



# THE CORD

A Newsletter From St. Anthony's Guild

Dear Friend of St. Anthony,

We are sending you greetings and prayers for an abundance of blessings at this solemn and sacred time. We are celebrating another Lent and Easter during this global pandemic, but we are moving towards more hope as vaccines are becoming distributed worldwide.

We continue praying for our St. Anthony's Guild members, for our families, close friends, and for all who rely on us for guidance and support that we may soon return to a more normal way of living and seeing our family and friends.

On Easter Sunday, may we pray together as we celebrate the resurrection, the great triumph of God's endless and unconditional love for each of us. This year especially, my prayer for all of you is that Jesus Christ will surround you with His love and fill your life with His abundant blessings!

I wish you all a joyous Easter.

Many Blessings,

Fr. David Convertino, OFM

Executive Director of St. Anthony's Guild

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## Did You Know?

Did you know that the date of Easter is related to the full moon? Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon on or after March 21, which is the first full moon on or after the spring equinox. Easter will always fall between March 22, and April 25 and is a moving holiday.

## 6 Easter Traditions Around the World

Easter is a story of sacrifice but also a time of new beginnings and hope. This year that message feels particularly pertinent. Although it is strongly advised not to make unnecessary travel plans right now, we wanted to share some different Easter traditions that typically take place throughout the world. While many of these celebrations will not take place this Easter due to the ongoing pandemic, we hope that soon we can plan for such a future trip. Please enjoy and read on.

**Germany** Like many other countries in Europe, Easter is recognized as the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, and it also coincides with the coming of spring. In Germany, trees become decorated with embellished Easter eggs called Ostereierbaum or Easter Egg Trees. It's also a custom in Austria, Hungary, Poland, Ukraine, Moravia, and the Czech Republic.

**Ethiopia** The Ethiopian Orthodox Church celebrates Easter or Fasika one or two weeks after churches in the West and is considered to be more important than Christmas. After a 56-day fast that includes following a predominantly vegan diet (no meat or dairy products), families dress in white and gather for a gastronomical affair where they enjoy Doro wot (spicy chicken stew), Injera (flat-bread), and honey wine. Priests prepare themselves for the evening's festivities, which include singing and dancing.



Easter Celebrations In Germany



Bermuda Kite Festival

**Spain** In the city of Verges, locals observe Easter by having Holy Festival Week or Semana Santa. The culmination of this is Maundy Thursday which commemorates the Last Supper. This festival is called the 'Dance of Death' or Dansa de la Mort, where people dress in luminescent skeleton costumes and perform dances carrying clocks, scythes, and ashes. There is also a procession by hooded penitents and 'Jesus' and 'Mary' through Verges' town.

**Bermuda** On Good Friday, Horseshoe Bay Beach's shores and skies are filled with kaleidoscopic colors because of the Bermuda Kite Festival. The kites are a celebration of the ascent of Christ. Bermudians also dig into fish cakes on Easter Sunday.



**Italy** In Florence, there is an annual ritual called Scoppio del Carro or ‘Explosion of the Cart.’ An old wagon cart filled with fireworks and pyrotechnics is led through the city square by oxen, followed by a concert of drummers and people dressed in historical costumes. When the cart arrives at the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, the Archbishop lights a dove-shaped rocket into the wagon resulting in a spectacular firework display.

**Mexico** In Mexico and throughout Latin America, the Easter holiday is an opportunity to cleanse oneself of evil. On Holy Saturday, it’s typical to re-enact the burning of Judas by hanging an effigy and burning it at the stake. Theatrical renditions of the rest of Easter’s tales, called passion plays, are performed, too. One of the largest and most elaborate of them is in Iztapalapa, a borough of Mexico City, which has 5,000 participants and 150 speaking roles. The tradition began in 1843 to rejoice the end of a cholera epidemic. Now, the performances start on Palm Sunday and last through Holy Week.

## The Franciscan Store

At the Franciscan Store, we strive to embody Saint Francis’ teachings by offering various spiritual resources in the form of prayer cards, books, and religious articles. Many of our religious items are hand made in Assisi, and all of our books and religious cards have been written or designed by Franciscan Friars and Sisters. All proceeds from the sale of our spiritual goods go toward the support of the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province ministries. Please check out some of our new items currently featured on our website: [www.TheFranciscanStore.org](http://www.TheFranciscanStore.org). With Easter around the corner, it’s a perfect time to treat yourself or buy a special gift for someone.



1-5/8” San Damiano Crucifix  
**Saint Francis 7 Decade “Franciscan Crown” Rosary**  
**Item #MD52**  
Price: \$129.95



7” High  
**Kneeling St. Francis Statue**  
Polyresin With Brass Finish  
Replica of Statue In Courtyard at  
St. Francis of Assisi Church in NYC  
**Item #ST01**  
Price: \$79.99



20” Long  
**Our Lady of Grace Rosary**  
Rose Gold With Pink Glass Beads and  
Epoxy Lady of Grace Center  
**Item #RB84**  
Price: 19.95

## Traditional Italian Easter Bread

### Ingredients

- 1 (1/4 ounce) package active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup water (100 F)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup milk
- 4 large eggs (at room temperature)
- 1 teaspoon anise seeds
- 1 1/2 tablespoons anise extract
- 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon extract
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- 1 1/4 teaspoons salt
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 6 tablespoons butter (melted)
- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour (plus more as needed)

### Instructions

1. In a large mixing bowl, dissolve the yeast in warm water with a small pinch of the sugar. Let sit 10 minutes until foamy.
2. After the 10 minutes, whisk in the remaining sugar, milk, eggs, anise seeds, anise extract, lemon extract, lemon zest, salt, oil, and melted butter. Combine well by hand, with a hand mixer, or in a stand mixer.
3. Once everything is well combined, mix in the flour, one cup at a time, to form a wet, sticky dough.
4. Turn onto a lightly floured surface. Knead the dough for about 5 minutes, adding flour as needed to keep the dough from sticking to the surface, to form a smooth and elastic dough.
5. Place dough in a lightly oiled bowl. Lightly oil the surface of the dough and cover the bowl with a damp towel. Place in the oven with the light on (but no heat).
6. When doubled, punch dough down and turn out onto a lightly floured surface; divide into four pieces. Shape into four small oval loaves. If desired, each piece can be cut into three strips and braided to give it a traditional Easter bread appearance.
7. Place loaves on a silicone mat or parchment-lined baking sheets. Cover very loosely with lightly greased plastic wrap and let rise for 2 hours.
8. Heat oven to 350 F. Once loaves have risen, bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown and an instant-read thermometer registers 190 F to 200 F. Remove and cool on wire racks. Once cooled completely, enjoy as is, or you can use any simple icing.



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