



*I am the
resurrection, and the life.*
JOHN 11:25

The gift of Easter: Peace

On January 10, 2026, our Chicago-born, Holy Father Pope Leo XIV proclaimed a Franciscan Jubilee Year until January 10, 2027 commemorating the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi.

In initiating this celebration, Pope Leo invites us to see the charism animating the existence of Francis: peace. Notable in his writings, St. Francis of Assisi heard a call from our Blessed Lord that he received and which was to be shared: “May the Lord give you peace.”

During this Easter season, as members of St. Stephen King of Hungary Mission, we invite others to pray with us for peace in this already challenging year as the human family is vexed by raging wars, societal and family disintegration and a continued loss of human dignity.

Pope Leo XIV tells us that we cannot have peace simply by human efforts alone: it is a gift from God. Let us then pray for the gift of peace.

On January 25, 2026, our Hungarian Christians in the Chicagoland area gathered at our Hungarian Baptist Church to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Ecumenical movement. Rev. Aron Trufan, Rev. Edit Boda, Rev. Arpad Csomay and I prayed for peace amongst Christians at our “Imahet” that we as a Christian community first need to be together in mutual respect and love before we Christians go out to the world and expect peace from others. What a wonderful example for others!

May the saint from Assisi intercede for us. Interesting enough, nearby the crypt of St. Francis are chapels dedicated to St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Martin of Pannonia.

Lastly and most importantly, as we celebrate Easter 2026, let us remember that Jesus overcame sin and death to grant us his eternal peace. Jesus said on the evening of Easter: “peace be with you (John 20:19). As mission disciples let us pray for peace in our hearts that we may be able to overcome deep divisions and have the spirit of peace even at the moment of death. Let us remember, Jesus told us, “I am the Resurrection and life (John 11:25-26).”

**Holy week Mass schedule: - April 3rd - Good Friday, 7 PM
- April 5th - Easter Sunday, 10 AM**

Fr. James F. Heyd

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