

LITURGY BYTES

Easter—The Great 50 Days



Today we celebrate the most important day in the life of the Church – Easter – the Resurrection of Our Lord from the dead. We are even more excited this year because we are able to be together in person for Mass. If you recall, last year we were in lockdown, watching from home on our tablets, computers, or TVs. Somehow it did not seem like Easter in my opinion. However, we have much to be happy about this year as we return to a more normal pace, get vaccinated, and start to reconnect with family, friends, and our parish community.

Many refer to this time after Easter as the “great 50 days” which leads up to Pentecost – the birthday of the Church. Let’s look at how the celebration of this wonderful season began. Early Christians did not conceive of these days as “time-after” or “time between” Easter and Pentecost but rather a lengthy celebration of rejoicing in the resurrection, ascension, coming of the Spirit, and founding of the Church. These many facets all point to the mystery of Jesus as Lord and Savior. This unified understanding of the 50 days as one celebration emphasizes the need to maintain our Easter joy throughout the entirety of the season. Fortunately, where we live the daylight is longer, the weather getting warmer, and the emergence of blooming flowers makes it very easy to be joyful.

Within our worship space, liturgical colors are brighter with numerous colors of plants and flowers surrounding us. It is so very easy to greet one another with smiles. We sing the Gloria, and the Alleluia verse introduces the Gospel and completes the Dismissal rite at Mass. Have a happy and blessed Easter, everyone!

Enjoy a safe, blessed, and healthy week~~~~~*Michele Hahn*

*“THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE
LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD!”*