

The Junior Observer

Vol. 36, No. 8 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

A Good News Story

The Apostles Teach, Despite Jail

Q&A

Who put the apostles in jail?

Whose name did the apostles teach in?

Read more about it in Acts 5

Catholic News Service

One day, after Jesus returned to His Father in heaven, the apostles were all together in Solomon's Portico at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Although the people were afraid to join them, they looked up to the apostles.

The people brought their sick onto the streets on mats and cots. They hoped that Peter's shadow would fall on the sick people as he walked by and they would be healed.

People from nearby towns also came to Jerusalem with their sick and those afflicted by unclean spirits, and all were cured.

The high priest and his companions, who were all Sadducees, became jealous. They rose up and put the apostles in jail.

During the night, the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and led them out.

"Go and take your place in the Temple area, and tell the people everything about this life," the angel said.

The apostles went to the Temple area early in the morning and taught the people.



Bible Trivia

What happened to the apostles after they appeared before the Sanhedrin? (Hint: Acts 5:40)

Answer: They were flogged and released.

Not realizing that the apostles were in the Temple area, the high priest and his companions arrived and convened the Sanhedrin, the full senate of the Israelites. They sent court officers to retrieve the apostles from the jail.

The court officers returned empty-handed from the securely locked and guarded jail. As everyone wondered what to do, a report came that the apostles were in the Temple area.

The captain of the Temple guard and the court officers brought in the apostles without force. They were afraid of being stoned by the people.

The high priest questioned the apostles before the Sanhedrin. He reminded them that they had been given strict orders to stop teaching in Jesus' name.

"We must obey God rather than men," Peter and the apostles replied. "The God of our ancestors raised Jesus. ... God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey him."

Plenty to Celebrate During Easter

Last Sunday was Easter Sunday, when we celebrated Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

By dying for our sins and then rising from the dead, Jesus gave us a promise that our sins will be forgiven and that we can live forever with Him in heaven.

Forgiveness, eternal life and the joy of heaven are plenty to celebrate! In fact, the Church year sets aside 50 days to celebrate Easter, much longer than we spent doing penance during the 40 days of Lent.

The length of the Easter season reminds us that the Church is not in mourning, but is full of hope in Jesus, the Light of the World.

There are also several other days we celebrate during the 50 days of the Easter season.



(CNS photo/Wikimedia Commons)

The Octave of Easter: April 17-April 24

The octave of Easter includes the eight days between Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday. It continues the joy of Easter Sunday — it shouldn't all be kept to one day!

Maybe on Easter Sunday, you enjoyed your Easter candy so much that you ate all of it too quickly, and then it was less fun.

The Church invites us to take our time and find new ways each day to take in the wonder of Easter even more.

Divine Mercy Sunday: April 24

This Sunday, April 24, is Divine Mercy Sunday. This celebration started when Jesus appeared to a Polish nun, St. Faustina, and asked her to tell the world about His mercy and forgiveness.

Those who say special prayers, go to confession, and receive communion on this day all receive total forgiveness of their sins.



(CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

The Ascension: May 29

On the Ascension, Jesus rose into heaven to be with His father. Because He went before us into His father's kingdom, we can live in the hope of being with Him forever.

Before He ascended, Jesus told His apostles to baptize in His name.

If you're traveling, other churches might celebrate this day on a Thursday (not a Sunday), but it's still the same celebration.

Pentecost: June 5

On the Ascension, Jesus told His apostles to baptize people in His name, but doing this was risky. The apostles were afraid and hid.

On Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in the form of small flames, and they had the courage to come out and proclaim His Word.

People who spoke many languages understood the apostles. The Church began to spread around the world.



(CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)