

Sunday, Apr 01, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)

This is the day

Easter isn't a footnote, as the first disciples demonstrate. It doesn't matter when you come to faith, whether you were baptized as an infant or just last night. You don't win points for what you understand at the mouth of the empty tomb, whether you've studied 20 centuries of dogma about it or just rely on a gut feeling that this event changes everything. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the beloved disciple each perceive the tomb and its significance from different angles—yet they all spend their lives as witnesses. Go and live like Easter makes a difference!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7 (42, 41) or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35 (46). *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."*

Monday, Apr 02, 2018

MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Time stands still

A young monk chided his novice master for having prayed at the Easter Monday Mass, "On this Easter day . . ." "Certainly, you should have sung 'in this Easter season,'" the novice explained. "After all, Easter is over." The wise older priest pointed out—much more gently than deserved—that Easter Day itself lasts eight days, a full week, and only then do we move into the Easter season. Like the obliteration of the reign of death that Easter is, time itself is set on its head. Like the wedding day that, in many cultures, is simply too overflowing with joy to be contained in a single 24 hours, the spirit of hope that is Easter will not be confined. May it rise in your heart *this Easter Day!*

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). *"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."*

Tuesday, Apr 03, 2018

TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

A place in the heart

Sometimes, in the least suspecting places, we can find miracles. For Mary Magdalene it was a tomb where she had gone to weep and grieve the death of Jesus. But instead she found life. She experienced the risen Jesus and became the first person to proclaim that to the world. Somehow in the midst of her grief and sense of loss, Mary left a tiny space for hope that allowed her to recognize the voice of Jesus as he called her name. The possibility for miracles great and small is with us every day. Leave open a space within your heart—you just may hear your name being called.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262). *"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord.'"*

Wednesday, Apr 04, 2018

WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

What do you expect?

The disciples walking the road to Emmaus after Jesus' death were disappointed—they had expected from him something other than what they saw, and they assumed his mission had failed with his death. There is a lesson in that, taught by Jesus later in the same story when he breaks the bread and opens their eyes: Our expectations can blind us to the blessings right in front of us.

Keep your expectations in check and you might find all you could ever hope for, and much more, right in front of your eyes.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). *"We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel."*

Thursday, Apr 05, 2018

THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Be brave

The Acts of the Apostles, which we read throughout the season of Easter, is a riveting account of faith, courage, healings, conversions, and a miraculous escape from prison. It is the story of how God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, intervened in the lives of Jesus' disciples to ensure the spread of his word throughout the world. The courage of the first followers of Jesus is truly inspirational. Take some time to read Acts this month. Then consider: "In what ways is God inviting me to live more courageously? What is keeping me from responding to that invitation?"

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264). *"To this we are witnesses."*

Friday, Apr 06, 2018

FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Breakfast anyone?

Meeting friends for breakfast is such a delight. There's something about the morning meal together that makes life feel good. The story of the risen Jesus inviting his friends to breakfast strikes that familiar note of unity and peace. Yet the disciples named in the story were all characters that had crossed Jesus in one way or another: Peter the denier, Thomas the doubter, Nathanael the cynic, and the Zebedee brothers, who persisted in their childish sibling rivalry. The morning repast was a reconciliation service—and a nice way to start the day. Let that same spirit of unity and reconciliation begin your day today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). *"When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread."*

Saturday, Apr 07, 2018

SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Do the right thing

Sometimes you have to do what's right even in the face of opposition. Whether it's no reward at best or open hostility at worst, the world around you doesn't always approve of what you know to be the best thing. The apostles ran into the same problem—in fact, they were on both sides of it. When the religious authorities ordered them not to speak or teach in Jesus' name, they refused to obey. On the other hand, when Mary Magdalene came to some of these same disciples with news of the risen Jesus, they did not believe her. Of course it's unwise to always reject what others think of you. But when faced with a difficult situation, ask God for the wisdom and the strength to do what is right and good.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). *"Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge."*

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



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