

FOR THE WEEKEND OF APR. 4-5b, 2026

Easter Sunday

Gospel Reading

Mt: 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it.

His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow.

The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men.

Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified.

He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you."

Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.

And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Intercession

May all who are suffering find healing and strength in the power of Christ's Resurrection and may we be bearers of his light through support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Copy for Bulletin Announcement

We all experience fear in our lives. We face health scares and job uncertainty. We are frightened by failed relationships. We worry that the life we are living doesn't meet our expectations. When we live in fear, we limit ourselves. Fear constricts. But faith dispels fear and opens our hearts and minds.

Jesus repeatedly tells us throughout his ministry to "be not afraid." He invites us to replace fear with trust – trust in him and in God. This is difficult to do, especially when fear has become a habit. The disciples were fearful after witnessing Jesus' crucifixion. Their friend and teacher was put to death for preaching. They were his followers, so it isn't out of the realm of possibility that they are in danger as well. But first an angel appears to the two Marys, saying, "Do not be afraid" and shares that Christ has risen from the dead. Then Jesus, himself, appears to the disciples, and the first words out of his mouth are "Do not be afraid." He says that he will be with them always, and he keeps his word. Even death cannot separate them.

Our Lord is with us, too. We can grow in trust that he is always present in our lives by slowing down, retreating into silence, and talking to God through prayer. We can hand over our fears to the Lord because he can handle them! In relinquishing fear's hold, we become open to God working in our lives. And we can share this with others who may be living in fear by supporting such initiatives as the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Copy for Pulpit Announcement

Today, Easter Sunday, is a day that changed everything. With Jesus' resurrection, our fears turn into courage, joy replaces our sorrow. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary come to the tomb expecting death; instead, they encounter life. An angel proclaims, "He is not here, for he has been raised." This powerful scene reminds us of what it means to be a people of the Resurrection—called not to remain at the tomb but to go forth and share Christ's light with others.

Today, we invite you to participate in that same mission through your support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal. The appeal funds ministries that bring the hope of the Resurrection to life—through Catholic education, outreach to the poor, support for seminarians, and care for our elderly priests and religious sisters. These are tangible ways our local Church proclaims: "He is risen!"

Please prayerfully consider a gift to this year's Catholic Ministry Appeal. Together, we can joyfully proclaim the Risen Lord in words *and* in works of love.

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: A person resting in Jesus' arms

Header: "Do not be afraid." – Matthew 28: 10



Copy: No matter what, Our Lord is always with us! The Catholic Ministry Appeal brings Christ's peace to so many. Please support the Appeal today!