



The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 * (708) 442-5250
“Faith Active in Love”
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Volume 48

April 2026

Issue 4

We are called together by the Holy Spirit around Word and sacraments to glorify God the Father, creator of all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God to nurture lives of faith and hope, as we serve and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

Holy Week 2026 March 29th—April 5th

Palm Sunday, March 29th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Blessing of Palms, Passion Reading of
Our Lord Jesus Christ based upon the
Gospel Accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke
by David H. Kehret
Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Individual Absolution,
and Foot-Washing

Good Friday, April 3rd

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John,
and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 5th

10:15 a.m. Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Handbells, Choir, and Trumpet

HOLY WEEK



On Easter Sunday please bring a few flowers either from your garden or the florist to place on the processional cross which will be presented at worship and then displayed on the front lawn. The cross will be located at the entrance to the sanctuary before worship.

The Three Days

We use the term three-in-one to describe the Holy Trinity, but it is also an apt way to speak of the triduum, or the Three Days. At the center of the church year is our annual celebration of the paschal mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. One way of observing Holy Week is to walk with Jesus through the last days of his earthly life and to emotionally relive the darkness of Good Friday and the surprising resurrection of Easter Sunday. Yet the triduum is closer to the Gospel of John's interpretation, in which Jesus' death is seen as his glorification and cannot be separated from his resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit.

Which days are included in the paschal triduum? With a recent understanding of Holy Week, many would name Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, with Easter Sunday identified as a separate observance. However, a more ancient counting would include Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. A Jewish understanding of time begins the day at sundown. Hence, the triduum begins at sundown on Maundy Thursday as we enter the Three Days.

As many congregations are recovering the ancient observance of the Three Days, the designation of Holy Week with its tendency to historicize "events" in Jesus' last week of earthly life may need to be reconsidered. The concept of Holy Week often led to Easter Sunday as the climax, but to observe the Three Days is to find the heart of the church year in the celebration of the triduum itself.

The Three Days is our Christian Passover. We are not trying to recreate first-century Jerusalem; rather, we are participating in the mysteries at the core of our faith. Distinctions between past, present, and future disappear. Like Jews who observe the Passover in light of their current context, we mark the Three Days not as a way to go back in time but to let the spiritual power of death and resurrection be unleashed for us today. With Christ we "pass over" from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.

With the preparations of Lent behind us, we enter the Three Days with great joy and anticipation. A traditional entrance antiphon for Maundy Thursday invites us to glory in the cross which is our life, salvation, and resurrection. Because death and resurrection are intertwined, the Maundy Thursday liturgy begins with a note of triumph. This moment is our Easter Passover. The cross is our resurrection. Death is the gate to new life. Surrender is the path to victory. On Good Friday the cross is acclaimed as the tree of life that brings healing and salvation to the world. We do not wait until Easter morning to proclaim the vindication of this apparent defeat, but we lift high the cross as the very sign that we find life in the midst of death.

—continued on next page...

For these three days we put everything else aside so that we may attend to the awesome mystery that defines our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! In a sense time stops and we enter eternity. We have waited a year to celebrate these powerful liturgies, and we savor every moment. We are not merely commemorating events from the past; we are participating in the very mystery at the center of our lives. Baptismal dying and rising with Christ is not only our baptismal vocation, it is our sure and certain hope.

The words of these days are the scriptures, hymns, and rites that mark our Christian identity. Yet the images of the liturgies may speak even more powerfully to our souls and bodies. A basin of water and the washing of feet are a sign of Jesus' self-offering and his ultimate sacrifice on the cross, even as the new commandment calls us to empty ourselves for the sake of others. A wooden cross carried among the assembly and honored with adoration is our wordless response to the great mystery before us. The blazing new fire on an early spring evening stirs in us yet another invitation to new beginnings. The paschal candle carried into a dark worship space starkly contrasts darkness with the radiant light of Christ's resurrection. New Christians bathed in water and anointed with oil are signs of the body of Christ taking on flesh and blood in our midst. The first Eucharist of Easter is none other than our eating and drinking the rich abundance of the promised land.

When the Three Days is observed with careful planning, joyful intentionality, and reverent celebration, it becomes the heartbeat of a parish's life together. The triduum is the center of the year; Lent flows to it and Easter flows from it. In these holy days we find both our identity and our mission—remembered in the past, made present through word and sacrament, and propelling us with invincible hope into the future.

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Palm Sunday Coffee Hour!

This year we will be hosting a Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch on March 29th. Please plan to bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to contribute to the brunch entrees that will be provided. This delicious buffet, previously hosted for many years by the Dorcas Society of the congregation, has become a pre-Easter custom for the families and friends of Sts. Peter and Paul.

New Council Officers and Members...

The following individuals were installed as our new council officers and members on Sunday, March 8th. Thank you to these elected leaders for the service they offer.

Officers

John Broussard, President
 Paul Watkiss, Vice-President
 Charles Matthies, Financial Secretary
 Fred Kuzel, Secretary and Treasurer

Members

Keith Altavilla Philip Painter
 Kathy Ganschow Carrie Watkiss
 Linda Painter

APRIL

Apr. 3: Betty Jane Keel Rafael Martinez Michelle Ruska	Apr. 20: Anna Bulir Apr. 21: Gregg Valek Apr. 22: Hannah Boike
Apr. 4: Anne Marie Alexander John McShane	Apr. 24: Paul Watkiss Apr. 26: Susan Gillund Carol Triska
Apr. 6: Kathi Zinsser	Apr. 27: John Hassel
Apr. 7: Brayden Murray Benjamin Myers	Apr. 29: Arden Kurhayez Courtney Kurhayez Laura Teter
Apr. 11: Arnost Bulir Dianne Ritacco	
Apr. 15: Susan Jones	

Birthdays and Anniversaries

April 9, 1988: Kelly and Susan Jones

Memorial Flowers

March 1st: In memory of +Martin Selecky+ on the anniversary of his death on February 19th, and the anniversary of his birth on March 6th; also in memory of his parents +Mary+ and +Martin Selecky, Sr.+ and sister +Anna Dzurja+.

March 15th: In loving memory of +Theodore+ and +Elizabeth Matthies+ on the 83rd anniversary of their wedding on March 20th by remembering son Charles.

In loving memory of dear husband, father, and grandfather +Robert Skudrna+ on the 5th anniversary of his passing today by remembering wife Sue and children Kristi Skudrna, Jason Skudrna and his family Brooke, Lyla, and granddaughter Skylar.

Attention: If anyone has any vases from the altar flowers, please leave them in the kitchen. Our florist's supply is running low. Thank you!

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

St. Paul VI Parish Sports Club
 Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study
 Soda Sales
 Cornerstone Montessori School

In loving memory of beloved father +Eugene Gana+ on the anniversary of his death by loving daughter Adrienne Gana, dear sister-in-law Audrey Bucz, and nephew Brian Bucz.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Mark Douce+ on the first anniversary of his passing.



For more information, news, photos, worship videos and sermons, visit us on the web at:
www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: John Kostelny

Good Friday, April 3rd:

Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lectors: Phil Painter, Paul and Carrie Watkiss,
Charles Matthies, George Valek, and
Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Easter Sunday, April 5th:

Greeter: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Joanne Sefara
Crucifer: To be determined.
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: George Valek

April 12th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Aiden Altavilla
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

April 19th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

April 26th:

Greeter: Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Edward and Joanne Sefara

MAY WORSHIP SERVERS

May 3rd:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

May 10th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Fred Kuzel

May 17th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: John Kostelny

May 24th:

Greeter: Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

May 31st:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: George Valek

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Fred Kuzel

Voices of Hope Community Chorus *presents*

“RESPECT”

Celebrating Women in Song

Saturday, April 11 - 7:30 p.m.
Glenview Community Church
1000 Elm Street, Glenview

Sunday, April 12 - 4 p.m.
Pilgrim Congregational Church
450 Lake Street, Oak Park

Tickets: \$25.00
Seniors and Students: \$20.00
Group Tickets: \$22.00
Tickets at the Door: \$30.00
Breast Cancer Survivors: \$20.00

Accompanist, David Richards

February 2026

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering

Budgeted Offering: \$1,827.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
2/1	\$3,380.00
2/8	\$ 765.00
2/15	\$2,219.00
2/22	\$4,895.00

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DATED MATERIAL

Easter Fun Facts

What is the true meaning of Easter Sunday? Why does the date of Easter change every year? How is Easter calculated: Why are eggs associated with Easter? Here are some answers from *The Old Farmer's Almanac*.

What is Easter Sunday?

Easter is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar—and has been regularly observed from the earliest days of the Church.

Easter Sunday celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead, following crucifixion. It marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, and the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday), as well as the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

The resurrection represents the triumph of good over evil, sin, death, and the physical body.

When Is Easter Sunday?

Easter is a 'movable feast' and does not have a fixed date; however, it is always on a Sunday.

How is the Date of Easter Determined?

Would you believe that the date of Easter is related to the full Moon? Specifically, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the paschal full Moon on or just after the vernal equinox.

For simplicity, the equinox is considered to be March 21 (a fixed spring date set by the Church), although in astronomy, it's not always that day. The paschal full Moon always falls on the 14th day of a lunar month; because ancient calculation (made in A.D. 325) did not take into account certain lunar motions. It may differ from the actual full Moon date by a day or so.

Easter always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

Easter Eggs

The oval-shape egg has been a universal symbol in many religions across the millennia, symbolizing new life, rebirth, and fertility.

According to *The Easter Book* by Francis X. Weiser, S.J., "[t]he origin of the Easter egg is based on the fertility lore of the Indo-European races. To our pre-Christian ancestors, it was a most startling event to see a new and live creature emerge from a seemingly dead object. The egg to them became a symbol of spring. Long ago in Persia, people used to present each other with eggs at the spring equinox, which for them also marked the beginning of a new year."

In Judaism, eggs are an important part of the Passover seder plate. For some Christians, the egg symbolizes the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged to the new life of his Resurrection. Also, there was a practical reason why eggs became popular on Easter: They were forbidden during the 40 days of Lent. However, chickens still laid eggs, so they were often collected and decorated.

In most countries, the eggs are stained in plain vegetable dye colors. Among Orthodox Christians, the faithful present each other with crimson eggs in honor of the blood of Christ. In parts of Eastern Europe, it's tradition to create intricate designs on the egg with wax or twine before coloring. Called pysanki, these special eggs are saved from year to year like symbolic heirlooms and can be seen seasonally in Ukrainian shops. In Germany and other countries, the eggs are pierced and made hollow so that they can be suspended from shrubs and trees during Easter Week—much like Christmas tree decorations.

Of course, many countries have egg hunts and games, too. Plastic eggs are often filled with candy treats, since it's the end of Lent. Every year in Washington, D.C., there is an egg-rolling party on the lawn of the White House. This custom is traced back to Sunday School picnics and parades at Easter in the years before the Civil War. At these picnics, the children amused themselves with various games, and egg-rolling was one of them.

—published by *Yankee Publishing Incorporated*
Dublin, New Hampshire and *The Navigator Ministry*

