

Catechesis Corner

"Catechesis is the echo of the Word of God." Pope Francis January 30, 2021



Easter: A Walk Through Acts

By the beginning this month, stores have long cleared out everything related to "Easter." As Catholics, we are just getting started. Our Easter Alleluias will be sung through June 8, Pentecost Sunday. Another significant difference found during the liturgical Easter Season is that for these 50 days, the First Reading is taken from Acts of the Apostles, rather than the Old Testament.

Acts 1:8 gives us a "table of contents" to this New Testament book which is sometimes called the fifth gospel. In this verse we read Jesus' words to his apostles that they will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Peter Kreeft says that "the Acts of the Apostles is like a mystery and adventure novel... But the main character in Acts is Jesus Christ. Acts is a continuation of Luke's Gospel. Just as the Gospel is the story of Christ, Acts is the story of the Body of Christ, the

This Easter Season, walk through Acts with the help of FORMED.com or USCCB, or apps like Amen or Hallow.

May's Devotion

Blessed

Virgin Mary

The Sanctuary Lamp

"Two things were required to distinguish and mark out the tabernacle: a veil and a lamp to be kept burning nearby. Although the veil is now no longer obligatory, the sanctuary lamp is still required. It is explained in the Catholic Encyclopedia as 'a mark of honor [and] to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and [as] a profession of their love and affection.' ... If the tabernacle refers back to the dwelling of God among his pilgrim people, then the lamp surely evokes the 'pillar of fire' that guided the people of Israel in the desert and was a sign of God's presence with his people, dwelling in their midst (see Ex 13:21). The lamp, therefore, doesn't just honor God but rather is a reminder to us that God, out of his extraordinary love for mankind, has honored us! For he has pitched his tent and dwells among us, present in the person of Jesus Christ, who is truly and substantially God-with-us in the Eucharist." Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP The only time the sanctuary lamp is extinguished is at the end of Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper, when all consecrated Hosts are removed from the tabernacle to a place of repose. The sanctuary lamp is relit when His Presence is once more in the tabernacle, before the Easter Vigil.

Ite missa est - Go! You have been sent.

DBetschart May 2025

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