

Sunday, Apr 05, 2026

Roll away the roadblocks

Today we are blessed to welcome a host of new Catholics who became part of the church at last night's vigil. Whatever obstacles that stood in the way have been rolled away. These new Catholics have entered freely into our community of believers and have committed to be followers of the Way of Jesus. They bring new life and energy to our fellowship. What gets in the way of your believing more completely? The message of Easter is: In every moment, Christ lives.

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
(EASTER SUNDAY)

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 (42). *"Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning ... and saw the stone removed from the tomb."*

Monday, Apr 06, 2026

Mountain climbing not required

After he is raised from the dead, Jesus meets his disciples on a mountain in Galilee. According to scripture scholars this meeting place is significant because mountains are often where God and mortals meet: Moses got the Law on a mountain; Jesus gave his immortal sermon on a mount (at least in the Gospel of Matthew); and after his death, Jesus commissions his apostles on a mountain to: "Go, make disciples, and baptize." Yet, as scripturally significant and awe-inspiring as mountains may be, they are not absolutely essential to religious experience. God can be encountered anywhere. It's not going somewhere that is important; it's opening your eyes to where you are. Where are you?

MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). *"Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

Tuesday, Apr 07, 2026

Happy are new witnesses to Easter

Happy are those who have not seen and have believed, Jesus once observed. He was talking about us. We weren't there in that moment of history 20 centuries ago when miracles occurred and dreams came true. We didn't stand at the open mouth of the tomb where death lost its sting and eternal life had its astonishing victory. But with eyes of faith, we can still declare with Mary Magdalene, "I have seen the Lord!" Amazing grace still operates all around us, within us, through us, and in spite of us. For those who can see resurrection in every spring unfolding and each transformed life, "happy" is the only word to describe it.

TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262). *"Mary went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord.'"*

Wednesday, Apr 08, 2026

Food for the journey

Easter week continues, and with it the church's ongoing encounter with the risen Jesus. In the gospel story about the meeting of the two disciples with the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus, Jesus interprets scripture to the two disciples, then reveals himself in the breaking of the bread. It's similar to what happens when we gather at Mass to hear the word proclaimed and brought to bear on our lives. Not only the word is broken open, of course, but also the bread, the Body of Christ. In all of this we encounter the Real Presence of Christ. The next time you're at Mass, think about how there's probably no better way to know and follow

Jesus than to receive him in word and transformed bread and wine, which the church calls the "source and summit of the Christian life." Indeed, the Eucharist should lead us, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, to "set out at once" to love and serve the Lord.

WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). *"He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread."*

Thursday, Apr 09, 2026

What constitutes glory?

There are those who preach a "prosperity gospel." That is, they present the message of Jesus as meaning that if we just believe hard enough all our worldly problems will fade. We will be rich. We will be successful in the eyes of the world. We will be safe and secure. Yet, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, born a princess, asks, "How could I wear a crown of gold when my Lord wears a crown of thorns and he wears it for me?" Indeed, ours is a savior who shows us his wounds. After the Resurrection but before the enlightenment of Pentecost, the apostles were often unsure of who this stranger was in their midst. They recognized him in two ways—in the breaking of the bread and in the showing of his wounds. Today, try to find Jesus in the wounds life brings. Those sorrowful moments are part of the mystery of God's glory.

THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264). *"He showed them his hands and his feet. ... they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed."*

Friday, Apr 10, 2026

Catch the Christian Spirit

The poor apostles were lost without Jesus. Trained fishers, they couldn't even catch any fish. In fact, we're all lost without Jesus. He gave us the Good News that we're the children of God and showed us how to live lives that reflect our holy heritage. The Orthodox Christians, who begin their Triduum observance today, also believe that "we are called to be saints and grow in the likeness of God," according to their catechism. Like Roman Catholics, the Orthodox believe that "having been given the Holy Spirit, we actively participate in sanctification." With the help of the Spirit, work toward a net full of holiness today.

FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER;
ORTHODOX GREAT FRIDAY
Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). *"Jesus said to them, 'Children, have you caught anything to eat?' They answered him, 'No.'"*

Saturday, Apr 11, 2026

The end never comes

How do you finish a story like the gospel? Early writers had lots of ideas about where the story should end. Mark's gospel, the first to be written, recorded three different endings in various ancient manuscripts. Although most early copies of Mark end at chapter 16, verse 8, some include an additional summarizing paragraph. And a few go on for 12 more verses, the so-called "Longer Ending," which includes the story of Mary Magdalene's meeting with Jesus. The bottom line is, no matter how you end the gospel, it's never really finished.

SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). *"Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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