

## **Easter Season cycle A**

**Theme is “I send you out!”**  
**Theme Song is #758 in Gather, ‘I send you out!’**

### **April 4/ 5 Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday**

(no power verse)

Our eyes have been opened to see the Risen Lord, to hear his Good News, to love with overflowing hearts like Jesus himself, and to allow that Christ-presence to dwell within us. We're ready then to be sent out to extend God's reign by our witness to the new life we have received in Baptism and through faith in Christ. We especially celebrate those who have been initiated into the church on the Easter Vigil and are ready to join with us in proclaiming our faith in the risen Lord and his promise of eternal salvation to all to whom the Lord sends us! We are missionaries of this new life!

**LAE:** flowers and banner that says, “I send you out.”

### **April 11/ 12 Second Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy)**

***“By his great mercy, he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*** 1Peter 1: 3b

As disciples sent out, we are impelled by the mercy of God toward us to share that message of mercy with others! We're empowered to go out because of the Eucharist we receive each week. We're missionaries of mercy, charged by our baptismal consecration to accompany people wherever they may be on their pilgrim journey of faith. We strive to bring them a living hope of the promise of resurrection. Like Thomas' request, we must evidence the living Christ in our daily living for those who need greater proof of the abiding presence of God among us.

**LAE:** flowers and banner that says, “I send you out.”

### **April 18/19 Third Sunday of Easter**

***“While they (men of the Emmaus) were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them.”*** (Luke 24: 15)

Jesus gives us a great example here of accompaniment, of journeying with people in different stages of faith development. He takes the time necessary to explain to them what they haven't yet fully grasped and he is willing to stay overnight to get to know them more fully and to enter into relationship with them. He is recognized in the breaking of the bread, which is a sign to us of God's presence among us even today. Jesus sends us out as well, to accompany those in our world who are confused or disheartened by events in our world and/or church and to bring to them the very presence of God.

**LAE:** flowers and banner that says, “I send you out.”

### **April 25/26 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

***“By his wounds, you have been healed.”*** 1 Peter 2: 14b

Yes, Jesus wounds on the cross and the blood which poured forth from those wounds brings healing to a sinful world. We are sent out as missionaries with this healing ministry. We are sent out to reconcile a broken world to one another and to Christ. We are sent out to provide the appropriate remedy for whatever may be festering in another person's life.

**LAE:** flowers and banner that says, “I send you out.”

### **May 2/3 Fifth Sunday of Easter**

***“In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food.”*** (Acts 6: 1)

Just as in Jesus' day, we too are called to discern the time in which we live and the needs of our world at this time and to see if we can provide any assistance to meet those needs. As missionary disciples sent out into the world, we have to be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit may be asking of us and to respond to those invitations with generous hearts. This is a good opportunity to remind parishioners of the parish vision statement or mission statement if the parish has one and to see how we can actualize it more fully.

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## May 16/17 The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

***“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses....to the ends of the earth.”*** (Acts 1: 8)

Yes, we aren't sent out alone! We're sent out by Christ with the Holy Spirit and the power that the Spirit gives to our words and actions, in order that we might evangelize others and allow the presence of God to be evident in our witness to Gospel values. When you're afraid, ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon you and see what happens!

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## May 23/24 Solemnity of Pentecost

***“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.”*** 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

There was a cartoon I remember growing up: the Wonder Twins. They would say, “Wonder Twin powers, activate!” and both could transform into some other form of matter as a way of combatting evil and working for good! That's what the Holy Spirit wants to do for each of us! The Spirit wants to activate in us, the gifts, the services and the activities that will build up the Kingdom of God! We are sent out with these gifts in order to make God present through us.

**LAE:** flowers and banner that says, “I send you out.”

## -----Ordinary Time Begins-----

**For Ordinary Time, the New Theme Song is # 802 in Gather: ‘I will choose Christ.’  
Theme for Ordinary Time is: Choosing to Serve the Lord**

## May 30/31 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

***“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.”*** 2 Corinthians 13: 13

One of the greetings that the early Church used was this trinitarian greeting, which asks for grace from Christ, love from God, and communion from the Holy Spirit as a way of uniting our psycho-physical selves with our Triune God. The more we seek to be persons of grace, persons of love, and persons of communion with one another, the more we dance in the life of the Holy Trinity and give God glory. Service is first and foremost, putting on the mindset of God and seeing with the lens of faith, what God may be asking of us.

**LAE:** a creative depiction of the Holy Trinity

## **June 6/7 The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

***“Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”*** 1 Corinthians 10: 17

The Eucharist impels us toward unity of mind, heart and soul with God and toward unity of mind, heart and soul with one another. It challenges us to overcome whatever divides us and to give us the graces we need to accomplish that which we can't do on our own. Today is a great day to highlight the church's efforts toward Ecumenism and the great gift of the Eucharist for helping us to arrive at that oneness which the Lord asks of his holy Church.

## **June 13/14 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***“As you go, proclaim the good news: “The Kingdom of Heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.”*** Matthew 9: 7-8

As servants of Christ, what is God asking of you to witness to the Kingdom of God and to spread Kingdom values? In what ways can you live out your baptismal consecration by leading others to Christ either by word or deed or both? What deeds of power will the Lord work through you?

**From June 20/21<sup>st</sup> through September 6<sup>th</sup>, there are no homily themes or theme song. We switch to summer schedule at Holy Redeemer this weekend and that a reduced mass schedule, a smaller homily, and a variety of songs that can be sung ‘a capella’ if a musician or song leader is away on vacation.**

**We will pick up again, starting September 12/13 with the same theme song, # 802 in Gather: ‘I will choose Christ.’  
Theme for Ordinary Time is: Choosing to Serve the Lord**