



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, April 24, 2022
Second Sunday of Easter

4:00 PM
8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Gathering: Alleluia, Alleluia BB 169

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

*Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Alleluia!
 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 181

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion Eat This Bread BB 334
 Bread Of Life BB 362

Recessional: Hail Thee, Festival Day BB 737

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$9700.00 each week in order to make ends meet. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). 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. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

April 10, 2022

Offertory \$7,513.47

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
 APRIL 17, 2022
 WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **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. 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.

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

Attention Parents

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 24	Fuel
May 1	Catholic Charities
May 8	Property Management
May 15	No Second Collection

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

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

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	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

COVID UPDATE

By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.

The choice to wear or to not wear a mask is left up to individuals and their discretion. Those persons who have not been vaccinated should be especially mindful of their own safety and the safety of others, especially those vulnerable to communicable disease.

A hand sanitizer station will remain at the main entrances of the church doors for the time being for parishioners' convenience.

Anyone who has been recently exposed to COVID 19 or any other communicable disease should not attend public services of any kind. Those sick should remain at home until such time as they are healthy.

Liturgy online or on TV...

Boston Catholic Television	catholictv.org
Sunday Mass from Notre Dame	
catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass	
Salt & Light TV	saltandlighttv.org
Eternal Word Television	ewtn.com

CREMATION AND THE CHURCH

On October 25, 2016, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a new instruction on the burial of the dead and on the conservation of the ashes in cases of cremation. The instruction reiterated the long held view that the Church is not opposed to the practice of cremation, though it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. **However, the new document insists that ashes should not be kept in private homes, and that the scattering of ashes in the air, on land, or at sea is not permitted.** The instruction also insisted that cremains may not be divided among various family members, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects.

Please contact Father Albert in the Parish Office with any questions. Brochures about the Rite of Christian Funerals are available at the church entrances.

SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

On the weekend of May 1, we will hold our Annual Appeal for Catholic Charities NH. Father Albert will speak about how your support allows Catholic Charities NH to continue to help hundreds of New Hampshire residents and families overcome hardship and create better paths forward. In a year unlike any other, every gift matters. To bring more positive, lasting change to your New Hampshire neighbors in need, visit www.cc-nh.org/everything. Catholic Charities NH thanks you in advance for your prayerful gifts!

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

We appreciate the gracious support of our bulletin by our Advertisers. Please be sure to support our advertisers by calling them first!

If you have a business and would like to place an ad, call 1-800-333-3166.

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net. If you're new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. Registration forms can also be found on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION

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. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you - or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave

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.

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, April 24

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*

Wednesday, April 27
Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, April 28

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, April 30

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, May 1

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*



BLESSING OF MOTHERS

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 8, 2022.**

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.

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

Our ministry aims to emulate St. Joseph and become better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. There are no dues and the Men of St. Joseph do not participate in projects or other volunteer efforts as a group, but instead, gather together for sharing among men to help them be a better person, a better family man, and a better member of the Church. Join us next Saturday morning, **May 21, 2022 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.



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

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, April 23 – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:12-16; Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, April 24 – Second Sunday of Easter

(Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Acts 5:12-16; Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31

8:00 AM Angelina Antczak by the Burge Family
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

Monday, April 25 – Mark, Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20

8:00 AM Michelina and Louis Inzero (Anniversary Remembrance) by the Stanley family
Newton

Tuesday, April 26 – Easter Weekday

Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15

8:00 AM Bill Knowles (Birthday Remembrance) by Marjorie Knowles
Plaistow

Wednesday, April 27 – Easter Weekday

Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

6:30 PM Gerry Assad by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow

Thursday, April 28 – Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;

Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest

Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, April 29 – Catherine of Siena, Virgin and

Doctor of the Church

Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

No Mass

Saturday, April 30 – Pius V, Pope

Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21 (Day)

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Yvette Caron by Rick and Priscilla Walsh
Plaistow

Sunday, May 1 – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

8:00 AM Francis Antczak by the Burge family
Newton

10:00 AM Russell Riccio by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow





MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH
Did you know that ALL Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert at the parish office for more information.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Angelina Antczak** by the Burge family



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Moses and Ellen Tucker** by Bill Tucker

CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow, as well as the Vigil Candle in front of the Blessed Mother icon in Newton, may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00.

THE GOD MINUTE

Every morning a small group of priests, religious, and lay people start their day in prayer. Soft music, sacred scripture, and a thoughtful reflection are weaved into a 10-minute prayer called "The God Minute." It's then uploaded for you to access and pray along with us on your own time. And it's free. Listen with your coffee in the morning, while driving to work, or taking a walk. See how easy and beautiful prayer can be!

www.thegodminute.org

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in the Parish Office.

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 call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Students in Junior High or High School who have not celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to prepare to receive the sacrament, contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305, or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

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.

✕ PARISH DIRECTORY ✕

Parish Office	603-382-8324	Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314	Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
St. Vincent de Paul Society	603-382-8324 x 315	Joyce Szczapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
St. Luke's Food Pantry	603-819-4949	Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Preschool	603-382-9783	Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Presentation of Mary Convent	603-382-2744	Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

❖ Community News ❖



**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST
FOOD PANTRY**

Thank you for your generosity towards the hungry of our area!

Non-perishable food or personal 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. **Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information.**

OPEN TO ALL - SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY

Whether you're working toward a degree or you simply want to take a class or two, check out Saint John Seminary Catholic course offerings! All of our courses offer thought provoking material and clear instruction from professors who are highly regarded in their fields. Saint John's Seminary (www.sjs.edu) is a graduate school of theology and offers two fully accredited graduate degree programs in Catholic theology for laity, religious, and deacons in addition to forming future priests. These two degree programs are faithful to the Catholic intellectual tradition, are carefully crafted to provide an integrated and thorough study of Catholic theology, and allow for specialization in one of two themes: acquiring skills to minister within the Church, or honing one's skills to participate fully in the New Evangelization of the world.

Thanks to your generosity, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to help our friends and neighbors in need. Requests for help, especially heat and utilities, have been on the rise lately. Your continued support makes it possible for us to assist all who come to us for help.



We invite you to our next meeting **on Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 PM** in the Holy Angels Church Hall. We welcome you to sit in on our meeting and determine if membership in this group is for you.

If you are interested in learning more about this great group of volunteers, contact our Secretary, Jim Edwards, at jimmy69180@hotmail.com or 603-642-5236. Meetings are both live and virtual.

If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A Men's AA Step Meeting is held on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall (Holy Angels.) Masks are required. Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.



DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH US

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.

We are sons, fathers, husbands and grandfathers, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community.

Where there is a need, there is a Knight.

Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight, contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at dans49@comcast.net or you can now join online - www.kofc.org/joinus.

**THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL
#6617
www.kofc6617.org**



CHRIST OUR PASSOVER eBook

Easter is truly the Season of the Eucharist. To enrich the celebration of this Easter Season, the Diocese of Manchester has published a free eBook call *Christ Our Passover*, a collection of brief excerpts on the Eucharist from documents of the Second Vatican Council and the writings of Pope Francis, Pope Benedict, and Pope John Paul II. The eBook is designed to be used at the convenience of individuals or parishes and does not need to be read cover to cover. The book is available at www.catholicnh.org/easter.

What are...

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Bishop Thomas J. Tobin
Diocese of Youngstown in Ohio

THEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In 1971 extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist were first permitted in the United States. At that time the Congregation of the Sacraments responded to a request of the American bishops to allow laypersons to assist priests in giving Holy Communion.

In January 1973, Pope Paul VI, in the instruction "Immensae Caritatis," extended this permission to the universal Church. He wrote: "Present-day conditions demand that greater access to Holy Communion should be made possible so that the faithful, by sharing more fully in the fruits of the sacrifice of the Mass, might dedicate themselves more readily and effectively to God and to the good of the Church. First of all, provision must be made lest reception become impossible or difficult owing to a lack of a sufficient number of ministers."

The institution of this ministry responds to the condition in the Church today whereby Catholics are encouraged to share in communion at every Eucharist in which they participate, and under both species, and the large number of persons who are coming forward to partake of the body and blood of Christ.

In any parish, qualified persons who have been nominated for service as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist must receive mandate from the Diocesan bishop. The pastor forwards the names of the persons to the bishop asking that they be named for service as extraordinary ministers. This requirement distinguishes the extraordinary minister of the Eucharist from other liturgical ministers and emphasizes the extraordinary nature of this ministry.

Extraordinary ministers are commissioned to function within their own parish for a period of three years. The commission expires after three years or if the person moves away from his or her parish. The commission is

renewable by again requesting the endorsement from the bishop. Commissioning should take place during a parish celebration according to the rite provided in the Book of Blessings. The commission may be revoked by the pastor if the individual no longer fulfills the requirements for this ministry established below.

RESPONSIBILITY/PURPOSE

"Extraordinary ministers may distribute Holy Communion at Eucharistic celebrations only when there are no ordained ministers present or when those ordained ministers present at a liturgical celebration are truly unable to distribute Holy Communion. They may also exercise this function at Eucharistic celebrations where there are particularly large numbers of the faithful and which would be excessively prolonged because of an insufficient number of ordained ministers to distribute Holy Communion." (Instruction on Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priests)

Extraordinary ministers are also used in order that the sick or homebound may receive communion with the frequency recommended in the revised rite for the *Pastoral Care of the Sick*. Any person who regularly takes communion to the sick is to be trained and commissioned. An individual may be commissioned for only this aspect of the ministry or may perform this service within the Eucharistic assembly. To establish the connection between the Sunday assembly and the homebound and sick of the parish, extraordinary ministers ideally are sent from the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist to take communion to them.

SELECTION/DISCERNMENT

Extraordinary ministers are to be fully initiated Catholics (having received Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation, be at least 16 years of age, and lead lives in harmony with the undertaking of this ministry including participating in the sacramental life of the Church. If married, a Minister must have been married validly in the Catholic Church. The Pastor, Parish staff, and Pastoral Council assist in discerning parishioners to fulfill this ministry.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 20:1-9 and John 20:19-31

Easter celebrates Jesus' Resurrection. This is the very heart of the Christian faith: that God raised Jesus, who was crucified, from the dead. The promise of Jesus is that all who believe in him will be raised up to new life with God. Jesus' appearances after his Resurrection show that life with him is love, forgiveness, service to others, and giving one's life for one's friends.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned how Easter celebrates God's life-giving power over death. Talk about all the ways your family celebrates the feast—colored eggs, special treats, meals, and going to Mass. Make a large banner with the word Alleluia, and display the banner in your home throughout the season.

Promise (Grades K-1): This week the class learned the story of Jesus' rising from the dead. The class learned, too, that Jesus is present in their Christian community. Ask your child to tell the family about the Apostle Thomas and how he came to believe that Jesus is risen. During the week, use the greeting "Peace be with you" with your family. It will remind you of how Jesus greeted his friends after he rose from the dead.

Good News (Grades 2-3): In class this week, your child took part in a play that tells the story of the events on the first Easter Sunday. As a family, act out the events in the booklet. You can pass the text around to read the parts. Talk as a family about how important it is to have faith in the Resurrection of Jesus. Plan some special decoration for your home, maybe an empty tomb, that shows your family's faith in the Risen Jesus.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week, your youngster's class learned to identify the signs of new life around them. The class also learned about some of the symbols of Easter. Ask your child to share what some of these symbols mean and why they help us remember Jesus' Resurrection: light, colored eggs, water, seeds, the lamb, the lily, and the butterfly. Share as a family how important Jesus' promise of new life is for each of you.

Visions (Grades 7-9): In class, the young people connected the new life of spring with the new life that accompanies the Resurrection of Christ. They also talked about the experience of the death of a loved one and how the promise of new life helps everyone understand that life is changed, not taken away. Talk about the loved ones you have lost and how you miss them and look forward to being with them again in heaven thanks to the promise Jesus made. Ask your youngster to share with the family what he or she learned about Mary Magdalene.

Pray Together

Make a family Easter candle. It is true that you can purchase Easter candles, but it might be a good experience to decorate a plain white candle with the signs and symbols of Easter. Each evening during the first week of the Easter feast, light the candle and spend a few moments in family prayer. Then renew your baptismal promises by making the Sign of the Cross together.





Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter (C)

April 24, 2022

Sin Is Never the Last Word

By Fr. Mark Haydu

We're not defined by our weakness but created for greatness! Look at David, Paul, and the sinful woman. David was an adulterer and murderer, yet he wrote psalms and was Jesus' ancestor. Paul killed one of the first deacons, Stephen, yet became the greatest apostle to the Gentiles. The sinful woman's misdeeds were public, yet what is most remembered is her repentance and love.

Sin is not the last word. God's

recreating mercy is. God's mercy asks for a response so all that transformative power can be unleashed in us. The only thing that stands in the way of God's renewal rushing in and totally transforming us is our own lack of acceptance.

Sin wants to stand in the way of this Good News. The evil one tries to convince us we are too sinful, that salvation and happiness might be for others, but not for us. But David, Paul, and the sinful woman didn't let that sinister message sink in. David was moved to repentance by Nathan's words.

Paul accepted that he wasn't saved by his religious fervor or condemned for his errors. He was saved by letting Christ's merciful love embrace him. The sinful woman refused to be defined by her poor choices. She tearfully made penance at Christ's feet, and this act of her brokenness gave off a consoling aroma that filled the house.

Let the power of Christ's love be unleashed in you by forgiving yourself and others. Then your weakness will be the first step toward the greatness God has in store for you. +

Nothing but our own lack of acceptance stands in the way of God's renewal rushing in.

A Word from Pope Francis

The presence of God among [us] did not take place in a perfect...world but rather in this real world, which is marked by...good and bad, division, wickedness, poverty, arrogance, and war. He chose to live in our history as it is.... In doing so, he demonstrated ...his merciful and truly loving disposition.

—General Audience
December 18, 2013



Sunday Readings

Acts 5:12-16

...They even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

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

Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld.

John 20:19-31

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How do I help others see the love of God?
- What blocks me from accepting the renewal God offers me?

Time for Fifty Days of Easter “Exercise”

By Kathleen M. Basi

On Easter Sunday, anything seems possible. The triumph of life over death and heaven over hell seems to resound throughout a world poised on the cusp of spring. But it’s hard to hold on to the euphoria of resurrection for fifty days. White lilies fade and are discreetly removed from the altar while the rush of baseball and soccer starts. As the planet spins from one day to the next, we get caught up in ordinary life until one day that newness of purpose is gone altogether.

Faith is like a muscle: healthier when exercised. In the years after the resurrection, the Church flourished because Christianity wasn’t just something you did on Sundays and holidays. It was something radical—something so powerful, so threatening to the establishment that claiming it could get you fed to wild animals. That kind of commitment changes what you do and think and say every day.

You and I will probably never face execution for our beliefs, but the reality of the resurrection should still impact the way we live—not just on the holy day itself, but throughout the Easter season and beyond. It should illuminate what endeavors are worthwhile and which are not. It should challenge us to temper our anger and expand our willingness to sacrifice for others.

Nobody needs a longer to-do list. But living the faith doesn’t require commitments of epic proportions.



Imagine what could happen if every one of us celebrated the fifty days of Easter by doing one thing each day to grow, demonstrate, or share our faith. It doesn’t have to be earth shattering in importance. It just needs to be real. Set aside five minutes for quiet, contemplative prayer. Count to ten before reacting to that inflammatory tweet. Dig into the mystery of death and resurrection with your children. Read the Acts of the Apostles and figure out one concrete way you can imitate their fervor in the context of your life. Read a book about the saints. Pick up that fast-food bag blowing around the mall parking lot. Send a donation to a crisis-pregnancy center. Buy a can of coffee

and deliver it to the homeless shelter.

Doing one thing every day may not change the world, but it will change *us*. Our souls and our bodies are made to work in harmony to reflect God’s image. Our actions shape our inner reality. The more we act as Christ would have us act, the more our view of the world reflects his. In short, by doing as God does, we become more like God. And, that *can* change the world.

Imagine what could happen if every one of us celebrated the fifty days of Easter by doing one thing each day to grow, demonstrate, or share our faith.

PRAYER

Lord, open my heart to believe your word. Guide me as I learn to play my part in creating your vision of peace and love.

—Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 25–30

Monday, St. Mark:
1 Pt 5:5b–14 / Mk 16:15–20

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 4:23–37 / Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday, St. Catherine of Siena:
Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

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

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

April 24, 2022

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