

Easter to Pentecost



Where does “Easter” come from?

Pascha is the Greek term for Easter. It comes from the Hebrew word for Passover, *pesach*.

Where does “Pentecost” come from?

The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning fiftieth.

When is Easter?

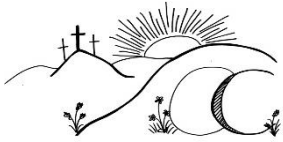
Easter follows immediately after Lent and the Triduum. It begins with the Easter Vigil and goes for fifty days, until Pentecost.



How long is the Easter Season?

Fifty days: from Easter to Pentecost.

What is the purpose of Easter?



We celebrate Christ's Resurrection! “The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or

better as one ‘great Sunday.’ These above all others are the days for the singing of the Alleluia.” (GNLY, 22)

Are any Precepts tied to Easter?

Yes! You are required to receive the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season (CCC 2042). You should be without mortal sin when receiving the Eucharist. You should receive the Sacrament of Penance prior to receiving the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord, Jesus Christ. “You shall confess your sins at least once a year.” (CCC 2042)

What are some Easter symbols?

Easter is a season of joy. Some symbols are the empty tomb, the Paschal Candle, the lamb, Lilies, etc.

What are some Easter traditions?

Joyful celebrations! Easter is also a time when many children receive their first Eucharist. It is also when we break our Lenten fasts. The most beautiful Easter tradition is the return of the Alleluia to Mass.

What colors are Easter and Pentecost?

The Easter season is white. Red is used for Pentecost.

What is the Easter Vigil?

“The Easter Vigil, during the holy night when the Lord rose from the dead, ranks as the ‘mother of all holy vigils.’ Keeping watch, the Church awaits Christ’s resurrection and celebrates it in the sacraments. Accordingly, the entire celebration of this vigil should take place at night, that is, it should either begin after nightfall or end before the dawn of Sunday.” (GNLY, 21)

During the Easter Vigil, those who were preparing to enter the Church (catechumens) are welcomed. If needed, they receive the Sacrament of Baptism. They also receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

What is an “octave”?

Octave comes from Latin *octava* (eighth).



What is the Octave of Easter?

“The first eight days of the season of Easter make up the octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord.” Since these days are elevated to solemnities, the Friday during the Octave of Easter “lifts” the Friday obligation to do some sort of penance, as determined by the conferences of bishops.

When is the Ascension of the Lord?



“On the fortieth day after Easter the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated, except in places where...it has been transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. The weekdays after the

Ascension of the Lord until the Saturday before Pentecost inclusive are a preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.” (GNLY, 25 and 26)

When is Pentecost?

Fifty days after Easter. It is known as the Church’s birthday, when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and followers of Christ.