

## Sunday, Apr 12, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)

### What do you see?

Once more, we arrive at the most significant void in sacred history: that empty tomb of Easter. What we see in this space defines the shape of our destiny. Do we view nothing or everything in this place? Is Jesus simply gone or restored to glory? Is death the end of us, or the start of something everlasting? Are we God's cherished children or just another expression of nature's capriciousness? Most of all, are we prepared to call Jesus Lord and to follow him through death into life? Or do we have other plans?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 (42); gospel for p.m. Mass: Luke 24:13-35 (46). "Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

## Monday, Apr 13, 2020

MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

### Put the Resurrection to work

Do we bravely race from the tomb toward new life as Mary Magdalene and Mary did, or burrow into timid cover? Consider the example of Henri Perrin, born this day in 1914. He was part of the French worker-priest movement where priests went to work in factories to bridge the abyss between the working class and the church. The Vatican grew alarmed by the political activism of the priests on behalf of labor, and stopped the experiment. The concerns of worker-priests were given new life in the Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes*, "On the Church in the Modern World," and later by Pope John Paul II, who demanded of priests that the "fumes of incense mix with those of industry." Reflect on what worker-justice concerns you can give new life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed."

## Tuesday, Apr 14, 2020

TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

### Our star witness

Mary of Magdala was first to witness and testify to Jesus' Resurrection. She is called "apostle to the apostles" for good reason. Mentioned by name in the gospels more often than most apostles, Mary traveled with Jesus and helped support his ministry financially. The question is, how do we witness to resurrection in our own life and times? In a world too often bent on destruction and death, how can we witness to hope and to life? Let "the Magdalene" be an inspiration!

TODAY'S READINGS: 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 15, 2020

WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

### Call for backup

The miracles of Jesus did not end with Jesus' earthly sojourn. Today's reading from Acts describes Peter and John healing in

Jesus' name. What confidence that must have taken, to try healing a man lame from birth! The word *confidence* means "with trust." A nice way to understand the power of faith. Be a healing presence in the world, with the trust that Jesus has your back!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). "Peter said, 'I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.'"

## Thursday, Apr 16, 2020

THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

### Eat, drink, and take heart

Where would Catholic culture be without food and drink? In today's gospel Jesus reassures his disciples that he is not a ghost by eating a piece of baked fish. Food is simple, basic, and necessary. It is natural that we eat and drink together at the Eucharist, at parish dinners, at family meals. Every bite of baked fish can remind us of our Savior. Savor your next meal with fellow believers and let it drive out fear as it opens you to love, the way it did for Jesus' disciples 2,000 years ago.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264). "Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones."

## Friday, Apr 17, 2020

FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

### No need to hide your solidarity

However did the fish symbol—two intersecting arcs—come to be associated with Jesus? Because his disciples were fishermen? Because of the miracle of the loaves and fishes? Because Catholics eat fish on Fridays? The letters of the Greek word for fish, *ichthys*, are an acronym for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." It was a secret symbol used by the persecuted early Christians. What outward sign of solidarity can you make with those who are persecuted for their faith today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). "Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you just caught.'"

## Saturday, Apr 18, 2020

SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

### The news is still good

Do you ever think about how the followers of Jesus must have felt after his death? We see their situation through the lens of the Resurrection, but they thought his death was the end of everything. Those grief-stricken men and women were lost and afraid. Imagine their disbelief when some among them began to report that they had seen Jesus. Disbelief began to feel like hope as he continued to show up and even eat with them. That was the beginning. Two thousand years later, we continue to share the meals and tell the stories of this incredibly good news.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). "She went to announce the good news to his followers."

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



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