

Why Is Easter Called 'Easter'?

St. Bede the Venerable, the 6th-century author of *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* ("Ecclesiastical History of the English People"), maintains that the English word "Easter" comes from *Eostre*, or *Eostrae*, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility. Other historians maintain the "Easter" derives from *in albis*, a Latin phrase that's plural for *alba*, or "dawn," that became *eostarum* in Old High German, a precursor to the English language of today.

Despite its significance as a Christian holy day, many of the traditions and symbols that play a key role in Easter observances actually have roots in pagan celebrations—particularly the pagan goddess Eostre—and in the Jewish holiday of Passover.

Religious Tradition of Easter

The resurrection of Jesus, as described in the New Testament of the Bible, is essentially the foundation upon which the Christian religions are built. Hence, Easter is a very significant date on the Christian calendar.

According to the New Testament, Jesus was arrested by the Roman authorities, essentially because he claimed to be the "Son of God," although historians question this motive, with some saying that the Romans may have viewed him as a threat to the empire.

He was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman prefect in the province of Judea from A.D. 26 to 36 Jesus' death by crucifixion, marked by the Christian holiday Good Friday (the Friday before Easter), and subsequent resurrection three days later is said, by the authors of the gospels, to prove that he was the living son of God.

In varying ways, all four of the gospels in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) state that those who believe in Jesus' death and resurrection are given "the gift of eternal life," meaning that those of faith will be welcomed into the "Kingdom of Heaven" upon their earthly death.

Easter Traditions

In western Christianity, including Roman Catholicism and Protestant denominations, the period prior to Easter holds special significance.

This period of fasting and penitence is called Lent. It begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays).

The Sunday immediately prior to Easter is called Palm Sunday, and it commemorates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, when followers laid palm leaves across the road to greet him. Many churches begin the Easter observance in the late hours of the day before (Holy Saturday) in a religious service called the Easter Vigil.

History from: www.history.com/topics/holidays/history-of-easter

Mass Intentions
April 1, 2024 – April 7, 2024

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 – **7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 – **8:30 a.m.**

Thursday, April 4, 2024 – **8:30 a.m.**
+ **Amaro Rodrigues** – *Rodrigues Family*

Friday, April 5, 2024 – **7:00 p.m.**

Saturday, April 6, 2024 –
9:00 a.m. – + **Odessa Barrett** – *Bill Barrett*
5:00 p.m. – + **Leona & Sheldon Grobe** – *Peter Grobe*

Sunday, April 7, 2024 – **10:00 a.m.**
Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Vocations

Easter Sunday - March 31, 2024

The glorious Feast of the Resurrection of Christ proclaims, forever, that life is greater than death. Jesus commanded us to preach this good news to all peoples in all places at all times. If you feel God is calling you to minister in His Church as a priest, religious or deacon, call:

Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations
905-528-7988; vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar

April 1 – Rev. Piotr Machnacki, S.A.C.
April 2 – Very Rev. Ranjan D'Sa, O.C.D.
April 3 – Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.)
April 4 – Rev. Joseph Ahilan, C.R.S.P.
April 5 – Rev. Benedict T. Insigne, C.R.S.P.
April 6 – Rev. David Avila
April 7 – **Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

For those who wish to plan First Communion for public school students, please contact the parish office to schedule the First Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Stefano Lee.

Confirmation – May 15th, 2024

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Teresa of Avila Parish on May 15th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Very Reverend Monsignor Murry Kreotsch, Vicar General of the Diocese of Hamilton will preside at the celebration. For any questions, please contact the parish office.

Office Hours – April 1st, 2024

The office will be closed on Monday, April 1st, and will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, April 2nd.

Divine Mercy Chapel Hours

The Divine Mercy Chapel will reopen and resume normal hours on Tuesday, April 2nd.

Diocesan Medal of Honour

Congratulations Bill Zister! Bill has been granted the Diocesan Medal of Honour in recognition for his outstanding contribution through many years of service to the faith and our parish community over the years.

Liturgical Flower Arrangement Team

We are looking for volumeters who would love to worship God with liturgical flower decoration. If you are interested in liturgical flower decoration in the church, please contact the parish office or Fr. Stefano Lee.

2024 Clergy Appointments

The 2024 clergy pastoral appointments have been published by the Hamilton Diocese. Please see the bulletin board at the back of the church for the list.

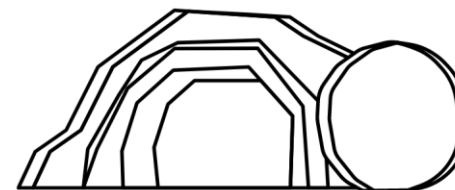
"HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!"
(LUKE 24:6-7)

HAVE A WONDERFUL EASTER!



May the miracle of Easter
bring you peace and joy

from
Fr. Stefano Lee & Parish Staff



**We are most appreciative of your ongoing
prayerful and financial support.**

**Donations to the parish can be made through the
use of Sunday Offertory envelopes, Pre-Authorized
Giving, CanadaHelps and Interac e-Transfer.**

Pre-Authorized Giving – A digital copy of the form can be found on our parish website or call the parish office. Simply print the form, complete it and return it to the Parish Office.

E-Transfer – To donate through E-Transfer, please use the following email account:
stteresakitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

CanadaHelps – To support our parish via **credit card** or **PayPal** please visit canadahelps.org You can access our parish directly by following this link:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119110450RR0053-st-teresas-parish/>

Please note that donations made through the CanadaHelps website, will receive a tax receipt directly from CanadaHelps, via email.

If you require any further information, please contact the parish office.

Stewardship Report – March 24th, 2024	
Sunday Offerings	\$1,079.95
Votives.....	\$ 20.10
Flowers.....	\$ 55.00
Building Fund.....	\$ 953.00
Easter.....	\$ 100.00
Share Lent Offering.....	\$ 240.00

Wisdom of the Saints

“Be good; love the Lord; pray for those who do not know him. What a great grace it is to know God!”
-- *St. Josephine Bakhita*

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.”
-- *St. John Paul II*

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention
April 2024

Please join Pope Francis in praying for the role of women during the month of April.