

May You Find Peace, Faith & Joy at Easter

EASTER

Worship & Celebrations

INSIDE MOVIES TO WATCH THIS EASTER SEASON | EASTER EGG COLORING TIPS | EASTER TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE | EASTER CENTERPIECE IDEAS TO BEAUTIFY THE TABLE | STORIES OF THE RESURRECTION AS TOLD IN THE GOSPELS | MEANINGS BEHIND THE EASTER LILY | EXPLAINING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS | THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VARIOUS SYMBOLS OF EASTER | HOP ON THESE TIPS FOR A GREAT EASTER EGG HUNT | WHY IS EASTER SUNDAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN HOLIDAY | EXPLAINING THE MEANING OF EASTER TO CHILDREN | COLOR TIME

Movies to watch this Easter season

Staff Reports

Movie-goers may not associate Easter with Hollywood blockbusters. However, there's an entire cache of films that align well with Easter. When spending time with family and friends for the Easter holiday, consider these movies.

"IT'S THE EASTER BEAGLE, CHARLIE BROWN!"

This 1974 classic puts The Peanuts' heartwarming spin on another holiday theme. The gang gets ready for Easter in the only ways they can - with lots of love and laughs.

"THE PRINCE OF EGYPT"

This 1998 animated film tells the tale of Moses and Pharaoh, and features the voices of Val Kilmer, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sandra Bullock, and Ralph Fiennes, among others.

"HOP"

This combination of live action and animation tells the story of the Easter Bunny's teenage son "E.B.," who wants to move to L.A. to pursue his passion for music, rather than be next in line for the family business.

"THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD"

This 1965 epic tells the story of Jesus of Nazareth and follows His life from the nativity through to the crucifixion. At a whopping four hours and 20 minutes,



COURTESY PHOTO

When spending time with family and friends for the Easter holiday, consider these movies.

it may be best to watch this in sessions, especially when watching with youngsters.

"THE DOG WHO SAVED EASTER"

A cuddly canine makes it his business to save Easter when three criminals try to

sabotage it in this 2014 film. Mario Lopez voices the pup "Zeus" in this family-friendly flick.

"THE TEN COMMANDMENTS"

Audiences continue to enjoy this beloved 1956 film starring Charlton Heston as

Moses every Easter. With stunning special effects of the Burning Bush and parting of the Red Sea in the era before CGI, this story of faith wows audiences every time.

"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"

Released in 2004 and directed by Mel Gibson, this movie chronicles the final twelve hours of Jesus' agony. The movie doesn't shy away from violence as it attempts to bring audiences closer to

the suffering of Christ, which earned it an R rating. This is likely a film for adults only.

Easter presents a time when families can enjoy religious-themed movies that share stories of faith or fun flicks with positive messages.

Easter egg coloring tips

Staff Reports

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross, according to Chase Oaks Church.

Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips to enhance the process.

PREVENT CRACKED EGGS

Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent

cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.

BOIL EGGS AND COOL COMPLETELY

It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run under cold tap water.

DON'T FORGET THE VINEGAR

Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

STICK TO WHITE EGGS

Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

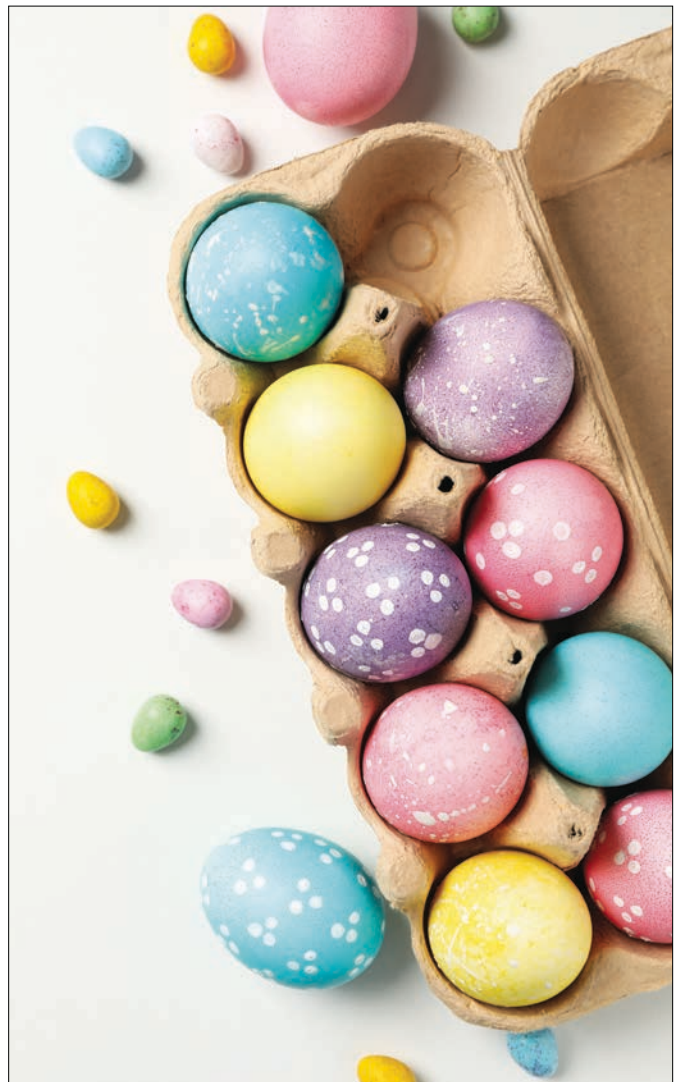
CREATE DISTINCTIVE DESIGNS

By covering portions of the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

DYES ARE NOT THE ONLY WAY TO COLOR EGGS

Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers. Search for creative materials to set Easter eggs apart this year.

Coloring eggs is a popular Easter tradition, and there are many ways to ensure this beloved activity produces beautiful results.



COURTESY PHOTO

By covering portions of the bare eggs before dipping into can create unique designs. Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water.



COURTESY PHOTO

Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers. Search for creative materials to set Easter eggs apart this year.



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Easter traditions from around the globe

Staff Reports

Easter Sunday is a significant day on the Christian calendar. Easter Sunday will be celebrated on March 31, 2024, and many of those celebrations will feature some notable traditions. Some traditions are undoubtedly familiar to practicing Christians, while others might come as a surprise. As Easter approaches, faithful Christians and others intrigued by the holiday can consider these notable traditions from around the globe.

EASTER WITCHES

Witches are typically associated with Halloween, but they play a role in celebrating Easter in Finland. According to the Finland Promotion Board, Easter traditions in the northern European nation feature a mixture of religious references with customs related to the arrival of spring. It's not unheard of for young Finnish children, particularly girls, to dress up as Easter witches the Sunday before Easter and go from door to door requesting treats in exchange for offerings designed to drive away evil spirits. The FPB notes that it's even common for children in western Finland to don their witch outfits and roam on Easter Sunday.

FIREWORKS IN FLORENCE

The folk tradition of Scoppio del Carro ("Explosion of the Cart") takes place in Florence, Italy. The Uffizi Gallery reports that this tradition can be traced to the First Crusade in 1099. During the first Easter in Jerusalem, Crusaders gave the blessed fire to the people as a symbol of purification. That custom has endured in Florence, where each Easter Sunday morning around 10 a.m. a candle is lit in the church of Santi Apostoli. That same candle is then used to light an antique cart loaded with fireworks, marking the beginning of a display that lasts around 20 minutes.

THE CARPETS OF SEMANA SANTA

Carpets might not be the first thing most Easter celebrants think of when pondering the holiday, but that might be the case for anyone who's ever spent the holiday in Antigua, Guatemala. Guatemala's Semana Santa ("Easter Festival") features detailed carpets of colored sawdust adorning a Good Friday processional route.

Preparation for the colorful and stunning display begins months in advance



as the intricate carpets require ample time to produce.

WHIPS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Among the more unique Easter traditions takes

place each Easter Monday in the Czech Republic. In adherence to this tradition, known locally as pomlázka, boys, and

sometimes men, gather willow branches and braid them together into whips. The whips are then decorated

with ribbons before boys visit girls (or men visit women) who they know and lightly tap them with the whips. The tradition is believed to bring women luck, vitality and fertility.

These are just some of the unique traditions many Christians adhere to as part of their Easter celebrations.

Easter centerpiece ideas to beautify the table

Staff Reports

Easter is a springtime holiday that marks a prime opportunity to cast off the remnants of winter weather and dress a home in bright, colorful hues.

Come Easter, tulips and daffodils may be sprouting, lilies are on display in churches and many other spring touches are incorporated into home decor. Celebrants who will be hosting their families or more intimate Easter gatherings can extend the eye-catching improvements to the dining table. Easter centerpieces are a prime way to add color and ambiance to interior designs.

Here's a look at various ways to decorate the table for Easter celebrations.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dining tables can be incorporated into Easter decor.



COURTESY PHOTO

Easter centerpieces are a prime way to add color and ambiance to interior designs.

CARROT-FILLED CONTAINER

Embrace an Easter bunny theme by hanging a bundle of carrots inside a glass vase or bowl and topping with orange, yellow and other spring-themed flowers and greenery.

PUSSY WILLOW BASKET

Weave pussy willow stems into a basket shape or braid them together to make a ring. Then fill with colored Easter eggs or flower petals.

NESTED FLOWERS

Purchase a wooden or wicker basket and weave or glue small twigs onto it. This will give it the look of a natural bird's nest, which is one of the markers of the spring season. The nest can cradle spring blooms, such as tulips, or hold Easter eggs.

EASTER BUNNY GARDEN

Fill a shallow ceramic

bowl with floral design moss or another green filler. Place a gold-foil chocolate bunny or a ceramic rabbit in the center and put small tealight candles and a small glass canister of pastel-colored candy eggs to complete the picture.

TAKE A 'PEEP'

Marshmallow Peeps® are an Easter staple and they can have a place outside of Easter baskets. Line a small

vase with Peeps. Place cut flowers inside for a festive centerpiece.

RAINY DAY DÉCOR

April showers bring May flowers. Put that sentiment on display by purchasing an inexpensive pair of brightly colored rubber rain boots. Place cut fresh tulips into narrow glass vases and then slip the vases inside of the boots for a festive and funny table conversation piece.

FLOATING FLOWERS

Poke the stem of a flower into a square of bubble wrap. Place into a small fishbowl filled with water and watch the flowers float on top. Tint the water a pastel hue if desired.

PAINTED PINECONE BOUQUET

If you have pine cones left over from Christmas decorations or a pile that

the kids may have collected from the yard, paint them in bright colors for an Easter makeover. Place in the container of your choice and add some faux or real greenery to complete the bouquet picture.

Dining tables can be incorporated into Easter decor. There are many different creative options for crafting centerpieces guests will adore.



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Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels



COURTESY PHOTO

John 20: 1-10 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

Staff reports

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help to tell the story of the resurrection of Jesus.

MATTHEW 28: 1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the

women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

MARK 16: 2-7

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?" And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, "Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus

of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."

LUKE 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men

stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and

PLEASE SEE **GOSPELS** | D7



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels.

Meanings behind the Easter lily

Staff Reports

Easter symbols and traditions help make the holiday familiar and special. Eggs, hot cross buns and frilly church dresses help paint the picture, and so does a delicate and beautiful white flower.

The Easter lily plant is native to both Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands of Japan. The plant's flowering season begins in April and ends in June. The plant produces pure white flowers on top of long stems. Easter lilies often adorn homes and church altars during this

time of year.

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden from the teardrops of Eve that spread when she and Adam were cast out of the garden. These were believed to be tears of repentance.

Historians and biblical scholars say that the lily has always been highly regarded in the Christian Church. Jesus even references the flower in Luke 12:27, stating "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed

like one of these." Legend has it that, after Jesus' death and resurrection, lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus is said to have prayed before his crucifixion. They were believed to have sprung up from a drop of sweat from his brow when his head was bent in prayer.

In Easter celebrations, the lily represents Christ's Resurrection, and thusly new birth and new life. The delicate, white blooms can be viewed as pure, innocent and untainted by the world. The flower itself is used

in various ways to tell the resurrection story. The bulb is buried in the ground as a representation of Christ's tomb. The trumpet-shaped fragrant flowers also announce life after death, since bulbous flowers often regrow year after year, according to the religious resource All About Jesus. And the trumpet shape signifies the angel Gabriel's trumpet call.

It's common for Easter lilies to decorate homes, churches, gardens, and more throughout the Easter season.



COURTESY PHOTO

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Explaining the Stations of the Cross

Staff Reports

Tradition features prominently in Holy Week celebrations. The week leading up to Easter Sunday, Holy Week is a sacred time for faithful Christians. The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

WHAT ARE THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

According to Catholic Online, the Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. Each of the 14 stations focus on a specific event of

Jesus's last day as a man.

WHERE CAN THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS BE FOUND?

Stations of the Cross are typically found in churches. Many times the Stations adorn the interior wall of a church, and Catholic Online notes they're often depicted using small icons or images. Some churches with sizable exterior grounds may arrange larger Stations along footpaths in yards or gardens on the premises.

WHEN DO PEOPLE MOST COMMONLY PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

Lent is the most common

time to pray the Stations of the Cross, and some churches hold weekly prayer sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays during this time of year.

WHAT ARE THE 14 STATIONS?

Catholic Online notes the 14 Stations of the Cross are:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries the cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets with His Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls a second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls a third time
10. Jesus's clothes are taken away
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

The Stations of the Cross are an important Easter tradition that shed light on Jesus's resurrection. Individuals interested in praying the Stations of the Cross are urged to contact a local church so they can engage in this moving Christian tradition.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

The significance of various symbols of Easter



COURTESY PHOTO
The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

Staff reports

Easter Sunday is a day when Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates there are approximately 2.4 billion Christians across the globe, which accounts for nearly one-third of the global population.

Though certain Christians groups do not celebrate Easter, many consider it the holiest day of the year. Given that significance, it's no surprise Easter is steeped in symbolism. The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

EGGS

Eggs might now be more instantly associated with Easter egg hunts for children, but the American Bible Society notes that eggs are symbolic of more than just fun for

kids. Eggs represent the new life that's symbolic of spring, which is when Easter occurs in the northern hemisphere. Christians view eggs as a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, though colored eggs are often seen as a fun Easter activity for kids, the ABS notes that the tradition dates back to the early days of Christianity, when red-colored eggs were used to represent the resurrection.

CRUCIFIX

The crucifix, which is a distinct representation of a cross with Jesus Christ on it, is symbolic of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus. The ABS notes that the resurrection of Jesus symbolizes his victory over the power of sin and death.

THE LAMB

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the "Lamb of God" (Revelation 5:6-14), so the lamb is another important Easter symbol for Christians.

In addition, in John (1:29), Jesus is referred to by John the Baptist as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

EASTER BUNNY

Another symbol, like Easter eggs, that people could be forgiven for mistaking as purely secular, the Easter Bunny is not entirely separate from the spiritual meaning of the holiday. As noted, Easter, even though it's a moveable feast, takes place in spring in the northern hemisphere each year. Spring is symbolic of rebirth, and the hare was a symbol of fertility among the ancient pagans. The spirit of rebirth associated with rabbits, particularly in spring, also is reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus from his tomb.

Easter is celebrated across the globe. Those celebrations feature many significant religious symbols that have withstood the test of time.

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- Easter Worship Service March 31st 10:00 am

He is Risen!

Hop on these tips for a great Easter egg hunt

Staff Reports

Egg hunts are a traditional component of many people's Easter celebrations. Children often delight in searching for eggs around the house or in the backyard. Egg hunts are so popular that they have become a component of many town-sponsored festivities. In fact, the White House hosts its annual Easter Egg Roll each year.

There are many ways to make Easter egg hunts more enjoyable and productive for participants of all ages. Try these "eggcellent" ideas.

DESIGNATE A CLEAR HUNTING AREA

Young children can grow frustrated searching for eggs in large areas. Set parameters for the search area that are manageable depending on the ages of the children

participating. If you'll be in a large yard or field, tape off the search area perimeter.

VARY THE PRIZES

Candy, candy and more candy seems to be the name of the game on Easter. But too many sweets can lead to stomach aches for young Easter celebrants. Instead, mix and match the prizes contained in the eggs. Candy can be in some, money in others, and perhaps small toys in a few eggs. Another clever idea is to mix the egg hunt with charades. Put charade prompts in some eggs so that kids have to act out what they read inside for added fun.

SPECIAL PRIVILEGE EGG

Hide one egg that gives the finder the opportunity for a special honor. It may include

getting the first slice of the holiday ham or being able to choose a movie that the entire family watches together after dinner.

LABEL EGGS FOR EQUITY

When there are children across a wide range of ages, label the eggs with the children's names or utilize a color-coded system to ensure that everyone has an equal shot at finding eggs.

KEEP A MASTER LIST

It can be hard to remember where each egg is hidden, so keep a running list of where they are or take photos with a phone of the hiding spots. This way you're not left to discover a chocolate-filled egg teeming with ants come summertime.



COURTESY PHOTO

Egg hunts are so popular that they have become a component of many town-sponsored festivities.

MAKE CUSTOM BASKETS

Children will need something to carry their eggs. Prior to the egg hunt, let

them decorate bags or baskets with Easter trinkets for custom creations.

Easter egg hunts are a

time-honored tradition. The opportunities for fun are endless when families plan accordingly.

Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?



COURTESY PHOTO

Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration.

Staff Reports

Christians around the world fill church pews on Easter Sunday to participate in one of the most holy and important celebrations of the liturgical year. Although every Sunday presents opportunities to share in the word of God, Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father's side in heaven. However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the

core of the Christian religion as it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not exist as it was prophesied. Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross for others' sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of Christianity has been built.

In 1 Corinthians 15:17, St. Paul wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." Pope Benedict XVI similarly summarized St. Paul's words, in-

dicating that if the resurrection were taken away, it may be possible to piece together ideas about God and men, but the Christian faith would be "dead." In his book, Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict further wrote, "Jesus would be a failed religious leader. he would then remain purely human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us."

According to Christianity.com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after death, and they have the

same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

Out of Holy Week and Easter also came the start of Christian masses. On Holy Thursday, Jesus introduced his disciples to the bread that they ate at the Last Supper as "his body" and the wine as "his blood." This would serve as the basis for the Christian celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.

Easter is a significant date on the Christian calendar that inspires Christians across the globe to celebrate their faith.

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Explaining the meaning of Easter to children

Staff Reports

Explaining Easter to children can be a delicate matter, especially for very young children who may not fully understand the tenets of the Christian faith. Although Easter ends with Jesus Christ emerging from his tomb, prior to this glorious miracle there are subjects of betrayal, suffering and death. These religious messages can confound when commingled with the imagery of bunnies delivering chocolates, chicks and pastel-hued eggs. How do well-meaning parents relay the message of Easter without scaring or confusing children?

TEMPER THE MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE

A child's age bears consideration when gauging just how much to share about Easter. Between Palm Sunday, when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem, to Easter Sunday's Resurrection, the story of Easter features torture

and death - which are topics not easily digested by anyone, especially children. Even the core symbol of the Christian faith - the crucifix - is shocking.

For the youngest children, the extent of the torture and betrayal can be muted. For example, parents may say that Jesus was bullied and made fun of and that people didn't believe him when he spoke. Parents can note that even some of the closest friends to Jesus had their doubts. This may be easier for kids to digest because it's something they may relate to.

Children may not understand the death on the cross; it's even challenging for adults to wrap their minds around that visual. It briefly can be mentioned that he was placed on a cross, as was customary during that era, but forgo the finer details.

FOCUS ON THE RESURRECTION

Parents will not want to talk about death without



COURTESY PHOTO

These religious messages can confound when commingled with the imagery of bunnies delivering chocolates, chicks and pastel-hued eggs.

ending on the high note of Jesus' Resurrection. Remind children that Christ's death was temporary and that He now always will be with adults and children. Read passages from scripture that exemplify the Good News and the happy components of the Easter celebration.

EXPLAIN SECULAR IMAGES

Young children may be more focused on the commercial images of Easter rather than the religious ones. Parents may want to gear symbolism toward the religious explanations and focus their traditions thusly. Baking hot cross buns can be fun and showcase the cruci-

fix. Explain how eggs are representative of Jesus Christ's new life when coloring them is another way to cut through mixed messages.

READ BOOKS

Some authors already have taken the challenge out of explaining Easter to children. Visit a religious bookseller,

the church or a book store to find Easter stories geared to children.

Parents can decide how to explain Easter to their children. Many moms and dads have found that focusing on the joyful aspects of Christ's resurrection story is a simple, enjoyable way to explain Easter.

GOSPELS

FROM PAGE D4

Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

JOHN 20: 1-10

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came

to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he

saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.



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The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



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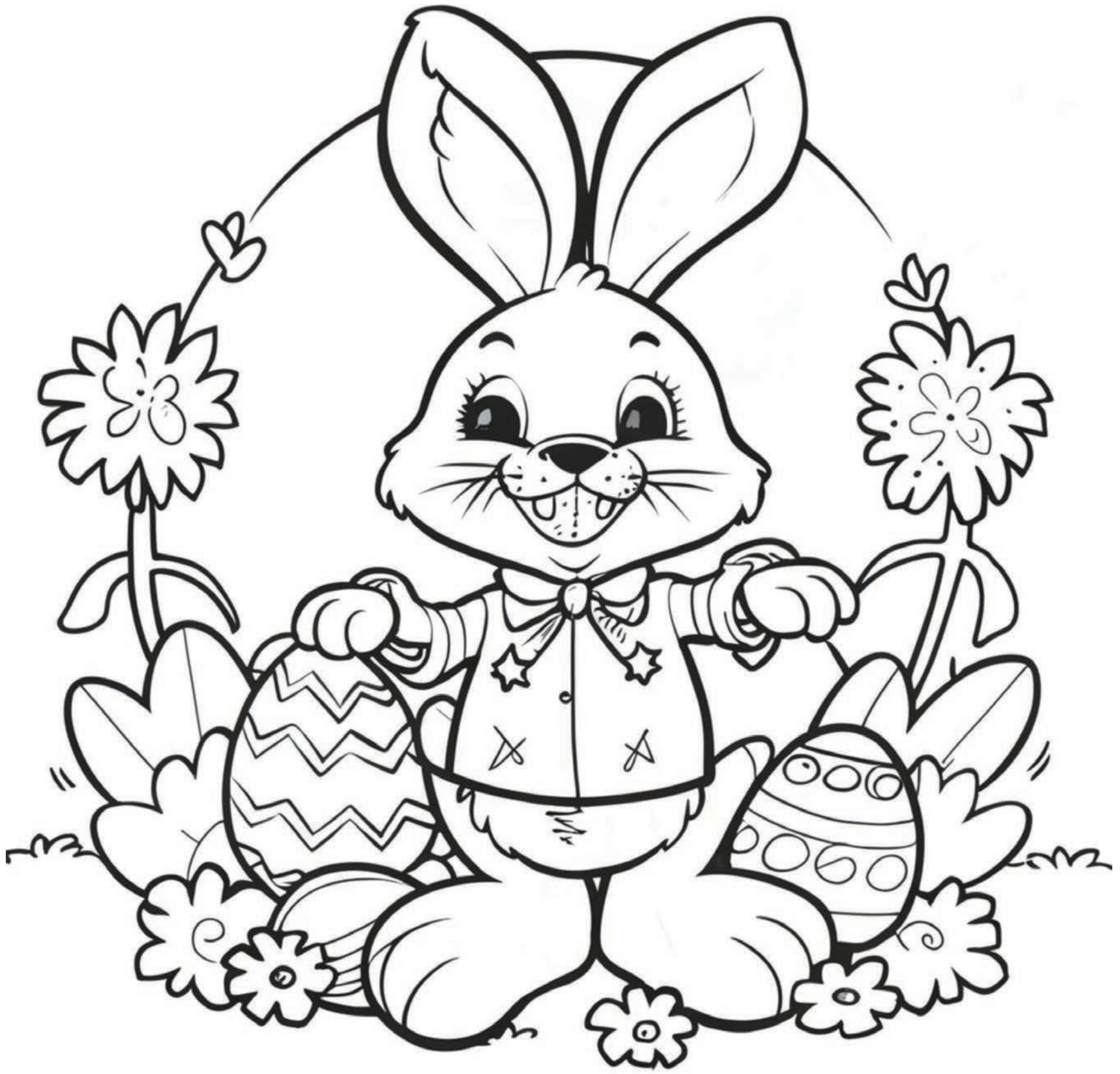
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