANTED

If you – or someone you know – would like to be considered as a vendor for this year's St. Luke the Evangelist Christmas Craft Fair, **the first jury period ends on May 6th**. We expect to be oversubscribed, so don't delay! Work must be original and executed by the applicants, and may include food and/or beverages (no baked goods).

1st – please save the date of our Parish Fair: Saturday November 4th, 9 am–3 pm.

2nd – to apply, please contact Craft Fair at: stlukenhfair@gmail.com. Applications are also available at <http://stlukenh.org> under "News and Events." Or, call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Don't miss out on participating in this popular and well-attended event!

4TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC LITERATURE CONFERENCE

Join in a day of engaging and enlightening discussion of literary works from a Catholic perspective on **Saturday, April 29 from 9:30 AM – 4:00PM** at St. Peter's Church, Christ the King Parish in Concord NH. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch. Please visit <http://bit.ly/2jEEuQQ> for more details or to purchase tickets.

**ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Retirement Party for Mrs. Judy Ouellette**

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School invites you to honor the retirement of its beloved first-grade teacher, Mrs. Judy Ouellette in the SJRC School Gym on **Saturday, May 20 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM**. Her 39 years of teaching will be celebrated with "An Alumni Celebration of Mrs O's Retirement," a special event for current and former students, families, and staff. The afternoon will be filled with reminiscing, refreshments, and a special recognition of Judith Ouellette. Please RSVP via email. Would you like to be part of this momentous occasion, even if you cannot attend? Please email Christine at clatino@sjrcs.com.



SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be also be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

TODAY IS PASCHA – EASTER IN THE ENTIRE CHURCH

Why one faith and two celebrations?

by Borgna Brunner

Easter is not only a movable holiday but a multiple one: in most years Western Christian churches and Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Easter on different dates. By a chance of the calendar, today is Easter – Pascha – in the entire Christian world, east and west.

The theological inconsistency of two Easters has remained a thorny problem for the Christian Church. “It has long been recognized that to celebrate this fundamental aspect of the Christian faith on different dates,” states the World Council of Churches, “gives a divided witness and compromises the church’s credibility and effectiveness in bringing the Gospel to the world.”

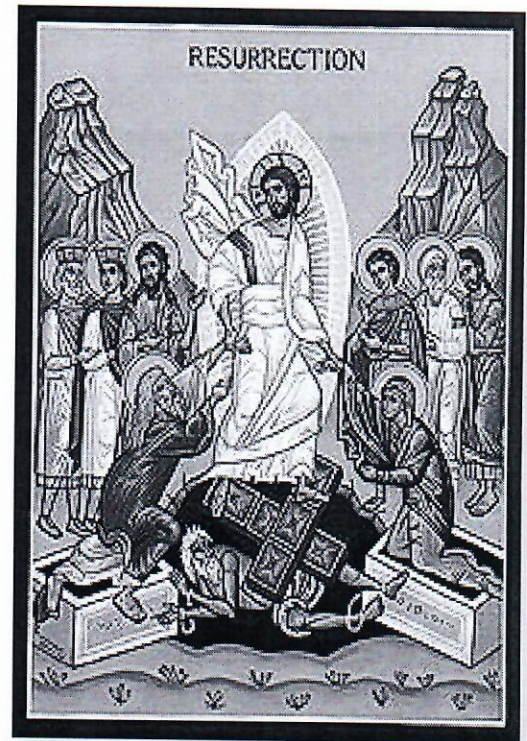
A Simple Formula, Complicated Interpretations The formula for Easter—“The first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox”—is identical for both Western and Orthodox Easters, but the churches base the dates on different calendars: Western churches use the Gregorian calendar, the standard calendar for much of the world, and Orthodox churches use the older, Julian calendar. That much is straightforward. But actually calculating these dates involves a bewildering array of *ecclesiastical moons* and *paschal full moons*, the *astronomical equinox*, and the *fixed equinox*—in addition to the two different calendar systems.

When is A Full Moon Full? The two churches vary on the definition of the *vernal equinox* and the full moon. The Eastern Church sets the date of Easter according to the actual, astronomical full moon and the actual equinox as observed along the meridian of Jerusalem, site of the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The Eastern Orthodox Church also applies the formula so that Easter always falls after Passover, since the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ took place after he entered Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. In the Western Church, Easter sometimes precedes Passover by weeks.

Why One Faith and Two Easters? The Western church does not use the actual, or astronomically correct date for the vernal equinox, but a fixed date (March 21). And by full moon it does not mean the astronomical full moon but the “ecclesiastical moon,” which is based on tables created by the church. These constructs allow the date of Easter to be calculated in advance rather than determined by actual astronomical observances, which are naturally less predictable. This division between the Eastern and Western Churches has no strong theological basis, but neither is it simply a technical skirmish. As the World Council of Churches has noted, much of Orthodox Christianity is located in the Middle East, where it has frequently been the minority religion, and in Eastern Europe, where until recently it faced hostility from communist governments. The emphasis on honoring tradition and maintaining an intact religious identity was therefore crucial. Seen in this context, changing the rules governing its most important religious holiday chisels away at the foundations of an already beleaguered religious heritage.

Reconciling East and West A meeting organized by the Council of World Churches (in Aleppo, Syria, March 5–10, 1997) proposed a solution thought to be favorable to both East and West: both methods of calculating the equinox and the paschal full moon would be replaced with the most advanced astronomically accurate calculations available, using the meridian of Jerusalem as the point of measure. Since that meeting, however, no further progress has been made and the problem remains.

Pinning Down A Movable Holiday Since the beginning of the 20th century, a proposal to change Easter to a **fixed holiday** rather than a movable one has been widely circulated, and in 1963 the Second Vatican Council agreed, provided a consensus could be reached among Christian churches. The **second Sunday in April** has been suggested as the most likely date. Yet inertia on the part of all Churches has left us with two calendar dates for the Easter celebration.



Pascha (Greek: Πάσχα), also called **Easter**, is the feast of the **Resurrection of the Lord**. *Pascha* is a transliteration of the Greek word, which is itself a transliteration of the Hebrew *pesach*, both words meaning *Passover*. (A minority of English-speaking Orthodox prefer the English word “Pasch.”) It is the most intense and complex celebration of the Orthodox Church calendar and features distinct movements akin to the Latin celebration of the Paschal Triduum. Sometime before midnight, on Holy Saturday (the Blessed Sabbath) the Midnight Office service is chanted. The priest goes to an ornately decorated tomb and removes the *epitaphios* – the icon of Christ in the sepulcher, carries it through the Holy Doors of the sanctuary and places it on the altar table where it remains for forty days until the day of Ascension. In the Byzantine practice, the *epitaphios* has already been removed on Holy Friday evening. The Pascha service itself usually begins with a procession that starts around midnight. The people leave the dark church building singing, carrying banners, icons, candles, and the Gospel Book. The procession circles the outside of the church and returns to the closed front doors. In Greek practice, the Gospel which tells of the empty tomb is now read. In Syrian practice, following the Gospel reading, the priest beats on the door and takes part in a dialogue with an interlocutor inside the church doors, crying out with the words of Psalm 23 (24): “Lift up your heads, O gates! And be exalted, you everlasting doors, that the king of glory may enter in!” Next, the Paschal *troparion*– anthem hymn– is sung for the first time, together with the verses of Psalm 67 (68) which will begin all of the Church services during the Paschal season.

*Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee from before his face!
As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire,
So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad.
This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,
and on those in the grave bestowing life.*

The doors are opened and the faithful re-enter. The church is brightly lit and adorned with flowers. It represents the heavenly bride, and the symbol of the empty tomb. The celebrants change into white vestments, the bright robes of the resurrection. The Easter icon stands in the center of the church, where the Tomb of Christ had been. The icon itself depicts Christ destroying the gates of hell and freeing Adam and Eve from the captivity of death. Through the Liturgy, the Priest proclaims “Christ is risen!” The faithful continually respond, “Indeed he is risen!” Following the entrance into the church, the Paschal hymn ascribed to St. John of Damascus is chanted with the *Paschal troparion* as the constantly recurring refrain. Matins ends with the Paschal *stichera* – ode:

*O day of resurrection! Let us beam with God's own pride! Let everyone embrace in joy! Let us warmly greet those
we meet and treat them all like brothers, even those who hate us! Let all the earth resound with this song: Christ is
risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and on those in the grave bestowing life!*

Next, the Paschal Divine Liturgy begins with the singing once more of the festal *troparion* with the verses of Psalm 67 (68). The antiphons of the liturgy are special psalm verses that praise and glorify the salvation of God. Again, the *troparion* is repeated over and over. The readings take the faithful back again to the beginning, and announces God’s creation and re-creation of the world through the living Word of God, his Son Jesus Christ. The epistle reading is the first nine verses of the Book of Acts. The gospel reading is the first seventeen verses of the Gospel of John. It is customary on this day to read the Gospel in several languages. The Liturgy of St John Chrysostom continues as usual. To Orthodox Christians, receiving communion on Easter Sunday is very important. Many parishes take the Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom literally and welcome all Orthodox Christians who are in attendance to the Lord’s Table. To the Orthodox, the celebration of Pascha reveals the mystery of the eighth day. It is not merely an historical reenactment of the event of Christ’s Resurrection. It is a way to experience the new creation of the world a taste of the new and unending day of the Kingdom of God. This new day is conveyed to the faithful in the length of the paschal services, in the repetition of the paschal order for all the services of Easter or *Bright Week*, and in the special paschal features retained in the services for the forty days until Ascension. Forty days are, as it were, treated as one day.

During Pascha, foods from which the faithful have abstained during the Lenten journey are often brought in baskets and blessed by the priest. This may include eggs, cheese, meat, and a rich, cake-like bread. These are then eaten after the Divine Liturgy. In Greek practice there is a lamb soup that is shared after the Liturgy. In Slavic practice, foods which were blessed earlier are shared. Another tradition at the feast of the Pascha, is the blessing of a bread stamped with the image of the Cross, or of the Resurrection, named *artos*. This special *Artos* is blessed at the close of the Paschal Liturgy in memory of the Risen Christ, Who is “the Bread of Life Eternal descended from Heaven and nourishing us with the food of His divine mercies.” On the next Saturday, after the Liturgy, it is broken and distributed in the place of Antidoron – the unconsecrated bread passed out at the end of Divine Liturgy. In the Greek world, The faithful also sometimes exchange red-dyed egg. The egg symbolizes the renovated life, received through the Blood of Christ.



CHRIST IS RISEN! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ

**A WARM WELCOME TO VISITORS
AND TRAVELERS**

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

For Catholics: As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (Canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians: We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions that separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (JN 17:21).

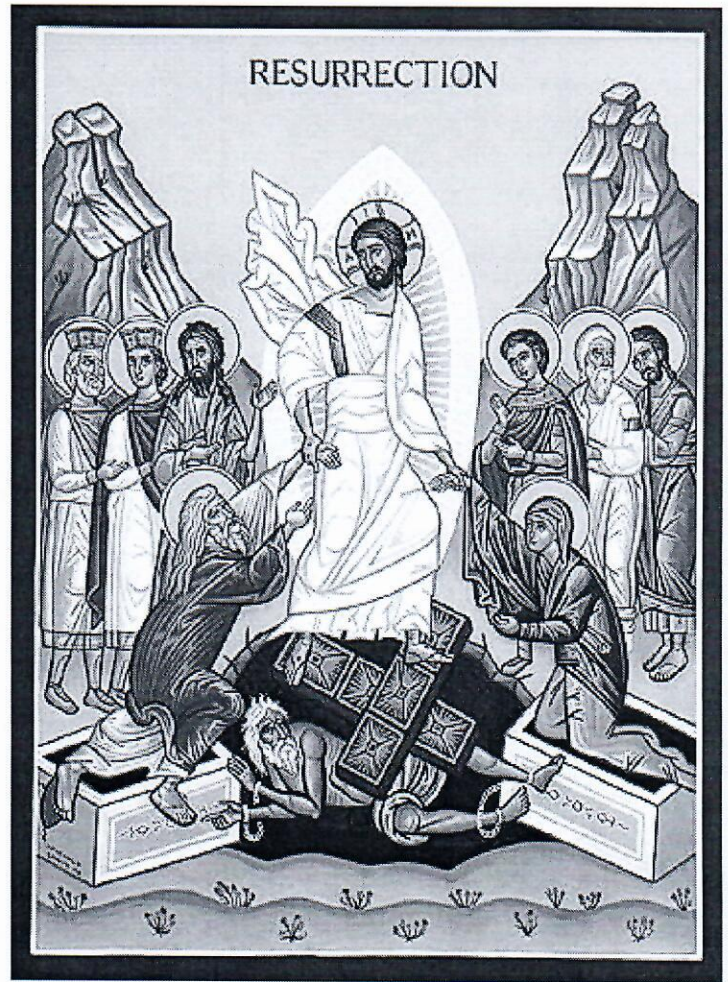
Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily NOT admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion: All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians: We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

THE 50 DAYS OF EASTER A SENSE OF THE SEASON

First, we kept the forty days, with praying, fasting and giving alms. Then we celebrated the three days of Christ's passion, dying and rising. Now we delight in the fifty days, with rejoicing, feasting and giving witness! The season of Easter is fifty days long. It is a time of unbridled joy, of exuberant rejoicing. The church tells us, "The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one 'great Sunday.' These above all others are days for the singing of the Alleluia." (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, #22).



Why is Easter-time fifty days? The ancient cultures that gave us the Bible had great respect for numbers. They believed that numbers contained hints about God and the meaning of life. The number seven was thought to contain fullness: There are seven days in the week, according to God's original way of ordering time, creating all that there is and resting. So if you multiply 7 times 7, you have "fullness times fullness."

But wait! 7×7 is 49! With God, there is always more—more than we can ever imagine. So our holy season of Easter is even more than "fullness times fullness." It's "fullness times fullness" and then some: $7 \times 7 + 1$. That's what love is like: more than we can ever imagine. That's what heaven is going to be like: more than we can ever imagine.

The fifty days are days for looking for the risen Lord among us, for hearing in each other's stories of rising from the big and small deaths, days when we experience something of Christ's triumphs. That's why we look to the newly baptized, robed in bright new clothes and oily with gladness: At Easter, they died and rose with Christ! Now they take their places with us. Together, like the apostles who were so full of the Spirit that people thought they were drunk, we rush about with good and giddy news: Death is not the last word! Life and love are forever! And slowly, painstakingly, we work together, together with Christ, to change this world into the world to come. Christ is Risen! Sing Alleluia!

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Proclaim New Life in Christ

Great and glorious God,
you who have given us life from the
creation of the world
you who have raised Christ from the dead,
you who have sent us holiness each day,
dwell in our hearts joyfully.
May our joy never cease,
our faith never waver,
and our life in Christ continue to flourish.
As we proclaim Christ risen and alive,
may we find him each day
in one another, in our homes and our work,
and, strengthened through our lives
of faith,
bring all home to new life in him.
We ask this through Christ,
our Risen Savior, who lives and reigns
with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.

April 16, 2017
Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4; Sequence Victimae paschali laudes; John 20:1–9. Coming to the tomb early in the morning, Mary Magdalene is expecting to spend time in the quiet in the darkness before dawn to mourn the death of Jesus. But she finds that the stone has been removed. Peter and other disciples come to the tomb, with their own expectations, and find only the burial cloths. Christ, the Paschal Victim, has been raised from the dead. Where is the stone?

Have you removed the stone that has been blocking your heart? Have the cloths that have covered your buried goodness been set aside? Resurrection is the joy of living fully in Christ. New life in Christ must be celebrated. It is all good news.

Christ, who is our hope, our Redeemer, and our life, is with us.

Easter is an opportunity to begin anew. The joy of the Resurrection should be unabashed joy, bold and unafraid. Christ has removed our burial cloths, and our renewal of baptismal promises reminds us that life in Christ is lived in the assembly of the faithful. The whole community shouts for joy: Alleluia! Find your newness of life and name it. Celebrate that new life with wholehearted singing and laughter. What has died within you has been changed into new life for the future. Throw open the windows, let in the light, and sing Alleluia! The Sequence today announces it firmly: Christ is risen from the dead, by this he has given us new life.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 17

Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad!

We hear in today's Gospel that the Apostles took hold of Jesus' feet and worshipped him. This week is full of the joys of the Resurrection. Let this be reflected in your home with flowers, white cloths, and any kind of light, from natural sunlight to candles. May your environment reflect the Alleluia brought to our lips with the Risen Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

Tuesday, April 18

I Have Seen the Lord! Alleluia!

"I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." In Jesus' words to Mary Magdalene, we are reminded that we are united with Christ through our belief in him. Through the Risen Christ, we are joined to the Father. In being joined to Christ, we are also joined to all who believe. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20, 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 19

Our Hearts Were Burning

When Jesus is walking with us, we can discern the true path. When Jesus is in our conversation, our hearts burn with the understanding that the Holy Spirit brings. When the bread that we break reveals God in our midst, we proclaim: Alleluia! During this Easter season, we may want to seek to open our hearts to the ways Christ is present to us. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 20

Faith in the Name of the Lord

Peter and John heal not by their own power but in the name of the Lord. That faith and that name are our inheritance. Repentance, healing, preaching to all nations—all are to be "in his name." Carry with you this day that joyful message: that it is God working through us that accomplishes our salvation. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab, 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 21

God of Surprises

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus provided an abundant number of fish for the disciples when they cast their net as he directed. As these disciples came ashore, he surprised them further with a breakfast that had been cooked over coals. How open are you to the surprises that God has prepared for you? *Today's Readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 22

Rejoice, Believe, and Proclaim

Have you found joy in your encounters this week? We carry our Easter joy especially throughout the Octave of Easter, finding daily opportunities to discover light, happiness, and good news in daily tasks, encounters, and experiences. It is not a time for hardness of heart, as Jesus reminds us in the Gospel today. Let your attitude spread the Good News of Christ, who has died and risen for us. Alleluia! *Today's Readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1, 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*





Bringing Home the Word

The Resurrection of the Lord | April 16, 2017

Nothing? Or Everything?

By Mary Katharine Deeley

No angel.

No trumpet blasts.

No remarkable glow of light.

The only thing Mary saw was a stone that had been moved from its place at the entrance of Jesus' tomb. The only thing Peter and the beloved disciple saw were burial cloths set aside, the one for Jesus' head in a separate place.

Some have pointed out that this tells us only that a body that was supposed to be in the grave was not. It does not "prove" Jesus rose from the dead. But

there was an empty tomb—there was nothing when there should have been something.

We preach Christ risen from the dead on Easter. Is it foolishness? The whole of creation began in mystery—God took emptiness and created the world. Our new life begins in mystery, too. It starts with an empty tomb. God goes on to create stars, planets, animals, and human beings. Jesus, who had taught in the synagogues, healed the sick, and raised the dead, opens our eyes and hearts little by little and shows us that the empty tomb means abundant life for all who believe—a new relationship with God.

A little later in the day, Mary encounters Jesus in the garden, though she doesn't know him at first. When she understands it is Jesus, she touches the mystery that is life. When Jesus appears to the disciples, nail marks still visible, he wishes them peace and invites them and all of us into new life with God.

We've told this story for almost two thousand years, and it has never worn out or grown stale. What other evidence do we need? †

***Our new life begins
with an empty tomb.***

A Word From Pope Francis

I would like it to enter every heart, for it is there that God wants to sow this Good News: Jesus is risen, there is hope for you, you are no longer in the power of sin, of evil! Love has triumphed, mercy has been victorious! The mercy of God always triumphs!

Urbi Et Orbi Message,
Easter, March 31, 2013



Sunday Readings

Acts 10:34a, 37–43

"Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Colossians 3:1–4 or
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8**

"Let us celebrate the feast...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

**John 20:1–9 or
Matthew 28:1–10**

"For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Are you fully convinced Jesus rose from the dead?
- How will you live the resurrection in your own life this Easter season?



Resurrection Power

By Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus 2,000 years ago and

will happen to each of us some time in the future after we die when our own bodies will be raised to new life. It is that, but it is much more.

The resurrection is something that buoys up every moment of life and every aspect of reality. God is always

making new life and undergirding it with a goodness, graciousness, mercy, and love that, in the end, heals all wounds, forgives all sins and brings deadness of all kinds to new life.

We feel this resurrecting power in the most ordinary moments of our lives. A sense of the resurrection, understood in its deepest sense, manifests itself unconsciously in our vitality, in what we call health; in the feeling, however dimly

it is sensed, that it is good to be alive. The very atomic structure of the cosmos feels and knows that resurrecting power. That is why it (like us, when we are healthy) pushes forward blindly, buoyed up by a hope that it cannot understand.

A friend of mine once sent me an Easter card that ended with the challenge: “May you leave behind you a string of empty tombs!” That is both my Easter wish and my Easter challenge for all of us. Let our wounded, muted voices begin to sing again: Christ is risen! Life is very, very good. †

Source: *Daybreaks*, © 2004, Liguori Publications

Keeping Vigil

By Thomas Richstatter, OFM

The dictionary explains that a vigil is “a purposeful or watchful staying awake during the ordinary hours of sleep.” This is what we do on Holy Saturday night. We gather, we wait, we watch. We keep vigil. We wait with the generations of those longing for Christ to rise from the tomb.

Service of Light. As the natural light of day fades away, we turn our attention to the light that is Jesus Christ. We gather around a fire and we think of Christ, who is the light of God’s glory. And from this special fire, we light our most beautiful candle.

As this paschal candle enters the church, its light spreads to the candles held by each member of the worshipping community.

Salvation History. In this light we

keep watch. And as we wait around this special fire—the paschal candle—we tell our story: creation, Abraham’s sacrifice, our passing through the Red Sea. Our joy and anticipation grow, and we sing “Glory to God in the highest,” a hymn we have not used since Lent began.

Death in Baptism. The Letter of Paul to the Romans makes explicit the fact that this is our resurrection night.

“Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life” (6:3–4).

We stand and joyfully sing “Alleluia” (a word we have not heard for forty days), and the Gospel of the resurrection is proclaimed: Christ is risen!

Recommitment. If your parish is welcoming new Catholics to the Church, you will also be called to renew your baptism promises. The Church turns to

its members and asks: “Do you reject sin? Do you believe? Do you wish to renew your baptism?” The answer to these questions are two simple words: “I do.”

In this “I do,” we renew all that this holy night promises so that in the Eucharist we can share with the newly baptized the food and drink that take all the sting out of death and ensure eternal victory. †

Source: *Catholic Update*,
© April 1992, Liguori Publications



Lord, your resurrection pierces the darkness of doubt and fear. May the power of your resurrection help me to deepen my love for you and all people.

Mindful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 10–15

Monday

Easter Weekday:
Acts 2:14, 22–33 / Mt 28:8–15

Tuesday

Easter Weekday:
Acts 2:36–41 / Jn 20:11–18

Wednesday

Easter Weekday:
Acts 3:1–10 / Lk 24:13–35

Thursday


Easter Weekday:
Acts 3:11–26 / Lk 24:35–48

Friday

Easter Weekday:
Acts 4:1–12 / Jn 21:1–14

Saturday

Easter Weekday:
Acts 4:13–21 / Mk 16:9–15

Bringing Home
the Word 
April 16, 2017

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