

## THE EASTER SEASON

The Triduum is concluded liturgically with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. The Triduum leads us to the Easter Season, the fifty days from Easter Sunday until after Evening Prayer on Pentecost Sunday.

**Octave of Easter** All of the days in the octave of Easter (the eight days from Easter Sunday through the Second Sunday of Easter) have the rank of Solemnity. Funeral Masses are permitted on the weekdays, but no other ritual Masses may be celebrated during this time. The optional sequence may be used before the Gospel.

**Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water** It is fitting that a Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water replace the Penitential Rite at Sunday Masses during the Easter Season, including Pentecost.

**Paschal Candle** The Paschal Candle, a symbol of the presence of the risen Christ among the people of God, remains in the sanctuary or near the altar or ambo throughout the Easter Season. It is lit in all of the more solemn liturgical celebrations in the Season of Easter.

## PENTECOST

The fifty days of Eastertide conclude with Pentecost Sunday, when the Church recalls the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles, the beginnings of the Church, and the start of her mission to all nations and tongues. The Vigil Mass of Pentecost is a celebration of more intense prayer, after the example of the apostles and disciples, who gathered with Mary the Mother of Jesus as they awaited the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. After Evening Prayer II on the solemnity of Pentecost, the Easter candle is placed near the baptismal font, where it should be displayed with honour, so that the candles of the baptised may be lit from its flame during the celebration of baptism. At funerals the Paschal candle is placed near the coffin, signifying that Christian death is the true Passover.

## THE PENTECOST VIGIL

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Roman Missal makes provision for an extended form of the Vigil Mass. The Vigil is expanded to be a complement to the Easter Vigil which opened this season. This has been a feature of the Roman Liturgy for some time as, with Mary and the apostles, we gather in prayer and vigil, praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.