

## MASS OF CELEBRATION TO WELCOME ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO

We are invited to attend a regional Mass of Welcome taking place on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00pm at Blessed Trinity Parish located at 3220 Bayview Avenue in Toronto. A reception will follow Mass in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Please continue to keep Archbishop Leo in your prayers as he begins his ministry as our shepherd.

**VOCATION REFLECTION:** "He has been raised from the dead!" Through our baptism He calls us to proclaim new life to the world. Pray for those who herald the Good News as priests, deacons, brothers or sisters. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)  
[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)



ShareLife Sunday Collections:

March 26 | April 30 | June 4

Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord April 9, 2023 Show your love by giving to ShareLife Jesus' love for us invites us to give to others, especially those most in need. ShareLife agencies continue to support the most vulnerable in our community through services that are only possible through your kind and generous donations. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

A blessed Easter to you all!

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY- APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>

Holy Hour at 3:00 pm

Confessions will begin at 2: 30 pm

## EASTER IS THE GREATEST FEAST OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

St. John Chrysostom called Easter the "Feast of feasts." Whereas Lenten fasting takes forty days, Easter feasting takes a full fifty days! What does it mean to feast? Feasting is not just about what we eat, although there are many wonderful foods associated with the Easter feast. According to the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council, feasts are religious anniversaries commemorating the great events of salvation history and the communion of saints. Feasts are to be observed with rejoicing. It is our religious duty to feast, that is, to rejoice during the holy days of Eastertime as surely as fasting is our religious duty during Lent.

### EASTER MEAL PRAYER

God of glory, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. Bless us and this food of our first Easter meal.

May we who gather at the Lord's Table continue to celebrate the joy of His resurrection and be admitted finally to is heavenly banquet. Grant this through Christ our Lord.



# EASTER TRADITIONS

## EASTER EGG HUNTS

A custom involving Easter eggs was the Easter egg hunt - which also represented the resurrection of Jesus.

Christians would hide dyed eggs for their children to find, symbolizing the search for Jesus's body after the crucifixion.

Today, children typically search for plastic eggs filled with candy rather than cooked eggs, but the source of the tradition is the same.



## WHY DO WE DYE EASTER EGGS?

In the early Christian church (and in many Orthodox traditions today), the eggs were dyed red to symbolize the blood of Jesus during the resurrection.

As the tradition continued, Christians would paint different scenes from the Bible on the eggs, inspiring different Easter egg designs.

## THE EASTER BUNNY

So if eggs are such an important part of Easter, why do children get presents from the Easter Bunny instead of the Easter chicken?

In 18th-century German folklore, the rabbit laid eggs for children to discover on Easter morning. The tradition followed German immigrants to North America, where the Easter bunny became a mainstay of our Easter mornings.



## EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies are often the centerpiece of Easter

celebrations. Legend has it that white lilies sprung from the ground around Jesus as he spent his final hours on the cross. It is said that when his perspiration hit the ground, a lily

grew in that spot.

As a result, Easter lilies are symbolic of new life as well as purity. For Easter, they symbolize Jesus' resurrection and the promise of everlasting life.



## THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal Candle is lit from a new fire during Easter Vigil, which takes place at church the evening before Easter Sunday. It's a beeswax candle that is marked with the year, a cross and the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, which represent the beginning and the end.

The Paschal candle is then used to light smaller candles held by the members of the congregation to represent spreading the light of Jesus to those in attendance and beyond.



## THE LAMB

The Lamb symbolizes Jesus himself. According to Christian tradition, Jesus was sent to Earth to provide for the forgiveness of the sins of all mankind. On Good Friday, the day he was crucified, he was led "as a lamb to the slaughter."

Additionally, like baby chicks and other newborn animals, the baby lamb symbolizes rebirth and new life in the spring season.



## HOT CROSS BUNS

In many parts of the world, Hot Cross Buns are a traditional food for Good Friday, which is the day Jesus was crucified on a cross. This day falls on the Friday immediately before Easter Sunday.

Each bun features a cross on top, which symbolizes the cross on which Jesus died. The spices included in the buns are said to be representative of the ones that were used to prepare Jesus' body for the tomb.

