



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

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2011 SOLEMNITY OF EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
Make it known

The story of Jesus' death and resurrection is the defining one of our faith. It is the reason we gather to break bread every week. It's the reason we love our neighbor, feed the poor, work for justice, and struggle to forgive our enemies. Each of us has a defining story as well; an encounter or experience that reveals our highest selves, our deepest compassion or originality, our incomparable imagination or sense of humor. It's the story that demonstrates most clearly and profoundly who we really are. Jesus "made himself known" in the breaking of the bread. How do you make yourself known? What is your defining story? If you have children, what are theirs? What about your parents or grandparents? Make telling these stories part of your Easter celebration.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-35 (42)*

"He was made known to them in the breaking of bread."

MONDAY, APRIL 25

SOLEMNITY OF MONDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
The testimony of the tombs

Can tombs talk? One particular empty tomb has been eloquent for the past 20 centuries. Other tombs seem to be expressive as well, or we wouldn't have cemeteries, mausoleums, and memorials to the honored dead in every city. The holy city of Jerusalem is encircled by vast stretches of grave sites, including the tomb of David that can be visited today, as it was in the time of the apostles. Nearby is the humbler grave of Oskar Schindler, the savior of thousands of Holocaust-era Jews. He asked to be buried in Jerusalem: "My children are here." Even in death our witness will remain eloquent.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261)*

"I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day."

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

SOLEMNITY OF TUESDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Rise up from sorrow

Easter is a season of joy, but it's not always joyous for everyone. Perhaps a loved one has recently died or the anniversary of their death is at hand. How do you handle death and sorrow at a time of new life and joy? Mary Magdalene grieved mightily at the tomb of Jesus, but he helped her let go of his earthly life, which had already given way to his resurrected life. With eyes of faith we, too, can begin to let go of the earthly presence of a loved one, trusting that they also live on in the loving presence of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262)*

"Jesus said to her, 'Stop holding on to me.'"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

SOLEMNITY OF WEDNESDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Bread is to be shared

A retreat director, preaching on the story of Emmaus, told this story about recognizing Christ in our midst, anywhere and in anyone. It had been a long day and the first-graders were running their teacher ragged. The dismissal bell rang and the children sped out the door, grabbed the lunch bag that would contain the only real food they'd have for that day, and headed home. The teacher shepherded them out then sat wearily on the curb watching them go. A child waiting for her big brother to

walk her home watched the teacher, then wandered over. She sat beside her and carefully opened her lunch bag. She unwrapped the sandwich and, with her small hands, broke it in two. She looked up at the teacher and handed her half. "I get tired and hungry after school, too. Here."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263)*

"He took bread, said the blessing . . . and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him."

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

SOLEMNITY OF THURSDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Happy Alleluia!

In virtually all liturgies during Easter, the refrain of the responsorial psalm may be replaced by *Alleluia!* For Christians it has become Easter word, so much so that in the Polish language, for example, rather than "Happy Easter" the people declare "Happy Alleluia!" During Lent we fast not only from food but from the exultant joy of this word, keeping silent, letting it build within. Then, at the Easter vigil, the *Alleluia* bursts forth! Before the gospel the deacon sings *Alleluia!* for the first time in six weeks, in an elaborate melody, three times, each time in a higher key, and each time repeated by the assembly. Sing *Alleluia* today in and out of the shower! Shout it! Listen to Handel's setting in the *Messiah*. Wish someone "Happy Alleluia!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264)*

"You are witnesses of these things."

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 SOLEMNITY OF FRIDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Reject nothing that is true and holy

Folks over 50 may recall childhood acts like trying to teach your Protestant pals the rosary in hopes that they wouldn't suffer hellfire. Many have stopped worrying about other Christians but may have lingering doubts about a Jewish neighbor, Muslim friend, or Hindu doctor. The Vatican II document *Nostra Aetate (On the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions)* affirms our common destiny in God. "The Catholic Church rejects nothing of what is true and holy in these religions . . . Let Christians, while witnessing to their own faith and way of life, acknowledge, preserve, and encourage the spiritual and moral truths found among non-Christians" (no. 2).

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265)*

"There is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

SOLEMNITY OF SATURDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
Have ears to hear

It has been said that the most important part of the Mass is the dismissal. After an hour of singing, listening, reflecting, praying, and receiving the body and blood of Christ, we are to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Unfortunately, many a Sunday we walk out the doors of the church as if nothing happened. The new translation of the Roman Missal, which will be used at Mass beginning on the First Sunday of Advent this year, offers a golden opportunity to revisit the mysteries of the Mass and enrich our experience. As we listen with "new ears," perhaps we will be transformed, inspired, and unable to resist going out to "love and serve the Lord!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266)*

"It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."

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Scripture quotes come from the New American Bible.

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