



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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TO RETURN TO THE ORIGINS

EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - APRIL 5, 2026

The night is drawing to a close and the first light of dawn is appearing upon the horizon as the women set out toward Jesus' tomb. They make their way forward, bewildered and dismayed, their hearts overwhelmed with grief at the death that took away their Beloved. Yet upon arriving and seeing the empty tomb, they turn around and retrace their steps. They leave the tomb behind and run to the disciples to proclaim a change of course: Jesus is risen and awaits them in Galilee. In their lives, those women experienced Easter as a Pasch, a passage. They pass from walking sorrowfully towards the tomb to running back with joy to the disciples to tell them not only that the Lord is risen, but also that they are to set out immediately to reach a destination, Galilee. There they will meet the Risen Lord. The rebirth of the disciples, the resurrection of their hearts, passes through Galilee. Let us enter into this journey of the disciples from the tomb to Galilee. The Gospel tells us that the women went "to see the tomb" (*Mt 28:1*). They think that they will find Jesus in the place of death and that everything is over, forever. Sometimes we too may think that the joy of our encounter with Jesus is something belonging to the past, whereas the present consists mostly of sealed tombs: tombs of disappointment, bitterness and distrust, of the dismay of thinking that "nothing more can be done", "things will never change", "better to live for today", since "there is no certainty about tomorrow". If we are prey to sorrow, burdened by sadness, laid low by sin, embittered by failure or troubled by some problem, we also know the bitter taste of weariness and the absence of joy.

At times, we may simply feel weary about our daily routine, tired of taking risks in a cold, hard world where only the clever and the strong seem to get ahead. At other times, we may feel helpless and discouraged before the power of evil, the conflicts that tear relationships apart, the attitudes of calculation and indifference that seem to prevail in society, the cancer of corruption – there is a great deal of it, the spread of injustice, the icy winds of war. Then too, we may have come face to face with death, because it robbed us of the presence of our loved ones or because we brushed up against it in illness or a serious setback. Then it is easy to yield to disillusionment, once the wellspring of hope has dried up. In these or similar situations – each of us knows our own plights, our paths come to a halt before a row of tombs, and we stand there, filled with sorrow and regret, alone and powerless, repeating the question, "Why?" That chain of "why"...

The women at Easter, however, do not stand frozen before the tomb; rather, the Gospel tells us, "they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples" (*v. 8*). They bring the news that will change life and history forever: Christ is risen! (*v. 6*). At the same time, they remember to convey the Lord's summons to the disciples to go to Galilee, for there they will see him (*cf. v. 7*). Let us ask ourselves today, brothers and sisters: what does it mean to go to Galilee? Two things: on the one hand, to leave the enclosure of the Upper Room and go to the land of the Gentiles (*cf. Mt 4:15*), to come forth from hiding and to open themselves up to mission, to leave fear behind and to set out for the future. On the other hand, and this is very beautiful, to return to the origins, for it was precisely in Galilee that everything began. There the Lord had met and first called the disciples. So, to go to Galilee means to return to the grace of the beginnings, to regain the memory that regenerates hope, the "memory of the future" bestowed on us by the Risen One.

This, then, is what the Pasch of the Lord accomplishes: it motivates us to move forward, to leave behind our sense of defeat, to roll away the stone of the tombs in which we often imprison our hope, and to look with confidence to the future, for Christ is risen and has changed the direction of history. Yet, to do this, the Pasch of the Lord takes us back to the grace of our own past; it brings us back to Galilee, where our love story with Jesus began, where the first call took place. In other words, it asks us to relive that moment, that situation, that experience in which we met the Lord, experienced his love and received a radiantly new way of seeing ourselves, the world around us and the mystery of life itself. Brothers and sisters, to rise again, to start anew, to take up the journey, we always need to return to Galilee, that is, to go back, not to an abstract or ideal Jesus, but to the living, concrete and palpable memory of our first encounter with him. Yes, to go forward we need to go back, to remember; to have hope, we need to revive our memory. This is what we are asked to do: to remember and go forward! If you recover that first love, the wonder and joy of your encounter with God, you will keep advancing. So remember, and keep moving forward.

Ex Corde Foundation Grant

Our Church was awarded a grant of \$3,200 from the Ex Corde Foundation of the Diocese of Hamilton. These funds were requested to update some sound system equipment. Our community is very grateful for the constant generosity of the Ex Corde Foundation.

Donación de la Fundación Ex Corde

Nuestra Parroquia recibió una donación de \$3,200 de la Fundación Ex Corde de la Diócesis de Hamilton. Estos fondos se solicitaron para mejorar partes del equipo de sonido. Agradecemos a la Fundación Ex Corde y a nuestro Obispo por su generosidad.

PARENTING TIP Easter is a special season for the Church, where we remember Jesus' suffering, but rejoice in his resurrection and the hope it brings to each one of us. When we read simple versions of the Easter story, we offer children a beautiful understanding of what Easter is all about. They will see the Paschal candle at the Church, which is lit at the Easter Vigil Mass, so explain that it represents the light and hope Christ brought to the world. Remind them that Easter eggs (even when chocolate!) are meant to represent new life, just as the resurrection brings new life to all. All of this will help them to understand the liturgical celebrations you attend together and to know how much God loves them.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, April 5 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, April 7 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, April 8 **11:00 AM**
+Bob Gatchene

Thursday, April 9 **11:00 AM**

Friday, April 10 **11:00 AM**

+Donald Runstedler +Bernice Longworth

Second Sunday of Easter of Divine Mercy

Saturday, April 11 **5:00 PM**
+Keshimi Namasiuyam

Sunday, April 12 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

Domingo de Pascua de la Resurrección del Señor

Domingo 5 de abril **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 7 de abril **12:00 PM**

Miercoles 8 de abril **12:00 PM**

Jueves 9 de abril **12:00 PM**

Viernes 10 de abril **12:00 PM**

II Domingo de Pascua de la Divina Misericordia

Sabado 11 de abril **7:00 PM**
+Pedro Antonio Molina +Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 12 de abril **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Living in the Light highlights the people and ministries that make up the Diocese of Hamilton

Living in the Light highlights the people and ministries that make up the Diocese of Hamilton. Brother Richard MacPhee, O.H., Chief Executive Officer of Good Shepherd Centres and Good Shepherd Non-Profit Homes in Hamilton, has spent his life walking alongside people who often find themselves on the margins. His path to religious life was not a straight one, but it grew out of years of service, personal encounters, and a desire to serve those in need.

Through their stories, history, and mission, we see how faith is lived out every day in our diocesan community.

“You are the *Light* of the world... let your light shine.: (Mt5:14,16)

[For more details visit Diocesan website](#)