

SEASON OF EASTER 2026

Sunday Cycle Year A, Weekday Cycle Year II
5 April 2026 – 24 May 2026



SEASONAL FOCUS

The Easter Season comprises the fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost. These days “are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one ‘great Sunday.’” (*UNLY* #22)

KEY DATES

⌘ EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD—Sunday, April 5, 2026 [White]

Lectionary #42

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 or (#41) Matthew 28:1-10 or, at an afternoon or evening (#46) Mass, Luke 24:13-35

The rite of the renewal of Baptismal promises used at the Easter Vigil may be used on Sunday in place of the Creed.

The first eight days of the Easter Season (Sunday to Sunday inclusive) make up the octave of Easter and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord. At Mass during the Octave, the Gloria is said or sung, and a double alleluia is added to the dismissal and its response. (*UNLY* #24)

The Easter sequence, *Victimae paschali laudes*, is obligatory, following the second reading, at Mass on Easter Sunday. It is optional on other days of the octave of Easter.

⌘ SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY —Sunday, April 12, 2026 [White]

Lectionary #43

On this Sunday of Divine Mercy, prayers for the plenary indulgence that are offered today may be led by priests after Masses as listed in the plenary indulgence decree.

⌘ THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER—Sunday, April 19, 2026 [White]

Lectionary #46

⌘ FEAST OF SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST —Saturday, April 25, 2026 [Red]

Lectionary #555; Gloria

⌘ FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—Sunday, April 26, 2026 [White]

Lectionary #49

Today has been designated as “World Day of Prayer for Vocations.” Prayers for vocations to the diaconate, the priesthood, and the consecrated life should be inserted into the general intercessions at Mass.

⌘ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—Sunday, May 3, 2026 [White]

Lectionary #52

⌘ **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—Sunday, May 10, 2026 [White]**

Lectionary #55*

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15-18 or 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 14:15-21 or John 17:1-11a

* Because the Ascension is transferred to Sunday, May 17, the second reading and gospel of the Seventh Sunday of Easter (Lectionary #59) may be read here, on the Sixth Sunday.

The secular observance of Mother's Day must in no way diminish the primary focus of this Sunday as the celebration of the paschal mystery. However, in order to provide some recognition for this holiday, prayers of intercession may be included, and a blessing for mothers may be included at the end of Mass in place of the solemn blessing of the Easter Season. (See *BB* #1724-1728)

⌘ **FEAST OF SAINT MATTHIAS, APOSTLE—Thursday, May 14, 2026 [Red]**

Lectionary #564; Gloria

⌘ **SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD—Sunday, May 17, 2026 [White]**

Lectionary #58

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

*In the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ascension is transferred to this Sunday. Thursday, May 14, is celebrated as the Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle, and it is not a holy day of obligation.

⌘ **PENTECOST SUNDAY—Sunday, May 24, 2026 [Red]**

At the Vigil Mass (Saturday, May 23, 2026):

Lectionary #62

Extended Form: Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15; Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b; Daniel 3:52-56 or Psalm 19:8-11; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 107:2-9; Joel 3:1-5; Psalm 104: 1-2a, 24, 35c, 27-28, 29bc-30; Romans 8:22-27; John 7:37-39

Simple Form: Genesis 11:1-9 or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ezekiel 37:1-14 or Joel 3:1-5; Psalm 104:1-2a, 24, 35c, 27-28, 29bc-30; Romans 8:22-27; John 7:37-39

Sunday Mass (Sunday, May 24, 2026 or anticipatory Saturday Mass):

Lectionary #63

Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

The Pentecost sequence, *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*, is obligatory, following the second reading.

A double alleluia is added to the dismissal and its response.

SPRINKLING RITE

On Sundays, even in Masses anticipated on Saturday evenings, especially in Easter Time, instead of the customary Penitential Acts, the blessing and sprinkling of water may take place as a reminder of Baptism. Pentecost Sunday is also a fitting occasion for the sprinkling rite. (Rite found in *Roman Missal*, Appendix II, Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water.) (*GIRM* #51)

If done, this rite occurs after the greeting and takes the place of the usual Penitential Act.

A song accompanies the sprinkling; it “should have an explicitly baptismal character.” “The *Gloria* may not be moved to a different part of the Mass than the one assigned by the *Roman Missal*. It may not, for example, be used ... during the sprinkling.” (*SL* #147, 150)

RITUAL CELEBRATIONS

- ⌘ The funeral Mass may not be held on any Sunday of the Easter Season, nor on the Solemnity of the Ascension, nor on the Solemnity of Pentecost. The funeral liturgy outside Mass may be celebrated on any day during the Easter Season. (*GIRM* #380, *OCF* #271)
- ⌘ The nuptial Mass may not be used within the Octave of Easter, nor any Sunday of the Easter Season, nor on the Solemnity of the Ascension, nor on the Solemnity of Pentecost. The Order for Celebrating Matrimony without Mass may be celebrated on any day during the Easter Season. (*OCM* #34)
- ⌘ Infant baptisms could fittingly be celebrated on any Sunday of the Easter Season, including Pentecost day. It is also appropriate that children receive their first communion on one or other of the Sundays of Easter. (*Ordo*)

MUSIC

- ⌘ The Gloria is sung or recited on all the days within the Octave of Easter; on all Sundays of Easter; on Ascension and Pentecost; on the Feast of St. Mark (April 25), and on the Feast of St. Matthias (May 14).
- ⌘ Common Psalms: “The psalm as a rule is drawn from the Lectionary ... Nevertheless, in order that the people may be able to join in the responsorial psalm more readily, some texts of responses and psalms have been chosen, according to the different seasons of the year and classes of saints, for optional use, whenever the psalm is sung, in place of the text corresponding to the reading.” (Lectionary #173/174)
- ⌘ Common Response for the Season of Easter [Lectionary #173]
“Alleluia.” (Two or three times)
- ⌘ Common Psalms for the Season of Easter [Lectionary #174]
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 – “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”
Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 – “Let all the earth cry out to God with joy, alleluia.”

WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT

- ⌘ The paschal candle, a symbol of the presence of the risen Christ among the people of God, remains in the sanctuary near the altar or ambo through Pentecost Sunday. Lighting the candle is encouraged at all liturgical celebrations during this time. It is appropriate (but not necessary) to carry the paschal candle out in the recession at the last Mass or Vespers on Pentecost Sunday.
- ⌘ Color of Sacred Vestments: White is the designated color for vestments during the Easter Season. Gold or silver colored vestments may be worn on more solemn occasions. Red vestments are designated for the Feast of St. Mark (April 25), the Feast of St. Matthias (May 14), the Solemnity of Pentecost (May 24), and (optionally) for other optional memorials of martyrs during the Easter Season. (*GIRM* #346)
- ⌘ “Plans for seasonal decorations should include other areas besides the sanctuary. Decorations are intended to draw people to the true nature of the mystery being celebrated rather than being ends in themselves. Natural flowers, plants, wreaths and fabric hangings, and other seasonal objects can be arranged to enhance the primary liturgical points of focus. The altar should remain clear and free-standing, not walled in by massive floral displays ... and pathways in the narthex, nave, and sanctuary should remain clear.” (*BLS* #124)
- ⌘ “These seasonal decorations are maintained throughout the entire liturgical season.” (*BLS* #125)
- ⌘ “The use of living flowers and plants, rather than artificial greens, serves as a reminder of the gift of life God has given to the human community. Planning for plants and flowers should include not only the procurement and placement but also the continuing care needed to sustain living things.” (*BLS* #129)

BB = Book of Blessings BLS = Built of Living Stones GIRM = General Instruction of the Roman Missal UNLY = Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year OCF = Order of Christian Funerals OCM = Order of Celebrating Matrimony SL = Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship
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