

Sunday, Apr 20, 2025

Every Sunday is Easter

“On this day, the first of days” is the opening line of a hymn to be sung on Sunday, the first day of the week. It’s called the first day by Christians because, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, the Resurrection recalls the first creation. Even better than Sunday, we think of it as “The Lord’s Day.” Each Sunday is a “little Easter” when Christians worldwide celebrate the Paschal Mystery. And just as Christ’s Resurrection makes him the first of many brothers and sisters, so also Resurrection Day was the first of countless Easters. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed and among us! And we will alleluia all the way home!

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). *“When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.”*

Monday, Apr 21, 2025

It’s time to party

In the early centuries of Christianity, eight-day liturgical celebrations, such as the one we’re in now, were common. The eighth day, or “octave,” represented a kind of new beginning beyond the regular week of seven days. In the mid-20th century, Pope Pius XII reduced the number of octaves to the big three: Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. This week, then, is the octave of Easter. It symbolizes the new creation that began with Jesus’ Resurrection. It is a time to celebrate all the good things the Lord has done for us.

MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). *“God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses.”*

Tuesday, Apr 22, 2025

Good News comes via mislabeled messengers

Even though Mary of Magdala, or Mary Magdalene, is considered a saint, over the centuries she came to be identified as a woman of ill repute. The church rejects this identification (made in the sixth century by a pope, among others), but it continues to be propagated in culture and the arts. Examples include Martin Scorsese’s film adaptation of Nikos Kazantzakis’ novel *The Last Temptation of Christ*, José Saramago’s *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ*, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*. The gospel offers a more faithful portrait. Mary Magdalene, honored as the apostle to the apostles, is the first to witness and proclaim the risen Lord. Ignore your own negative press and be a faithful herald of the Good News.

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,’ and then reported what he had told her.”*

Wednesday, Apr 23, 2025

Bring truth to life

Jesus offered his disciples two forms of knowledge, one through his words and the other through his being. When walking the road to Emmaus two of his disciples shared with a stranger the story of Christ’s Resurrection. These were two who had learned from the words of Christ. But not until they invited the stranger to dine with them did they recognize the person of Christ. We are told that he was “made known to them in the breaking of the bread.” Every

Mass has two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Together these parts make known to us the Word made flesh. It is then our mission to spread the Good News of Christ’s saving words and deeds to others.

WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). *“Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”*

Thursday, Apr 24, 2025

A story for everyone

Stories of martyrdoms, conversions, healings, political power struggles, persecutions, and even miraculous prison escapes are gathered in the New Testament book called the Acts of the Apostles that we read through the Easter season. We discover the courage it took for these first followers of Jesus to continue his ministry despite fierce opposition from Jews, Greeks, and Romans alike. Their message of freedom and hope was considered countercultural and subversive. They faced numerous challenges and struggled with their mission. One of their biggest concerns was who to invite into the Christian community. In the end they chose to go big and bold and welcome everyone. Use Acts as your guide when you are questioning who is worthy of your acceptance.

THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-38 (264). *“Of this we are witnesses.”*

Friday, Apr 25, 2025

That’s the Spirit

During a session on the sacrament of Confirmation, a candidate in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults commented, “Although I would not have known what to call it, I do know that I have felt the Holy Spirit with me ever since I can remember. I have always felt ‘watched over.’ For me it’s the security of knowing that everything is going to be all right. I never called it the Holy Spirit until recently.” Throughout scripture the Holy Spirit is described as invisible, as breath or wind. It only becomes visible through the people it moves. It is the “life of our souls,” says Saint Peter Damian. Have you ever felt inspired? Encouraged? Comforted? Had the right words to say at the right time? Thank the Holy Spirit.

FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). *“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answered them, ... ‘There is no salvation through anyone else.’”*

Saturday, Apr 26, 2025

Must hear news

Jimmy was about 4 or 5, and his parents had done their best to teach him to know and love Jesus. All seemed well until the Easter when Mom and Dad tried to explain the Resurrection. They hit a wall. Jimmy insisted, “Nope! When you’re dead, you’re dead.” While they had no idea where their son had picked up his fatalism, they assured him that they themselves believed Jesus had returned from the dead. Slowly, it seemed to sink in. All of a sudden Jimmy jumped up and grabbed a phone. “Who are you calling?” they asked. “Grandpa!” he said. “He’s gotta hear about this!” The first impulse for those who truly believe the Good News is to tell everyone. The joy is irrepressible. How could we not share it? Or as the hymn says, “How can we keep from singing?”

SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). *“It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard.”*

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



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