

SUMMERTIME FEAST DAYS

DURING THE DAYS OF SUMMER 2021,
WE WILL CELEBRATE DAILY MASS ON VARIOUS FEAST DAYS.

SUNDAY, the Lord's Day, is always the first and primary feast day of the week. Each Sunday the faithful people of God gather at the Lord's Table and from there are sent forth for Christ's mission in our homes, neighborhoods, city, nation and world. The "commissioning" is familiar: "GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD!" Sunday is the beginning and end of our week.

Sunday, the Lord's Day, is also known as "the eighth day" of the week—the day that leaps out from the other days. It is the day of the "new age," the day beyond creation's seven days. The week begins and ends with Sunday—the first day and the last day of the week—the new eighth day.

Throughout the days and weeks of the year the Church remembers and celebrates the Saints whose lives and struggles, faith and hope continue to inspire, motivate and console each of us as we live our lives from day to day. *"The pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the Holy Mother of God; in the feasts of the apostles, saints and martyrs and in the commemoration of the faithful departed."*

As the days of summertime unfold all are invited to gather on these selected feast days around the table of the Lord to pray, listen, converse, remember, give thanks and share the holy meal: Nourishment for the daily journey and for the ministry of each day.

Friday, June 11: Sacred Heart of Jesus

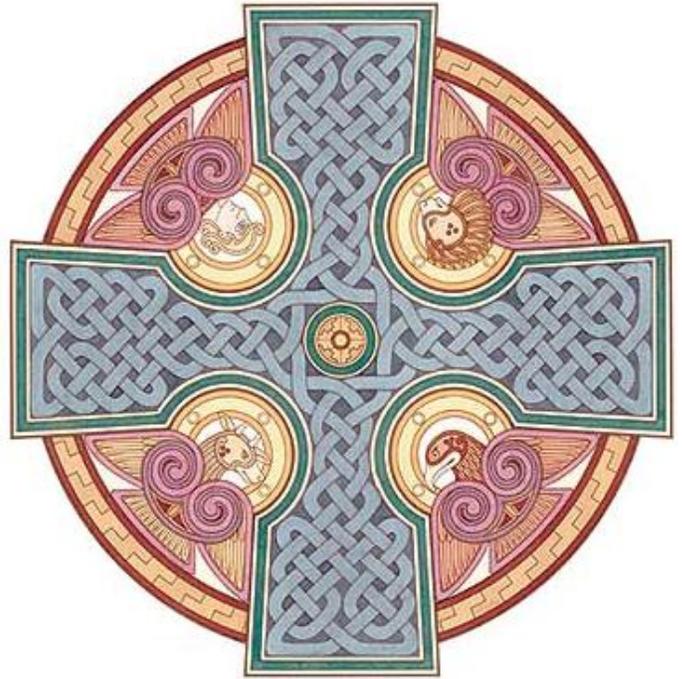
One of the most beloved aspects of our Catholic tradition is our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In honoring the Sacred Heart, we honor the compassion and love of Christ: his human heart and his divine heart.

MASS at 12:10

Thursday, June 24: Nativity of John the Baptist

During the great cycle of the Christian year, there are three festivals in celebration of a person's birth: We celebrate the births of John the Baptist, of Mary, and of Jesus. Keep in mind, that in the liturgy of the Church, a "nativity" is not a birthday: the nativity is the birth itself! This day is not John the Baptist birthday. Today John is born! John's nativity occurs after the Summer solstice, when the days begin to grow shorter. John said, "I must decrease, Christ must increase." Christ's nativity occurs after the winter solstice, as the days become longer.

MASS at 12:10



Tuesday, June 29: Saints Peter and Paul

Peter and Paul came from very different backgrounds and had different gifts, but they had one great bond: Both were called forth by Jesus to love and serve.

MASS at 12:10

Wednesday July 14: St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Kateri was born in what is now upstate New York. Her father was chief of the Turtle clan of the Mohawks. Her family was killed by an outbreak of smallpox. The deadly disease left her the only survivor with a scarred face and weakened eyesight. Her name “Tekakwitha,” means “one who feels her way along.” At age seventeen she embraced the Catholic faith. She cared for the children of her community, tended the sick. Her journey of faith, her faithful and loving service, even in her own sickness, and her amazing ability to weave the agent Mohawk legends with the stories of Scripture was exemplary. She died at the age of 25. She is the first Native American to be named a Saint. At her beatification in Rome 500 Native Americans from 33 different tribes danced at Saint Peter’s in Rome.

MASS at 12:10

Thursday, July 22: Saint Mary Magdalene, Disciple of the Lord

Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. She came to his tomb with myrrh to embalm his body. She was the first witness to the risen Christ. She was one of a group of women who were Jesus’ disciples and walked with him. In doing this these women went against the customs of the times: Women had never been permitted to study with a Rabbi. Mary went to Jesus’ tomb before dawn on Sunday. When she saw that the stone had been rolled away, she “ran to tell the others,” then she returned to the tomb and wept. Christ came and stood beside her. Then she was asked to be the messenger of the good news. She was the first to announce that Jesus Christ had conquered death. This is why she is called the “apostle to the apostles.” In effect, Mary Magdalene gave the first homily to the Church.

MASS at 12:10

Thursday, July 29: Saint Martha, Disciple of the Lord

In the culture of Jesus’ time women were treated as inferior to men but Jesus treated women as equals. He called them his friends. The Gospel tells us that he laughed and cried with them. Martha’s conversations with Jesus show that she was able to say just what she thought without any pious “nonsense.” Martha never gave up on faith: “Yes, Lord, I believe,” she told Jesus. She was practical and active in her Christian faith. Understanding her own dignity, she was able to serve and care for others. Her sense of hospitality was strong and loving. She is the patron saint of cooks and hospitality. She welcomed Christ into her home.

MASS at 12:10

Thursday, August 6: Transfiguration of the Lord

At just the time of year when the harvest is abundant, we celebrate a feast of God’s glory. We begin to see the old and new coming together; from the mountain top we see both the needs and gifts of the human family, seen with new insight as to how to serve and be present. It is also the day we remember the unleashing of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, a day and time to pray: *“So long as this life lasts, give peace back to us, peace that will never end.”*

MASS at 7:00 pm - Ice Cream Social follows

Tuesday, August 10: Feast of Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

The word “deacon” means servant. The word literally means “one who waits on tables.” In the tradition, Christian deacons were men *and* women who served those in need and distributed the community’s good. They were found among the poor and the lost and challenged the wider community to honor the dignity of those in need. As a result, deacons often challenged the status quo and came to be perceived as a threat to the “powers that be.” They were persecuted and some, such as Lawrence were martyred.

MASS at 12:10

SUNDAY, August 15: Assumption of Mary.

Because the Feast of the Assumption of Mary is a solemn Feast Day it is celebrated this year on SUNDAY, since that is August 15. The Feast is sometimes thought of as Mary's "harvesting" into heaven. This is a day to thank God for the bounty of growing things. It is a day we remember our deep Catholic belief that after Mary's death God raise her body into heaven. This truth makes every human body sacred and holy.

Friday, August 24: St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Bartholomew is an apostle about whom not much is known. Like so many who live faith and serve lovingly without recognition he is a person worth remembering. He is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as "waiting" with the other Apostles for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Like so many of us, unknown but still waiting and longing for the fire of hope and love, he proclaimed the Gospel through his life and spirit.

MASS at 12:10

Wednesday, September 8: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No word of Mary's birth is recorded in scripture, and there is no way to know where or when it took place. But it is fitting that we honor her birth in the harvest season, because Mary is the model for all who wish to bring forth Christ in their lives.

MASS at 12:10

Tuesday, September 14: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The most common symbol of the Christian faith is what used to be a device for murdering criminals. A sign of shame has become a sign of honor. In dying on the cross, Jesus became one with the poorest, the outcast, the least among us. We make the "sign of the cross" when we enter or leave a church (from the waters of the font as a sign and reminder of our baptism), when we eat our meals, when we go to sleep at night and when we awake in the morning. The cross is our protection in danger and a constant reminder of God's love. We carry the seal of the Holy cross on our foreheads (which we received on the day of baptism) for we are marked and "stamped" as people of the cross. The Holy Cross leads us into worship and leads us back out into the world, among the many who still bear the cross today.

MASS at 12:10



*Through the rhythms
of times and seasons,
in the daily movements of living,
the mystery of Christ unfolds,
revealing moment by moment,
day by day and week by week
the mystery of Christ among us.*



"And on the day called

Sunday

all who live in cities or in the country gather together in one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read... Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers

prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying 'Amen;' and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons."

~ From Chapter 67 of First Apology of Justin Martyr 150 A.D.

Image: "The Risen Lord" by He Qi

SUNDAY:

The Day of the Lord.

The day to *"gather together in one place."*

