

LITURGY BYTES

The Great 50 Days!



Happy Easter! May the joy of Christ's Resurrection remain in your hearts. The word "Easter" comes from the old English word and simply means the "east." The sun rises in the east, bringing light, warmth and hope, and is a symbol for Christians of the Risen Lord who is the true light of the world. The Paschal candle is the central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is lit throughout the Easter season at all liturgical celebrations.

Many people ask why Easter is a different date each year. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs after the spring equinox. As a result, Easter could be as early as March 22 and as late as April 25. This season is most important when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The season lasts 50 days culminating with the feast of Pentecost. It is characterized by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed when we say or sing ALLELUIA, JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY!

There is something festive in the environment of our church with numerous spring flowers adorning the sanctuary, colorful banners of joy, and the return of the *Gloria*, whether sung or recited to our celebration of Mass. We renew our baptismal promises and are sprinkled with holy water to add to the celebration. Our music is upbeat and joyful once again.

New life is all around us. Consider doing something new to revitalize yourself and to respond to the needs of your parish. We have many areas of parish life that need more hands. Perhaps, during this Easter season you will be encouraged to take a leap into ministry here at Holy Cross.

Have a joy-filled, safe and healthy week ahead!!~~~*Michele Hall*