April 19, 2020

THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Easter and Christmas are feasts that are celebrated as an octave. By the Church’s reckoning the entire week following these feasts are celebrated as though they are the feast itself. This probably had its origins in the eight-day celebration of the Jewish feast of Tabernacles. It was introduced to Christians under the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century for the dedication of new churches such as the basilica at Jerusalem.

The first liturgical feasts to be celebrated with an octave were Easter and Pentecost. In the middle ages, many saints’ feasts acquired an octave as well. Confusion resulted as the number of octaves grew and overlapped each other. Popes Pius V and X removed many of these from the calendar. Pope Pius XII removed all but Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. After the Second Vatican Council, Pentecost was removed as well. Christmas and Easter retain their octaves indicating their supreme importance in the life of our faith.

Complicating matters was the introduction of Divine Mercy Sunday by Pope John-Paul II in 2000. Saint Faustina, a Polish nun, received a vision from God in 1937 in which she was told anyone receiving Holy Communion on the Sunday following Easter would receive complete forgiveness for their sins. I’m happy for and encourage participation in this devotion but I also believe in the cleansing power of Lenten penance and the Sacrament of Reconciliation we celebrated just before Holy Week. I hope the ancient observance of the Octave doesn’t get lost of have to compete with Divine Mercy.

The Octave of Easter has particularly significant for the Neophytes (newly baptized) as they savor their experience of last Saturday night for a whole week. On Holy Saturday Morino and Bach received the Sacraments of Initiation and Morino’s wife, Edith, was Confirmed in an unfortunately greatly reduced Easter Vigil. Other participants in our RCIA will be received into the Church and Confirmed throughout the Easter Season. This week pray for our new Church members as they end their octave of Easter celebration to stand alongside us to build God’s kingdom.

Fr. Nick
Sunday Mass Intentions

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:30p</td>
<td>Justine Hume RIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00a</td>
<td>Mary Lindh RIP</td>
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<td>9:30a</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<td>11:30a</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Elisabeth De Vogelaere RIP</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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Collection Information will return next week.

Thank you to all who have signed up for Electronic Giving, it makes a difference.

“In all this I have given you an example that by such work as we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for be himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” - Acts 20:35

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**Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday**

Sunday, April 19th, at 9:30 am

https://www.facebook.com/SaintMaryMagdalenParish/

Live streaming on Sunday mornings will continue throughout the quarantine.

Also, please check the website daily for a reflection from Fr. Nick.

The Cathedral is also live-streaming at https://www.facebook.com/ctlcathedral/

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**The Berkeley Food Pantry**

The local food pantries are in need of your help. As more people no longer have an income there are more people in need of food.

Alameda County Community Food Bank, which is a food distribution center for many of the local food banks, found people coming to them. They began a distribution center for people to receive food. It began with 50 people, last week they served 743. If you are able, please donate to the Berkeley Food Pantry.

(www.BerkeleyFoodPantry.org)

Read the Bishop’s Easter message at https://www.oakdiocese.org/news/bishop-michael-barbers-easter-message

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**Sacraments of Initiation Continue**

Joe was Confirmed on Wednesday, April 15, at the 5:30PM Mass.

Please continue to pray for these Neophytes and for the other RCIA candidates who will be initiated over the next few weeks.

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**Scripture Readings for 2nd Week of Easter**

19th
- Second Sunday of Easter/Sunday of Divine Mercy
- Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Peter 1:3-9 / John 20:19-31

20th
- Monday (Easter Weekday)

21st
- Tuesday (Easter Weekday)

22nd
- Wednesday (Easter Weekday)

23rd
- Thursday (Easter Weekday)

24th
- Friday (Easter Weekday)

25th
- Saturday (Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist)
- 1 Peter 5:5-14 / Mark 16:15-20