



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

JOHN 20:8

## Life without a Blankie

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**F** aith can have the look of high dives and learning to ride a bike without training wheels and life without one's "blankie." All are confrontations with the specter of death asking us to have faith. From youth to old age, our lives seem to be laced with the loss of control, and unless we embrace such moments, not only will we never really grow up, neither will we ever become people of faith who live in the resurrection.

The Easter Gospels are about women and men who arrive at the tomb but hesitate going in; it is the home of death. Yet they become believers after they have entered that home of death and discover it to be abandoned. Over the years, I have become convinced that the only way to become a believer in the resurrection is to walk into the tomb yourself and there discover that where you thought death

was present now has been abandoned. That is the pattern of coming to faith.

Usually such moments do not have the look of faith. They tend to seem more akin to death than any promise of new life—like having to move to a new city or a new school, or abandoning an addiction, or confronting a problem through counseling, or aging, or grieving over lost love. They all can have the look of tombs yet they are also where we find the beginnings of new life. Risk it often enough and so discover new life, and we begin to believe in the reality of resurrection—Jesus' and ours. ●

### Reflect

*Have you ever experienced life flowing  
from what appeared to be a death?*

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

*St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak*

**Pastor:** Rev. RanJan Cletus

**Mailing address:** 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

**Email:** cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

**Masses: Cyclone:** Saturday 5:30PM & Sunday 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tues., Thurs & Friday: 7AM

**Marak:** Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

### The Sacraments:

**Baptism:** On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

**Confessions:** Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

**Marriage:** Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

### **March 31, 2024 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**



The tomb was empty. In the early morning darkness of that first Easter, there was only confusion for Mary Magdalene and the other disciples. But as the daylight spread, they saw the dawning of a new creation. At first they didn't understand the Scripture, today's Gospel tells us. We don't know which precise Scripture texts they were supposed to understand. Perhaps it was the sign of Jonah, who rose from the belly of the great fish after three days (see [Jonah 1:17](#)). Or maybe Hosea's prophecy of Israel's restoration from exile (see [Hosea 6:2](#)). Perhaps it was the psalmist who rejoiced that God had not abandoned him to the netherworld (see [Psalm 16:9-10](#)).

Whichever Scripture it was, as the disciples bent down into the tomb, they saw and they believed. What did they see? Burial shrouds in an empty tomb. The stone removed from the tomb. Seven times in nine verses we hear that word—"tomb." What did they believe? That God had done what Jesus said He would do—raised Him up on the third day (see [Mark 9:31](#); [10:34](#)). What they saw and believed they bore witness to, as today's First Reading tells us. Peter's speech is a summary of the gospels—from Jesus' baptism in the Jordan to His hanging on a tree (see [Deuteronomy 21:22-23](#)), to His rising from the dead.

We are children of the apostles, born into the new world of their witness. Our lives are now "hidden with Christ in God," as today's Epistle says. Like them, we gather in the morning on the first day of the week—to celebrate the Eucharist, the feast of the empty tomb. We rejoice that the stones have been rolled away from our tombs, too. Each of us can shout, as we do in today's Psalm: "I shall not die, but live." They saw and believed. And we await the day they promised would come—when we, too, "will appear with Him in glory."

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Irene Kaulfus (254-248-2069) [ikaulfus15@gmail.com](mailto:ikaulfus15@gmail.com)

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info by Wednesday before the weekend!

**MINISTRIES FOR APRIL 7, 2024**

**Rosary:** Lynne Hornung

**Eucharistic Minister:** Jill Stermer

**Lector:** Ronald Kaulfus

**Offertory:** James Marek Family

**Ushers:** Rick Rhoades & Brad Vaculin

**Servers:** Gracie, Carter, Bella

***Sanctuary Light: April 1st-April 7th: Henry Sr. & Annie Litzman by Lynne Hornung***

***Prayer Chain...Please pray for Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Laddie Dohnalik, Joseph Ribar, Kay & Ed Moraw and Paulette Foster and those in need in the Book of Prayers. Prayers are powerful as we pray daily for those in need. To be added to the prayer chain:***

***Please contact: Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—[Slavik@farm-market.net](mailto:Slavik@farm-market.net)***

**MARAK MASSES—March 31 - April 7, 2024**

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—3/31 Easter Sunday	10:15am	+ Reba Loretta Winkler by Randy & Mary Faust + Jerry Wade by Adolph & Dorothy Vansa + Jerry Sipula by George & Veronica Tomek
4/3—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Stanley Hubnik by James & Jeannine Dohnalik + Thomas Strmiska by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
4/7—Sunday	10:15am	+ Joe & Stefina Vansa by Robert & Debbie Vansa + Jerry Wade by George & Linda Dohnalik

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

- TODAY: The Knights of Columbus #10186 and KJZT Jrs. will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt after Mass. Happy Hunting!
- ASHES TO EASTER BOXES: Please return your boxes as soon as possible.
- APRIL 7TH: St. Monica's Ladies Society Annual Fundraiser—11 am till 2 pm or sold out—Simon George Hall —Dine-in or drive-thru—Bar-B-Que Chicken & Sausage—\$15/plate. Sweet shop, cake wheel, face painting, silent auction with plants and a raffle. Please see flyer on bulletin board.
- APRIL 19TH: 12th Anniversary Hope Night Celebrating "High Rollers & Baby Strollers" at Milam County Cowboy Church @ 6 pm. Live Auction, Card games, Silent Auction, Catered Dinner/Dessert Bar. Tickets \$50/person. See Patsy Gaines for tickets. See flyer on bulletin board for more information.



3-24: Sunday Offering: \$1,355.00    Children's Offering: \$8.00  
 Building Fund: \$50.00    Catholic Relief: \$5.00  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# Dear Padre,

**Where did the idea of an Easter bunny come from?  
What about the Easter egg?**



SUTILANA MARTINOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Easter bunny is really a hare which, according to an Egyptian legend, is a symbol of the moon. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs after the twenty-first day of March. Put this together, and we have an Easter bunny.

Early Christians gave new meaning to the Roman proverb *Omne vivum ex ovo*, which means, "All life comes from an egg." A hatching chick represented the risen Christ emerging from the shell of a tomb on Easter morning. Consequently, eggs were prohibited during the Lenten fast and were reintroduced at the Easter meal and also shared as decorated gifts. In 1610, a prayer by Pope Paul V blessed the egg "that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating in thankfulness to Thee, on account of the Resurrection of Our Lord."

In some parts of the world, children carry baskets and torches and sing Easter carols as they go from place to place. They are given brightly colored eggs to put in their baskets. In other places, eggs are carried to church and blessed by the priests. The eggs are taken home and placed in the center of the table as the main dish at the Easter feast. Visitors to the house during Easter week are offered this sacred food of the resurrection. Happy Easter! ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4	April 5	April 6	April 7
Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22-33	Acts 2:36-41	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:1-12	Acts 4:13-21	(Sunday of Divine Mercy)
Mt 28:8-15	Jn 20:11-18	Lk 24:13-35	Lk 24:35-48	Jn 21:1-14	Mk 16:9-15	Acts 4:32-35

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1 Jn 5:1-6  
Jn 20:19-31



**A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

*In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured. Where there was death, now there is life. Where there was mourning, now there is consolation. In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread throughout the world.*

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