

Easter Message:



Happy Easter to you all! It's truly a time of celebration.

I hope your time leading up to Easter this year has been a joyous and fruitful journey. Also, I pray that your Easter Season will continue throughout all of 2025.

A quick reminder of why **Easter** is celebrated:

Easter Sunday is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ (God incarnate). In the New Testament of the Bible, the event is said to have occurred three days after Jesus was crucified by the Romans and died in roughly 30 A.D. The Easter holiday preparation period (Lent) lasts 40 days starting with Ash Wednesday and concluding with the "Passion of Christ" (Holy Week). Lent is a time of fasting, prayer and sacrifice which ends with Holy Week, that includes Holy Thursday (the celebration of Jesus' Last Supper with his 12 Apostles), Good Friday (on which Jesus' crucifixion is observed) and Easter Sunday (the day of Jesus' resurrection from the dead).

The resurrection of Jesus is essentially the foundation upon which Christian religions are built. Hence, Easter is a very significant date on the Christian calendar.

My Easter preparation this year has been one that led me down a path to reflect on the word **Seasons in my life. If you would permit me to ramble a bit, let me share some of my thoughts during Lent.**

I think we all experience different Seasons in our life, whether it be the time of the year (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter), or maybe it's a certain Holiday Season, maybe it's a sports Season (Football, Basketball, Baseball, Hockey, etc.), maybe it's a life Season (school, early career advancement, raising children, spending time with grandchildren, etc.), and maybe it's a certain Spiritual Season in our life. One, some, or all of these may be in your present situation.

For me, the time of year here in Louisiana seems like two Seasons and not four. (Hot and Not-Hot) One thing for sure is that we do have quite a bit of sunshine here in Louisiana. We can truly be thankful for that blessing a good part of the year.

This Season in my life has altered my perception even more from an all-or-nothing thinking methodology to seeking out the complexities of differing viewpoints and migrating away from extreme absolutes. This has been helpful with properly analyzing situations. This doesn't mean shying away from absolute truth, but it does mean that sometimes it is not an "either / or" answer but it may be an "and" answer. I did warn you that I could ramble a bit.

With the Spring Season upon us, it's a time of year where we experience the end of basketball and hockey season, the start of baseball season, the busyness of our children or grandchildren's extracurricular activities, gardening and yardwork, spring travel plans and so many other things we need to get done. All these events and/or obligations sometime leaves us no room for quite "alone time" which is crucial for mental and emotional well-being, allowing us to recharge, to engage in self-reflections, and communicate with our Creator. I don't know about you, but for me it can be a time where excitement brings on hidden anxiety if I don't carve out some time for prayer and reflection. Easter and my relationship with Jesus Christ remind me of this innate personal need in my life for wellness.

So, in summary, the Easter Season is a great time to slow down and remember that life is precious, relationships are blessings (even when we don't think so), and that Easter Sunday brings us all new joyous life meant to be shared.

Blessings to you all and Happy Easter.

Mark Nixon

