



*Invest just five minutes a day, and  
your faith will deepen and grow—  
a day at a time.*

## **Sunday, Apr 01, 2018**

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)**

#### **This is the day**

Easter isn't a footrace, as the first disciples demonstrate. It doesn't matter when you come to faith, whether you were baptized as an infant or just last night. You don't win points for what you understand at the mouth of the empty tomb, whether you've studied 20 centuries of dogma about it or just rely on a gut feeling that this event changes everything. Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the beloved disciple each perceive the tomb and its significance from different angles—yet they all spend their lives as witnesses. Go and live like Easter makes a difference!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7 (42, 41) or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35 (46). "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."*

## **Monday, Apr 02, 2018**

### **MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

#### **Time stands still**

A young monk chided his novice master for having prayed at the Easter Monday Mass, "On this Easter day . . ." "Certainly, you should have sung 'in this Easter season,'" the novice explained. "After all, Easter is over." The wise older priest pointed out—much more gently than deserved—that Easter Day itself lasts eight days, a full week, and only then do we move into the Easter season. Like the obliteration of the reign of death that Easter is, time itself is set on its head. Like the wedding day that, in many cultures, is simply too overflowing with joy to be contained in a single 24 hours, the spirit of hope that is Easter will not be confined. May it rise in your heart *this Easter Day!*

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."*

## **Tuesday, Apr 03, 2018**

### **TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

#### **A place in the heart**

Sometimes, in the least suspecting places, we can find miracles. For Mary Magdalene it was a tomb where she had gone to weep and grieve the death of Jesus. But instead she found life. She experienced the risen Jesus and became the first person to proclaim that to the world. Somehow in the midst of her grief and sense of loss, Mary left a tiny space for hope that allowed her to recognize the voice of Jesus as he called her name. The possibility for miracles great and small is with us every day. Leave open a space within your heart—you just may hear your name being called.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262). "Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord.'"*

## **Wednesday, Apr 04, 2018**

### **WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

#### **What do you expect?**

The disciples walking the road to Emmaus after Jesus' death were disappointed—they had expected from him something other than what they saw, and they assumed his mission had failed with his death. There is a lesson in that, taught by Jesus later in the same story when he breaks

the bread and opens their eyes: Our expectations can blind us to the blessings right in front of us. Keep your expectations in check and you might find all you could ever hope for, and much more, right in front of your eyes.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). "We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel."*

## **Thursday, Apr 05, 2018**

### **THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

#### **Be brave**

The Acts of the Apostles, which we read throughout the season of Easter, is a riveting account of faith, courage, healings, conversions, and a miraculous escape from prison. It is the story of how God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, intervened in the lives of Jesus' disciples to ensure the spread of his word throughout the world. The courage of the first followers of Jesus is truly inspirational. Take some time to read Acts this month. Then consider: "In what ways is God inviting me to live more courageously? What is keeping me from responding to that invitation?"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264). "To this we are witnesses."*

## **Friday, Apr 06, 2018**

### **FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

#### **Breakfast anyone?**

Meeting friends for breakfast is such a delight. There's something about the morning meal together that makes life feel good. The story of the risen Jesus inviting his friends to breakfast strikes that familiar note of unity and peace. Yet the disciples named in the story were all characters that had crossed Jesus in one way or another: Peter the denier, Thomas the doubter, Nathanael the cynic, and the Zebedee brothers, who persisted in their childish sibling rivalry. The morning repast was a reconciliation service—and a nice way to start the day. Let that same spirit of unity and reconciliation begin your day today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). "When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread."*

## **Saturday, Apr 07, 2018**

### **SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

#### **Do the right thing**

Sometimes you have to do what's right even in the face of opposition. Whether it's no reward at best or open hostility at worst, the world around you doesn't always approve of what you know to be the best thing. The apostles ran into the same problem—in fact, they were on both sides of it. When the religious authorities ordered them not to speak or teach in Jesus' name, they refused to obey. On the other hand, when Mary Magdalene came to some of these same disciples with news of the risen Jesus, they did not believe her. Of course it's unwise to always reject what others think of you. But when faced with a difficult situation, ask God for the wisdom and the strength to do what is right and good.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). "Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge."*

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## **Sunday, Apr 08, 2018**

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

#### **Who taught you mercy?**

Moral leaders agree that the number one lesson we need to teach children is mercy. If the next generation is to survive in an ever-shrinking world full of very different cultures, the willingness to seek understanding and to dialogue across worldviews is key. The starting point for that kind of empathetic listening is a heart open to compassion. Compassion literally means “to bear with”: to see and feel another’s burdens. Who taught you mercy, and how will someone learn it from you?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31 (44). “The community of believers was of one mind and heart, and . . . they had everything in common.”*

## **Monday, Apr 09, 2018**

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

#### **The three best words**

Mary is the mother of the church and the model of all Christians. At the message of an angel, she believed beyond all reason and offered her life in service of God’s plan. Her response, “let it be,” is the answer of every disciple who trusts in God’s word to make all things new. In the season of Lent, God invites us to believe that we, too, are called to that service. Even though we are sinners—“how can this be?”—we live in hope of God’s forgiveness and trust that God will work through us to bring about the fulfillment.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545). “Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’”*

## **Tuesday, Apr 10, 2018**

### **EASTER WEEKDAY**

#### **Be prepared to testify**

In the Book of Acts we are told that “with great power the apostles bore witness to Resurrection.” In fact, said Benedictine monk Columba Stewart in *National Geographic*, the “apostles were the movement’s cutting edge, spreading the message across the vast trade network of the ancient world and leaving small Christian communities in their paths.” This missionary zeal is passed on to each new generation of Christians, but it takes different forms. Today, although many Christians still travel to foreign lands to serve the poor and give witness to Christ, believers are also encouraged to evangelize—spread the gospel—within their own homes, parishes, and local communities. How is your evangelization going? Hint: They should know you are Christian by your love.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268). “We speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen.”*

## **Wednesday, Apr 11, 2018**

### **MEMORIAL OF STANISLAUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR**

#### **Whom do you follow?**

Like Archbishop Óscar Romero of El Salvador in the 20th century and Thomas à Becket of England in the 12th century, Saint Stanislaus (c. 1030-79) was, according to tradition, killed in church, in this case while celebrating Mass. Stanislaus’ murderer was the king of Poland, with whom he had a number of disputes over land and the king’s harsh rule. Throughout history the church has come into conflict with the powers that be. Jesus, of course, was put to death by the religious and political authorities of his time. Dorothy Day, of Catholic Worker fame, wrote in

1966: “Every new development for the last three centuries has brought [human beings] closer to the state of affairs in which absolutely nothing would be recognized in the whole world as possessing a claim to obedience except the authority of the State.” But for Christians, she said, Christ must be our guide. Who’s yours?

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269). “But whoever lives the truth comes to the light.”*

## **Thursday, Apr 12, 2018**

### **EASTER WEEKDAY**

#### **Listen to the right voice**

If it’s all up for grabs, why pay attention to what others teach or preach when everyone has their own relationship with God? After all, the Bible says, “Obey God, not humans.” Well, yes—and no. Indeed the buck does stop with God in that we are oriented by our nature to listen to God and respond to God’s call. But there’s a lot out there to compete with our natural inclinations—fear, vulnerability, peer pressure, misinformation, and more—all of which can provide compelling alternative messages. Fortunately God graces us with not only our own lights but scripture and the church to give us a better sense of how to navigate. Think about the ways in your own life that God uses to connect with you.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270). “We must obey God rather than men.”*

## **Friday, Apr 13, 2018**

### **MEMORIAL OF MARTIN I, POPE, MARTYR**

#### **Gone should not be forgotten**

Saint Martin is the last pope in history to be honored as a martyr, but his death for the faith did not occur quickly. After being elected pope in 649 he made enemies by opposing a heresy and condemning the emperor for supporting that heresy. As a result, while lying sick, Martin was kidnapped and carted off to the East, where he was jailed and eventually exiled. During this time he was given poor food, not allowed to wash regularly, and came down with dysentery. On top of that he was ignored by his church back home. “I wonder . . . at those who belong to the church of Saint Peter for the little concern they show for one of their body,” he wrote. Let this saint’s experience motivate you to perform the corporal works of mercy denied him—like clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and visiting the prisoner.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271). “There was not a needy person among them.”*

## **Saturday, Apr 14, 2018**

### **EASTER WEEKDAY**

#### **It is I**

Jesus had sent the disciples on ahead of him in a boat. During the night the going got pretty rough. In the midst of their struggle—remember, they were rowing—Jesus came toward them on the water, a startling development even though it meant rescue. Jesus allayed their fears with three words: “It is I.” Actually, it’s only two, in Greek: “I am.” Sound familiar? They are the words God uses to identify himself at a number of places in scripture. So Jesus isn’t merely saying, “Don’t worry, it’s me.” He’s declaring that he is God but also that God simply *is*—the foundation of everything. Next time you find yourself rowing against the waves of trouble, remember you’re always on solid ground with God.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272). “He said to them, ‘It is I. Do not be afraid.’”*

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## Sunday, Apr 15, 2018

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### Love fully

One thing Jesus never could stomach is a hypocrite. In the stories, he always prefers sincere sinners to religious fakers. It's easy to slip into the role of a synthetic disciple without even noticing. Our religious routines—prayer, Mass attendance, lip-synched proper responses to moral issues—can go on autopilot. Meanwhile, self-congratulation, nasty judgments, self-involvement, and the unwillingness to forgive can turn our hearts to stone under the surface. How we love is far more important than how we look.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48 (47).* "Those who say, 'I know him,' but do not keep his commandments are liars."

## Monday, Apr 16, 2018

### EASTER WEEKDAY

#### For everything there is a season

In order to bring something new into the world something about the old has to change. Prospective parents give up a lot of freedom when they invite a child into their family. To move to a new place you have to surrender the old one. When Jesus inaugurated "the way, the truth, and the life" in his ministry, it threatened business-as-usual for the contented synagogue-goers around him. They feared the destruction of the old practices and didn't cheerfully anticipate the arrival of the new. Change is always intimidating. Pray for the grace to make room for the new.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29 (273).* "This Jesus the Nazorean will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us."

## Tuesday, Apr 17, 2018

### EASTER WEEKDAY

#### Focus on the good—in everyone

Just as Mother Teresa had her critics, so also Father Damien was maligned after his death. It was novelist Robert Louis Stevenson, however, who visited the island leper colony where Damien ministered in 1889 and set the record straight. When a Honolulu pastor publicly called Damien a "coarse, dirty man" whose leprosy should be attributed to his "carelessness," Stevenson rebutted: "You are one of those who have an eye for faults and failures; that you take a pleasure to find and publish them; and that, having found them, you make haste to forget the virtues and the real success which had alone introduced them to your knowledge. It is a dangerous frame of mind." Not all are called to Damien's heroism, but every Christian must reject a narrow-mindedness that sees only the faults and failures of others.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274).* "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

## Wednesday, Apr 18, 2018

### EASTER WEEKDAY

#### Hang out the welcome mat

Christians who define their faith in limiting terms—"who's out and who's in," for example—appear to have missed the memo from Christ that all are welcome at his table. Too often throughout history, and today as well,

a desire for "religious purity" ends up hurting a lot of people who don't fit the mold. Avoid exclusionary ideology; remember that everyone else doesn't have to be wrong for you to be right with God. Christ is bigger than that, and we can be, too.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275).* "I will not reject anyone who comes to me."

## Thursday, Apr 19, 2018

### EASTER WEEKDAY

#### One life to live

"Forever is a long time," our mothers reminded us when we moaned about how it would take that long to do our homework or chores, or for summer to come again. But somehow the homework and the chores got done, and summer arrived—but forever never did. How will we know when forever begins? Technically, it already has; that is, the idea of everlasting life is not something for the future but is a continuation of the life we now enjoy. When the priest prays at Mass, "Lead us to everlasting life," he is really saying, "Keep us in everlasting life." Time to start living life for keeps!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 (276).* "Whoever eats of this bread will live forever."

## Friday, Apr 20, 2018

### EASTER WEEKDAY

#### Follow the light

Impressionist painter Claude Monet, a master at capturing the effects of light on landscapes, often found the process harrowing. He would paint the same scene with a dozen canvases and still not be satisfied. While trying to capture the color of an Italian landscape, Monet wrote: "I'm afraid what I'm doing is just dreadful and yet I really am understating it; the light is simply terrifying." Monet's *Water Lilies*, his final masterpiece in the study of light, was completed well after he had lost most of his sight. In the end, he had overcome his fears and learned to be the light. Our mission as Christians is similar: to painstakingly master our doubts and become one with the Light of Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 (277).* "He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'"

## Saturday, Apr 21, 2018

### MEMORIAL OF ANSELM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

#### To know God is to love God

"Faith seeking understanding" is the motto of Saint Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109). Anselm saw faith that "merely believes what it ought" as no faith at all. For Anselm, an active love of God, or faith, seeks a greater knowledge of God. That belief led him into the heady world of philosophical theology in search of a single proof for the existence of God. He finally came up with what he believed to be an irrefutable argument: "God is that than which nothing greater can be conceived." Although immediately criticized by a contemporary philosopher, Anselm's argument continues to be considered in any discussion of the existence of God. What steps can you take to deepen your knowledge of God?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 (278).* "You have the words of eternal life."

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## **Sunday, Apr 22, 2018** **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER; GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

### **Your turn to serve**

Wise. Brave. Humble. Seekers of the common good above personal ambition. The world can't get enough good leaders, and the best way to acquire the leaders we need in every aspect of modern life is for all of us to strive to be leaders right where we are. On this 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the church particularly seeks leaders in ordained ministry, religious life, societies of apostolic life, secular institutes of service, and for the missions. Take a chance. Ask the question. How can you best put your gifts at the disposal of God's purposes?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18 (50). "A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

## **Monday, Apr 23, 2018** **MEMORIAL OF GEORGE, MARTYR** **Ready to don your armor?**

Old maps would indicate the end of the known world with the phrase, "There be dragons here." It was a way of saying, "It's probably not a good idea to go there." In a legend of Saint George, he did not shy away from doing battle with a dragon. In the only story of a canonized saint fighting such a creature, he not only killed this menacing animal that an army could not slay but also saved a princess, preached to the grateful people, distributed his reward money to the poor, and went on his way. Not a bad day's work. What dragons of the unknown—of ignorance and the fear that accompanies it—can you slay? What good word or gift can you pass along as you go your way?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 (279). "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."*

## **Tuesday, Apr 24, 2018** **MEMORIAL OF FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST, MARTYR**

### **Born again to the same job**

Lawyers are traditionally the butt of jokes for their ability to take any side of an argument. But many put their skills to use in the cause of justice. Saint Fidelis (d. 1622), nicknamed the Poor Man's Lawyer, decided to speak out only for the sake of the gospel. He joined the Capuchins and persuaded many through his preaching, his kindness as a confessor, and his devotion to the sick. Consider how your words and actions today have the power to testify for or against the gospel you believe.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 (280). "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*

## **Wednesday, Apr 25, 2018** **FEAST OF MARK, EVANGELIST** **Worth another read**

Written about 40 years after Christ's Resurrection, the Gospel of Mark is our closest and freshest gospel on the events of Jesus' life.

Like any great reporter, the evangelist does not insinuate himself into the story, which leaves us uncertain as to who he was. He could be the John Mark who was a cousin of Barnabas and associate of Paul, the Mark who is a later assistant to Peter, or both. One thing we do know is that he heeded Jesus' commission to proclaim the Good News to all the world. Generations of believers have heard or read Mark's story. Even if you've read it a hundred times, Mark's gospel is worth another read.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 (555). "Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News!"*

## **Thursday, Apr 26, 2018** **EASTER WEEKDAY**

### **Wash up for supper**

In the ancient world, when sandals were common footwear, foot-washing was an act of hospitality offered by a host when guests arrived at a house. Typically guests washed their own feet or a servant washed them, but a host wishing to show great respect for guests might do the washing him- or herself. Jesus sends us a clear signal by washing his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. If we are willing to serve others with the same spirit of humility and hospitality, there will be a place at the eternal banquet for us as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20 (282). "When Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he said to them: 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master.'"*

## **Friday, Apr 27, 2018** **EASTER WEEKDAY**

### **Find your own path**

Modern gurus abound on talk shows and blogs, full of advice about how you should live your life. Some of their suggestions may be helpful; the best ones are borrowed from folk wisdom, good psychology, or even scripture, once or twice removed. Jesus has already issued the invitation to illuminate your path by following his way. Saint Anthony Claret (1807-70) underscored this invitation with a telling directive: "Choose now what you would wish to have chosen at life's end." At every fork in the road, keep this suggestion in mind.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 (283). "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'"*

## **Saturday, Apr 28, 2018** **MEMORIAL OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, MARTYR**

### **Let God work in God's ways**

Saint Peter Chanel was martyred in 1841 at the age of 38 on the island of Futuna in Oceania. He anticipated such an end to his life, hoping that it would bring about the conversion of the island's inhabitants to Christianity. It did. And while some may have initially converted due to fear of reprisal by the French for killing their missionary, this also shows how God works in mysterious ways, ways most of us cannot expect. Peter expected God to work his wonders. How often do you let go and let God take control? Indulge in some great expectations today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 (284). "Whatever you ask in my name, I will do."*

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## **Sunday, Apr 29, 2018** **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** **People change**

Once England was our enemy. Ditto for France, Spain, Mexico, Germany, Japan, Italy, China, Korea, Cuba, and most of the Middle East. Our country has been in conflict with island nations and African peoples. We've fought up and down Central America, not to mention our own Native Americans. Southern states were pitted against the North. It takes our hearts time to catch up with a new reality. Paul, the Christian killer, became a signature disciple of Jesus. How long before we're prepared to call an enemy a friend?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8 (53).* "But they were all afraid of [Paul], not believing that he was a disciple."

## **Monday, Apr 30, 2018** **MEMORIAL OF PIUS V, POPE** **Poor in spirit**

Even though the man who was to be Pope Pius V (1504-72) would become a university professor, head of several houses of the Dominican order, a bishop and cardinal, a grand inquisitor, and eventually pope who had to implement the reforms of the Council of Trent, it seems he never forgot where he came from. Born of impoverished Italian nobility, as a boy he worked as a shepherd. After becoming pope he lived a simple and prayerful lifestyle, built hospitals, and opened the papal treasury to care for the poor, with whom he was personally involved. He kept wearing his Dominican habit, establishing the custom of popes wearing white. Prayer and service, worship and works of mercy will keep you close to God and the gospel, whatever else you do.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26 (285).* *Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.*"

## **Tuesday, May 01, 2018** **MEMORIAL OF JOSEPH THE WORKER** **Holy work**

How do you feel about your work? For many, it's a means to an end, a paycheck, something to be endured, a distraction from other important things in their lives, or even a road to wealth and power. The church, however, views work from a somewhat different angle: Everyone has the right to meaningful work that will support them and their families. Work should help build up society for the good of all. It also participates in God's creative and redeeming work. It's a holy thing. As you work today, remember Saint Joseph, who was a worker, and work both for your daily bread and the kingdom of God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31a (286).* *What must we do to perform the works of God?"*

## **Wednesday, May 02, 2018** **MEMORIAL OF ATHANASIUS, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH** **Many parts, one harmony**

Maybe because his own world was so full of discord—early Christians bickering about doctrine, himself repeatedly exiled by emperors for his own belief in Jesus—Saint Athanasius (295-373) kept returning to the

image of harmony to teach about God's ways. "A choir is composed of a variety of men, women, and children, of both old and young. Under the direction of one conductor, each sings in the way that is natural for him: men with men's voices, boys with boys' voices, old people with old voices. Yet all of them produce a single harmony." What a helpful reminder whenever we think others should agree with us! Unity can exist without uniformity.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8 (287).* "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit."

## **Thursday, May 03, 2018** **FEAST OF PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES** **Live outside the bounds of history**

Based on the sparse details history has preserved about the apostles Philip and James, it would seem that they did nothing all that noteworthy. They simply chose to follow Christ and do the works he did. But their radical, countercultural choice—one that led to their martyrdom—was really quite extraordinary. The same holds true for any modern Christians trying to do the works of Jesus. We may not capture the attention of news reporters or historians for choosing to love our neighbors and forgive our enemies, but we will certainly catch God's eye, which is imperative if we hope to enter the Kingdom that exists outside the bounds of history.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 14:6-14 (561).* "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do."

## **Friday, May 04, 2018** **EASTER WEEKDAY** **Friends in high places**

"On the night before he died he had supper with his friends." These words from the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass remind us of the humanness of Jesus. Though he is Lord and Savior, we can also call him friend and brother. His becoming a human being allows us both to relate to God on human terms and share in the divine life, which is life eternal. The God we worship is on intimate terms with us. Take a few moments today to ponder this incredible fact. How do everyday moments reveal God to you?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17 (289).* "I do not call you servants any longer . . . but I have called you friends."

## **Saturday, May 05, 2018** **EASTER WEEKDAY** **Take the handoff**

A little more than halfway through the Acts of the Apostles Saint Luke mentions the original 12 apostles for the last time. From then on the book is pretty much the story of the acts of the other great apostle, Saint Paul. While Paul felt it necessary to defend his status as an apostle from time to time, there's no doubt he was largely responsible for bringing the gospel of Jesus out of its Jerusalem center and spreading it around the Mediterranean area, from which it eventually spread to the whole world, as Christ had intended it to do. The passing along of the Good News of Jesus and the shape the church gives it have been the responsibility of Christians from the first days. They still are today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21 (290).* "They handed on to the people for observance the decisions reached by the apostles and presbyters in Jerusalem."

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