

A Message To Parishioners

April 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As you are aware, the Easter Season began this past Sunday, Easter Sunday, and lasts 50 days, concluding with the Feast of Pentecost, which this year is May 31st. The Feast of Pentecost commemorates the birth of the Church when the disciples, empowered and transformed by the Holy Spirit, were able at last to break through the doors of the upper room and to go forth with great courage and conviction in witness to the presence of the Risen Lord and begin to proclaim the gospel to all corners of the earth.

We read in the Acts of the Apostles of Jesus appearing to the disciples after His resurrection and on the 40th day ascending to the Father. From that point until Pentecost, 10 days later, they waited in the upper room.

The first 8 days of Easter, from Easter Sunday until the Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave of Easter, is celebrated in the liturgy as one day. Each day is considered to be Easter Day.

All of the Gospel passages chosen for daily Mass during the octave are taken from Gospel accounts of the Lord's appearances to the disciples on that first day, culminating with this Sunday's gospel account from John which concludes with Jesus' appearance again a week after the resurrection.

Throughout the Easter Season, the first reading at Mass, both daily and on Sundays, is primarily from the Acts of the Apostles. We hear of the growth and the life of the early Church.

I've included for your reflection and prayer, a listing of the readings for daily Mass throughout this week, the Octave of Easter.

Monday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33

Psalm 16

Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 2:36-41

Psalm 33

John 20:11-18

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 3:1-10

Psalm 105

Luke 24:13-35

Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 3:11-26

Psalm 8

Luke 24:35-48

Friday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 4:1-12

Psalm 118

John 21:1-14

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Acts 4:13-21

Psalm 118

Mark 16:9-15

Second Sunday of Easter

First Reading - Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 118

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel - John 20:19-31

The following is an Easter reflection to us from our consultant, Rosemary Cassidy, from Dynamic Parish and I'm passing it along to you.

"The very first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. On the very first Easter, the disciples were locked in their houses. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid. They wanted to believe the good news they heard from the women, that Jesus had risen. But it seemed too good to be true. They were living in a time of such despair and such fear. If they left their homes their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk. Could a miracle really have happened? Could life really have won out over death? Could this time of terror and fear really be coming to an end?

Alone in their homes, they dared to believe that hope was possible, that the long night was over and morning had broken, that God's love was the most powerful of all, even though it didn't seem quite real yet. Eventually, they were able to leave their homes, when the fear and danger had subsided, they went around celebrating and spreading the good news that Jesus was risen and Love was the most powerful force on the earth.

This year, we might get to experience a taste of what the first Easter was like, still in our homes, daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then, after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out, gathering together, singing and shouting the goodness that God brings life even out of death! That love has the final say!

This year we might get the closest taste we have had yet to what the first Easter was like."

Enjoy!
Happy Easter!

Father Joe