



El Diácono



April 2022

A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Issue 38



The Office of Deacons would like to thank you for your ministry to the Church, The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and to the many services provided to the people of God and the entire community. May God Bless you abundantly!

Inside this Issue

Item	Page	Item	Page
Three Days of Prayer	2	Saint Joseph	8
Resurrection of Christ	3	Memorial Day	9
Cross or Crucifix?	4	Diaconate Information	10
Pentecost	6	Deacon's Corner	11
Mother's Day	7		
Father's Day	8		





Three Days of Prayer



How is your Latin these days? The word “Triduum” is a Latin word, and from my elementary school days, the word is formed from the Latin prefix “tri” (meaning ‘three’) and the Latin word “dies” (meaning ‘day’). In early Christianity, a triduum was a prayer recited over the course of three days.

The best known triduum is the Paschal or “Easter Triduum” which begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday and continues until the start of second vespers (evening prayer on Easter Sunday). That is why, when capitalized, Triduum most often refers to the Paschal Triduum (also known as Holy Triduum or Easter Triduum), the final three days of Lent and Holy Week.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) considered the Triduum as “the Summit of the Liturgical Year” in the Catholic Church. For many years, the Triduum was considered part of the liturgical season of Lent. However, since 1956 the Triduum (Paschal Triduum) has been regarded as its own liturgical season. It is the shortest and most liturgically rich of all seasons, as the USCCB declares, “Though chronologically three days, the Triduum is liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ’s Paschal Mystery.”

As you can guess, the liturgical season of Lent ends with the start of the Paschal Triduum. The discipline of Lent (prayer, fasting, abstinence, and alms giving) continues until noon on Holy Saturday. Then the preparation for the Easter Vigil — the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord — begins and you may ask what the dates for the Paschal Triduum are, but the beginning and ending of any Triduum is dependent on the date of Easter.¹

To recap, the days of the Paschal Triduum are:

- ◆ Holy Thursday: Celebration of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper
- ◆ Good Friday: Commemoration of Christ’s Passion and Death
- ◆ Holy Saturday: Preparation for the Resurrection of the Lord
- ◆ Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of Christ.

1. Richert, Scott P. “Triduum Three Day Period of Prayer.” Learn Religions, Feb 8, 2021, <http://www.learnreligion.com/what-is-a-triduum-541528>. Retrieved November 26, 2021/



The Resurrection Of Christ

First you will not see any heavy duty theology about Easter in this article. However, by faith we know that the Easter season is the most crucial time in our Catholic faith every year. The Easter message is NOT “Jesus Lives,” but rather, “Jesus is risen.” Think about it. The startling thing about the message that Jesus is risen is that it makes dying hard! Why? Because it makes clear that death is an enemy. By rising from the dead Jesus conquers death.



And by Jesus’ resurrection he established lordship over the entire creation. He now reigns as the lord of life, namely as the Lord who give new life to his creation — beginning with us (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC] 1010-1011). It is little wonder that the early Church Fathers called Easter the “Eight Day of Creation.” (Incidentally, it is also the reason baptismal fonts in many Christian Churches are often designed with eight sides.)

Undoubtedly our Catholic faith is centered on the Resurrected Lord of all, Jesus Christ. Is yours?

Where did the word “Easter” come from? One solution came from Venerable Bede (Saint Bede, a Benedictine Monk, 673-735 ACE) who claimed that the word “Easter” was derived from “Eoster,” the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring and Fertility. In a way, this makes sense because early Christian missionaries appropriated pagan names and holiday for Christian festivals. However, from modern Church historians, the word “Easter” was derived from the Latin and Greek word “Pascha” (meaning Passover) providing the root word for Pâques, the French word for Easter.

Ever wonder why Easter is never on the same date every Year? It appears that fixing the date on which the Resurrection of Jesus caused a major controversy between the early Christian Churches. In the Eastern Churches, Christians observed Easter on the same day that Jews celebrated Passover — on the 14th day of the first full moon of Spring — regardless of the day of the week. In the Western Churches, Christians observed Easter on the first day of the week (Sunday) after the first full moon. The controversy was finally settled by the Council of Nicaea in 325 ACE when it decreed that Easter should be observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox (March 21st). Easter, therefore, can fall on any Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th. Now you know.

Like Christmas, Easter has accumulated many traditions, some of which has little to do with the celebration of Easter. For instance, in antiquity, Christians placed lamb meat under

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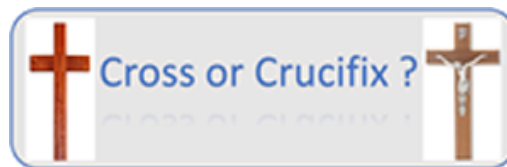
the altar during the Easter Mass (based on John 1:29: “Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world”). The lamb meat was then taken home and consumed.

Then there is the tradition of painted Easter eggs. In the 13th century the Church for some reason prohibited parishioners from eating eggs during Holy Week. But they forgot to tell the chickens who kept laying the eggs. So the Christians painted these eggs in assorted colors to identify them as “Holy Week Eggs” and sold them to Christians who brought them to church to make egg decorations. Unbelievably, the egg became a symbol of the Resurrection. By the way, how many Easter Egg Hunts have you participated in?



And let us not forget the Easter Bunny! This Easter tradition arose in Protestant areas in Europe in the 17th century but did not go widespread until the 19th century. Supposedly the Easter rabbit lays the eggs, decorates the eggs, and then hides them. In the United States the Easter rabbit also leaves children baskets with toys and candies on Easter morning (Chocolate Bunnies were often devoured quickly). In some European countries, however, other animals — in Switzerland the cuckoo, in Westphalia the fox — brought Easter eggs.

(Hillerbrand, Hans J. “Easter.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 31 March 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Easter-holiday>. Accessed 30 November 2021.



After more than 2000 years of religious wars and dogmatic differences about religious symbols, the cross, for many, might have lost a little of its prominence as a Holy Christian symbol. Today the cross frequently appears in design and art and is worn as jewelry by Christians and atheists, by gospel singers and Hip Hop artists, often with no understanding of its deeper meaning.

For us Catholics both the cross and the crucifix are important symbols in our faith. To non-Catholics these two may look similar but certain meaningful differences exist between them and this differences can mean a lot to Catholics.

(continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 5)

The cross is probably the most famous and widespread symbol of the Christian faith. It is used in many Christian gatherings and messages. Let us not forget, though, that in Roman times, the cross was an instrument of torture and public humiliation — it is equivalent to the death penalty where hardened criminals were put to death by crucifixion.

In our Catholic faith, the crucifix is a very common symbol which is a cross with the figure of Jesus Christ attached to it or engraved on it. Quite often the word “INRI” is written across the top. These letters are a shortened version of a phrase that translates to “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews” (Words which Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, ordered to have written on the cross upon which Jesus was crucified).

The crucifix is also opposed by some people as they feel that Jesus Christ was resurrected but not on the cross, so it is wrong to depict it that way. There may be different types of crucifix and especially these where there could be dramatical engraving of the suffering of Jesus Christ being depicted.

In appearance, the difference between the Cross and Crucifix is that the Cross is a cross-shaped item without a symbol or figure of Jesus on it, while the Crucifix is a Cross with Jesus depicted or engraved on it. However, that is not the only difference. A comparison between both the terms on certain parameter can shed light on subtle aspects:

COMPARISON TABLE BETWEEN CROSS AND CRUCIFIX

Parameter of Comparison	Cross	Crucifix
Meaning	It is a standing post with a transverse bar. Used in ancient time for crucifixion.	Representative of Jesus Christ on the Cross.
By Whom Preferred	Preferred by Protestant Christian Churches.	Preferred by those belonging to Roman Catholic Church.
Is the symbol or picture of Jesus Christ engraved?	No	Yes
Can it be used as an idol of worship?	Ideally no. It is a symbol	Yes, because Jesus Christ depicted
Does it depict the pain and suffering of Jesus Christ?	No	Yes
Is Cross a Crucifix and vice versa?	No	A crucifix is a type of Cross
Where you will find these most?	Protestant Churches	Catholic Churches
What does it signify?	The sacrifice of Jesus Christ	The resurrection of Jesus Christ
Which is more popular?	Cross is more popular	Crucifix is less popular
Which one is easy to create?	Cross is easy to create	Crucifix difficult because of symbol of Jesus Christ on it.
Is it worn as a fashion?	Yes	No



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For us Catholics, we should not simply wear or use the crucifix to show our religious affiliation. Pop Francis reminds us that the crucifix is much more than that. We need to look beyond the symbol and remember the meaning behind it which is Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross for our salvation.

At the end of the day, it's not really about choosing whether the cross or the crucifix is better. This not about which one is more powerful. Remember, they are just representations of our faith and reminders of what is at the core of our faith.

References:

1. [RSCAS 2013/88 Cross, crucifix, culture: an approach to the constitutional meaning of confessional symbols \(eui.eu\)](#)
2. Stern, Andrew, H.M., "*Southern Crucifix, Sourhern Cross: Catholic-Protestant Relations*. 1977. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Pentecost

Also called: Whitsunday (England & Ireland)

Trinity Sunday (Eastern Orthodoxy)

Observed by: Roman Catholic, Eastern Catholic
Old Catholic, Lutherans, Eastern
Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox,
Anglicans, other Christians.

Significance: Celebrates the descent of the Holy
Spirit upon the Apostles and other
followers of Jesus; Birth of the Church.

Begins: 7th Sunday After Easter.

Date: Easter + 49 days

2022 Date: June 5th (West) June 12th (East)

Related to Jesus Day, Shavuot, Rosalia, Green
Week, Pinkster, Whit Monday, Whit
Tuesday, Whit Friday, Trinity Sunday.





Your Mother is always with you. She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street, she's the smell of certain foods you remember, flowers you pick, the fragrance of life itself, she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well, she's your breath in the air on a cold winter's day. She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep, the colors of a rainbow, she is Christmas morning.

Your Mother lives inside your laughter, And she's crystallized in every tear drop. She's the place you came from, your first home, and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love, your first friend, even your first enemy, nothing on earth can separate you. Not time, not spacenot even death.

By Pauly Fongemie

Mother's Day didn't come about because Mom wanted breakfast in bed. And despite how it looks, card companies didn't invent it as a way to make lots of money. We take Mother's Day for granted today, but there is a long history behind it.

The original idea came about by Ann Reeves Jarvis who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War. Following the Civil War she organized a "Mother's Friendship Day," the goal was to bring about reconciliation between former Union and Confederate soldiers by having them come together with the Mothers of both sides.

Following the death of Ann Jarvis in 1905, her daughter, Anna Jarvis started a campaign for an official holiday honoring Mothers. As the years passed, more and more states began celebrating Mother's Day. Finally, in 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation making Mother's Day an official holiday to take place on the second Sunday of May.

Anna Jarvis put Mother's Day on the calendar. It is a day dedicated to expressing love and gratitude to our Mothers, acknowledging the sacrifices they made for their children. Each family should celebrate its own Mother, so that they could feel the love, even in the midst of a broad celebration of Motherhood..

(Underwood, Alice E.M. "Here's the Real History of Mother's Day". 2019. Retrieved from: <http://www.grammarly.com/blog/history-of-mothers-day/> on 12/01/2021)



Origin of Father's Day



The campaign to celebrate Father's Day had a rough start. There just wasn't the same enthusiasm as there was for Mother's Day. Perhaps it was because card companies and florists felt fathers didn't have the same sentimental appeal that Mothers have.

It's recorded that on July 5th, 1908, a West Virginian church sponsored America's first event to explicitly honor fathers. The event was in honor of 362 men who had died in the previous December explosion at the Fairmont Coal Company in Monongah, West Virginia.

The next year in Spokane, Washington, Sonora Smart Dodd went to churches, the YMCA, storekeepers, and government officials to drum up support for a Father's Day. She was successful; Washington State celebrated America's first statewide Father's Day on June 19th, 1910.

Slowly the holiday spread to other states. In 1916, President Wilson honored the day by telegraph signal to unfurl a flag in Spokane, Washington. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge urged all states to observe Father's Day.

Today, Father's Day is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June. In other countries Father's Day is celebrated on Saint Joseph's Day that falls on March 19th.

Saint Joseph was a "committed" Father, as we might say nowadays.



And what commitment! Total commitment to Mary, the elect of all the women of the earth and of history, always his virgin spouse, never his wife physically, and total commitment to Jesus, who was his offspring only by legal descent, not by the flesh. He had the burdens, the responsibilities, the risks and the labors surrounding the Holy Family. His was the service, the work, the sacrifice, in the shadows of that picture in which we love to meditate on him; and we are certainly not mistaken, for we all know him now and call him Blessed.



Memorial Day, May 30th, 2022



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. It's difficult to prove the origins of this day as over two dozen towns and cities lay claim to be the birthplace. In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson stepped in and officially declared Waterloo N.Y. the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Regardless of the location of origins or the exact date, one thing is crystal clear – Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War (which ended in 1865) and a desire to honor our dead. On the 5th of May in 1868, General John Logan who was the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed it in his General Order 11.

Part of the history of Memorial Day will show that in the order, the General proclaimed, “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.” Because the day wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle, the General called it, Decoration Day.

On the first Decoration Day, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery while General James Garfield made a historic speech.

New York was the first state to officially recognize the holiday in 1873. It was recognized by all northern states by 1890. Differently, the South refused to acknowledge the day and honored their dead on separate days. This went on until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

With the Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363), it is now observed on the last Monday in May by almost every state.

This helped ensure a three day weekend (Memorial Day Weekend) for Federal holidays. In addition, several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee .



Diaconate Information

Director of Deacon Formation: Deacon Keith Davis

Class of 2023

Current Class size: 37
Currently in Candidacy



Class of 2025

Current Class size: 16
Currently in Aspirancy

Deacon Inservice & Retreat

In-Service:
TBD:
In Planning Stage



Retreat:
TBD:
In Planning Stage

Deacon Council Members and Reps

Council Chair:	Deacon Mark Marquez
Council Vice-Chair:	Deacon Ernest Chavez
Council Secretary:	Darlene Chavez
Santa Fe Deanery:	Deacon Enrique Montoya
Deanery A:	Deacon Dave Little
Deanery B:	Deacon Pat Sena
Deanery C:	Deacon Leon Jones
NE Deanery:	Deacon Reyes Sanchez
NW Deanery:	Deacon Chris Gilbert
SE Deanery:	Vacant
SW Deanery:	Deacon Nicolas Keller

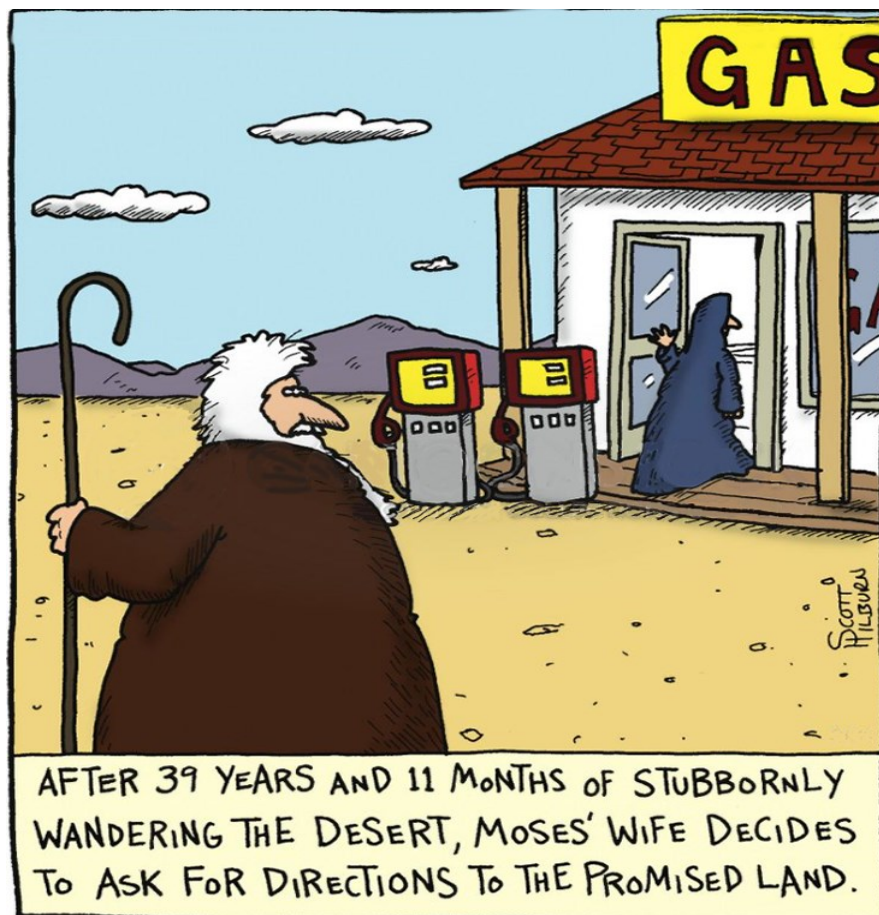


All The World's Alive Again
by Jennifer Gunner

The rabbit hops its gentle step
The lark sings lyric songs
All the world's alive again
Spring rights the winter wrongs.



The Deacon's Corner



Deacons: Update your contact information. If your personal contact information has changed, please inform the Diaconate Office. This helps facilitate communication between you and the Diaconate Community and the Archdiocese. Phone 505-831-8246 or email the Diaconate Secretary at ysutton@archdiosf.org

NOTE

Keep in mind if there is any information you would like to include in the El Diácono Newsletter that would be of interest to the Deacon Community, i.e., special events, accomplishments, ministry work, etc., please inform the Diaconate Office and we will be happy to announce it. With the publication of this newsletter, we will be especially looking for events in the July through September 2022 time period.

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Have a warm and Blessed Spring — and know that God is always with you!

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