

Easter Season

Faith Conversations

Find some time in your week, perhaps at a mealtime, to have meaningful conversations with loved ones centered around each Sunday's Mass readings. 1) You may start with reading from the Bible (USCCB [daily readings](#) are helpful; here we focus on the Sunday *Gospel* readings) or simply read the excerpt provided. 2) Use the questions here to get a conversation started. 3) Offer prayers of petition for special people and situations. 4) End with a brief prayer, from the heart or something formal such as the prayer below.

Easter Season Prayer

Risen Jesus, come into our midst and give us your peace. Like Thomas, let us touch the wounds in your hands so that our faith in you may grow. As with Mary Magdalen, lift our tear-stained faces to see the hope you offer us. And as with the timid Apostles, breath your Spirit into us, emboldening our hearts to love more fully. We thank you and praise you for the new life you have won for us. We pray with joyful hearts, Amen! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Easter Sunday: April 17

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. – [John 20:1-9](#)

Scientists studying the [Shroud of Turin](#) (the cloth traditionally believed to be Jesus' burial cloth) have concluded that the image on the cloth was created by a flash of light radiation – more powerful than any UV radiation source known today. This gives some insight into the *power* of the Resurrection. What are the implications of such power for our faith (what/how we believe)? For how we live our daily lives?

When the disciple John sees the signs of Jesus' Resurrection, his response is belief. What is our response to Jesus, who gives us his everything...his miracles, his friendship, his forgiveness, and finally, his life...all so that we can know true joy here on Earth and live eternally in Heaven?

How can our family keep the joy of Easter alive and vibrant throughout the Easter Season?

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 24

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." – [John 20:19-31](#)

The Holy Spirit is often thought of as breath or wind. Let's discuss what this means for God as Trinity . . . for us.

We often hear the Risen Jesus say, "Peace be with you." On this Mercy Sunday, how can we open to divine mercy so as to be instruments of peace in our world? How are mercy and peace interconnected?

Third Sunday of Easter: May 1

So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." —[John 21: 1-19](#)

It seems the Risen Jesus was somehow different, yet recognizable. In this passage, how did his disciples know it was him? How do we recognize "It is the Lord" in our own lives? What characterizes his presence, his words?

The disciples had gone back to fishing—the familiar place from which Jesus first called them. Jesus again meets them there, and renews his call to Peter. What familiar patterns in our lives does the Risen Jesus want to transform?

Fourth Sunday of Easter: May 8

My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life. . . —[John 10: 27-30](#)

As Baptized believers, we belong to Jesus, the Good Shepherd. He knows us. He loves us so much he laid down his life for us. What is it like to be known. . . and loved. . . so much?

How well do we know our Shepherd – the person of Jesus – who loves us so much? How can we get to know him more (not just know *about* him, but know *him*. . . personally)? Do we hear his voice? What does it sound like? What is he saying to you? How does *knowing* our Shepherd, Jesus, move us (as a family) to *following* him?

Fifth Sunday of Easter: May 15

As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. —[John 13: 31-33a, 34-35](#)

We know that Jesus' cross, conquering even death, was his ultimate act of love for us—our benchmark for loving. But have we experienced this transforming love personally. . . in *our* brokenness? Are we in touch with *our* need?

We are loveable and loved. And we are called to bring this love to the people in our lives. Do others know we're disciples of the Risen Jesus? Do they feel loved by us. . . and by God?

Sixth Sunday of Easter: May 22*

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. —[John 14: 23-29](#)

In life there is always much to fear and be troubled about. Jesus wants to work the daily miracle of transforming our doubts into trust and our fears into peace. For this to happen, our hearts must remain open to the Holy Spirit, who comes to renew us. How can we become more trusting and open to the Spirit's movements in our lives?

****Note: for those praying a [Pentecost 9-Day-Novena](#), begin on Saturday, May 28.**

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord: May 29

They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God. —[Luke 24: 46-53](#)

What was it that made the disciples of Jesus so joyful and grateful? They were witnesses of God's greatest act of love yet: Jesus, God Incarnate, Savior! And they knew him, personally! Jesus was inviting them to be part of this great work of salvation. Jesus was sending his own Spirit upon them.

As the Baptized, these things are true for us, too. Does reflecting on this bring gratitude and joy?

Pentecost Sunday: June 5

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were...Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." – [John 20:19-23](#)

What are the doors that are locked in our hearts because of fear or sadness or selfishness? Let's be quiet for a moment to invite Jesus into the "closed off" parts of our hearts with his healing and peace.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit transformed frightened and timid people into bold and courageous people. What does it mean to be courageous? (To be courageous doesn't mean to be fearless. It means to be able to act boldly *in the midst* of fear.) Share a time you were courageous. Were you conscious of the Holy Spirit's help?

Tomorrow, June 6, we celebrate the Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church. She was present as the Church was "born" on Pentecost and accompanied the first Christians as they tried to follow Jesus in this very new way as *Church*. As we begin "Ordinary Time" again in the Church calendar, what does it mean to start this new season with the power of the Holy Spirit. . . and with the company of our spiritual mother. . . Mary?

Pentecost Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, into our minds with your light. Come, Holy Spirit, into our hearts with the fire of your love. Come, Holy Spirit, into our wills with your strength. Fill us. Transform us. Send us. Be present to us . . . and teach us to be present to you, always listening attentively . . . that we may effectively share the Good News of Jesus with all people. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia!



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