



St. Elizabeth Seton

Easter Sunday  
April 17, 2022

**Monday, April 18th**

10am: John O'Rourke & Larry Osbourne  
Requested by: Mike & June O'Rourke

**Tuesday, April 19th**

10am: Special Intentions  
Requested by:

**Wednesday, April 20th**

10am: Peace In our Family  
Requested by: Sister

**Thursday, April 21st**

10am: Evdoxia Koitsis  
Requested by: Cupe 1571

**How do we determine the Date of Easter?**

The long and the short of it is that the Western Church decided on a formula that calculates Easter as the first Sunday following the first full moon following the Spring Equinox. The earliest date that Easter can be celebrated is March 22, and the latest is April 25. This is in the Gregorian reformed calendar which we follow. The Eastern churches follow the Julian calendar. The Gregorian calendar was reformed by Pope Gregory XXIII in October, 1582. St. Teresa of Avila died just as the date change was being exercised and was dying on October 14, but died the next day, October 15. The calendar change excluded October 5 - 14 out of the calendar to make up for the centuries of time drift because the earth's rotation around the sun is not exactly 365.25 days as calculated. The next time Easter will be celebrated on April 25 is 2038, and the next time Easter is celebrated on March 22 will be 2285. Mark your calendars.



'Twas holy week of Easter and CoVid has loosed it grip  
For two years we've been stymied, yet in time just a blip.  
Distancing is gone, and sanitizing stations grow dry  
Masks are a mere option though infections still high.  
Things are evolving and life more informal  
As we all await anxiously to reveal our new normal.  
Life at the Church is still a bit unsteady  
For full operations we are not quite ready.  
The Office has returned to full daytime hours  
Though the Hall is still waiting for the diocesan powers.  
Ministries are starting, but caution's the word.  
There remains an understandable hesitancy or so I have heard.  
It will take a bit of time to initiate our parish life  
Our spirits are willing, but the energy not rife.  
Our Holy Week liturgies were a mixed bag at best  
Some things reinstated but important things repressed.  
Holy Thursday we were allowed to again wash the feet  
No offering of the chalice and no handshakes to greet.  
Good Friday's veneration of the cross was a bit of a bust  
The kissing of the cross is a bit of a must.  
But germs will be germs and viruses remain  
Not even wiping or cleaning will overcome this bane.  
The blessing of baskets with food to break the fast  
Is one of my favs from our traditional past.  
The Vigil is long but without the R.C.I.A.  
Seems something is missing to celebrate this great Day.  
the people are returning as the numbers start to grow  
Especially with Easter and the paschal candle glow.  
The font has its water, clean, filtered and clear  
Welcome to our baptismal home, a place we hold dear.  
Easter is all about a new life of resurrection  
All our mini deaths are triumphed upon reflection.  
The reality is that in our God we cannot be defeated  
The promise of salvation has already been completed.  
As Easter dawns and life begins anew.  
The invitation to divine life is offered to me and to you.  
So no germ or pandemic or world-wide malignity  
Can ever detract from our God given dignity.  
So the glory of Easter with its celebrations  
galore  
Gives a reminder of God's love  
for us forever more.  
Happy Easter



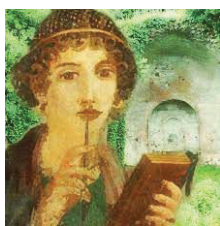
### A Brief History of Easter

The English word 'Easter' finds its origins in the Germanic languages. Both in Dutch and German, ooster and Ostern. Going back to the 8th century and the accounting of St. Bede, he wrote that the "Month of Eostre, the month of April when feasts were celebrated in honour of the goddess Eostre. The Latin languages used the Latin and Greek references to Pascha as to refer to Easter, which is also reflected in our Church vocabulary; Paschal time, Paschal candle, Paschal lamb.

The first recorded indication of the Early Church celebrating an annual festival commemorating Christ's resurrection dates back to the mid second century, found in a homily by St. Melito of Sardis. He referred to an annual celebration that had long been established and celebrated by the community. Unlike annual commemoration of the martyrs who had fixed dates, even then Easter was not fixed. It copies the Hebrew tradition of a solar-lunar cycle to determine the Passover.

The season of Lent also started out early, though its format varied from place to place. Some considered one day or two days adequate preparation. By the end of the fourth century, the 40 day discipline prevailed marked with its emphasis on fasting, prayer and almsgiving as fundamental to the preparations for Easter. Sundays never constituted part of Lent - 'one does not do penance on the day of the Lord.'

Our earliest witness to a developing Holy Week dates back to a Spanish woman on pilgrimage named Egeria. She documented her journey to the Holy Land in the 4th century and provided an historical account of how the Church in Jerusalem commemorated the Lord's Passion, starting with a procession on Palm Sunday tracing the steps of Christ. Her account of the activities in Jerusalem still inform our liturgies today.



Holy Week has its own history of trial and error and in the mid 1950's Pope Pius XII reformed Holy Week from its obscure standing to its present day format, building through the Sacred Triduum (the holy three days) to the culmination of the Easter Vigil - as St. Augustine calls it, the 'Mother of all Vigils'.

### The Sacred Triduum & Beyond

The Sacred Triduum or Holy Three Days is the entryway into the fifty days of Easter. Although celebrated on what looks like four days, because of liturgical time it really is just three - sundown on Thursday to sundown on Friday; sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday; and sundown on Saturday to sundown on Sunday.

The Lenten fast ends with sundown on Holy Thursday, but then the paschal fast begins, a more intense focus on readying ourselves for the Easter renewal of our baptisms. The Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper commemorating the institution of the gift of the Eucharist. It ends with a procession of the Eucharist to its place of Repose for a brief period of adoration by the faithful. After this, the Church fasts sacramentally. No weddings, or funerals, no baptisms or confirmations, only those sacraments that need to happen in dire circumstances, the possibility of death. Technically that Mass doesn't end but extends into Good Friday where the community re-assembles to recount the Passion narrative from the Gospel of John, culminating in the veneration of the Cross. Again this celebration doesn't end as the Church remains silent until the start of the Great Easter Vigil, the first Mass of the Resurrection. This celebration must begin after the sun has set, and it celebrates the history of salvation with seven readings from the Old Testament recalling God's work of restoring the unity between heaven and earth, between God and us. This is the time of welcoming new members through baptism and confirmation and bringing them to the table. Easter morning brings with it the congregation's renewal of their own baptisms. Then we launch into the fifty day festival of Easter with the Feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost as pivotal celebrations unpacking the Paschal Mystery.

#### Let us pray for the sick...

Alana Brown-Wallace	E. Turnbull	Thomas Lauber
Betty Loft	Mat Hatzimalis	Anna Zaryczanska
Bruce Firth	Paul Jennas	
Kyle Elkie	Rose Marie Scott	
Kathleen Todesco	Wanda Tolazzi	
Joshua Perek	Sean Coen	
Donna Stea-Cutting	Cathy Murphy	
Andy Dube	Chad Buckley	
Elizabeth Ryan	Corey Price	
Matteo Savella	Ana Apareció	
Gerber Aparicio	J. Gole	
Vito Greco	Monica Flynn	

## Easter Quiz

1. When does the season of Lent end?
2. In countries including Greece, Mexico and Spain, what is burned during Easter bonfires?
3. Where is the largest Easter egg museum in the world with over 1500 eggs on display?
4. In the 13th century, the church prohibited eating what during Holy Week?
5. Easter Island is part of which country?
6. What garment was popularized by the song "Easter Parade?"
7. Dyeing Easter eggs is a tradition that began in which country?
8. What bread-based snack is associated with Easter?
9. What holiday is celebrated on the last day before Lent begins?
10. What pastry is eaten on Good Friday in many English speaking parts of the world.
11. Where does the official flower of Easter originate from?
12. Which island celebrates the start of Easter with a kite flying festival?
13. What does the name Gethsemane mean?
14. A Passion play is performed every ten years in a city in Germany. Where?
15. Who was told to help Jesus carry his cross?



## Answers

1. Sundown on Holy Thursday, but then we enter into a Paschal fast in anticipation of our meal that breaks the fast on Easter morning.
2. Effigies of Judas who betrayed Jesus.
3. Poland.
4. Eggs
5. Chile. The Europeans first arrived on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1722. It was a Dutchman names Jacob Roggeveen who first encountered the natives on the island called the Rapa Nui. It was distinct with over 900 statues dotting the island. The encounter led to disease and enslavement of the natives, decimating their small population.
6. Easter Bonnets
7. Ukraine. They have mastered the art of making beautifully decorated eggs renowned the world over. Using a stylus to precisely melt wax on the surface, the eggs are then dipped into a series of colour baths and eventually the wax is removed to reveal this masterpieces. The art is called Pysanky.
8. Pretzels. Pretzels are thought to have originated in Italy somewhere between the years 300 - 600 a.d.
9. Mardi Gras
10. Hot Cross buns made with either raisins or currents, and with a glazed cross on the top.
11. The Easter lily originated in the Ryukyu Islands of Japan and made their way to Britain. In 1819. From there they made the journey to the Island of Bermuda with the British horticulturists. Finally they made their way to the United States starting in the 1880's. Almost 90% of today's lilies are grown in the northern California Oregon border.
12. Bermuda
13. Oil Press
14. Oberammergau. It started in 1633 in thanksgiving for the end of the Black Plague.
15. Simon of Cyrene. Cyrene is a North African city in the east of Libya.

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