



The Blue Mantle



Knights Of Columbus

Mater Dei Council #9774

www.geocities.com/materdei9774

April 2007

Special Easter Edition

**Knights of Columbus
Mater Dei Council
#9774**

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Knights News:

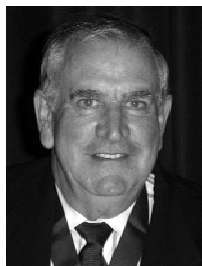
"On Good Friday, we listen to the account of the Passion and contemplate Christ on the Cross. This is love in its most radical form: God gives His very self, in order to raise us up and save us."

Holy Saturday is the day in which "the Church is spiritually united with Mary, praying by the tomb of the Son of God who lies at rest after completing His work of redemption."

"At the solemn Easter Vigil the joyful Gloria and Easter Alleluia rise forth from the hearts of the whole Christian community, because Christ is risen and has defeated death!"

- Pope Benedict XVI

Grand Knight's Report



March has been another busy month. Lots of degree ceremonies with many of our brothers advancing. Congratulations to all. The Anniversary dinner was very enjoyable as we honor our widows

and Past Grand Knights. The collection for the Christians in the Holy Lands will permit us to again support education there.

The calendar reflects even more opportunities to join your brothers in charity, unity and fraternalism.

Don't forget to send Bill Shaffer your nomina-

tions for the GAS distribution.

Attendance at the meetings has been a bit disappointing. Please try to attend one of the upcoming ones.

Lent is winding down and I'm sure all are prepared for a blessed and glorious Easter. Best wishes to all.

Wilsie Adams

District Deputy's Corner

April is a wonderful month! After the dismal up and down weather we have been subjected to, I look forward to more sunshine and lighter breezes. Most importantly, we celebrate the foundation of our religion as we celebrate the risen Lord! For the grand Knights, just a few simple major reports are due to the State. I personally thank each Grand Knight and Council for their on time submissions of these reports. It makes life a lot easier for the District Deputy. Our State Deputy Edgar D. Haynes KCHS has consistently stated that he wants all Councils to be

"Star Councils." Each of our Councils has a chance to meet this goal. As usual, the issue gets down to recruiting new members and adding insurance members. If you have an interest card, make certain you call back within a week to express your interest in having the person become a Knight. The District has a First Degree scheduled for every month remaining in the year, so the opportunity to meet the most difficult Star Council is within your reach. This month we also celebrate the death of Blessed Francis Page, S.J. Born into a wealthy Protestant English family, he

clerked for a Catholic lawyer. Francis fell in love with the lawyer's daughter, but she would not marry him until he became a Catholic... After receiving instructions from a Jesuit priest who was imprisoned in London's Clink Prison, he abandoned the thought of marriage and decided to become a Jesuit. WOW! After ordination he escaped the priest hunters for few years. Captured and convicted of treason, he was condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. Those who sacrifice themselves for the faith are truly an inspiration.

Mary, Queen of the Knights, pray for us
God bless America
Tom Schneider

Etymology of 'Easter'

In most languages of Christian societies, other than English, German and some Slavic languages, the holiday's name is derived from *Pesach*, the Hebrew name of Passover, a Jewish holiday to which the Christian Easter is intimately linked.

Easter depends on Passover not only for much of its symbolic meaning but also for its position in the calendar; the Last Supper shared by Jesus and his disciples before his crucifixion is generally thought of as a Passover Seder, based on the chronology in the Synoptic Gospels.

The English and German names, "Easter" and "Ostern", are not ety-

mologically derived from *Pesach* and according to the 8th century Christian Monk and historian Bede are instead related to an ancient name for the Saxon goddess, Eostre, who was celebrated during Eosturmonath, equivalent to April/Aprilis Bede wrote: "Eosturmonath, which is now interpreted as the paschal month, was formerly named after the goddess Eostre, and has given its name to the festival."

Names related to Eostremonat (Eostre Month) (Ven. Bede states: Eostur-monath)

- [English](#) *Easter*
- [German](#) *Ostern*

Names derived from the Hebrew 'Pesach' (Passover)

- [Latin](#) *Pascha* or *Festa Paschalia*
- [Greek](#) *Πάσχα* (*Paskha*)
- [Arabic](#) عيد الفصح *Aīd ul-Fiṣḥ*
- [Danish](#) *Påske*
- [Dutch](#) *Pasen* or *paasfeest*
- [Finnish](#) *Pääsiäinen*
- [French](#) *Pâques*
- [Hebrew](#) פסח *Pascha*
- [Irish](#) *Cáisc*
- [Italian](#) *Pasqua*
- [Polish](#) *Pascha*
- [Portuguese](#) *Páscoa*
- [Russian](#) *Пасха* (*Paskha*)
- [Scottish Gaelic](#) *Casca*
- [Spanish](#) *Pascua*

Passover: The "Birth" of a nation

Passover is a Jewish holiday that begins on the 15th day of Nisan. In Israel, it is a 7-day holiday, with the first and last days celebrated as a full festival (involving abstention from work, special prayer services and holiday meals). Passover commemorates the Exodus and freedom of the Israelites from ancient Egypt. As described in the Book of Exodus, Passover marks the "birth" of the Children of Israel who become the Jewish nation, as the Jews' ancestors were freed from being slaves of Pharaoh and allowed to become followers of God instead. The term *Pesach* (Hebrew: פסח, more exactly, the verb "pasàch" (Hebrew: פסח is first mentioned in the Torah account of the Exodus from Egypt (Exodus 12:23). It is found in Moses' words that God "**will pass over**" the houses of the Israelites during the final plague of the Ten Plagues of Egypt,

the killing of the first-born. On the night of that plague, which occurred on the 15th day of Nisan, the Israelites smeared their lintels and doorposts with the blood of the Passover Sacrifice and were spared.

The term *Pesach* also refers to the lamb which was designated as the Passover sacrifice (called the *Korban Pesach* in Hebrew). Four days before the Exodus, the Israelites were commanded to set aside a lamb (Exodus 12:3) and inspect it daily for blemishes. During the day on the 14th of Nisan, they were to slaughter the animal and use its blood to mark their lintels and doorposts. Up until midnight on the 15th of Nisan, they were to consume the lamb. Each family (or group of families) gathered together to eat a meal that included the meat of the *Korban Pesach* while the Tenth Plague ravaged Egypt.

The Four Cups of wine

There is a Rabbinic obligation to drink four cups of wine (or pure grape juice) during the Seder. This applies to both men and women.

The *Mishnah* says (Pes. 10:1) that even the poorest man in Israel has an obligation to drink.

Each cup is connected to a different part of the Seder:

► The First Cup is for *Kiddush*.

► The Second Cup is connected with the recounting of the Exodus.

► The drinking of the Third Cup concludes *Birkat Hamazon*

► And the Fourth Cup is as-

Korban Pesach (Paschal Lamb)

*"For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed"
(1 Co 5:7)*

When the Temple was standing, the focus of the Passover festival was the *Korban Pesach* (lit. "Pesach sacrifice," also known as the "Paschal Lamb"). Every family (or, if the family was too small to finish eating the entire offering in one sitting, group of families) was required to offer a young lamb or kid at the Jewish Temple on the afternoon of the 14th day of Nisan (Numbers 9:11), and eat it that night, which was the 15th of Nisan (Exodus 12:6). The offering could not be slaughtered while one was in possession of leaven (Exodus 23:18). It had to be roasted (Exodus 12:9) and eaten together with *matzo* and *maror* (Exodus 12:8). One had to be careful not to break any bones

from the offering (Exodus 12:46). None of the meat could be left over until morning (Exodus 12:10, 23:18).

Because of the *Korban Pesach*'s status as a sacred offering, the only people allowed to eat it are those who have the obligation to bring the offering. Among those who can not offer or eat the *Korban Pesach* are: An apostate (Exodus 12:43), a servant (Exodus 12:45), an uncircumcised man (Exodus 12:48), a person in a state of ritual impurity, except when a majority of Jews are in such a state (*Pesachim* 66b). The offering must be made before a quorum of 30 (*Pesachim* 64b).

In the Temple, the Levites sing *Hallel* while the *Kohanim* perform the

sacrificial service. Men and women are equally obligated regarding the *Korban Pesach* (*Pesachim* 91b).

Women were obligated, as men, to perform the *Korban Pesach* and to participate in a *Seder*.

Today, in the absence of the Temple, the mitzvah of the *Korban Pesach* is memorialized in the form of a symbolic food placed on the Passover Seder Plate, which is usually a roasted shankbone. Ashkenazic Jews have a custom of not eating lamb or goat during the Seder in deference to the absence of the Temple. Many Sephardic Jews, however, have the opposite custom of eating lamb or goat meat during the Seder in memory of the *Korban Pesach*.

The Paschal Mystery

In English, we use the word **Paschal** to refer to **Passover**. (i.e. "Paschal Lamb".) It is also used as an adjective referring to **Easter**. (i.e. "Paschal Candle"). In the Jewish Passover meal, the Seder, there are four cups. The Seder is not finished until the presiding figure drinks the Fourth Cup, called the Cup of Acceptance. After the third cup, hymns are sung. At the last supper, the celebration was cut short. *"And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."* (Matt 26:30) The Last Supper was "finished" at the Cross when Jesus drank the sour wine and declared *"it is finished."* (John 19:30) It is completed when Jesus was sacrificed on the cross for *"the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole*

world." (1 Jn 2:2) Jesus is the high priest celebrating the sacrifice. He is also the true *Paschal Lamb*; the sacrificial Lamb slain on the cross and eaten at the Last Supper (and in the Holy Eucharist).

Saint Augustine writes: *"For Christ was carried in his own hands, when, referring to his own body, he said 'This is my body'. For he carried that body in his hands."* As the Jews eat the Passover Lamb, we eat our Paschal Lamb Jesus.

St. Thomas Aquinas writes: *"The Blessed Eucharist is the perfect Sacrament of the Lord's Passion, since It contains Christ Himself and his Passion."*

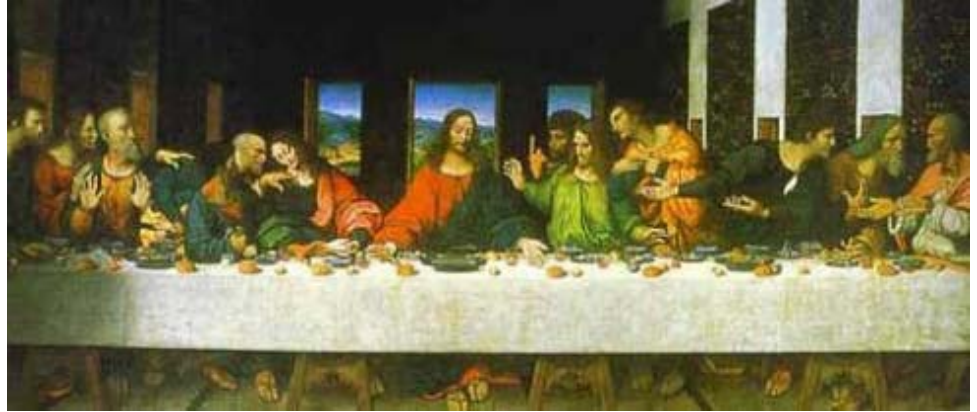
The Paschal Mystery is more than only Passover or Easter, it is the whole Mystery of our redemption: it is the Passion, the Death and the Resurrection of our Lord.

"The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever.'" This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Caper'na-um."

(John 6:52-59)

The Paschal Feast

Easter is the most important religious feast of the Christian calendar year. Pope Leo I calls it the greatest feast (*festum festorum*), and says that Christmas is celebrated only in preparation for Easter. It is the centre of the greater part of the ecclesiastical year. Every Sunday of the year is a commemoration of the resurrection of Christ which had occurred on a Sunday. But Easter Sunday is particular because it is the Sunday linked to Jewish Passover, the Last Supper.



"The connection between the Jewish Passover and the Christian feast of Easter is real and ideal. Real, since Christ died on the first Jewish Easter Day; ideal, like the relation between type and reality, because

Christ's death and Resurrection had its figures and types in the Old Law, particularly in the paschal lamb, which was eaten towards evening of the 14th of Nisan."

(Frederick G. Holweck)

The Resurrection

Saint Paul says: *"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."* (1 Co 15:14) The resurrection above all constitutes the confirmation of all of Christ's works and teachings. All truths, even those most accessible to human reason, find their justification in Christ by his resurrection has given the definitive proof of his divine authority, which he had promised.

Christ's resurrection is the fulfillment of the promises both, of the Old Testament and of Jesus himself during his earthly life. (Cf. Mt 28:6; Mk 16:7; Lk 24:6-7, 26-27, 44-48) The phrase *"in accordance to the scriptures"* (Cf. 1 Co 15:3-4; cf. Nicene Creed) indicates the Christ's Resurrection fulfilled these predictions. The truth of Jesus' divinity is confirmed by his Resurrection.

"Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep... For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Co 15:20-22)

He had said: *"When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you will know that I am he."* (Jn 8:28) The Resurrection of the crucified one shows that he was truly *"I Am,"* the Son of God and God himself. So Saint Paul could declare to the Jews: *"What God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you,'"* (Acts 13:32-34; cf. Ps 2:7)

Christ's Resurrection is closely linked to the Incarnation of God's Son and is its fulfillment in accordance with God's eternal plan.

The Paschal Mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, He opens for us the way to a new life.

This new life is above all justification that reinstates us in God's grace, *'so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life.'* (Rom 6:4; cf. 4:25)

Justification consists in both victory over death caused by sin and a new participation in grace. It brings about filial adoption so that men become Christ's brethren, as Jesus himself called his disciples after his Resurrection: *'Go and tell my brethren.'* (Mt 28:10; Jn 20:17)

We are brethren not by nature, but by the gift of grace, because that adoptive filiation gains us a real share in the life of the only Son, which was fully revealed in his Resurrection.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 651-656

"Lamb of God"

Many years ago, when Herbert Von Karajan directed the *Coronation Mass* in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, tears ran down his face during the piece...

We know from Mozart himself that he attached the greatest importance to these words and what they mean. Here, in the mouth of John the Baptist, those words, which have become a foundational part of Christian speech, are uttered for the first time: **"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"**... (John 1:29)

Even though these words may be heard often, we must admit they have become quite foreign to us.

We certainly know how a lamb looks... But what does it mean, this description that the Baptist at the Jordan uses to refer to the strong young man, the carpenter from Nazareth, who comes to him?

Now John does not simply call him a lamb in the same way

"We have been ransomed with the precious blood of Christ, as with the blood of a lamb without blemish or spot." (1 Peter 1:19)

we address a somewhat timid and naive person in mild derision. He calls Jesus *"Lamb of God,"* and with that he touches upon a very familiar reality of those days.

Every day lambs were offered as sacrifices in the temple in Jerusalem, and to this day a lamb is eaten at the meal on the Jewish Easter night (the Seder on Passover), which recalls the night of the Exodus from slavery in Egypt.

"Lamb of God": this means the sacrifice that is offered to God for reconciliation and liberation.

This strong man in his best years (he is around thirty at that time) John calls *"Lamb of God."* And he says of him: He will take away the *"sins of the world."*

These mysterious words about Jesus predict his entire future path. He will travel this path, not with great military conquests or with tremendous

political success, but rather *"like a lamb that is led to the slaughter"* (as it is written by the prophet Isaiah 53: 7). But exactly in this way, in this seeming impotence, "like a lamb," he will lift off its hinges the entire burden of evil that weighs heavily on the world. For behind all the destructive powers, injustice, war, and hate stands a reality that the Bible calls *"sin,"* and it is this enormous burden which Jesus loaded upon himself and *"took away."*

What that really means we will never understand with our brains alone. But our hearts sense it. Mozart understood it with his heart, and in his blessed music he expressed how comforting this certainty about the victorious Lamb of God is.

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, archbishop of Vienna and the editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Quotes on the Eucharist

As by the Word of God, Jesus our Savior was Flesh and had both Flesh and blood for our salvation, so also the food which has been blessed by the word of prayer instituted by Him is both the Flesh and Blood of Jesus Incarnate.

- St. Justin Martyr (†165)

"As two pieces of wax fused together make one, so he who receives Holy Communion is so united with Christ that Christ is in him and he is in Christ."

- St. Cyril of Alexandria († 412)

"Take, eat; this is my body." [...] "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Mt 26:26-28)

"I desire the Bread of God, the heavenly Bread, the bread of life - which is the Flesh of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ... And I desire the drink of God, namely His Blood, which is incorruptible love and eternal life."

- St. Ignatius of Antioch
(Disciple of St. John. † ~ 107)

"Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven."

- Pope St. Pius X

"What wonderful majesty! What stupendous condescension! O sublime humility! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble Himself like this under the form of a little bread, for our salvation"

- St. Francis of Assisi

"...In this world I cannot see the Most High Son of God with my own eyes, except for His Most Holy Body and Blood."

- St. Francis of Assisi

Congratulations 2nd & 3rd Degree Knights

Mater Dei Council would like to congratulate the following Knights who received their 2nd & 3rd Degrees in March:

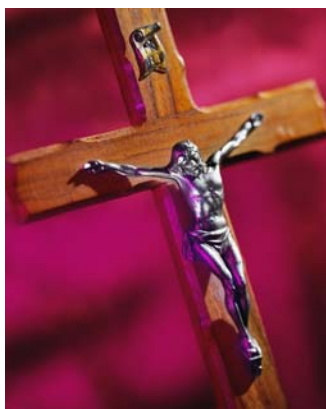
2nd Degree

Don Titzman
Woodrow Williams

3rd Degree

Tom Shallow
Don Titzman

Please congratulate them the next time you see them.



"In the acute pain of the Suffering Servant we already hear the triumphant cry of the Risen Lord. Christ on the cross is King of the new people ransomed from the burden of sin and death. However twisted and confused the course of history may appear, we know that, by walking in the footsteps of the Crucified Nazarene, we shall attain the goal. Amid the conflicts of a world often dominated by selfishness and hatred, we, as believers, are called to proclaim the victory of Love. Today, Good Friday, we testify to the victory of Christ Crucified...."

Yes, we adore you, Lord, lifted up upon the cross between heaven and earth, the sole Mediator of our salvation. Your cross is the banner of our victory!"

- Pope John Paul II

Upcoming Degree Ceremonies

If you are a Knight looking to get your next degree, or if you know a prospective Knight who wants to join Mater Dei Council, here is a schedule of upcoming degree ceremonies:

April 26	1st Degree	Rock Creek
April 27	3rd Degree	Sacred Heart
May 24	1st Degree	Mater Dei
June 14	1st Degree	Rock Creek
June 16	3rd Degree	Our Lady of Vietnam



If you are interested in attending any of these Degree Ceremonies, please contact Bob McCaffrey, (301) 251-5225, so we can get the paperwork filled out and ensure that you can get your next degree.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY APRIL 15

Through Sister Mary Faustina our Lord Jesus has asked all to proclaim the merciful love of God toward every human being, and to implore God's mercy for the whole world through new forms of devotion to Divine Mercy.

St. Raphael regularly prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and prior to the Sunday 1:00 p.m. Mass. This year St. Raphael is renewing efforts to introduce the Divine Mercy message to a larger part of the parish. Look for the following:

► **Novena to Divine Mercy to begin Good Friday** - The Divine Mercy Novena (9 consecutive days of prayer) will be prayed from April 6 through April 14 immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass with two exceptions. On Good Friday, April 6, the Novena will follow the 3 p.m. Stations of the Cross, and on Easter Sunday, April 8, the Novena will precede the 1:00 p.m. Mass. The Novena may also be prayed privately. Prayer pamphlets are available at the back of the church.

► On the **April 15 weekend** the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed prior to all Masses. Plan to arrive early for Mass that weekend and join us in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet approximately 15 minutes prior to regularly scheduled Mass time, including the Saturday and Sunday evening service. Chaplet prayer pamphlets will be distributed before all Masses.

► **Divine Mercy Sunday** Hour of Great Mercy Celebration, **April 15**.

- 1:00 p.m. A video on the life of St. Faustina will be shown in the Duffy Center.

- The Divine Mercy Celebration will begin in the church at 2:00 p.m. (immediately following the 1:00 p.m. Mass) and will include:

- 2:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

- 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions

- 3:00 p.m. Chanting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet

- 3:20 p.m. Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

- 3:30 p.m. Celebration of the Mass

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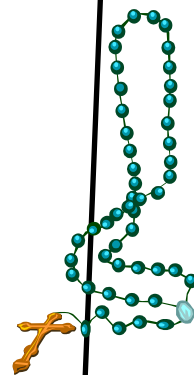


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Special Notices

- Congratulations to *Tom Sherman* on his selection as Family of the Month.
- You can download electronic copies of the Blue Mantle from our Web Site at <http://www.geocities.com/materdei9774/bluemantle.htm>
- All articles for the March issue must be received by the Editor by Friday April 27th.
- May the Light, Love and Glory of our Lord Jesus shine more brightly upon us and on the whole world in this Easter Season.



Schedule of Events: April-June 2007

Tue Apr 3	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Sun Apr 8	Easter Sunday
Thu Apr 12	Business Meeting (NOM), 8pm, DCC
Sun Apr 15	Divine Mercy Sunday
Thu Apr 26	Social Meeting (Cards), 8pm, DCC
Tue May 1	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Sun May 6	Coffee and Donuts, 10:30am, OLM
Thu May 10	Business Meeting (Election), 8pm, DCC
Sun May 13	Coffee and Donuts, 6:45am-2:10pm
Fri May 18	Convention
Sun May 20	Coffee and Donuts, 6:45am-2:10pm
Tue May 22	Open House, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu May 24	First Degree, 8pm, DCC
Tue Jun 6	Executive Meeting, 7:30pm, DCC
Thu Jun 14	Business Meeting, 8pm, DCC
Thu Jun 28	Social Meeting (GAS), 8pm, DCC



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