

Faith Loops

Faith Loops are PowerPoint presentations with images and information that will help us grow in the understanding of our Catholic faith. They will be projected on the screens during the twenty minutes prior to each weekend mass. To learn more about your faith while waiting for Mass to begin, come a few minutes early.

The slides will loop, or repeat, themselves. Thus, the name: Faith Loops.



Test Your Knowledge: Easter

What special day marks the end of the Easter Season and celebrates the birth of the Church?

a) Feast of the Immaculate Conception

b) Solemnity of Christ the King

c) Solemnity of the Holy Family

d) Solemnity of Pentecost



Test Your Knowledge:

Easter



What special day marks the end of the Easter Season and celebrates the birth of the Church?

d) the Solemnity of Pentecost

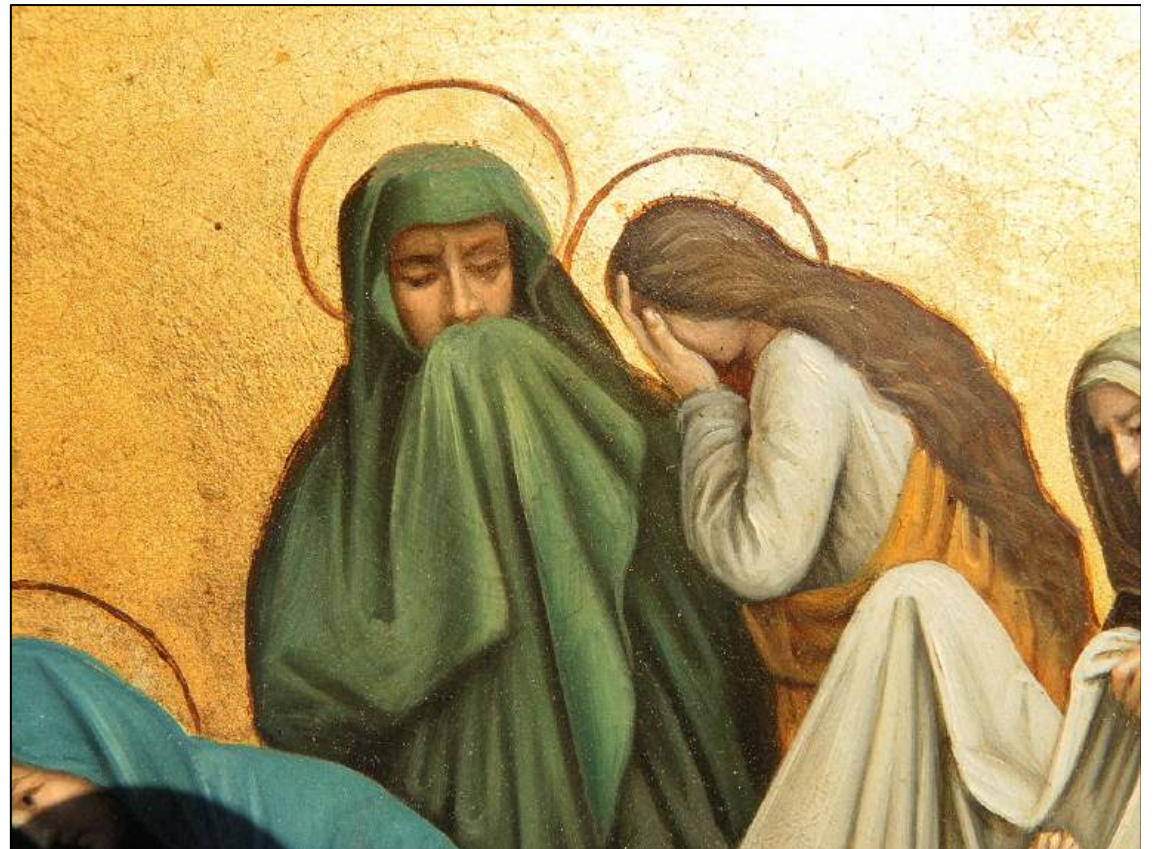
The Solemnity of Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles in the form of a dove and tongues of fire. (See Acts 2).

Pentecost marks the beginning of our Church; from that day forth, the Good News of Jesus was preached and eventually spread around the world. It is recognized as the birthday of the Church.

Test Your Knowledge: **Easter**

According to the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene joined Mary the wife of Clopas and _____ at the foot of the cross on Calvary.

- a) Mary and Martha
- b) Peter's mother
- c) Jesus' mother
- d) Veronica



Test Your Knowledge: **Easter**

According to the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene joined Mary the wife of Clopas and _____ at the foot of the cross on Calvary.

c) Jesus' mother

“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala” (John 19:25).



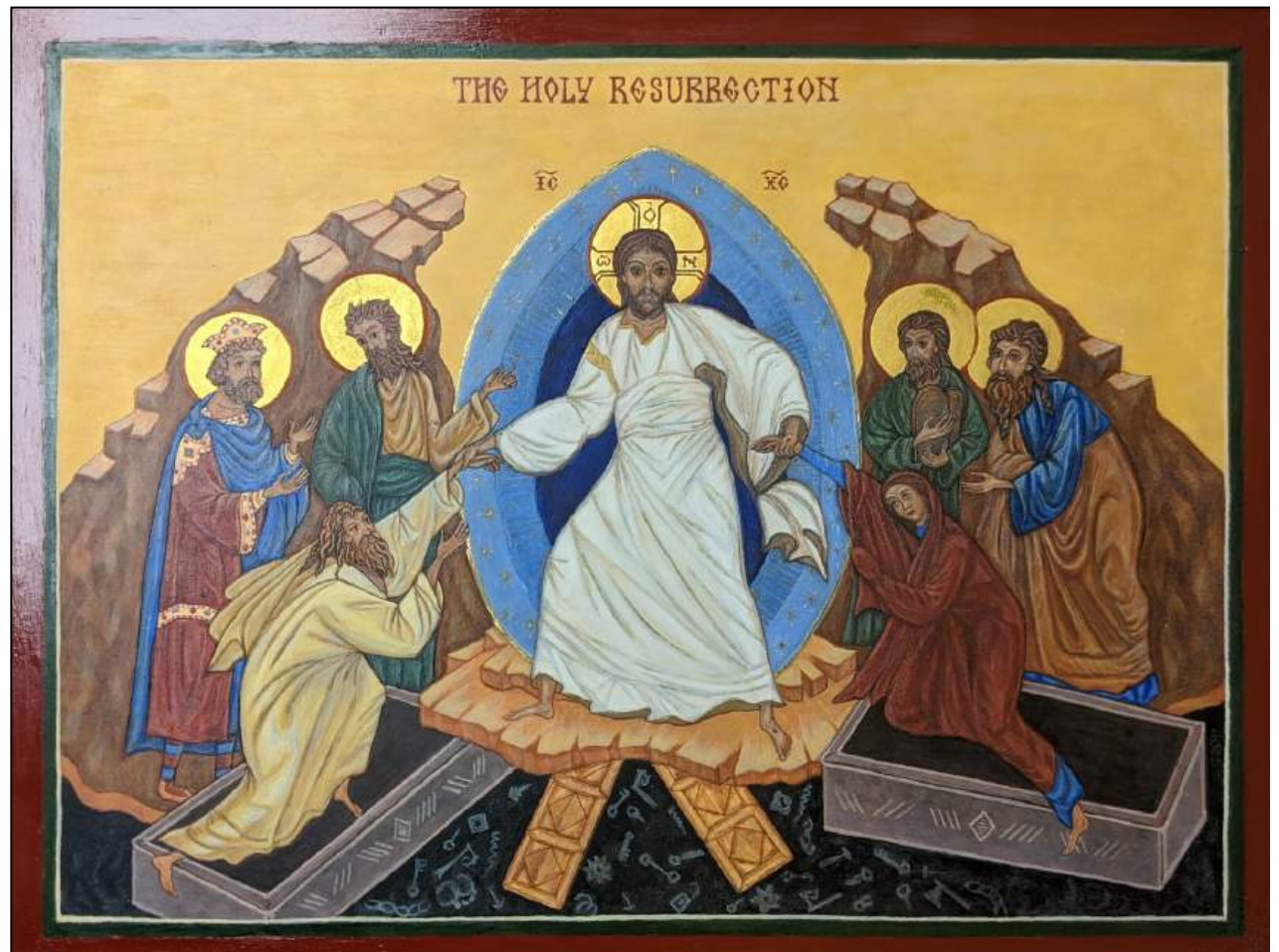
Test Your Knowledge: **Easter**

According to Luke's Gospel, the Apostles believed the stories of the Resurrection right away.

True

False

To the right is an icon of the Resurrection.



Test Your Knowledge: **Easter**

According to Luke's Gospel, the Apostles believed the stories of the Resurrection right away.

False

None of them believed the women (Luke 24:10-11) until they encountered the resurrected Jesus themselves. (Luke 24:31-49).



Test Your Knowledge: **Easter**

According to Luke's Gospel, the Apostles believed the stories of the Resurrection right away.

False

None of them believed the women (Luke 24:10-11) until they encountered the resurrected Jesus themselves (Luke 24:31-49).

In Jesus' time, women weren't seen as reliable witnesses, and their voices often didn't count in public or legal matters. When Jesus chose women to be the first to see Him risen, it was a bold and powerful statement that God values and trusts them deeply.

Why do Catholics adore Mary, who is just a human being?

Catholics do not adore Mary. We **honor** her.

Why? Mary played a tremendous role in God's plan for our salvation. She humbly said 'Yes' to God.



God offered her a gift, and she accepted. She cooperated with God's plan. She cooperated with the grace of God. And so, she became the *Theotokos*, which means 'God-bearer'. Like any woman, she carried Jesus in her womb for nine months.

Why do Catholics adore Mary, who is just a human being? (cont.)



At the wedding feast of Cana (John 2:1–11), she instructed others to “do whatever he tells you.” That is her message for us today as well. Mary faithfully followed

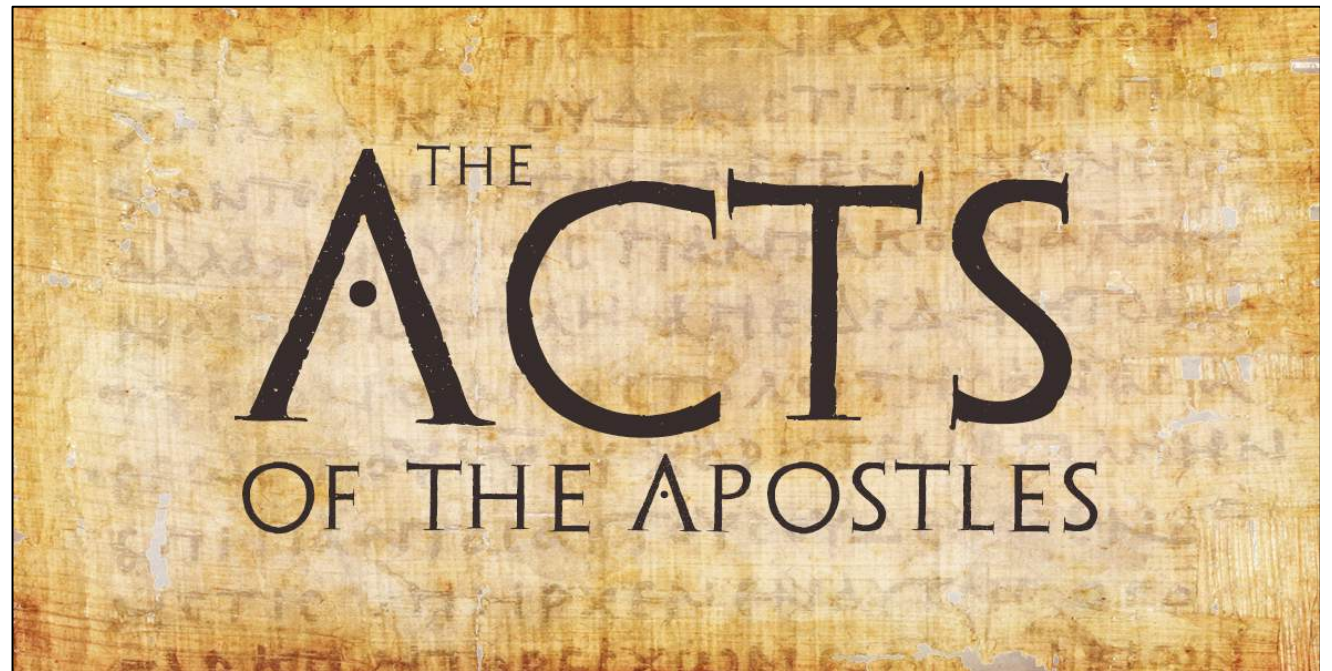
Jesus during his public ministry, humbly walked with Him on the way of the Cross, and lovingly waited at the foot of the Cross as He suffered for us.

In our devotion to Mary, we are called to imitate her humility and her faithfulness to her Son.

Test Your Understanding – The Month of Mary

The New Testament book known as the Acts of the Apostles is believed to have been written by:

- a. St. Paul
- b. St. Luke
- c. St. Mark
- d. St. Matthew



Test Your Understanding –

The Month of Mary

The New Testament book known as the Acts of the Apostles is believed to have been written by:

b. St. Luke

It is believed that Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a sequel to his gospel. The Acts of the Apostles is a record of the 'acts' performed by the apostles after Jesus died, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. It tells the story of the first Christians, and how they lived and spread the Good News.

Test Your Knowledge:

May – the Month of Mary

The feast that commemorates Mary's body and soul entering the glory of heaven is the ...

- a. Assumption
- b. Presentation
- c. Immaculate Conception
- d. Annunciation



Test Your Knowledge:

May – the Month of Mary

The feast that commemorates Mary's body and soul entering the glory of heaven is the ...

a. Assumption

There is no mention of the Assumption of Mary in Scripture, although there are other instances of biblical characters being taken directly into heaven. For example, the prophet Elijah was whisked into heaven by a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11).

The Assumption of Mary is a Church dogma, meaning that it is a matter of faith revealed by God and, therefore, is understood to be infallible, that is, without error. This teaching was defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950.

Why do Catholics believe that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven?

As Catholics, we believe that Mary, who was perfectly united with the life and saving work of Jesus, would also share his heavenly destiny in body and soul.



The belief was expressed in the writings of the early Church Fathers in the first 4 centuries.

There are no relics of Mary.

You Asked:

What are some of the Marian apparitions?

Some of the most renowned apparitions of Mary took place at:

- Guadalupe, Mexico (1531)
- Lourdes, France (1858)
- Fatima, Portugal (1917)
- Medjugorje, Yugoslavia (1981)



Image of Our Lady of Fatima

Is a Catholic required to believe in the Church-approved apparitions of Mary?

Catholics are not required to believe in apparitions. Apparitions are private revelations, experienced by individuals, rather than public revelation. Many of the apparitions have been approved by the Church; we even have feast days dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, of Fatima, and Guadalupe. However, they are not Church doctrine. A Catholic is free to accept or reject these officially approved apparitions.



Test Your Knowledge:

May – the Month of Mary

Which is not a Luminous Mystery of the Rosary?

- a. Wedding Feast of Cana
- b. Institution of the Eucharist
- c. Agony in the Garden
- d. Baptism of the Lord



Test Your Knowledge:

May – the Month of Mary

Which is not a Luminous Mystery of the Rosary?

c. Agony in the Garden

The Agony in the Garden is the first Sorrowful Mystery. St. John Paul II introduced the Luminous Mysteries, or Mysteries of Light, in 2002. They refer to Jesus' public life and are prayed on Thursdays.

- ❖ The Baptism of the Lord
- ❖ The Wedding Feast at Cana
- ❖ The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
- ❖ The Transfiguration
- ❖ The Institution of the Eucharist

What is a Papal Conclave?

A papal conclave is a meeting of all the cardinals to elect a new Bishop of Rome, also known as the Pope or the **pontiff**. The pope is the leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday, April 21.

In order to elect a new pope, a specific process is followed.





What is a Papal Conclave?

As of April 2025, there are 252 cardinals from over 70 countries who, over the years, have been chosen, to help elect a new pope. Five of the cardinals are Canadian. Pictured here is Cardinal Thomas

Collins. The cardinals are called to Rome to participate in the conclave. It will begin on May 7.

Not every cardinal can vote in the conclave: Those who choose the next pope must be under 80 years old. Of the 252 cardinals, 135 are electors. One of these cardinals will be elected to be the next pope.

More About the Papal Conclave

The conclave must begin 15–20 days after a pope dies or resigns. It always takes place in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican. The ceiling in the chapel was painted by the famous painter, Michelangelo, 500 years ago.



The conclave is led by the Dean of the College of Cardinals.

The Papal Conclave ... In Secret

The cardinals meet in secret, for as long as it takes to elect a new pope. The process can take weeks, even months. They are not allowed to communicate with anyone outside the conclave. The cardinals eat and sleep in closed-off quarters until a new pope is elected.



All the cardinals make a promise to follow the necessary procedures and to maintain secrecy. Once settled in the Sistine Chapel, the doors are closed and locked. The word *conclave* means **'with a key'**.

The Papal Conclave ... In Secret

To further protect the secrecy of the conclave, the floor tiles in the chapel block cellphone signals, the windows are covered with a special film to ruin the photos of overhead drones, and internet jamming devices prevent any information from being transmitted.

Cardinals are not allowed to leave the Vatican during a conclave.



Photo: Locked doors of Sistine Chapel

The Easter Lily

The white trumpet lily was introduced into our Easter traditions about 100 years ago, originating from Bermuda. Easter lilies bloom naturally around this time of year and have become associated with



Easter. Lilies have long symbolized purity because of their whiteness, beauty, and delicate form.

They are a symbol of the resurrection.

The Easter Lily

Jesus refers to these flowers in his Sermon on the Mount: “And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these” (Matthew 6: 28-29).



Often called the "White-Robed Apostles of Hope," lilies are said to have started growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. According to legend, lilies grew wherever a drop of Jesus' sweat fell to the ground while he was praying there.

The Easter Lily



The lily has also been associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings of the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel is pictured offering pure white lilies to the Virgin Mary.

In other paintings, saints are pictured bringing white lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus.

The Easter Lily

St. Joseph is often portrayed holding lilies to symbolize his purity and his role as the earthly spouse of the Virgin Mary.

May 1 is the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker.



Prayer Before Mass

Dear God, help me to be open to all that you want to give me at Mass today.

My heart is open. I come in hope.

I come empty and unsure and troubled.

I come in need to be loved by you,
united with this faith community,
strengthened by your word,
and nourished by the Bread of Life.

Cleanse me. Refresh me.

Strengthen me for the journey ahead.

Lead me to heaven.

Thank you, God, for this time together.

Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.



Questions???

Do you have a question about the Catholic faith or about the celebration of the Mass? If so, write it on a piece of paper and drop it into the marked shoebox on the table at the back of the church. We will try to answer it in a Faith Loop at a later date.

Thank you.

