THE EASTER OCTAVE

Easter time lasts fifty days: seven weeks of seven days (seven equals Biblical perfection) plus one day: perfection plus! Like an eight-day Jewish wedding, or a child who can’t bear to let go of Christmas, birthdays, and school vacation, the Church celebrates the Easter Octave: “the marriage of heaven and earth,” as the Vigil calls Jesus’ resurrection; our new members’ baptismal rebirth; our renewal of baptismal vows; our hearts’ “divine vacation” (Latin vacare, “to be empty”), newfound time and space for love of God and neighbor. Make home an Easter garden! Adorn the dining table with a pillar candle (your “paschal candle”), a bowl full of water (ideally, from the parish’s baptismal font), a vase of flowers or bowl of sprouting grain with Easter eggs. Even non-singers can handle the three-fold Gospel Alleluia! Let that be your grace before meals, perhaps with a prayer recalling Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35): “Be known to us, Risen Lord Jesus, as you were to the first disciples, in your word, in the breaking of bread, and in everyone we meet.” Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY’S READINGS:

First Reading Acts 10:34a, 37–43

Peter proceeded to speak and said: “You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23

R. (24) This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.”
R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
“The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.”
R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.
R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading Col 3:1–4

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Gospel Jn 20:1–9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

SEEDS OF FAITH

There is a brevity, a certain terseness, in the scripture readings for Easter Sunday. Peter’s speech in Acts is built of dire, pointed sentences. Paul’s letters are based on straightforward creed-like statements. Even the Gospel story only briefly recounts what will turn out to be one of the most remarkable events in human history—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Advertising agents call these encapsulated points of information “bullet points.” Scripture scholars call them kerygmata, or “kernels” of our faith. Actually, “kernels” or “seeds” are good terms for these statements, since throughout the Easter season, we will hear in the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of Paul, and the Gospel accounts of the days following the Resurrection exactly how these kerygmata began to flower, how they continued to grow through the life of the early church. May these Easter “seeds” of faith serve a similar purpose for us, too, so that the life of the Risen Christ will flourish in us and through our witness in the coming days. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

CHRIST HAS Risen

Where is your sting, O death? Where is your victory, O hell? Christ has risen, and you are overthrown. Christ has risen, and the demons have fallen. Christ has risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ has risen, and life reigns. Christ has risen, and no one dead rests in the grave. For Christ having risen from the dead became the first-fruits of them that slept. To him be glory and majesty to ages of ages. Amen. —Byzantine Pentekostarion

Tithing Contributions for the week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions): $22,968.84

Dear Saint Dominic Parish Family,

A big thank you to everyone who continues to financially support our parish during this changing time! Your support gives stability to our parish, school, staff, students and community. There are several ways to continue giving:

During business hours, place donation envelopes in the mailbox by the front door of the parish office. Mail envelopes to 303 West Main Street. Visit archlou.org and click "Give to Your Parish Today."

You are all in my prayers every day.

God bless you, Fr. David

*Fr. David will offer Masses privately in the coming weeks, on his own time, and with no congregation.

MASS INTENTIONS for April 13-19, 2020 are as follows:

Monday: Ned Borders, Nell “Yeti” Bootes
Tuesday: Dot Smith
Wednesday: NO MASS
Thursday: Jim & Fanny Rudd
Friday: Freddie White
Saturday: Martha Vize, For the Parish
Sunday: Bud Hardin, Debbie Barber & Natalie, Wilburn Kelty, Presider’s Intention

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15
Sunday: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31