

## Sunday, Apr 27, 2025

### Touch the pain points

The apostle Thomas went from doubting to believing, all in a moment. Faith arrived in the form of a hands-on experience of Jesus. And it was no wonder Thomas had been in need of simple contact with the wounds of Christ. Nothing opens the heart and widens the capacity of our understanding like an encounter with wounded humanity. On this Sunday that ends the octave of Easter, engage the spirit of mercy by touching the wounded Christ in the world. Visit a sick friend, call a hurting family member, or show kindness to a stranger. Christ is there!

SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER;  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Acts 5:12-16; Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31 (45). *"Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."*

## Monday, Apr 28, 2025

### Live your best new life

Catholics understand "being born from above" as a spiritual rebirth through the sacrament of Baptism, where we are "born again" into a new life in Christ by the grace of God, through the Holy Spirit. This new life frees us from the fear of sin and death, as Baptism grants us eternal life and the forgiveness of our sins. In the Nicene Creed, we proclaim, "I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look forward to the resurrection of the dead." However, Baptism marks only the beginning of our spiritual journey, not its end. How do we nurture our faith along the way? The spiritual works of mercy are a good place to start: offering forgiveness; providing comfort, instruction, guidance, and encouragement; letting go of resentments; and praying for both the living and the dead.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8 (267). *"Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.'"*

## Tuesday, Apr 29, 2025

### Speak of what you know

Old habits don't simply die hard: They have to be killed off quite deliberately. Most of us are not too happy about that. Nicodemus, the famously anonymous disciple who only came to Jesus after dark, couldn't remain on the fence forever about his allegiances. He didn't want to risk his position on the Sanhedrin by owning up to Jesus in public. But alas: There's no such thing as a secret Christian. As Saint Catherine of Siena, whose feast we celebrate today, explains, "God requires nothing else of us except that we show our neighbors the love we have for God." In other words, they will know we are Christians by our love.

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF SIENA, TERTIARY,  
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268). *"We speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen."*

## Wednesday, Apr 30, 2025

### Prepare to give your testimony

In the Early Church the apostles were jailed for speaking about Jesus—then liberated by an angel to go out and do it again. At that time testifying to the faith was dangerous. In many ways, it still is. Loving your enemy, caring for the poor, welcoming the stranger—these are acts that many find suspect and at odds with a push for profit and power. Take time to strengthen your faith through

prayer, spiritual reading, and wise counsel. That way when it's your turn to stand up for your faith, you will be equal to the task.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269). *"Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life."*

## Thursday, May 01, 2025

### There's enough to go around

God's generous abundance is obscured by the drumbeat of economic scarcity drilled into us daily; there will never be enough for everybody, we are led to believe. Theologian Walter Brueggemann deals with this subject, saying that when we forget that Jesus is the abundant bread of the world, we "start eating junk food. . . . The closer we stay to Jesus, the more we will bring a new economy of abundance to the world. The disciples often don't get what Jesus is about . . . but Paul gets it. We say it takes money to make money. Paul says it takes poverty to produce abundance." What's the real "bottom line"? There can be enough of everything for everybody—if we learn to share.

EASTER WEEKDAY

Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270). *"He does not ration his gift of the Spirit."*

## Friday, May 02, 2025

### God in the flesh

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Athanasius, the champion of the Incarnation. Despite fierce opposition from church leaders who supported Arianism—the belief that God was God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit were lesser creatures—Athanasius upheld the doctrine of the Trinity and the full divinity of Christ. His theology prevailed. Yes, the belief that God left the divine realm and entered the messiness of human life is radical, but it is central to Christianity, according to Athanasius. Jesus "became what we are so that he might make us what he is." This is the Good News we embrace: Through Christ's presence on Earth, all of creation is redeemed. As Athanasius puts it: "All things have been filled with the knowledge of God." Observe the world around you. You are sure to encounter God at every turn.

MEMORIAL OF ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF  
THE CHURCH

Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271). *"If it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them."*

## Saturday, May 03, 2025

### Faithful memories

The name *James*—the Greek form of "Jacob"—graces four different people in the New Testament. One is James, a member of the 12 apostles whom the church celebrates today along with his fellow apostle Philip. This first James and his brother John were business partners with Saint Peter. The three fishers also stuck together as a unit when they became the three apostles in Jesus' inner circle. James was also the first of the apostles to be put to death for his faith, and thus became the second Christian martyr after Saint Stephen. The church does not have all the facts about the early disciples—sometimes it's not even clear who is who—but we do remember their faith. Live in such a way that others will know and remember you for the same reason.

FEAST OF PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14 (561). *"Christ . . . was raised on the third day . . . After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles."*

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



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