



NOLI ME TANGERE, TITIAN (1511-12)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2016

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

#### By any other name

Mary Magdalene is often confused with other women named Mary in the gospels (there were many!). But there are things we know for sure about this specific Mary: She was a prominent follower of Jesus, she was present at his Crucifixion and burial, she was the first to discover his tomb empty, and she was the first to see him after his Resurrection. Whatever else about her life, the most important thing she did was bear witness to Christ and inform others that he has risen. It's the most important thing you can do, too.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 or Luke 24:1-12 (42, 41) or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35 (46). " . . . they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead."*

## MONDAY, MARCH 28

### EASTER MONDAY; MONDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

#### The future starts now

Ever feel fear and joy in the same breath? New parents say when they first hold their newborn in their arms something like that happens. Starting a new job or signing papers for a new home might bring a similar combination of a lump in the throat and a fast-beating heart. With the drama and passion of Holy Week behind us, we live in the dawn of Easter Resurrection. Pope Francis urges us to see the signs of the Risen Lord all around us in this season and open our hearts "to a present that is full of the future." We do so with wonder and awe, a mix of joy and fear. Jesus gave his all—now it's our turn!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed."*

## TUESDAY, MARCH 29 TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

### Meet the Resurrection in person

Father James Martin in his book *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* observes that the "Resurrection appearances show that the Risen Christ understood what each of the disciples needed in order to believe." For Mary Magdalene, she "needed to hear her name." From that point forward she believed and went to tell the other disciples about the Resurrection, earning her the title "Apostle to the Apostles." Each of us needs something different to bolster our belief; luckily, our Savior meets us where we're at and, in the process, invites us deeper into the mystery and the miracle that are faith and Resurrection.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262). "Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ."*

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30 EASTER WEDNESDAY

### Lightbulb moment

The Feast of the Epiphany was celebrated back in January, commemorating the Magi's visit to the infant Jesus. It's called Epiphany because the word's original meaning is "appearance." (And this one came complete with a big, bright star!) An epiphany has come to mean a revealing moment or a sudden realization. Despite all the foreshadowing, going back to Jesus' birth and long before, it isn't until after the Resurrection that Christ's followers had epiphanies about what took place and what it all meant. Open your eyes, too, to the light of truth they experienced.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"*

## THURSDAY, MARCH 31 EASTER THURSDAY

### Peace to you

On many a day, fear keeps us bound in self-absorption and is a huge waste of time. It can keep you from knowing God better and stunt your growth in faith. If you keep the door closed, what do you miss? If you let go of fear, what might happen? If you listen and talk to God every day, what might God say? If you surrender control, where will God take you? Theologian Gustavo Gutierrez reminds us that the "initiative in encounter belongs to the Lord. But if we open the door of our being to him, we shall share his life." What is it that you fear and worry about today? Can you open the door and give it to God?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264). "Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind?"*

## FRIDAY, APRIL 1 EASTER FRIDAY

### Build on solid ground

An often-heard refrain at Easter—"The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone"—is a good summary of Jesus' life and mission. In any stone construction, the cornerstone or foundation stone is critical because if it is not "true"—perfectly even and level—the whole structure might collapse. The religious leaders of his day regularly rejected Jesus because, in their eyes, Jesus was unsuitable, not what a Messiah "should be." It's the ultimate irony. Is *your* foundation stone "true"? Does it bear the weight of your life?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). "By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes."*

## SATURDAY, APRIL 2 EASTER SATURDAY

### Praise the Lord, my soul

As of the beginning of Lent, the word "Alleluia" was silenced—neither sung nor spoken. At Easter, however, the word is resurrected and echoes all through the season. But what does it mean? It's Hebrew, a one-word contraction of "Praise ye the Lord." Saint Augustine wrote, "We are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song." For some, it's like a blare of trumpets in a single word of exuberant joy and faith, while for others it is a quiet mantra repeating itself in silent prayer. Alleluia is everything.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.'"*



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

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