

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, April 28, 2019 Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

4:00 PM 8:00 AM

Gathering: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today BB 160

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Let the heavens and earth rejoice! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sprinkling Rite: God, you have moved upon the waters, you have sung in the rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and daughters, make us people of the water and your name.

Preparation	The Day Of Resurrection BB 178
Mass Parts	Storrington Mass
Communion	Take And Eat BB 360
Recessional:	Jesus Is Risen BB 179

10:00 AM

Gathering:	Blest Be The Lord BB 480
Dismissal:	You Have Called Us BB 646

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Alleluia! Let the heavens and earth rejoice! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sprinkling Rite: If we have died to ourselves in Jesus, then we shall arise to new life in Him, Alleluia, alleluia!

PreparationPescador de Hombres BB 503
We Have Been Told BB 497Mass PartsMass of God's PromiseOutputDe tot

Communion Eye Has Not Seen BB 461 I Am The Bread Of Life BB 363

Recessional: Alleluia, Alleluia, Let The Holy Anthem Rise BB 168

Suggested Weekly Contribution **Based on Income** 5% Commitment annually/ weekly 3% Commitment annually/ weekly Annual Income \$5,000/\$100 \$100,000 \$3,000/\$60 \$75,000 \$3,750/**\$75** \$3,000/**\$60** \$2,250/\$45 \$1,800/\$36 \$50,000 \$2,500/\$50 \$1,500/\$30 \$40,000 \$2,000/\$40 \$1,500/\$30 \$1,200/\$24 \$30,000 \$900/\$18 \$1,250/\$25 \$25,000 \$750/\$15 \$15,000 \$750/\$15 \$450/\$9

✤ PARISH TITHING ✤

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity to our parish! Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR APRIL 14 & 21, 2019 WILL APPEAR IN THE MAY 5, 2019 BULLETIN

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged Parish Giving to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you select contribution amounts and special to collections right from your own computer or smart phone. You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend. Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at http://stlukenh.org, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 28, 2019 May 5, 2019 May 12, 2019 May 19, 2019 Fuel Property Management Catholic Charities Fuel

Out of respect, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!



Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase					
Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase		
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00		
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00		
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00		
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00		
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00		
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00		
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00		
\$15.00	\$18.70	\$19.50	\$21.00		
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00		
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00		

PAINT THE TOWN!

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our next projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton. We'd also like to paint the interior sanctuary of the church in Newton and complete some electrical upgrades to the church.

Other possible projects include work on our Plaistow and Newton parking lots, and ramp access to the church in Plaistow.

Can you help?

Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to

Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.

<u>TAI CHI</u>

Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and to relieve stress. Classes are taught by members of the Oriental Healing Arts Association – a Senior Friendly and Senior Safe Tai Chi Program with the purpose of bringing Tai Chi to all age groups. Classes are on **Mondays at 9:00 AM** and **Thursdays at 3:00 PM and 6:30 PM** in the Plaistow Church Hall. The cost is \$5.00 per class, and for seniors on a fixed income, the cost is \$3.00 per class.

ROSARY / FAMILY PRAYER HOUR LED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The St Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus leads a rosary on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. The Knights also lead a Family Prayer Hour which includes a Rosary on the 3rd Thursday of each month, also starting at 7:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. There are some quiet activities for the younger children during the Family Prayer Hour. The Knights invite all members of the parish to join them to pray the rosary and to participate in the Family Prayer Hour.



ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE! http://stlukenh.org

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to *St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry*. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



Donations Needed

FOOD PANTRY HOURS Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at 603-819-4949.

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Spring even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Spring months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

Plaistow Plaistow

Sunday, April 28

NO SAG	CRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION I	NEWTON
10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	Plaistow
12:00 PM	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting	Plaistow
6:00 PM	Vespers	Newton

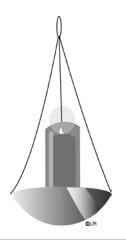
Wednesday, May 1 HOLY ANGELS CHURCH OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, May 2

8:30 AM	Adoration Begins	Newton
9:00 AM	Intercessory Prayer	Plaistow
10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting	Plaistow
8:30 PM	Adoration Ends	Newton

Saturday, May 4 NO SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN PLAISTOW

	<u>Sunday, May 5</u>	
10:00 AM	Religious Ed – PreK to 8	Plaistow
11:00 AM	Baptism Catechesis	Plaistow



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of

W. Ralph Sampson

by his wife and family

The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week For The Intentions Of Chad Brotz by his family



The generosity of your contributions have allowed us to help out those in need with rent, medical, and heating oil assistance. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is so grateful and blessed.

Our next meeting on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 PM. We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. New members are always welcome!

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

> Hear, OH LORD, and answer me for I am poor and needy.

Saturday, April 27 ~ Vigil / Sunday of Divine Mercy Acts 5:12-16; Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31 4:00 PM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse Plaistow Sunday, April 28~ Easter Sunday Acts 5:12-16; Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31 Mickey and Lou Inzero by the Stanley family 8:00 AM Newton 10:00 AM W. Ralph Sampson by his wife and family Plaistow Monday, April 29 ~ Catherine of Siena, Virgin and **Doctor of the Church** Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8 8:00 AM William King by Janet and Palmer Lewis Newton Tuesday, April 30 ~ Pius V, Pope Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15 George Murray (Month's Mind) 8:00 AM Plaistow Wednesday, May 1 ~ Joseph the Worker Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21 6:30 PM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse Plaistow Thursday, May 2 ~ Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36 8:00 AM Barbara Tremblay by Gayle and Ed Wencis Newton Friday, May 3 ~ Philip and James, Apostles 1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14 No Mass Saturday, May 4 ~ Easter Weekday Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21 (Day) Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 (Vigil) Nancy Raymond by Pat Zakiewicz 4:00 PM Plaistow Sunday, May 5 ~ Sunday of Divine Mercy Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 8:00 AM Marietta Pelletier by the Bettencourt family Newton 10:00 AM D. Jesselyn Driscoll by her family Plaistow

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

APRIL 28, 2019

▼ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION **▼**

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION

All Saints Church 120 Bellevue Avenue, Haverhill, MA Sunday, April 28 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM Adoration, Reflection, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary

<u>RCIA</u>

The **<u>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</u>** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at <u>csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</u>.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on Sunday, May 5, 2019 in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according to Church Canon Law) and practicing (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching.



PASCHAL VESPERS and BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Paschal Vespers are sung at Newton at 6:00 PM on the first two Sundays of Easter, **April 21 & April 28**. Join us for a quiet time of prayer and reflection.

MARIAN MASS

Women of every age are invited to a Marian Mass and Breakfast with Bishop Libasci on **Saturday, May 18** at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester, NH. 7:30 AM Rosary, 8:00 AM Mass, followed by a catered breakfast and guest speaker. Registration fees: \$15 for adults, \$7.50 if under age 12. **Registration required by Friday, May 10**. To register, go to www.marian2019.eventbrite.com.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, *but* we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

Newton – Thursday 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at <u>csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</u>.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

✤ PARISH DIRECTORY ✤

Parish Office Parish Prayer Line St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Luke's Food Pantry Preschool Presentation of Mary Convent 382-8324 382-8324 x 314 382-8324 x 315 819-4949 382-9783 382-2744 Fr. Albert Tremblay Cathy Smith Joyce Szapa Jackie Tremblay Thomas Kondel Val Barczak Youth Ministry Parish Council fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net csmith@stluketheevangelist.net jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net mvmbarczak@comcast.net youth@stluketheevangelist.net parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net



BLESSING OF MOTHERS

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 12, 2019**.

ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL SCHOOL

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School is accepting registrations for the 2019-2020 school year for students in Pre-School through Grade 8. Tours of the school are available by appointment. You are invited to come see the many benefits of a Catholic school education! Ask about our CSF Scholarship for transfer students and other financial aid options. Questions? Contact info@sjrcs.com or 603-893-6811 ext 19.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC PREVIEW NIGHT

Central Catholic High School will hold a Preview Night for 6th and 7th graders on **Tuesday, May 7**. Sessions start at 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30 PM followed by campus tours. To register, go to <u>www.CentralCatholic.net/PreviewNight</u>.

THINKING ABOUT REMARRIAGE? Saturday, May 18, 2019 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM St. Pius X Parish Center, Manchester, NH

Thinking About Remarriage is a daylong program for couples (where one or both were previous married) who are thinking about marriage or who are engaged to be married. Sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester, this program helps couples take an in-depth look at and discuss major issues related to remarriage.

YOUNG NEIGHBORS IN ACTION July 21-26, 2019 ~ Worcester, MA

Young Neighbors In Action is a Catholic week-long mission for high school teens To learn more, or to register, contact Brian Harrison at <u>bharrison@rcbm.org</u>

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazonsmile.com. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to <u>www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/</u> or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PLAISTOW COUNCIL 24th ANNUAL ST JUDE OPEN June 1, 2019



The Knights of Columbus are running their 24th Annual St. Jude Open on June 1st at 7:30 AM at Apple Hill Golf Course in East Kingston. This event raises net proceeds in the range of **<u>\$15,000</u>** every year. This year we are helping a family from Atkinson, a mother with three children under the age of 7, whose husband died unexpectedly.

WE NEED YOU!

For \$100/player you get:

- 18 holes golf with cart
- Steak tip lunch
- Gifts/raffles/contests
- Sponsor a hole or have your employer sponsor a hole for \$100
- Come volunteer the day of the tournament

Please be a part of a wonderful local community event with the goal of helping others in need. Please contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or <u>dans49@comcast.net</u> to register and/or to get a brochure to become a sponsor.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617 GIVE YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY 1 HOUR A MONTH

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of the St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man 18 or older to join the Knights, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple - talk to a brother Knight or you can now join on-line. Go to www.kofc.org/ioinus. Your Council is involved in many activities from collecting money for people with intellectual disabilities through the Tootsie Roll Drive to the annual St Jude Golf Open which raises money for parish families in need. The list is as long as you want it to be. Do you have a certain passion you would like to get involved in? Come join us and make it a reality! We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed We are sons, fathers, husbands, and by faith. grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at dans49@comcast.net, or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. For more information about the Knights, go to www.kofc.org/un/en/todaysknights/what-we-do.html



CHRIST IS RISEN! Χριστός ανστηί !

A warm welcome to visitors and travelers to our Parish

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

For Catholics: As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of

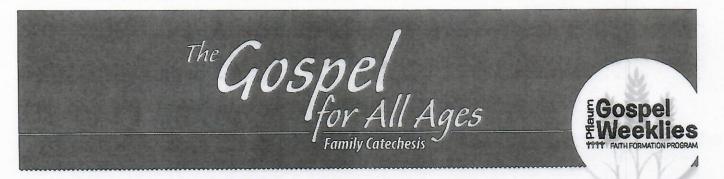
the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (Canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

<u>For our fellow Christians</u>: We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions that separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (JN 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily NOT admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

<u>For those not receiving Holy Communion</u>: All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

<u>For non-Christians</u>: We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.



Easter Sunday • April 21, 2019 • Jesus Is Risen!

2nd Sunday of Easter • April 28, 2019 • Jesus Appears to His Disciples Easter Sunday Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9 2nd Sunday of Easter Readings: Acts 5:12-16; Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: What insight into the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection have you experienced during Holy Week, especially in the liturgies? Gospel Question: In what sense is each of us Mary Magdalene in the Easter Gospel?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

Do you have a default approach to new things: embracing them, refusing them, or contemplating them before you decide? What have you seen, heard, touched, that enables you to put your trust in Jesus? Visit exploring the sunday readings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: What do you believe happens to people when they die?

Gospel Question: How is Mary Magdalene a model of Christian faith?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: What experiences has your family had with the death of loved ones?

Gospel Question: Which of Jesus' friends do you most feel like-Mary Magdalene, the beloved disciple, or Peter?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: What do you see happening in nature this spring?

Gospel Question: How do Jesus' friends feel on the way to the tomb? What do they do?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: What do you see happening outside in nature?

Gospel Question: What do Jesus' friends find at his burial place?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: What are some signs of life in springtime? Gospel Question: Where do Jesus' friends look for him?

About the Gospel

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Easter Sunday brings joy, hope, and encouragement to all Christians throughout the world. The Risen Jesus appears to the Apostles in the locked room to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.

In Church

At the end of Mass, say, "Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!" Celebrate the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

Family Prayer

Question of the Week

Jesus, thank you for coming to be our Savior. We praise your goodness and joyfully sing Alleluia at the news of your Resurrection.

Imagine that you discovered Jesus' empty tomb. How would you feel? What would you do?

Rincoi la Famil

Family

Corner

Acerca del Evangelio

¡Aleluya, Cristo ha resucitado! El Domingo de Pascua trae alegría, esperanza, y aliento a todos los cristianos en todo el mundo. Jesús resucitado se aparece a los Apóstoles en el salón cerrado para darles el don del Espíritu Santo.

Visita www.usccb.org/bible/lecturas para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

En la Iglesia

Al final de la misa, digan: "¡Demos gracias al Señor, aleluya, aleluya!" ¡Celebren al Señor Resucitado, Jesucristo!

Oración en familia

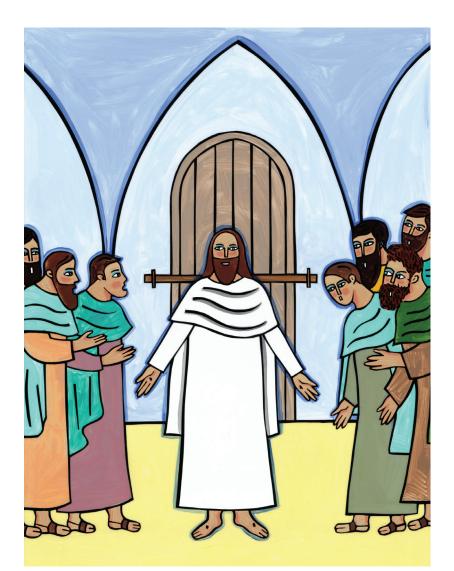
Pregunta

Jesús, gracias por ser nuestro Salvador. Alabamos tu bondad y con gozo cantamos el Aleluva al enterarnos de tu Resurrección.

de la semana

¿Cómo reaccionarías y qué harías si fueras quien descubre el sepulcro vacío de Jesús?

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Peace Be with You

Lord Jesus, you come to us, offering peace, despite the locked doors of our hearts. Help us to join with Thomas in saying, "my Lord and my God." May we live out our faith through words and deeds so that others will know that you live in us. You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 28, 2019 From Doubt to Faith

Today's Readings: Acts 5:12–16; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19; John 20:19–31. Have you ever heard a story that seemed too good to be true? Often people respond to those stories with skepticism and disbelief. Today's Gospel offers two appearances of the Risen Christ. Thomas is not present for the first appearance, and when he returns, he doubts the account told by the other disciples. A week later, Jesus again comes to the disciples, including Thomas. Jesus invites Thomas to touch his hands and side, and Thomas is healed of his disbelief.

But Thomas' doubt leads him to make a declaration of faith, "My Lord and my God!" Just as Jesus met Thomas in

this moment of disbelief, so he encounters us in our times of fear and doubts. In the locked room, Jesus offers his wounded body for Thomas' examination. At the liturgy, Christ's Body and Blood are offered to believers. Through them, we can be healed and transformed. In a culture where wounds are equated with weakness, the sacrifice of Jesus strengthens and nourishes believers.

Thomas can be looked to as a model of faith. May we seek to overcome our doubts to embrace belief. How will you proclaim the healing peace of Jesus Christ to those in your family and community this week?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 29 St. Catherine of Siena

Even as a young woman, St. Catherine of Siena was known for her holiness. She was a mystic, a spiritual writer, and one of the four women declared a doctor of the Church. This woman of prayer was a mediator and peacemaker for the Church. She settled family disputes and arguments among Italian city-states. She was instrumental in bringing the papacy back to Rome from France. Pray to St. Catherine this week for help in restoring peace in our homes and our world. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–6, 7–9; John 3:1–8.*

Tuesday, April 30 One Heart and One Mind

The community of believers were of one heart and one mind. None of them claimed possessions, but instead they held their belongings in common. Today's First Reading from Acts provides a beautiful image of people laying their donations at the feet of the Apostles. This is a total surrender, giving all they have for the Church. Is there anything you can do in your home to live a simpler lifestyle? *Today's Readings: Acts* 4:32–37; *Psalm* 93:1, 1–2, 5; *John* 3:7–15.

Wednesday, May 1 St. Joseph the Worker

The Church honors St. Joseph on March 19 for his role as Mary's spouse and today for his role as a worker. No words are attributed to St. Joseph in Scripture, yet his silent witness serves as a model for all who labor. This week honor St. Joseph by embracing a chore that you do not enjoy. You might also write a thank-you note to someone in your house for doing a chore that makes your life easier. *Today's Readings: Genesis 1:26–2:3 or Colossians 3:14–15, 17, 23–24; Psalm 90:2, 3–4, 12–13, 14, 16; Matthew 13:54–58.*

Thursday, May 2 The Name of Jesus

In the First Reading, we hear that the Apostles paid no heed to the admonition not to teach in Jesus' name. During an interrogation, they proclaimed that they needed to obey God and testify to Jesus' being raised from the dead. It can be challenging for us today to witness to the Risen Lord in our lives. How do you live the Gospel in a world that turns a deaf ear to Christ? *Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2, 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, May 3 Sts. Philip and James, Apostles

Sts. Philip and James share a feast day not only because they are both Apostles of our Lord but because both of their relics were brought to Rome together on the same day in early May. Philip and James were commissioned by Jesus to preach, heal, and baptize. They lived and died proclaiming that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Would anyone know of the Risen Christ from the witness of your life? How is Jesus asking you to follow him this week? *Today's Readings: 1 Corinthians* 15:1–8; *Psalm* 19:2–3, 4–5; *John* 14:6–14.

Saturday, May 4 Walking on Water

The winds are blowing on the Sea of Galilee, but that does not stop the disciples from stepping into a boat and attempting to cross toward Capernaum. It is dark and the winds are increasing. They see Jesus coming toward their boat, walking upon the water. Jesus calms their fears by revealing, "It is I; do not be afraid." There are many circumstances in our lives that cause us to be afraid. Where do you go when you feel worried or anxious? Do you place your trust in the One who can get us safely ashore? *Today's Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*



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Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter, or Sunday of Divine Mercy (C) April 28, 2019

Encountering Our Teacher and Master

By Mary Katharine Deeley

In our time, seven days have passed since we celebrated Christ's rising. But in the Church's reckoning, it is still Easter. We may have gotten on with our earthly lives, but our spiritual calendar and reality remain steeped in awe, wonder, and gratitude that God incarnate walked among us and gave his life for us. The readings of the Easter octave offer a taste of what it is like to live in God's time—in his presence and kingdom—as he calms our fears,

Sunday Readings

Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles.

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet....He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid."

John 20:19-31

Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." strengthens our faith, and fills us with the Spirit.

Much happens after Mary Magdalene visits and leaves the tomb. Other women who come to anoint Jesus meet him, embrace him, and obey his command to spread the good news. Mary herself obeyed and ran to tell the apostles though she mistook the Lord for a gardener until he spoke her name. Two disciples on the road out of town listen to Jesus' teaching and finally know him in the breaking of bread. Jesus eats with others and assures them of the Father's promise. There is another miraculous catch of fish and a breakfast with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee.

Within the scriptural context of this weeklong feast, we realize that the risen Christ is everywhere, with all of us, existing throughout and beyond time. He appears when we least expect him; he is our teacher and our master; he feeds us with heavenly food; and he is there when we break bread together. May this knowledge strengthen our faith that Christ lives and will in time carry us home. +

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A Word from Pope Francis

The death penalty is contrary to the meaning of *humanitas* and to divine mercy, which must be models for human justice. It entails cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment, as is the anguish before the moment of execution and the terrible suspense between the issuing of the sentence and the execution of the penalty.

—Letter to International Commission Against the Death Penalty, March 20, 2015





- Can I take comfort in times of trial, knowing that Christ will calm my fears and strengthen my faith?
- The risen Christ is everywhere. How has his presence impacted my life?

You Are Hereby Invited

By Alice Camille

I admit to turning down a few dinner invitations in my life, sometimes with white-lie excuses that must have been transparent to the hostess: "Wednesday is my laundry night." "I promised to call my aging mother (who's not that old)." Having used the technique of ditching social obligations, I can spot a faker a hundred yards off.

Take the folks in the parable of the Great Feast (Luke 14:15–24). What amateurs! As the story goes, somebody decides to throw a terrific bash and invites everybody who's anybody to come. But one by one the guests offer their lame regrets.

One person just invested in some real estate and says she has to go look at it. *Go look at it*? You tell me she bought a piece of property sight unseen? The second guest comes up with a similar bit of jive: He has bought some farm animals and has to inspect them—like he didn't do that *before* he signed the contract. And the last one is the biggest laugher of all. A man recently married; that's it. So, he can't leave the house to go to dinner? He can't bring his wife?

In the story, the host is enraged by these tattered attempts at dodging the party. He reissues his invitation, this



time to the most unlikely folks in town—those too poor or unfortunate to be included on any society A-lists. And even when they arrive, there is still room at his table. So the final invitation goes out, this time to total strangers encountered on the road and sleeping in the bushes.

Just Picture It

Somewhere in the corridors of art history, there must exist a painting of this rollicking, serendipitous feast. I haven't seen it, but I love to envision it: people with missing teeth, missing limbs, or both; those who've ended up on the sad side of violence; folks just out of jail or on their way to it; victims of poor health, demons, and addictions; those without money, luck, or brains; lots of people with a story to tell, just like yours and mine, but for one fatal bend in the road.

Some of the guests at a table like this will make it back on top, with or without help. Some will never see daylight again. But the moral of the story is that somewhere there's a celestial table to which these folks, by name or en masse, have been invited, and they will be welcomed there as heartily as if they were celebrities. And a lot of people who think of themselves as desirable dinner companions will not be welcome, because they already had their chance and turned it down.

Make Your Reservations

Someone dining with Jesus on the night he told this story remarked, "Blessed is the one who will dine in the kingdom of God" (Luke 14:15). Absolutely—if you don't mind rubbing elbows with those who've been shunned by the best people in all the finest places.

The only way for us to get a seat at this table is to befriend the second- and thirdtier guests right now, and to become comfortable and familiar with their company. Because in all honesty, this is one dinner party we don't want to miss. No gathering could be more real, no menu more exquisite, and no celebration more compelling than this one. So drop what you're doing, forget the laundry, get the spouse and kids, and reserve your seats now. +



Risen Lord, your resurrection renewed the face of the earth and gave us hope. Make me eager to use my gifts and talents to rebuild people's lives and give them hope.

—From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 29-May 4

Monday, St. Catherine of Siena: Acts 4:23–31 / Jn 3:1–8 Tuesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 4:32–37 / Jn 3:7b–15 Wednesday, Easter Weekday: Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21 Thursday, St. Athanasius: Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday, Sts. Philip and James: 1 Cor 15:1–8 / Jn 14:6–14

Saturday, Easter Weekday: Acts 6:1-7 / Jn 6:16-21



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