

Sunday, Apr 04, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)

Race to understanding

Does it matter who gains insight first, so long as we all get there? Competition is overrated, which may be why evangelists don't agree on who arrives at the tomb first. Mark reports that Mary Magdalene; Mary, mother of James; and Salome got there at dawn. Matthew asserts it was the Magdalene and the "other Mary." Luke claims it was Mary Magdalene; James' mother, Mary; Joanna; and assorted "others." In John, the Magdalene arrives alone. You may be a cradle Catholic, or this may be your first Easter. Welcome to the recognition that death doesn't have the final say.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Victimae Paschali Laudes; John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7 (42, 41) or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35 (46). *"They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first."*

Monday, Apr 05, 2021

EASTER MONDAY

Weave a life of meaning

Everyone knows the joy of creating—whether it be a work of art, a meal, or a family. It's a way of expressing ourselves, sharing our love, and using our talents to serve. It's also a consolation during tough times. Maybe you took up some new, creative pastimes during the pandemic. Saint Maria Crescentia Höss, whose feast is today, was a weaver in 18th-century Bavaria before she became a nun, and when she was assigned to servitude and living in a cubbyhole in the monastery, she kept weaving. Maybe that helped sustain her until she eventually rose to be elected the mother superior. Holy creativity can feed your soul.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). *"They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage."*

Tuesday, Apr 06, 2021

EASTER TUESDAY

Sing the Octave

Happy Octave of Easter—the eight days between, and including, Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday. By relishing the Resurrection for eight whole days instead of just one, the church declares it the cornerstone of belief. What's more: In contrast to the Christmas Octave, we observe no other feast days during Easter Octave, keeping the Resurrection our only focus. Why eight? Christianity's Jewish roots feature ritual celebrations that end on the eighth day—a week, when you count both the first and last days. Make every day this week a "mini-Easter," as our church intends. Sing Alleluia for eight days.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262). *"Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?'"*

Wednesday, Apr 07, 2021

EASTER WEDNESDAY

Pray for all who heal a world in pain

On April 7, 1948, the World Health Organization was established as a leading global health authority within the United Nations system. In 2021, the WHO counts 7,000 members from 150 countries. It declares that the health of all people is essential to attaining peace and security, and among other things chooses a particular health theme each year to mark its anniversary. Past

themes include mental health, maternal and childcare, and climate change. Mindful that the world's aging population is living longer, the WHO set this year's theme as "Aging and Health." On this Easter Wednesday, as we take note of the healing miracles within the early Christian community, ask the Lord to bless all who work to safeguard the health of humanity.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). *"And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple."*

Thursday, Apr 08, 2021

EASTER THURSDAY

Keep it going

We are still in the Octave of Easter, the eight days following Easter. The Octave is meant to keep the celebration going, to keep savoring the joy of the Resurrection. The gospel for each day focuses on the Risen Christ. In the early church, those who were baptized at the Easter Vigil would continue wearing their white garments all week in recognition of the life-changing, festive event. You've likely been changing your clothes during the Octave, but try keeping your focus on the Resurrection. Meditate on a time that God has blessed you with new life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48 (264). *"He stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"*

Friday, Apr 09, 2021

EASTER FRIDAY

It all adds up

Numbers play a key role throughout salvation history: Yahweh, the one true God; the 5,000 fed; the cock crowing three times; the Triduum; the Trinity; and the third time Jesus appears to his disciples after his death, which we read about in today's beautiful gospel story of Jesus cooking breakfast for his disciples on the seashore. Numerologists love to explore all the hidden meanings packed in the biblical numbers. But the gospel message is actually quite simple. Jesus alone feeds us. Remember that next time you are looking for sustenance elsewhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). *"Jesus said to them, 'Come, have breakfast.'"*

Saturday, Apr 10, 2021

EASTER SATURDAY

Faith takes time

What would you think if you heard that someone you knew was dead had risen from the grave? It's no wonder the disciples doubted the story. No less a witness than Mother Teresa of Calcutta expressed serious doubts about God's existence over the course of her life. "Where is my faith?" she wrote. "There is nothing but emptiness." And she's a saint! So when loved ones stop going to church and express doubts about God—or if you yourself face such doubts—accept it as a part of the spiritual journey each of us walks. Keep praying and be patient. Faith takes time and hits dry spells. But in God's heart, there's all the time in the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). *"When they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe."*

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



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