

April 20, 2025

THE BAD NEWS AND THE GOOD NEWS

It was Easter Sunday morning and Mary Magdalene was in full panic mode. She had come to the place where Jesus was buried and found the tomb empty: "They have taken my Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they put him.!" Of course, she assumed the worst. Who could blame her? She was part of an oppressed people, under the thumb of Rome, ruled by puppet kings, subject to arbitrary arrest or imprisonment by Roman soldiers. The Jewish people were heavily taxed and received little that was hopeful or helpful from their religious leaders. She had seen Jesus arrested on false charges, scourged, mocked, paraded through the streets carrying a crossbeam, nailed to a cross, and left to die in public.

Jesus had set her free from seven demons (whatever they were), and like so many other men and women who followed Jesus, she was grateful. He had brought hope to so many people, opened up new ways to relate to God, spoke about sacred things in a language that people could understand, showed real compassion for the sick, offered a vision of a new world, fed those who were hungry for bread, and fed their deeper hunger with the bread of eternal life. It had all come to nothing. Now there was more bad news. Now his body is missing and she could not even honor his memory by properly anointing it.

Of course, as Mary Magdalene and the rest of Christ's followers would later discover, the story of Jesus did not end with a missing corpse. "They" had not taken his body, whoever "they" were. For these early followers of Jesus, Easter was about much more than one man (who was God) escaping death. This one man came into the world with nothing and left the world with nothing. He was born in someone else's stable and buried in someone else's grave. The Romans had treated him like the scum of the earth, nailing him to a cross. But the power of Rome was not everything. There was something stronger and more powerful than the greatest empire the world had known. That is the power of God and the love of God. The Good News of the resurrection caught on like wildfire. A Sprit-filled St Peter, who was once afraid to admit to a slave girl that he even knew Jesus, was out on the streets of Jerusalem giving witness. In an age when travel was rare, Christians went careening around the Mediterranean world, spreading the story of the Resurrection. The good news of Easter burned within St. Paul, who preached Christ crucified and risen regardless of danger and personal cost.

Why did the good news catch on the way it did? Why was it so powerful? Why did it spread so rapidly? A central reason was that people had lived with so much bad news for so long, that they were incredibly hungry for good news. They longed for something on which to base their hope and they longed for a God that had not forgotten them, a God who had now been made visible to them, a God who loved them enough to die for them. They had looked into an empty black tomb and found new life.

People of every age are hungry for good news, and our age is certainly no exception. We live in a world of economic uncertainty, when social services are hanging by a thread, when crime and violence are ripping through our neighborhood (a reality which is itself but a symptom of a deeper emptiness), when isolation has become a national epidemic, when division and divisiveness have taken over politics; when wars grind on and on; when Mother Nature is rebelling against her poor treatment; when our own families and relationships struggle against a mixed tide of cultural forces; when oppression and injustice still hold people captive; when desperate people flee the violence and poverty of their native lands, when the Word of God has grown faint. We live in a world in need of good news. Yet, who will bring that good news if not us? Whatever our personal Bad News is, we learn at Easter that God's Good News is more powerful. Can we allow that good news to infect us and transform us? Can we not do something to bring the light of Christ into the darkness of the empty tombs of our world. Can we not become a person of peace, of gratitude, of hope, of love? Can we not stand for the dignity of every human person—everyone for whom Jesus died and rose? God is counting on us weak and sinful human beings to bring the good news to the world—just as God counted on weak and sinful human beings 2000 years ago. How has Easter changed us and how will we witness that to the world?

On behalf of the Servite Community at Assumption and our parish staff, I wish all of you a blessed Easter.

Fr. Joe

WELCOME!

At the Easter Vigil Mass we baptized Megha Aggarwal, Michael Baker, Keelan Chapman, Matthew Conti, Madeline Kenny, Camille McCutcheon, Dana McLain,



Raven Shaw, and Sonora Shaw. We received into the Catholic Church Dillon Duchesne, Kaycee Martin, Cooper Meyer, and Jessica Miranda. All thirteen, along with Mateo Jaramillo, were confirmed and made their first holy communion at this Mass. Welcome to the Catholic Church and the Faith Community of Assumption!

EASTER MASSES

As we have done these past few years, we alter our Mass schedule for Easter, so as to be able to accommodate as many people as possible in church. The Vigil Mass for Easter will be at 8:00pm (It must begin after sunset). On Easter Sunday morning, Masses will be at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, and 1:00pm. There is no evening Mass on Easter Sunday. There will be music at all Masses except 7:00am.

GENERATION TO GENERATION

Generation to Generation is a campaign of the Archdiocese of Chicago designed to support the long term future of the Catholic Church in Cook and Lake Counties and to support the needs of parishes like Assumption. Unlike the Annual Catholic Appeal, which is designed to keep the ministries and needy parishes of the Archdiocese running for another year, Generation to Generation is an invitation to make a pledge over a five year period to address long-term needs. Funds collected will go to support the health care and retirement of the Archdiocesan priests, create a scholarship fund for students attending Catholic schools, and expand evangelization efforts. Fifty percent of the funds raised return to Assumption. Our parish goal is \$775,000 (or 130% of our annual collection) and we have already reached 60% of this amount in pledges. When you receive an invitation in person or by mail, please be generous.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

In honor of the Feast of St. Peregrine, the Cancer Saint, we will offer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at the 7:00 and 12:10 Masses on Monday May 5. This Sacrament is for those whose life is at risk because of age or illness.

FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

While Easter decorations and Easter candies disappear from store shelves immediately after Easter, the Church continues to celebrate Easter long after the last remnants of the Easter ham have been consumed. We have forty days of Lent, but fifty days of Easter. This reminds us that the self-discipline of Lent was not an end in itself (much less an endurance test), but a way of preparing ourselves for a renewed commitment to Christ and a celebration of his victory over sin and death. The Easter season reaches its conclusion on the Feast of Pentecost, when, according to Scripture, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. Though largely a secular activity today, the tradition of decorating eggs for Easter has its roots in religious faith. The eggs were meant to symbolize Christ emerging from the tomb on Easter Sunday morning.

WEDDINGS:

KEITH HERBSTRITT & JESSICA PINTO STEPHEN PROFFER & PAULA ROMANCHUK KEVIN LABARGE & BRIDGET MANAHAN





HYMNS: #194, #342, #170

PRAY FOR THEM

Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Rich DiVito, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Mike Foster, Peter Lammer.

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2025

1.0			
Sat	19th	8:00	The Garvey Family
Sun	20th	7:00	The Dubuque Family
		8:30 A	Assumption Parishioners
		10:00	† Charles & Marion Joachim
		11:30 -	† Cornelia & Francisco Pestanas
		1:00 -	† John McEneany
Mon	21st	7:00 -	† Michael & Rose Marie Sopko,
		I	Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko,
		1	Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
		12:10 J	Josie Zamora (b'day)
Tues	22nd	7:00 I	Ron Tevonian (b'day)
Wed	23rd	7:00 -	† Ron Plunk
Thurs	24th	7:00 I	Priests and People of Assumption
			The Dubuque Family
Fri	25th	7:00 -	† Neil Donnelley
Sat	26th	7:30 -	† Ivan Calderon

GETTING MARRIED AT ASSUMPTION: You do not have to be a registered parishioner to get married at Assumption. You do have to be free to marry in the Catholic Church and you do have to participate in the marriage preparation process. For more information, call the Parish Office.

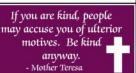
BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday, May 12 from 7:00 to 8:15pm in the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for parents who have never before attended a preparation session. Call the Parish Office to register. It is not necessary to wait until the baby is born to attend. Baptisms normally take place at 1:15pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and on the first weekend during Mass.

ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS: Assumption Young Adults is having a pizza party Sunday evening May 18, following the 5:00pm Mass. AYA is for anyone in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They participate in a number of social, spiritual, and service activities during the year. Find out more by emailing assumptionaya@gmail.com

PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS: Our Parish Pastoral Council consists of nine members. It is an advisory group that considers, evaluates, and make recommendations to the pastor in all areas of parish life except for finances. Members serve a three-year term and cannot serve two consecutive terms. So, we add three new members each year. Beginning next weekend (April 26-27) we will begin accepting nominations. You may nominate yourself or another church member. Those who are nominated will be invited to attend a virtual information session on Tuesday May 13 or Wednesday May 21 at 7:00pm and will be asked to participate in an Evening of Discernment on Thursday May 29.











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