

Saint Anthony of Padua Church

Anthony mei pin seni Padua
Nhà thờ Công giáo Saint Anthony
St. Anthony ng Padua Katoliko Iglesia
Iglesia de San Antonio de Padua

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Mass will be said every day during the Octave of Easter, including Monday at 9 am and Saturday at 10 am

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

PARISH: 503.771.6039

EMERGENCY: 971.645.3453

STAFF

PASTOR: Fr. Patrick Donoghue (pdonoghue@archdpdx.org)

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED: Glenn Rymysza (grymsza@archdpdx.org)

BOOKKEEPER: Jeanne McPherson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Sulie Branstetter (sbranstetter@archdpdx.org)

Parish Email: StAnthonyPortland@archdpdx.org

Parish Website: stanthonypdx.com

For Viaticum, Communion to the Sick, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Baptism, RCIA (process for becoming Catholic) and funeral arrangements, please call the parish office.

Weekly Schedule

Saturday, Mass 4:30pm

Sunday, Mass 10:30 am

Tuesday & Thursday, Mass 11:00 am

Wednesday & Friday, Mass 9 am

First Saturday Mass of Viaticum, 10 am

Morning Prayer: Wed & Fri, 8:30 am

Confession: 3:45 pm on Saturday

or by appointment

We are Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, a Eucharistic family sharing the love of our Lord Jesus Christ with kindness and compassion.

March 31, 2024

Resurrection of the Lord

John 20:1-9

Today we hear John's account of the Easter story. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John arrive at the empty tomb and accept without question, the mystery of Jesus' resurrection. They saw and believed that He was the Messiah -- the Son of God! Like the three friends at the tomb on Easter morning, we "see and believe!"

Name a time in your life when something good came out of a seemingly hopeless situation.

When were your first impressions of a person or situation proven to be wrong?

**Happy Easter to you
and your loved ones!**

Scriptures for Today: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; John 20:1-9



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

April 1—April 7, 2024

Mon, April 1	9:00 am	Yoma Rekis
Tues, April 2	11:00 am	Peter Linh Nguyen
Wed, April 3	9:00 am	Yoma Rekis
Thurs, April 4	11:00 am	All Souls
Fri, April 5	9:00 am	Hilario
Sat, April 6	10:00 am	Peter Linh Nguyen
Sat, April 6	4:30 pm	Pro Populo
Sun, April 7	10:30 am	Don Vuylsteke

If a funeral is scheduled for the same time as your Mass intention, your intention will be moved to the next available date.

This Coming Week - March 31-April 8, 2024

Office Open: M-Th 9 am-2pm

Octave of Easter

Sun, March 31— Easter Sunday—He is Risen!

Beginning of the Octave of Easter

Easter Monday, April 1 — Mass 9 am

Easter Tuesday, April 2 — Mass 11 am

Easter Wednesday, April 3 — Mass 9 am

Pastoral Council 7 pm

Easter Thursday, April 4 — Mass 11 am

Easter Friday, April 5 — Mass 9 am

Adoration until 4 pm

Easter Saturday, April 6

First Saturday Mass of Viaticum 10 am

Confessions 3:45 pm

Mass 4:30 pm

Sun, April 7 — Divine Mercy Sunday

Mass 10:30 am

Religious Education, 9:15 am and 12 noon

Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3 pm

Mon, April 8 — Annunciation of the Lord

Mass 9 am

Solar Eclipse

Weekly Collection

Needed: \$3,302.37

Collection	\$1,037.10
Poor & Needy	\$112.00
Soup Supper	\$39.00
Votive Candles	\$15.10
Easter Flowers	\$10.00
CRS	\$10.00
Total	\$1,223.20

Thank you for the continuing support of your parish through the gifts of your time, your talent, and your financial offerings. Please remember Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in your will and in your other contributions. We rely upon your generosity to fund our ministries and pay all our expenses. Thank you.

Contact Fr. Pat if you would like seeds to grow giant pumpkins!



So precious is poverty that God's only begotten Son came on earth in search of it.

—St. Anthony of Padua

MINISTRY SCHEDULE — April 6-7

Lectors:

Saturday, April 6, 4:30 pm — Rosemary Childress

Sunday, April 7, 10:30 am — Lynnette Newsom

Ushers: Please let Father know you are available to serve when you come to Mass. Thank you for your time and talent as ministers. Volunteer ushers need to have background checks. Contact the parish office to complete the process.

Holy Father's Intention for April 2024

For the role of women — We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

CRS Rice Bowl—Happy Easter! We prayed, fasted and gave alms—and now we rejoice because Christ is risen! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we begin the Easter season to share the joy of having a loving God that is alive and accompanies us always. Let's do the same by being present to our global family by caring for their material and spiritual needs. Return your Rice Bowl donation to the church or the parish office. Donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.

St. Anthony will participate this year in the 18th Annual 82nd Avenue of Roses Parade on the morning of Saturday, April 27. Be ready to join the fun and represent our parish! It begins at Eastport Plaza and goes north up 82nd Avenue past Division to Yamhill, finishing at SE 78th. If you are interested in participating, either walking or biking, sign up at the church entrance. The parade is looking for volunteers to help set up parade grounds, assist marchers and entries find their spot in line up, award rose trophies, flag crosswalks, and keep parade route safe by monitoring cross street traffic. If you are interested in volunteering, you can sign up at <https://82RosesCEC.com>

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE PEOPLE:

Lizzie Albert, Prince Bangoy, Glenda & Bob Beagle, Donald Caldwell, Bill, Bob & Ed Cooke, Josh Daniels, Judy Denison, Linda Drewieske, Elaine, Dick & Patti Falaschetti, Sarah Harrison, Ann Henderson, Maria Ishmael, Jeffrey Jennings, Cliff Juntunen, Audrey Larson, Diane Latham, Allen Lee, Mihai Leta, Annette Levy, Dave Mathie, Anthony McPherson, Barbara Mirasol, Kelly Morse, Natalie Moser, Comella Nelson, Novella, Laura Ramirez, Kelsea Ramirez, Tionna Ritthaler, Glenn Rymysza, Stella Romaine+, Carolyn Scopacasa, Pat Scherzinger+, Debbie & Linda Struckmeier, Barbara Stuva, Bernie Tavender, Ann Thomas, Sherrill & Dale Toman, Mary Lou Vuylsteke. All our deceased parishioners+

Thank you for praying for those in need.

Please give Sulie a call to add or remove people to the list.



Join us for Coffee and Donuts in the Parish Hall after 10:30 Mass next week!

FROM FR. PAT'S PEN

*Our website is remodeled. It contains links for Sunday Mass viewing, myEoffering, the Sunday Bulletin, and a link to our Facebook page.

*Baptism for young children: If you have an infant or young child to be baptized, please contact Fr. Pat to set up a time to meet with him and to schedule the baptism.

*In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudete Deum*, Pope Francis gives an urgent call to tackle the climate crisis recognizing that time is running out. Irreversible damage has already been done. In this letter Pope Francis states that the climate crisis is real and cannot be denied. It is caused by human activity.

*Are you interested in learning about the Catholic Church? Father Pat is leading a weekly RCIA/Inquiry class. Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. This is a class for non-Catholics.

Thank you to all who participated in the Soup Suppers this Lent! Thank you to the groups who hosted the Soup Suppers and thank you to those who came and participated.

Scriptures for the Second Sunday of Easter are Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

Easter Sunday is the greatest feast of the Church, the greatest feast of the liturgical year. The celebration of Easter cannot be contained to one day, and it flows over to the first week. Every Gospel during the first week of Easter is about an event on Easter Day. And yet, the joy of Easter cannot be contained to even one week, and so it spills over to the 50 days of the Easter Season, lasting all the way until Pentecost Sunday.

Why do we wear white on Easter Sunday?

White is worn during the liturgical season of Easter to symbolize rejoicing—the joy of resurrection—and the purity of soul. Gold can also be worn and symbolizes that Easter is the “queen of feasts” of the liturgical year. White vestments are also used during the Christmas season and for major feast days, such as celebrations of our Lord (except those of His passion), the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and the saints who were not martyrs. Other feast days include the Solemnity of St. Joseph, All Saints, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, the Chair of St. Peter, and the Conversion of St. Paul. As white symbolizes resurrection, it is often used for funeral masses.

The Lord is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia

He is Risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Happy Easter to all

From Fr. Pat & the staff of St. Anthony

REGINA COELI

prayed in place of the Angelus during the Easter season

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, Alleluia

For he whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia

Has risen as he said, Alleluia

Pray for us to God, Alleluia

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia

For the Lord is truly Risen, Alleluia

Let us pray: O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has been pleased to fill the world with joy, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may receive the joys of eternal life, through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Resurrection in the Catechism of the Catholic Church

638 "We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this day he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus." The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:

Christ is risen from the dead!

Dying, he conquered death;

To the dead, he has given life.

(Byzantine Liturgy, Troparion of Easter).

639 The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about A.D. 56 St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve." The Apostle speaks here of the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus.

(See: 1 Cor 15:3-4, Acts 9: 3-18, Lk 24:5-6, and Jn 20:13)

From vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/PIS.HTM

Next Sunday, April 7, is the second Sunday of Easter, also known as **Divine Mercy Sunday**. It is a day in which we are especially mindful of God's mercy to us through Jesus. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be recited at 3:00 pm. A plenary indulgence is available for those who:

- 1) Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet here or elsewhere,
- 2) receive sacramental confession,
- 3) receive Eucharistic Communion, and
- 4) pray for the intentions of the Pope.

Sacramental confession does not need to be received on this Sunday but in a reasonable time before or after April 7. An important component of Divine Mercy Sunday is that we have received mercy and are in turn merciful to others.

3720 SE 79th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97206

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Please support "Memorial Flowers" by purchasing a weekend for flowers

Finance Council

Mark Whitman

RCIA/Liturgy/Music

Fr. Pat Donoghue

Ministry to Sick & Homebound

Fr. Pat Donoghue (503.771.6039)

Religious Ed/Youth Ministry

Fr. Pat D (503.771.6039)

Prayer Tree

Sharon Stevenson (503.774.8738)

Pastoral Council

Ryan Dehart

Altar Society

Rosemary Childress

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Ryan Dehart

Maintenance

Colleen Dehart (503.771.6039)

MEMORIAL FLOWERS—Your purchase of Memorial Flowers is a way to honor someone and to support the church. Check the binder in the entrance of the church for available dates. You may consider partnering with someone to share the \$50.00 cost. (Questions? Please call parish office at 503.771.6039.)

MASS INTENTIONS—Suggested donation is **\$10.00** for each intention. *Note: If a funeral is scheduled for the same time as your Mass intention, your intention will be moved to the next available date.*

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE CHURCH—Glenn Rymsza created a tour of the church for our parish website: <http://stanthonypdx.com/tour-of-the-church>. You will learn the stories & symbolism built into our lovely church.

St. VINCENT de PAUL needs your help. Among other things, St. Vincent de Paul brings food to the hungry. St. Vincent de Paul especially needs people who have backs strong enough to carry the food boxes as well as drivers to help deliver the food. If you are able to help, contact the parish office or one of the members of St. Vincent de Paul.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH:

If you are not Catholic and would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, or if you know someone who is not Catholic who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, please contact Fr. Pat. This is a great opportunity for those who are not Catholic and wish to ask their questions about the Catholic Church. In the months ahead this could become an opportunity to join the Catholic Church.

INFANT BAPTISM PREPARATION

Infant Baptisms (up to age 7): If you have a child in need of baptism, contact Fr. Pat at the parish office so we can complete the necessary paperwork and the preparation class. The Church recommends baptizing your child within a few months of birth and when the health of the child and mother permit.

A Warm Welcome To All!

Name _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

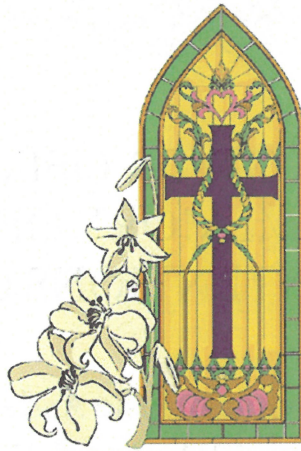
New Parishioner

New Phone Number

New Address

Moving (Please remove from parish list)

Please have Fr. Pat Donoghue call me



Happy Easter, beginning March 31, 2024!
The Lord is risen, even as He said, Alleluia! Alleluia!

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church warmly welcomes you
to our Easter celebrations.

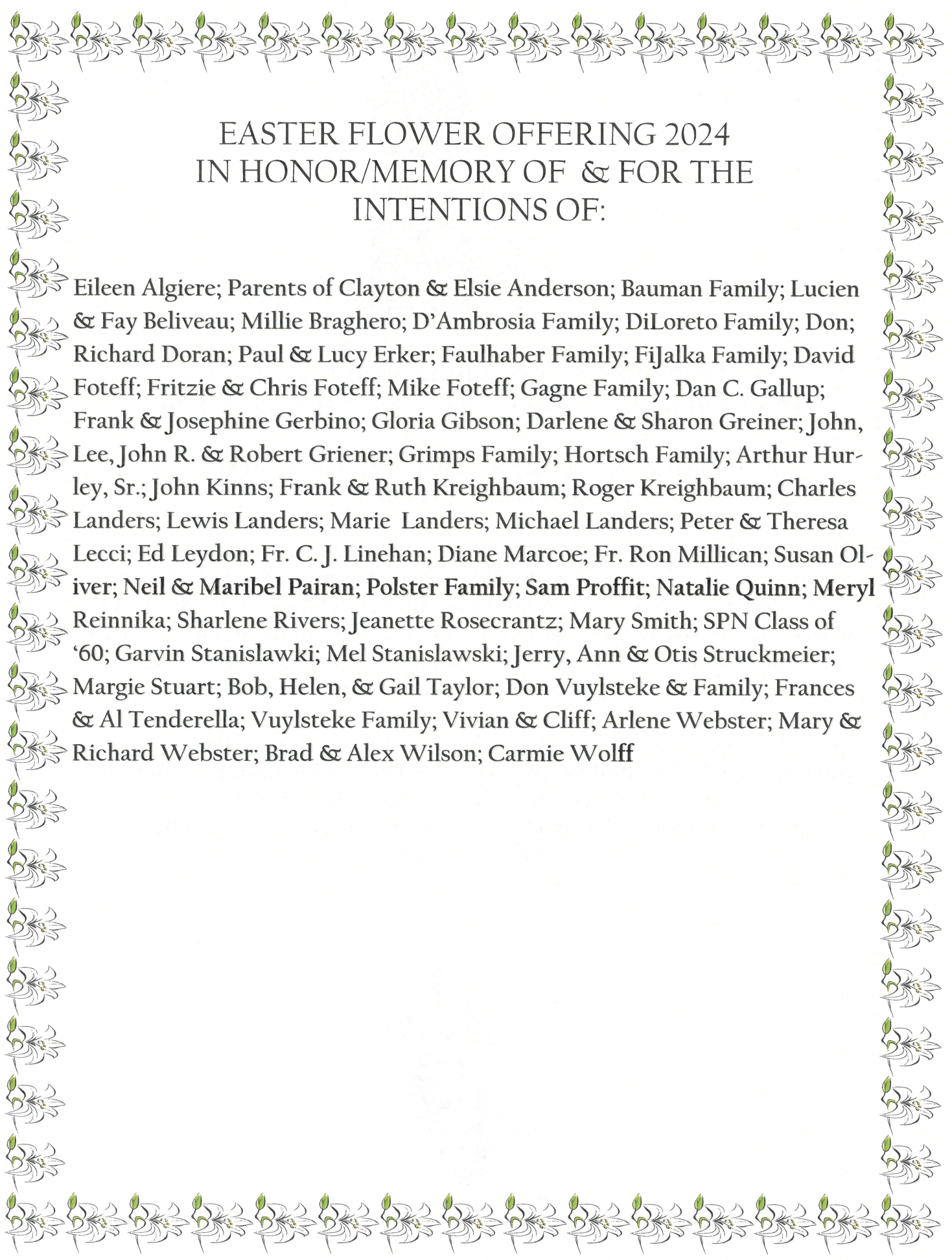
If you are visiting, we invite you to make St. Anthony your home parish. If you are not Catholic and are thinking about becoming Catholic (or are visiting and would like to register), please fill out the form on the back of the bulletin (or one of the welcome envelopes in the pew holders) and leave it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the address on the bulletin.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Easter lasts for fifty days, culminating in the celebration of Pentecost on Sunday, May 19. The first week of Easter is like one big Easter celebration.

As such, Mass will be celebrated on Monday, April 1 at 9:00 am and Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 am (Masses Tuesday through Friday follow the regular schedule).





EASTER FLOWER OFFERING 2024
IN HONOR/MEMORY OF & FOR THE
INTENTIONS OF:

Eileen Algieri; Parents of Clayton & Elsie Anderson; Bauman Family; Lucien & Fay Beliveau; Millie Braghero; D'Ambrosia Family; DiLoreto Family; Don; Richard Doran; Paul & Lucy Erker; Faulhaber Family; Fijalka Family; David Foteff; Fritzie & Chris Foteff; Mike Foteff; Gagne Family; Dan C. Gallup; Frank & Josephine Gerbino; Gloria Gibson; Darlene & Sharon Greiner; John, Lee, John R. & Robert Griener; Grimps Family; Hortsch Family; Arthur Hurlley, Sr.; John Kinns; Frank & Ruth Kreighbaum; Roger Kreighbaum; Charles Landers; Lewis Landers; Marie Landers; Michael Landers; Peter & Theresa Lecci; Ed Leydon; Fr. C. J. Linehan; Diane Marcoe; Fr. Ron Millican; Susan Oliver; Neil & Maribel Pairan; Polster Family; Sam Proffit; Natalie Quinn; Meryl Reinnika; Sharlene Rivers; Jeanette Rosecrantz; Mary Smith; SPN Class of '60; Garvin Stanislawki; Mel Stanislawski; Jerry, Ann & Otis Struckmeier; Margie Stuart; Bob, Helen, & Gail Taylor; Don Vuylsteke & Family; Frances & Al Tenderella; Vuylsteke Family; Vivian & Cliff; Arlene Webster; Mary & Richard Webster; Brad & Alex Wilson; Carmie Wolff



April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
	<p>1</p> <p>Second Day in the Octave of Easter</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>National Reconciliation Day Tomorrow</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Third Day in the Octave of Easter</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>St. Francis of Paola</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Fourth Day in the Octave of Easter</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>National Walking Day</p> <p>Pastoral Council 7p</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Fifth day in the Octave of Easter</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>13 hours daylight</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Sixth Day in the Octave of Easter</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>Adoration until 4p</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Seventh Day in the Octave of Easter</p> <p>1st Saturday Viaticum Mass 10am</p> <p>Confessions 3:45pm</p> <p>Mass 4:30pm</p>																																																																																																								
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<p>7</p> <p>Divine Mercy</p> <p>Mass 10:30am</p> <p>Coffee & Donuts</p> <p>RE 9:15 & 12</p> <p>Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3 pm</p> <p>Octave of Easter</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>Annunciation of the Lord</p> <p>Full solar eclipse from Texas to Maine, partial solar eclipse in Portland</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>National Unicorn Day</p> <p>100th day of the year</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>National Sibling Day</p> <p>National Erase Self-Negativity Day</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>St. Stanislaus</p> <p>National Living Donor Day</p> <p>National Pet Day</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>Adoration until 4p</p> <p>Tomorrow is National Scrabble Day</p>	<p>13</p> <p>St. Martin I</p> <p>Confessions 3:45pm</p> <p>Mass 4:30pm</p>																																																																																																								
<p>14</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Mass 10:30am</p> <p>RE 9:15 & 12</p>	<p>15</p> <p>National Laundry Day</p> <p>Tax Day</p> <p>Yesterday was National Gardening Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>Altar Society 12p</p> <p>Nat'l Orchid Day</p> <p>Tomorrow is Nat'l Banana Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10 am Mass in St. Anthony Village</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>Finance Council 5pm</p> <p>Sun sets 8 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>National Exercise Day</p> <p>National High Five Day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>Adoration until 4p</p> <p>Nat'l Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day</p> <p>Nat'l Garlic Day</p>	<p>20</p> <p>SVdP 10:00am</p> <p>ACA Commitment Weekend</p> <p>Confessions 3:45pm</p> <p>Mass 4:30pm</p>																																																																																																								
<p>21</p> <p>Good Shepherd Sunday</p> <p>Mass 10:30am</p> <p>Coffee & Donuts</p> <p>RE 9:15 & 12</p> <p>Poor & Needy Collection</p> <p>ACA Commitment Weekend</p>	<p>22</p> <p>First day of Passover</p> <p>Earth Day</p> <p>Nat'l Chocolate Covered Cashews Day</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>St. George, Pope's patronal feast</p> <p>World Book Day</p> <p>National Talk Like Shakespeare Day</p> <p>Full "Pink" Moon 4:48p</p>	<p>24</p> <p>St. Fidelis</p> <p>Stop Food Waste Day</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>Administrative Professionals Day</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>St. Mark</p> <p>National DNA Day</p> <p>14 hours daylight</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Mass 9 am</p> <p>Adoration until 4p</p> <p>National Audobon Day</p> <p>National Arbor Day</p>	<p>27</p> <p>82nd Avenue of Roses Parade - 9:30 am</p> <p>Confessions 3:45pm</p> <p>Mass 4:30pm</p>																																																																																																								
<p>28</p> <p>5th Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Mass 10:30am</p> <p>St. Peter Chanel</p> <p>RE 9:15 & 12</p> <p>Vine & the Branches</p>	<p>29</p> <p>St. Catherine of Siena</p> <p>International Dance Day</p> <p>Yesterday was National Blueberry Pie Day</p> <p>Sunrise 6 am</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Mass 11 am</p> <p>St. Pius V</p> <p>International Jazz Day</p> <p>National Honesty Day</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Mar 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">May 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Mar 2024							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							May 2024							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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EASTER SEASON

Josef Pieper once remarked that the human capacity for festivity arises from the ability to affirm all creation as good- from the ability to embrace, in one resounding “yes,” the length and breadth, the heights and depths of our experience in this world. We can hear this yes in Mozart’s music – the play of light and shadow in the later piano concerti; the poignant song of an oboe rising above a steady pulse in a divertimento for winds. We can hear it in the delighted squeals of a child as its face is licked by the moist tongue and hot breath of a new puppy. We can hear it in the contented, prayerful whispers of an elderly woman – full of love, grace and years - as she prepares to meet death with quiet courage and dignity.

Saying yes to all of life, letting all of it in – that is festivity’s sustaining source. But there’s the rub. Few of us can say yes to anything for very long. We live, after all, in an intensely mobile culture of fast food, faster cars, disposable diapers and planned obsolescence. Our greatest goal (as Andy Warhol once quipped) is to be famous for fifteen minutes. At parties we do not carry on conversations, we posture – repeating to one another snippets of dialogue from movies, beer commercials, sitcoms, or interviews with sports’ celebrities. Small wonder that many in our society feel so isolated and lonely, so unable to connect, so incapable of forming relationships that last. Small wonder, too, that as a people we find ourselves increasingly bored, angry and violent – enraged and terrified by the awful emptiness that seems to stretch in every direction around us.

Given such cultural conditions, the Christian celebration of “the blessed Pentecost” will strike many as mad indeed. Fifty days of “dwelling in” the paschal mystery! Fifty days of surrendering in joyful faith and love as the Spirit of God takes possession of our lives! Fifty days of mystagogy, of walking with the neophytes ever more deeply into the baptismal mysteries of death and resurrection. Good heavens! What an order!

One reason why such a prolonged celebration strikes us as difficult – if not downright absurd – is that we tend to link feasts and holidays with mindless hoopla. “Party time,” for many, is an invitation to obliterate consciousness, to get wasted, to veg out, to forget. But a season of Christian festival is precisely the opposite. It is a time of intensified consciousness, finely tuned awareness, awakened memory. The great fifty days of Pentecost are not an unwelcome, unrealistic, obligation to “party on,” even if we don’t feel like it, but an invitation to explore more deeply “the weather of the heart,” to awaken our memory of God’s presence and power in our lives, to look more closely at all the rich and varied textures of creation. In short, Pentecost is a season for learning how to say yes in a culture that wants to keep on saying no.

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