

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
April 5, 2026
Year of the Church in History

“When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.” (John 20:6-7)

Allow me to begin by first wishing all present a very Happy Easter. As a child, I would often receive an Easter basket filled with a chocolate bunny and various other sweets. This year, since I am unable to present each of you with a similar basket of sweets, I decided to offer you a short Easter reflection which you might enjoy, minus extra sugar.

In Saint John’s Gospel, he records the situation Saint Peter and he find when they arrive at the tomb. After walking in, he writes an interesting line concerning the burial bands which had covered the Body of Jesus. They have been set aside. Oddly, the napkin which would have been used to cover the Face of Jesus, was placed away from the other cloths. Why would Saint John include this observation? What makes it important?

The answer lies in the accusation of the Jewish leaders. They proclaim to the people: “His Disciples came in the night and stole His Body.” How many Amazon package thieves freely choose to unwrap the package they are about to steal and place the wrapping to the side while placing any decorative wrapping in a separate place away from the normal wrapping? One would assume if someone was going to steal a package, they would steal the whole package. Separating the wrapping and placing it aside would not be a priority. Furthermore, there were guards stationed at the tomb to prevent His Disciples from doing this exact thing. The fact that Saint John records this detail leads one to believe the person/persons or angelic beings involved in the unwrapping of the Body of Jesus are in no particular rush. They can proceed slowly and reverently because this event is a miracle of God’s doing. For God, the presence of guards and the length of time taken amount to very little, as concerns His Son. Utmost care must be taken because the triumphant King, the victor over sin, death and the Devil has returned from battle. The war is over. By the Passion of Jesus, God’s children are now free.