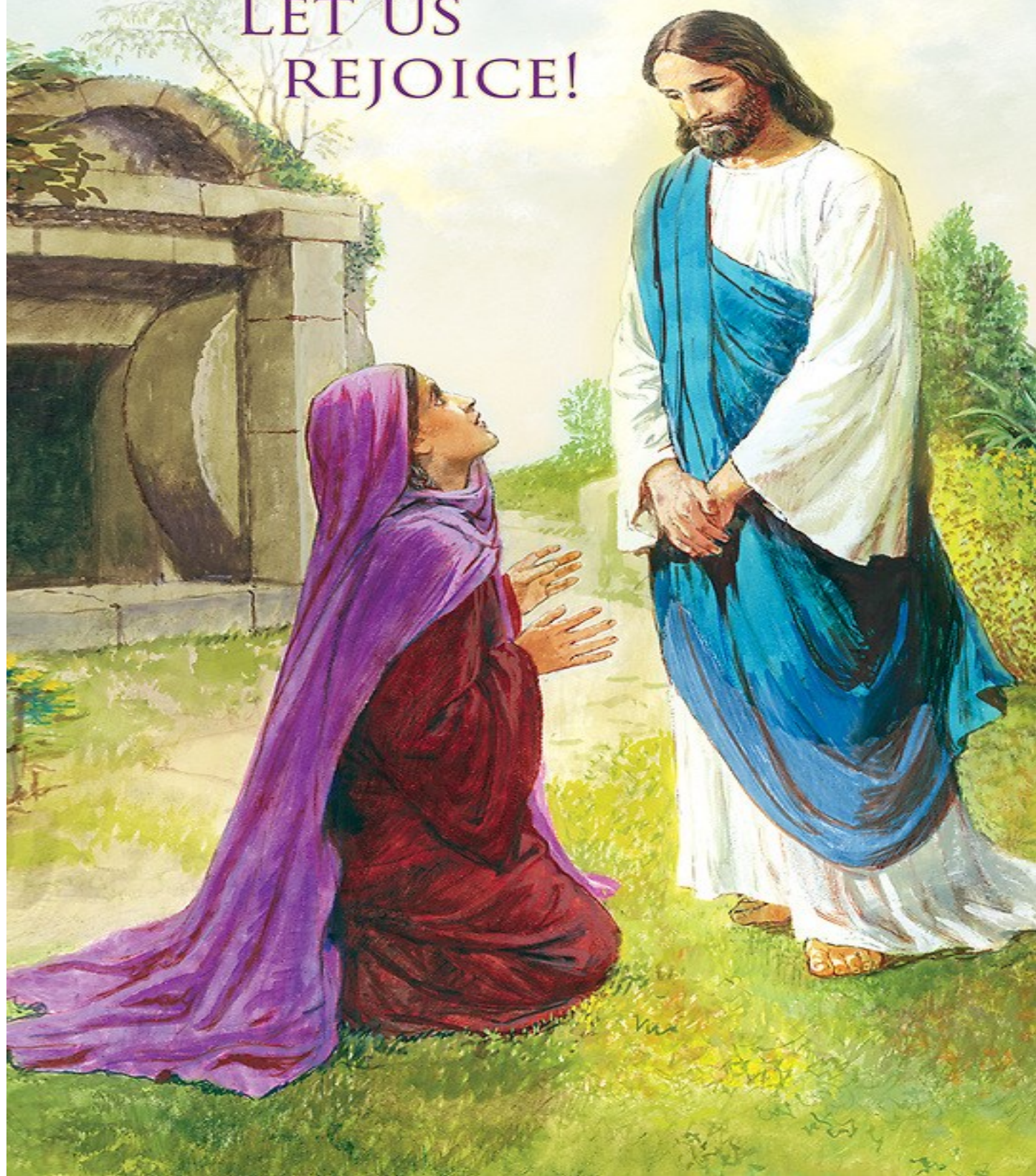


Jesus Lives!
LET US
REJOICE!



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD ~ APRIL 20, 2025

ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR PARISH - SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO (T) 416-759-9359

John 20:1-9



He Had to Rise from the Dead.

There are several accounts in the various gospels of the discovery of the empty tomb. The slight variations between them show all the marks of oral tradition, for in genuine oral tradition each 'performance' is different. Different people tell the story slightly differently, stressing different aspects. This story stresses the proof that the tomb really was empty, for the apostles examine the evidence carefully. Other accounts concentrate less on the evidence and more on the message, that they will meet the Risen Lord in Galilee. It was important to establish that the tomb was empty, to prevent the charge that the meetings with the Risen Christ were simply ghost-appearances. Apart from the proof that this was a real, living and bodily person, these meetings stress two factors, the power of the Risen Christ and the commission given to the disciples. They are to go out into the whole world and spread the message, always accompanied by and strengthened by Christ himself. In this account Simon Peter is clearly the senior, authority figure, to whom the Beloved Disciple defers. But it is the love of the Beloved Disciple which immediately brings him to faith.

~~~~~

Che cos'è che fa correre l'apostolo Giovanni al sepolcro? Egli ha vissuto per intero il dramma della Pasqua, essendo molto vicino al suo maestro. Ci sembra perciò inammissibile un'affermazione del genere: "Non avevano infatti ancora compreso la Scrittura". Eppure era proprio così: non meravigliamoci allora di constatare l'ignoranza attuale, per molti versi simile. Il mondo di Dio, i progetti di Dio sono così diversi che ancor oggi succede che anche chi è più vicino a Dio non capisca e si stupisca degli avvenimenti.

"Vide e credette". Bastava un sepolcro vuoto perché tutto si resolvesse? Credo che non fu così facile. Anche nel momento delle sofferenze più dure, Giovanni rimane vicino al suo maestro. La ragione non comprende, ma l'amore aiuta il cuore ad aprirsi e a vedere. È l'intuizione dell'amore che permette a Giovanni di vedere e di credere prima di tutti gli altri. La gioia di Pasqua matura solo sul terreno di un amore fedele. Un'amicizia che niente e nessuno potrebbe spezzare. È possibile? Io credo che la vita ci abbia insegnato che soltanto Dio può procurarci ciò. È la testimonianza che ci danno tutti i gulag dell'Europa dell'Est e che riecheggia nella gioia pasquale alla fine del nostro millennio.

## Eucharistic Adoration

Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm (Church)\*

Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)\*

\*In Chapel, when there is a funeral.



Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!



## Mass Intentions for the week



### HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> - SABATO SANTO

8:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

### EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> - DOMENIC DI PASQUA

8:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

10:00 A.M. - Per Tutti I Nostri Parrochiani

11:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. - No Mass

### MONDAY APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup> - LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Emily & Herbert Lobo

12:00 P.M. + Irene De Souza

### TUESDAY APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> - MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. - Juliane Foronda

12:00 P.M. + Valeri E. D'Vauz

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup> - MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. - Fernando Tumaliuan

+ Fernando Pires

+ Maria Ester Alvarez

+ Maria Catubig

+ Paul & Pauline Lam

+ Guillermo Gallego Jr.

12:00 P.M. - Lydia Dominguez

### THURSDAY APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> - GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Marie De Souza

8:30 A.M. + Daniel Cruz

### FRIDAY APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> - VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Bishop Deogupillai

7:00 P.M. + Ina Maher

### SATURDAY APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> - SABATO

8:30 A.M. + Silverio Miguel

10:00 A.M. + Bayardo Valle Noguera



OFFERTORY LAST WEEK  
Regular: \$8,229.50

thank you

*"Aspire not to have more but Be More." ~ St. Oscar Romero*

## EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD ~ APRIL 20, 2025

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Dear Friends in Christ, last weekend in my Pastor's Corner, I wrote how the "Triduum ultimately is the manifestation of the beauty and profound drama of God's love for us unpacked over three beautiful days." For those who were able to take part in the different liturgies of these past few days, a myriad of emotions might have been the consequence of their participation. Some people, for example, may have felt a profound gratitude for the gift of the Eucharist and a sense of awe and reverence in the mystery of God's divine love for us. While others might have been tinged with a deep pang of sorrow in seeing Jesus fastened on the Cross in reparation for our sins.

On this Easter Sunday morning, all Christians are called to cloak themselves with a radiant and joyful emotion, that is, the resurrection joy. We rejoice on this day because the darkness of Good Friday has given way to the light of the Easter glory. The Resurrection is not simply the resuscitation of a corpse. It is the breaking open of history. It is the pivotal moment when the divine life of God erupts into the world and forever changes it. We declare, *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad"* (Ps. 118: 24). And we proclaim with one voice: *"Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"* Life has indeed triumphed over death; mercy over sin!

The resurrection of our Lord, however, is not just in memory, but in reality. The Church invites us to make it our own by walking with Mary Magdalene. St. John's account of the resurrection tells that it was still dark when Mary set out to visit the tomb of Jesus. Her heart was enveloped by grief and she was confused by all that happened to her divine Master. As she entered the garden, Mary found the stone removed, the tomb empty, and the body gone. She informed Peter and John, and they too went straight to the tomb. After the two apostles left, Mary could not resist the desire to revisit her Master's tomb again, because the thought that the vanished body could lie without honor and burial, tormented her ardent soul. And so Mary wept in inconsolable pain.

It can be tempting to quickly pass over Mary's moment of grief. Let us, however, not be too hasty to do so, since therein lies an important lesson for us. I have no doubt that for many, Easter does not come with trumpets and lilies; rather, it starts in the quiet recesses of our hearts that are often filled with pain and tested with many trials and tribulations. Just as Mary began her journey that day in darkness, so too unfortunately does ours. But the empty tomb is a powerful reminder that God performs his greatest works in the dark.

Mary teaches us how to enter this mystery by recognizing the risen Lord not through grand signs, but by hearing his voice. The risen Lord, likewise, calls us by name. He is not some distant figure. He is present in the here and now! He knows what ails our heart! He knows our pains and sufferings! He sees all our wounds, brokenness, frailties and deformities. And yet Jesus does not come to condemn, but to raise us to new life.

Pope Benedict in his book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, wrote: *"Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is part of the person is indeed answered."* This is the heart of our Christian hope. The resurrection is not just about Christ, but it is about us and the promise that we are not forgotten! Jesus not only died for our sins, but he also offers us the light of his victory by his glorious resurrection!

On behalf of Fr. Russell, Fr. Giuseppe and Julia, we extend a warm Easter greeting to you and all your loved ones, and pray that the Risen Lord may bless all of you during this Easter Season.

Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*



### Vocation Reflection

The Lord is risen, it is true! Through our baptism He calls us to proclaim new life to the world. Pray for those who herald the Good News as priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters. If God is calling you contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

Email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)

[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)



### Stewardship Reflection

The beautiful truth of our faith is that God was able to bring about the greatest good of the resurrection through the seemingly utter defeat of the crucifixion. The famous Portuguese proverb says that "God writes straight with crooked lines." As stewards, let us not be discouraged when we face crosses and trials but instead trust that God will transform these difficulties into many little Easter mornings.



# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD ~ APRIL 20, 2025

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## Dear Padre,

*I was baptized as a baby, but I never really went to church. Lately, I've been attending Mass. Are there steps I should take before I receive Communion?*

The first step is to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). This is a wonderful opportunity to be officially welcomed back into full practice with the Church. After such a long absence, it is important to examine your conscience and celebrate the forgiveness of the Lord before you receive holy Communion.

I would also recommend that you "beef up" your understanding of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. You might do this by participating in your parish's process for the Christian Initiation of Adults (called OCIA or sometimes RCIA). The Liguori Publications program, *Journey of Faith*, is one resource used by many parish communities. Another possibility is to use some of the resources offered online, such as Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire* website, which has a fine reputation.

I am happy you have responded to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within you and answered the call to deepen your spiritual practice and journey. The Church needs you. The people of God welcome you. You are beloved among us, and your response in faith is a powerful witness, a reminder to those who may be tempted to take for granted the gift of faith. Thank you. ●



A candidate and his sponsor sit for a photo after an Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class. LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



## Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience – June 27-29, 2025

Discover the Secrets to a Lasting, Supportive, and Transformational Marriage!

Contact: Christian & Elizabeth Arroba,  
416-554-4439 OR 416-554-7062  
christian.elizabeth.arroba@wwme.org



**Life-Giving Wounds: A Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorced/Separated Parents**  
Friday, May 16 at 6 p.m. to Sunday, May 18 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Augustine's Seminary  
Must be 18 or older to attend. Cost: \$340 per person (\$200 for students), which includes meals, lodging and retreat material

To register, visit:

<https://bit.ly/LGW-TO-Retreat-Register2025>.



## EARTH DAY Celebrate Earth Day 2025 "Protecting Biodiversity" April 22 is Earth Day!

Join fellow Canadians in embracing this year's theme: Biodiversity Protection. Biodiversity is essential for maintaining the balance of ecosystems, regulating the climate, pollinating crops and purifying water—all vital services that support human life and wellness.

For more information visit Earth Day Canada's official website: [earthday.ca](http://earthday.ca)

**VOLUNTEERS MAKE WAVES**

**Volunteer Appreciation Week**  
APRIL 27 - MAY 3, 2025



## THANK YOU FOR BEING A BEACON OF HOPE

On Easter Sunday, we thank you for being a beacon of hope for our brothers and sisters in need by supporting ShareLife. In their darkest hours, you are right beside them. As we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord this Easter Sunday, let us open our hearts to all.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

Thank you for living the Gospel through ShareLife!



## BELL TOWER Envelopes Offertory NEXT WEEKEND!

Your Donation is *appreciated* no matter how *big* or *small*!  
**Thank you!**  
**GOD bless you More.**



## FATHER YOU CALLED

**SAINT LAWRENCE**  
TO SERVE YOU BY LOVE  
AND CROWNED HIS LIFE  
WITH GLORIOUS  
MARTYRDOM.

HELP US TO BE LIKE HIM  
IN LOVING YOU  
AND DOING YOUR WORK.

**AMEN**

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.

*"Make sickness itself a Prayer"*

~ St Francis de Sales ~

