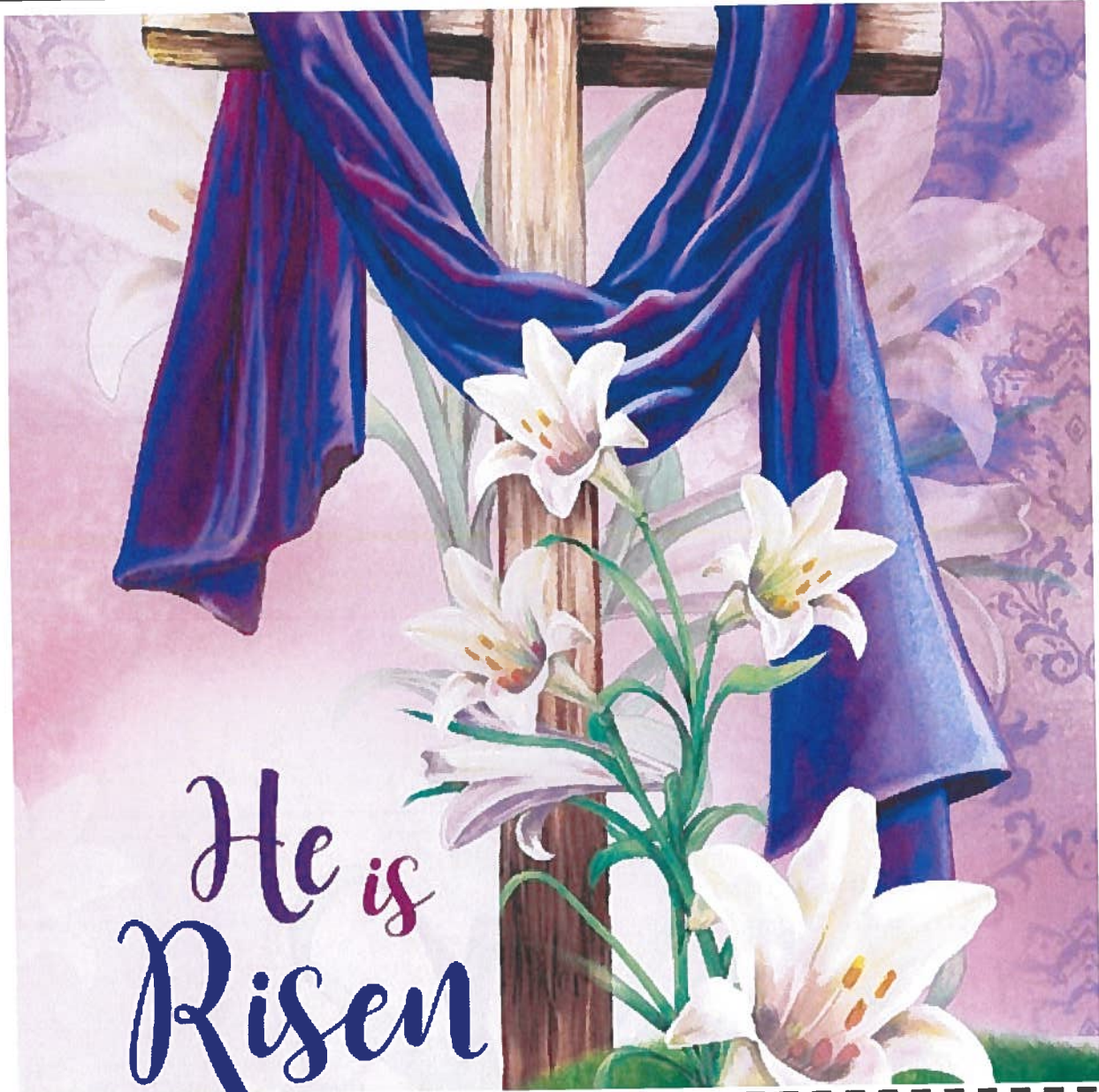


The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

APRIL 4-5, 2026



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm -4:45pm
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Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

**Quotable:** "He has risen. This is the heart of our faith. Mary was a silent witness of all these events. Let us ask her to help us also to receive the fullness of this Easter message."

—Saint John Paul II

Easter Sunday				April 11-12, 2026
Liturgical Schedule	St. James Saturday, April 11 7:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 12 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 12 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 12 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Brett Buza Roger Jensen Dave Emling Gery Wright	Kyle Ferris David Kirkpatrick	Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Jerry Ogrentz Duane Papineau	Dustin Truetner Sean Riordan Darren Lovell Larry Wolles
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Cindy Gagnon	Mary Peerbolte	Diane Long
Eucharistic Minister				Lynda Wolles
Servers	Gavin Down			Avery Adams
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—The Peerboltes	Stacie Powers

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, April 6 (SMM)

8:00 am +Dolores Clodi (Sue Kuntz)

#### Tuesday, April 7 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

#### Wednesday, April 8 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

#### Friday, April 10 8:00am (SMM)

No Mass

#### Saturday, April 11 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Rita & Bob Deany (Tim Deany)  
+Igor Dubravec (Craig/Liz Frerichs)

#### Sunday, April 12

7:30 am (SH) +Norma Wright (Viator Buckley Family)

9:00 am (SJ) +Leola Ader (Kim Astroth)

+Harold Fournier (Bruce/Cathy Jensen)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

### Looking Ahead

**Thursday, April 9**—SH CCW Spring Luncheon

**Sunday, April 12**—SJ CCW meeting after Mass

**Thursday, April 16**—SMM Night in Italy

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm\_sja\_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550 debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga [tosenga81@gmail.com](mailto:tosenga81@gmail.com)

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [jdstreefarms1@gmail.com](mailto:jdstreefarms1@gmail.com)

### Question of the week—

• To what must I die in order to rise with Christ in new life? What old yeast must be thrown out of my life so that I may become a fresh batch of dough, living in the newness of life?

## Collections Weekend of March 28-29, 2026

St. Margaret Mary—\$ 2,350

St. James—\$1,127

Sacred Heart— \$ 1,210

Thank you for your generosity!

### Reflection- Easter Season

Easter is no time for argument. Lilies don't argue; they bloom. Springtime doesn't argue; it comes. Music doesn't argue; it sings. Beauty doesn't argue; it beckons and points. Love doesn't argue; it outlives our griefs.

Frederick B. Speakman

### Sacred Heart's Kids Helping Kids

Thank you to all who support Our Kids helping Kids. We still have our jug at the entrance of the church. It will be there until the last Sunday in April for anyone who wishes to drop money in it.

Again, thank you for your support of our students and the Ronald McDonald House.

### Gospel Shorts The Angel on the Stone

In St. Matthew's Gospel, there is a hilarious story regarding the Resurrection. Matthew has an angel coming lightning-like from heaven and scaring the guards at the tomb more than half to death. They became catatonic ... "like dead men" the author tells us. Then the angel rolled the stone away and guess what? He "sat on it."

It was as though he said, "God and I have done our work. God raised Christ from the dead and I rolled the stone away. I'll just sit here and enjoy the results." Then when the two Marys came, he gave comfort and direction. "Don't be afraid ... Go tell." (Mt. 28:5-7)

The message we are to get from the story is that God always turns man's evil into his good and that is final. God always has the last word. Always.

Is there proof of this? Consider the witness of those who met the living Christ. Consider the testimony of the 27 books in the New Testament that insist that Christ lives. The very existence of the church itself is evidence of the Resurrection. Could the church have been built upon a lie? Hardly. Finally, think of all the good that the church does on earth today. Think of shelters for the homeless, the elderly, troubled children, alcoholics and other addicts ... all underwritten by the church. Think of church, hospitals, schools, the ministry to the lonely and the lost. Whatever the church's faults, it is still true that the living Christ ministers through her.

How else could she exist?



Welcome into the faith to  
**Kenna Kolasinski**  
daughter of Jason and Theresa Kolasinski  
who was baptized at St. Margaret Mary  
on March 28, 2026

### Parish News:

#### All Parishes—

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

#### St. Margaret Mary-

#### St. James-

⇒ Thank you to everyone who donated to our Lenten project, Georgie's Closet. We raised \$550 to help foster families in our area.

⇒ Our last regular CCW meeting will be on Sunday, April 12 after mass. All are invited to attend. .

#### Sacred Heart—

⇒ The week of April 5th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for Julian Morris, Eileen Johnson, Jennifer Abel and Natalie Abel as they continue their journey in faith and the St. Joseph candle burns in thanksgiving for a favor granted

⇒ Sacred Heart C.C.W.'s Spring Luncheon with Bunco is Thurs., April 9th, 11:00 a.m. in Sacred Heart's parish hall. There will be a delicious lunch, bunco with prizes, cash & basket raffles, 50/50 and door prizes. Hope to see you April 9th!

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him."

Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead (from John 20).

### Reflection— Almsgiving

The journey to Easter continues. We pray, we fast, we give alms, Almsgiving is a key part of Lenten growth. We "give up" some comfort ourselves and turn it into money or other necessities for people who need them.

Jesus told us almsgiving is best done in secret. Almsgiving should cost us something: a routine pleasure like morning coffee and a doughnut, an evening's entertainment, the time it takes to walk instead of hailing a cab, the extra attention to set aside the money saved, to find the best use for it, and to deliver the gift.



**Obscure saint of the week: St. Vincent Ferrer (April 5)** was the fourth child of the Anglo-Scottish nobleman William Stewart Ferrer and his Spanish wife, Constantia Miguel; his father is reported to have had a dream in which he was told that Vincent would be a world-famous Dominican friar. The boy joined the Dominicans in 1367. He received his doctorate of theology from the University of Lleida. Vincent was ordained a priest and became a missionary. He taught theology and was an Adviser to the King of Aragon. During a severe fever in 1388, Vincent had a vision of Christ, Saint Dominic de Guzman and Saint Francis of Assisi. It was a life-changing experience – Vincent received supernatural gifts and believed that he was a messenger of penance, an “angel of the apocalypse” sent to prepare humankind for the Judgement of Christ.

Vincent was also a great preacher who converted thousands in Spain, France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, England, Scotland, and Ireland. He was invited to preach in Muslim Granada. In addition, he was a counselor to Pope Benedict XIII. He traveled through Spain, France, Switzerland, and Italy, working to end the Western Schism. Vincent slept on the floor, had the gift of tongues (he spoke only Spanish, but all listeners understood him), lived in an endless fast, celebrated Mass daily, and known as a miracle worker; He is reported to have brought a murdered man back to life to prove the power of Christianity to the onlookers, and he would heal people throughout a hospital just by praying in front of it. He worked so hard to build up the Church that he became the patron of people in building trades – plus, legend says that he saved a construction worker who fell off a building by praying, which caused the man to float gently to the ground.

**Other obscure saint of the week: St. Gerald of Sauve-Majeure (April 5)** was educated at the monastery of Corbie, France. He became a Benedictine monk at Corbie. Gerald was in charge of the monastery kitchen. He traveled with his abbot to Monte Cassino and Rome. Gerald was ordained by Pope Saint Leo IX. He suffered from severe headaches; when he returned to the monastery at Corbie, he was cured of them by Saint Adalard. Gerald made a pilgrimage to Palestine. Later he became the abbot of Saint Vincent's abbey, Laon, France. Eventually he was named the abbot of Saint Medard abbey at Soissons, France; he was expelled from Saint Medard's by a usurper for the position of abbot. Gerald founded the abbey of Sauve-Majeure which spread a devotion to the Benedictine Rule.



### Questions Catholics Ask

#### What do Catholics believe about the Eucharist?

The centrality of Eucharist to Catholic life can't be overemphasized. It's “the source and summit” of Christian life. (*Lumen Gentium*, no.11) This means our life as disciples begins at the Table of the Lord and always returns here.

*Eucharist* means thanksgiving. Eucharist refers to the ritual of the Mass as a whole, or is shorthand for the Body and Blood of Christ we share in communion. The term reminds us that what brings us together is gratitude. What are we grateful for? The mystery of Christ who has died, is risen, and will come again in glory. This past/present/future reality of Christ includes us in its magnificent unfolding. We're not bystanders at a miracle, but participants in a never-ending feast.

Like many of our Protestant sisters and brothers, Catholics celebrate Eucharist as a *memorial* of the last supper Jesus shared with his friends. However, we also believe this sacrament *renews* the sacrifice Jesus makes of his life expressed in his words: “Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my Body... Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood...” What was, now is. Our participation in this supper transforms us into the Body of Christ for the world right now.

When the early church gathered for what they called “the breaking of the bread” or “the Supper of the Lord,” they did more than eat and drink. They also listened to instruction from local leaders, prayed, supported each other, shared financial resources with those in need, and received teachings from the apostles—whether in person, delivered by an eyewitness, or by means of a letter passed among the communities. The gathering also served in a variety of ministries as the Spirit inspired the members to do. We preserve these elements of Eucharist in the prayers, Scripture readings, homily, and collection, as well as opportunities for faith formation and service practiced in various ways by each parish community.

Recent Catholic theology also directs our attention to the “dangerous memory” contained in our Eucharist. Christ's passion points to the reality of unjust suffering, the need for its redress, and the hope of transcendence from a world marred by sin and death. Our Eucharist reminds us that the call to justice sounds every time we “proclaim the death of the Lord, until he comes.”

#### Scripture:

Mark 14:22-25; Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-20; John 6:34-59; Acts of the Apostles 2:42; 4:32-35; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

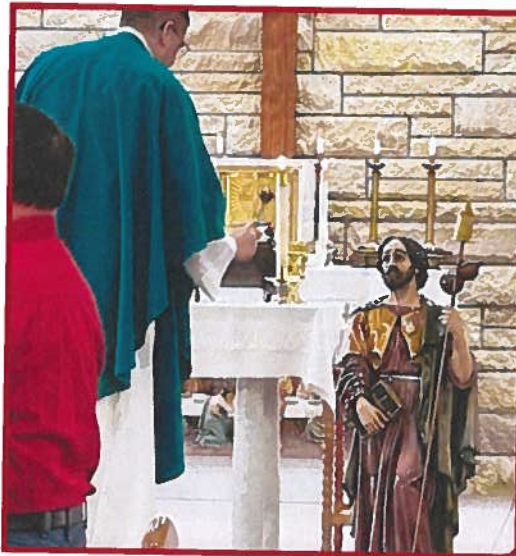
Congratulations to Josephine Parsons for receiving the sacrament of First Reconciliation on March 22nd at Sacred Heart



# "A Night In Italy"

Thursday, April 16  
5:00 - 7:00 pm  
St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church  
Parish Hall

Entree, Salad, Garlic Bread  
Dessert & Drink  
Eat in or carry out  
Free will donation



### CONTINUE THAT GIVING SPIRIT HERE AT HOME

Tragedy has struck close to our homes. Our parishioners have always been so generous to help others in time of need. We need to keep that giving spirit moving forward as our own county community is in need. We are collecting donations for Catholic Charities to help our brothers and sisters affected by the terrible storm this month.

There will be a drop off at all three churches. Specific requests are for shelf stable foods personal products, including toothpaste and toothbrush, packaged underwear. If it more convenient for you, simply make a donation to Catholic Charities and they will purchase needed items.

As this week's bulletin quote says:

"We must be ready and eager for every opportunity to do good and put our whole heart into it."  
—Pope Saint Clement I

That opportunity is now and the place is here. Please be as generous as you are able. Thank you for your help.



Your Knights of Columbus Council recently assisted Father Ron in the blessing of the two new statues. Shown carrying the St James statue are Dave Emling and Mike Hertz. Carrying the St Margaret Mary statue are Greg Sanders and Wayne Bisailon.

## Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Do you know what the symbols on the Paschal Candle mean?

If you look closely at that candle, you'll notice something else, it's covered in symbols. None of them are decorative. Every one of them is intentional.

At the Easter Vigil, the church begins in darkness.

Then a single flame appears.

The Paschal Candle is carried into the church, and the priest proclaims, "The Light of Christ." One by one, the entire church fills with light.

It is one of the most striking moments of the year.

But if you look closely at that candle, you'll notice something else...it's covered in symbols. None of them are decorative. Every one of them is intentional.

### The Cross

At the center of the candle is always a cross.

This reminds us that the Resurrection cannot be separated from the Cross. Christ conquers death not by avoiding suffering, but by passing through it.

### Alpha and Omega

You'll usually see two Greek letters: A (Alpha) and Ω (Omega).

These come directly from Scripture:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega... the beginning and the end" (Revelation 22:13).

They remind us that Christ is Lord of all time—everything begins and ends in Him.

### The Year

The current year is inscribed on the candle.

This is easy to overlook, but it matters.

It means that the Resurrection is not just something that happened once long ago. Christ is alive now, in this moment, in this year.

### The Five Grains of Incense

Five small "nails" or grains of incense are inserted into the candle.

They represent the five wounds of Christ: His hands, His feet, and His side.

Even in the light of the Resurrection, the wounds remain.

### The Flame

And of course, the flame itself.

The Paschal Candle represents Christ as the Light of the World (John 8:12). It is lit at Easter, but it does not disappear after that.

It appears again at baptisms and funerals—at the beginning of life in Christ, and at the end—reminding us that His light does not go out.

All of these symbols together tell one story:

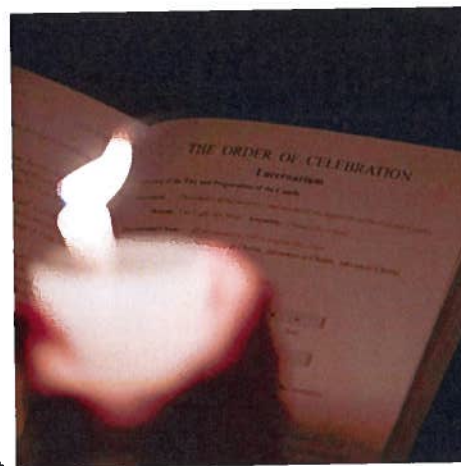
Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ is Lord of time, of suffering, and of life itself.

It's easy to miss these details in the moment. But once you see them, you begin to realize that the Paschal Candle is not just part of the liturgy—it is a kind of silent proclamation of the Gospel.

If you want to bring that same reminder into your home during the Easter season, a Paschal-style candle can be a beautiful and meaningful addition.



is

April 5, 2026

# The Resurrection of the Lord

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

## GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today we celebrate the Lord's resurrection, the pinnacle of the Church's entire liturgical year. As disciples, we know that Christ's resurrection is not something that happened to him alone; his resurrection offers us the promise that all who believe in him will one day rise with him. But the new life Christ promises is not something we have to wait for the next life to experience! Everything we have been doing throughout Lent to prepare for today's celebration also gives us a foretaste of the fullness of life we will share with him at our own resurrection. By God's grace, we have been inwardly renewed by Lenten prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Our minds and hearts have been lifted from the things of earth to the things of heaven. As disciples of the risen Christ, let us continue to "seek what is above," deepening our own participation here and now in the life he won for us through his cross and glorious resurrection.

## GO EVANGELIZE

### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The scene in today's Gospel offers us a helpful insight for evangelization. Peter and John run to the empty tomb. While John gets there faster, he waits outside and allows Peter to enter first. We can think of Peter as symbolic of faith (he is the one, after all, who confesses Jesus as the Christ (Mt.16:16)), and John, as symbolic of love (in our Gospel, John is referred to not by name, but as "the other disciple whom Jesus loved.") Although Peter and John see the empty tomb and believe, our Gospel reading ends with this interesting detail: "For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead." I think what the text is showing us is that *love and faith* often precede *understanding*. In our efforts of evangelization, apologetics and theology have their place. But we must not forget that sometimes inviting someone to love and trust in the Lord - before they have all the answers worked out - is more effective than trying to help a person reason their way to faith by perfect explanations. Love and faith draw us to encounter the risen Lord, and understanding comes later.

## CELEBRATE

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad" our psalm tells us. Today is the Solemnity of solemnities, the Feast of all feasts! Take some time to rejoice and give thanks for all that God has done for us through his death and glorious resurrection. Today nothing else should be on our "to do" list other than to celebrate well!



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 1 Cor 5:7b-8a

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;  
let us then feast with joy in the Lord.

*R.* Alleluia, alleluia.

## Gospel

John 20:1-9; L42ABC

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.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter  
and to the other disciple whom  
Jesus loved, and told them,  
“They have taken the Lord from  
the tomb,  
and we don’t know where they put  
him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went  
out and came to the tomb.

They both ran, but the other  
disciple ran faster than Peter  
and arrived at the tomb first;  
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.

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

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

or

Matt 28:1-10; L41A in *Appendix A*, p. 294,  
or, at an afternoon or evening Mass  
Luke 24:13-35; L46 in *Appendix A*, p. 294.

See *Appendix A*, p. 295, for the other readings.

## Reflecting on the Gospel

A theme in this gospel passage is that of running. Mary of Magdala ran to tell the disciples what she found at the tomb. Peter and the other disciple ran to the empty tomb, finding the burial cloths neatly rolled. It’s easy to imagine why each of them was struck with such an urgency to run—Mary couldn’t wait to share what she had seen, and the men wanted to see the tomb for themselves

because it sounded unfathomable. John recounts, “For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.” The extent of what they “saw and believed” was that the Messiah was not there. The disciples did not know what was happening on that first Easter Sunday, but they had seen Jesus’s miracles and heard his words, and they therefore ran anxiously to discover the reason for his absence.

We see the mention of running several other places in Scripture, the most notable being the scene of the father running to meet his prodigal son who has returned home. The father ran in thanksgiving and overwhelming joy to greet the man who had squandered his money, resorted to eating with swine, and felt

unworthy to even be a servant on his land. Luke writes that the father was out watching for his son and saw him while he was still far away. As far as we know, the father had no way of know-

ing that his son was on his journey back home, and yet he was anxiously waiting and watching for him.

Later, the author of Hebrews writes, “let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith” (Heb 12:1-2). The truth of the resurrection is meant to enliven us and give us the strength and hope needed to persevere in living holy and faithful lives. We run not only to encounter the risen Lord, but we also run forth with purpose to spread the good news of the living God.

On Easter Sunday, the church celebrates the empty tomb as a climax of salvation history that had been set into motion from the very moment of the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. We have the blessing of knowing the great mystery and the great joy that the disciples would come to learn—that the Messiah had risen from the dead, defeating the sting of death for all. Whether we approach the tomb after a Lenten season that has been fulfilling and spiritually renewing or after one that has been full of struggle, the Father is watching for us just the same, ready to embrace us and celebrate the majesty of his risen Son. May we also run to the empty tomb today with the sweet confidence of knowing that God is already running to greet each of us.

## Preparing to Proclaim

**Key words and phrases:** “He commissioned us to preach to the people . . .”

**To the point:** Each of us is commissioned to share the gospel of Jesus, both in word and action. This call begins with the experience of Mary Magdalene at the tomb on Easter morning and is exemplified by Peter’s proclamation in the first reading from Acts. Sharing the Scriptures at Mass is one way of doing this, Of course, but the whole of our lives should also be touched by Easter joy. Paul conveys this in today’s epistle reading—in the resurrection of Christ, each of us is offered the grace to welcome the kingdom of God into our families, communities, and relationships.

