



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel
A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
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April 2023 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

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CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Worship Services are at 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

April 2, 2023:	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	+Frs. Carl & Bob
April 9, 2023:	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	+Frs. Carl & Steve
April 16, 2023:	Second Sunday of Easter	+Fr. Bob
April 23, 2023:	Third Sunday of Easter	+Fr. Bob
April 30, 2023:	Fourth Sunday of Easter	+Fr. Carl

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Diocesan Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 314.650.1487, domcarl@charter.net

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact one of our priests.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

April 2, 2023 – Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion: The passion as recalled in today’s Gospel reading, prompts many questions. Why was the Savior/King betrayed by his friends? Why was he condemned as a criminal? Why was a murderer preferred to this gentle teacher? Jesus even asks why the Father has abandoned him. We see the mystery resolve itself in the Resurrection: “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66)

April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord: Today’s Gospel highlights Peter and Mary Magdalene, both of whom found new life in their relationship with Christ. They both needed a second chance, and both found blessing in the miraculous happenings of Easter. Their faith became as “the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” May we, too, “think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” (Acts 10:34a, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9)

April 16, 2023 – Second Sunday of Easter: Peter recommends genuine faith, which “leads to praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Faith was so strong among Jesus’ followers that they were moved to *share all things in common*: their property, goods, meals, and prayer. Although we are often a doubter like Thomas, we long to have this living faith and to hear the Lord say to us: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” Jesus, we trust in your mercy! (Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31)

April 23, 2023 – Third Sunday of Easter: *The faith and hope of believers is centered in God.* Often we are “prevented from recognizing him” by the sorrows and difficulties of life. In this Easter season, we will invite Jesus to stay with us, especially as we read the Scriptures and participate in Eucharist, that he may *show us the path of life*. Lord, “Fill us with joy in your presence.” (Acts 2:14, 22-23, 1 Peter 1:17-21, Luke 24:13-35)

April 30, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Easter: The strong yet tender image of the Good Shepherd pervades today’s readings. Rather than lament being part of a *generation which has gone astray*, let us listen attentively as he calls our names through Baptism and leads us through a life of sacramental grace. The Good Shepherd gave his life that we may remain part of the one flock he guides. (Acts 2:14a, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20b-25, John 10:1-10)



Dear Johan,

Why are we celebrating Easter so late this year? Wouldn't it be easier if we celebrated Easter on the same day of the year like we do with Christmas?

Gentle Reader-

I suppose it would be easier and people would not have to ask, "When is Easter this year?" However, Easter by definition has to fall on a Sunday, the day of the resurrection. Therefore, it cannot be celebrated on a fixed date. But, please do not be embarrassed; throughout history learned theologians and saintly bishops alike have questioned the date of Easter.

As you note, certain feasts happen on fixed dates. For example, Christmas, which always falls on December 25. Other feasts are so-called moveable feasts that fall on different days of the calendar. The most important moveable feast is Easter. And because Easter moves, all feasts and seasons that are related to Easter move relative to the date of Easter. Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, and Pentecost, which marks the last day of the Easter season, are obviously dependent upon the date of Easter. However, Holy Trinity, which falls on the Sunday after Pentecost, and Corpus Christi, which falls on the Sunday after Holy Trinity, are dependent on the date of Easter as well. Even the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, which is celebrated on the Friday following Corpus Christi, and the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which is celebrated the day after the Sacred Heart of Jesus, are dependent upon the date of Easter.

It took a while to decide on the all-important date for Easter. Different bishops celebrated Easter on different dates based on different theologies. Some opted for the celebration of Easter on the fourteenth day or the day of the full moon of the month Nissan in the Jewish lunar calendar, as they believed it to be the day on which Jesus was crucified. Others desired to celebrate Easter on the following Sunday, the day of the Lord. Still others desired to disconnect the celebration of Easter from the Jewish calendar altogether. It was not until the First Council of Nicea (325) that the current formula for calculating the day of Easter was established. Since then, Easter has been celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. The Council of Nicea also established that the date of the spring equinox was March 21, though meteorologically, it often falls on March 20. Using this method, the earliest possible date for Easter can be March 22, which happened last in 1818 and will not happen again till 2285. The latest possible date for Easter is April 25, which happened last in 1943 and will not happen again until 2038.

And to complicate matters just one bit more, let me tell you about Orthodox Easter. The Orthodox churches follow the same computation system established by the First Council of Nicea. However, because they still use the Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian calendar, we end up celebrating Easter on different dates. March 21 on the Julian calendar corresponds to April 3 on the Gregorian calendar. Thus, Orthodox Easter falls between April 4 and May 8. By contrast, the Protestant churches follow the same system as the Catholic Church.

From the Pastor's Desk
+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Congratulations! Congratulations to our parishioners who have a special reason to celebrate this month!

Birthdays: Jan Williamson – 4/9
 Emily Jacobi – 4/19

Anniversaries: +Carl & Rosann Swaringim – 4/3 – 52 years!

Blessing of the Altar and St. Joseph Bread: On Sunday, March 19, +Fr. Bob blessed the Altar and St. Joseph Bread. Thanks to Mr. Michael Vitale, Owner of Vitale's Bakery ("On the Hill") and Vitale's Deli ("Off the Hill" in Glendale, Mo.) for his very generous donation of specially baked bread for the occasion. Everyone at mass that day took home the delicious, blessed bread for their homes.



Sympathies: The parish offered its sympathies to the family of Mrs. Gail Lambright at the mass on Sunday, March 19. Mass was offered in her memory. We were fortunate to be joined by her husband, Steven Lambright, her daughter, Sarah Vitale, and son-in-law, Michael Vitale.