



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)

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

Gathering: Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones
BB 723

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118)

This day was made by the Lord; let us rejoice, let us be glad! This day was made by the Lord; let us rejoice in salvation.

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 167

Mass Parts Storrington Mass

Communion: Eye Has Not Seen BB 473

Recessional: Hail Thee, Festival Day BB 737



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!

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.

✠ 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 2, 2023

Offertory	\$7,496.75
Property Management	\$1,618.00

COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR

APRIL 9, 2023

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.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

April 16	Fuel
April 23	No Second Collection
April 30	NH Catholic Appeal
May 7	Property Management
May 14	Catholic Communications
May 18	Ascension

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 ✠

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of

Joan Burge

by the Burge Family



The Sanctuary Light at **Mary Mother of the Church** and at **Holy Angels Church** will burn this week in thanksgiving for **All Singers and Musicians, past and present, at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Newton and Plaistow**



Find us on:
facebook®

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.

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 jtremblay@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>.

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 in our bulletin, call 1-800-333-3166.

BLESSING OF MOTHERS

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 14, 2023.**



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 on Saturday morning, **May 20, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.



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 Fr. Albert at the parish office for more information.

RETROUVAILLE

A Lifeline For Married Couples

Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vi) means rediscovery in French. This program helps couples put their broken pieces back together and rediscover their love for each other. This program starts with a weekend which teaches couples a new form of communication called Dialogue and lets couples know that they are not alone. Our next Retrouvaille weekends are **June 9-11, 2023, August 18-29, 2023, and November 10-11, 2023.** For more information, email 3023@halpourmarriage.org.

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 16

10:00 AM	Religious Ed – K to 6	<i>Plaistow</i>
2:30 PM	Hour of Divine Mercy	<i>Newton</i>
6:00 AM	Easter Vespers	<i>Newton</i>

Tuesday, April 18

6:00 PM	Finance Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, April 19

Holy Angels Church

Open All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM	St. Vincent de Paul Society	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, April 20

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	<i>Newton</i>
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Saturday, April 22

3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, April 23

10:00 AM	Religious Ed – K to 6	<i>Plaistow</i>
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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!

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.

BUSTED HALO

Busted Halo is a unique media resource sponsored by the Paulist Fathers of the US that utilizes a relevant and accessible voice to help people understand the Catholic faith, put it into practice in their everyday lives, and share it with others. Check out their site, podcasts and videos at www.bustedhalo.com.

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

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, April 15 ~ Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31 (Vigil)

4:00 PM	Carol Flaherty (12 th Anniversary) by her family <i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, April 16 ~ Second Sunday of Easter

(Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

8:00 AM	Joan Burge by the Burge family <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Eva, Raymond, Stephen & Elaine Huberdeau by their family <i>Plaistow</i>

Monday, April 17 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

8:00 AM	John Mack (Month's Mind) <i>Newton</i>
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Tuesday, April 18 ~ Easter Weekday

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

8:00 AM	Bill Knowles (Birthday Remembrance) by Marjorie Knowles <i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, April 19 ~ Easter Weekday

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

6:30 PM	Sr. Pauline Lafond by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary <i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, April 20 ~ Easter Weekday

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

8:00 PM	All Souls Intentions <i>Newton</i>
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Friday, April 21 ~ Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

No Mass

Saturday, April 22 ~ Easter Weekday

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

Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35 (Vigil)

4:00 PM	Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse <i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, April 23 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

8:00 AM	John Mack by Jack and Barbara Brotz <i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Norman Lambert by Jackie Tremblay <i>Plaistow</i>



END OF LIFE PLANNING

Three Beliefs is a document from the Diocese of Manchester that gives valuable assistance to Catholics and others on end-of-life issues. *Three Beliefs* explains Catholic teaching on life-sustaining treatment and care and includes the New Hampshire Advance Directive form modified in such a way to make it consistent with both Catholic teaching and New Hampshire law. *Three Beliefs* contains a helpful FAQ section and wallet cards that include important information for healthcare providers.

The New Hampshire Advance Directive form was revised by a law that is consistent with Catholic teaching and the changes to the New Hampshire form. If you completed an advance directive before 2021 and your intentions for your end-of-life care have not changed, you do not need to complete a new form as long as your advance directive was valid when it was executed. For example, if you completed the October 2007 version of *Three Beliefs* and signed the document before two witnesses or a notary public or justice of the peace, you do not need to complete a new advance directive form.

Copies of *Three Beliefs* are available at the church entrance.

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 remains 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.

Diocese of Manchester
Eucharistic Revival

Relic Tour
OF BL. CARLO ACUTIS AND
ST. MANUEL GONZÁLEZ GARCÍA
SAVE THE DATE OF THE LOCATION
CLOSEST TO YOU
ENDING WITH
**NEW HAMPSHIRE
CATHOLIC EXPO**

SCHEDULE

- May 10: St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester
- May 11: Our Lady of the Mountaintops, North Conway
- May 12: St. Anne, Berlin
- May 13-14: North American Martyrs, Colebrook
- May 15: St. Denis, Hanover
- May 16: Parish of the Holy Spirit, Keene
- May 17: St. Martin, Somersworth
- May 18: Immaculate Conception, Nashua
- May 19-20: St. Andre Bessette, Laconia
- May 20: New Hampshire Catholic Expo Come and see the variety of Catholic organizations, ministries, programs and retailers in New Hampshire! St. Andre Bessette Parish Laconia

EucharisticRevival@rcbm.org faceofthefamily.org

PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, non-judgmental help is available from Project Rachel Ministry. Call 603-6630192 or email ProjectRachel@rcbm.org for Project Rachel in New Hampshire.

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
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	603-382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	603-819-4949
Preschool	603-382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	603-382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szczapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

❖ Community News ❖



SAINT JUDE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus of our Parish are sponsoring a monthly food drive to support the Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry. A list of items needed, along with a paper shopping bag, will be distributed at the end of Masses on the 3rd weekend of each month to those who wish to participate. We ask that you bring back the non-perishable food items the following weekend (4th weekend of the month). You are also welcome to drop off donations at the Parish Office during normal business hours or at one of our Parish churches. Monetary donations are also welcome (make checks payable to Saint Luke Food Pantry), or gift cards to local supermarkets. Thank you for reaching out to help families in our community who need assistance. The Knights and the Food Pantry appreciate your generosity and support.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society! Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box
on your way out of church.

Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help
those who need a hand up, not a handout.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 19 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.**

CURSILLO

If you have a desire to know Jesus more closely, a Cursillo is for you. The Cursillo weekend is a short course in Christianity. The purpose of the weekend is to facilitate a meaningful personal encounter with Christ and his body, the Church. The three day weekend is also the bridge connecting the faithful with the supportive post-Cursillo community, where we live our faith joyfully with our fellow Christians. Cursillo weekends are being offered at the Sato Center in Hookset, NH. To find out more, contact Mark Collopy at 603-833-7341 or explore www.nhcursillo.org.

VITA NOVA: Married Couples Day of Enrichment

**HIS NEEDS
HER NEEDS**

Take holy steps with your beloved in our Spring program...

**MAY 13 at OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS
NORTH CONWAY**

Special Talk by Fr. Kyle Stanton!

Just \$40/couple includes the full day seminar and lunch for two.
Check-in starts at 8:30am, event runs from 9am - 4pm.

Reserve your seats at VITANOVA.org!

Questions about the day? Please reach out to our hosts,
Scott & Martha Tardiff, at ScottMartha@comcast.net.

RESPECT LIFE
respect • love • protect

JOIN MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS

THIS THURSDAY EVENING,
APRIL 20, 2023 AT 7:00 PM AT
MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH
NEWTON, NH

AS A GIFT FROM GOD, EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS
SACRED FROM
CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH.

TOGETHER WE WILL PRAY AND DEDICATE
THE ROSARY FOR THE RESPECT FOR LIFE.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617
WWW.KOFC6617.ORG**



The Waters of Life and Death

In Latin, Greek and Hebrew, the word for “wind” is the same as the word for “spirit.” Other signs of God’s Spirit are water, fire, wine, oil and fragrance. Why do things that are hard to grasp make good signs of the Spirit? During the Easter season we’ll be discussing some of these signs. We start with water.

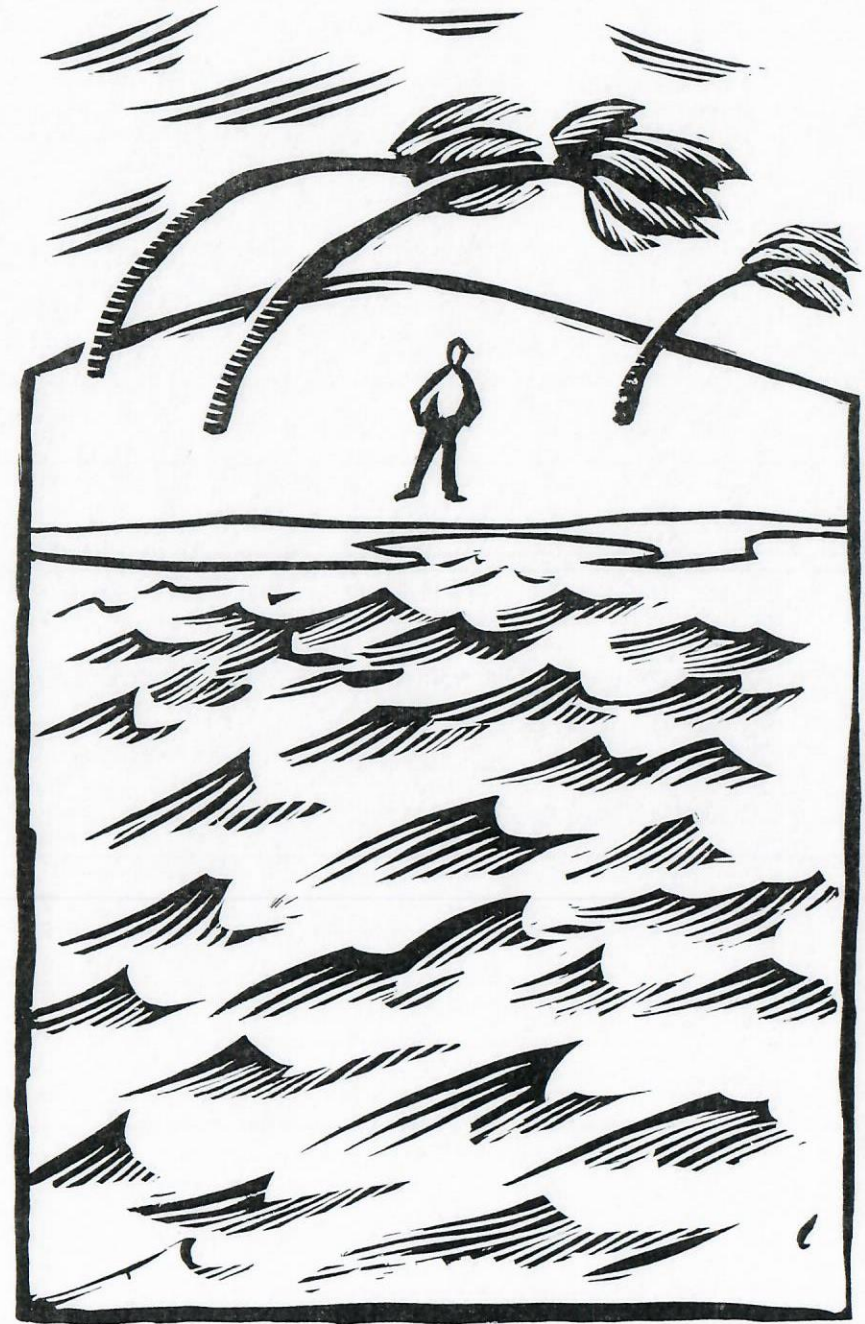
Read the first verse of the book of Genesis. *Before the beginning, before God creates light or anything else, there’s already an abundance of wind and water.* Have you ever stood on a beach at night? Especially if the water is rough, it can be a frightening experience.

Other Bible stories remind us that sharp wind and deep water are a chaotic, deadly combination. The story of Jonah begins with a storm at sea. The next-to-last chapter of the Acts of the Apostles tells about Paul surviving a shipwreck.

Of course, even if water can drown us, all living things need it. The second chapter of the book of Genesis tells us that God made people out of water and earth. Then God planted a garden for us. A river kept it well watered.

Another Bible story that tells of water’s power of life and death is the story of the exodus of the Hebrew slaves. God opened the sea so that they could escape to freedom. But then God closed the sea over their owners, who were trying to recapture them.

What else can water do? How is it used in your home? Float flowers in a bowl of water. Use this water to sign yourself each day with the sign of the cross.



The Gospel at Home

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

This week's Gospel at Home covers two Sundays. The Gospel for Easter tells of Mary of Magdalene's visit to the tomb and her discovery that Jesus was not there. The Gospel for the following Sunday describes Jesus' appearance to his disciples, his greeting of peace, and his gift of the Holy Spirit.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Easter celebrates new life. Children see new life in growing things in nature. Your child this week learned that Jesus is risen on Easter. Sometime during these two weeks take a walk in a park or in the country. Look for signs of new life and talk with your child about the gift of life.

Promise (Grades K-1): In class, your child made two story strips that tell the Gospel stories from Easter and the 2nd Sunday of Easter. Ask them to share the stories with the family and talk about the joy Mary Magdalene and the followers of Jesus had when they found Jesus was alive. How can your family share Easter joy with others?

Good News (Grades 2-3): Ask your child to tell you what Mary Magdalene found when she went to Jesus' tomb. Share the story of Jesus' visit to his followers. Follow the instructions in the last page of the Good News booklet to make an Easter candle for your family. Light your candle—with fire or your imagination—each evening during the season of Easter, and say or sing with your family: "Alleluia."

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your son or daughter experienced an Easter Vigil prayer and dramatized the Gospels for both Easter Sunday and the 2nd Sunday of Easter. The class also learned about the conversion of Saint Paul and about the early witnesses to the Resurrection and how those witnesses spread the Good News. If your family attended the Easter Vigil, talk about your favorite parts of the Mass. Say the prayer on the cover of this week's lesson book together and light a candle to signify the start of the Easter season. Talk about ways your family witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Both Sunday Gospels that are a part of this lesson taught your young person that Easter faith makes all things new. Part of that Easter faith is the call to be witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection. For the people in the Gospel stories, the great sorrow of their loss was turned to great joy when they realized that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Talk about losses your family has experienced. What did you feel? What did you do? Ask your son or daughter to share how he or she felt while reading the story about Toby. Commit as a family to take time to enjoy one another's company during the days of Easter.

Pray Together

One of the important parts of the Easter Vigil service is the celebration of Baptism and the renewal of your own baptismal promises. If you still have your family's baptismal candles and certificates, display them during the first two weeks of Easter. Say your morning or evening prayer in front of the display and renew your own baptismal vows.





Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (A)

April 16, 2023

"I Doubt It," Say All of Us

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Skepticism is a characteristic of a critical mind. Some claims are just too fantastic to trust: no salve can relieve you of all pain; no investment is certain to double your money; no politician can keep all promises; no one comes back from the dead. Who of us can fault Thomas for his initial skepticism?

Thomas has been known throughout history as "the doubter." However, he might be considered the patron saint of all of us. Because of his absence when Jesus stood in the midst of the

community, Thomas was expected to believe on the word of others. Like Thomas, we are torn between believing because of an experience of Jesus, and believing on the word of others. We all would prefer a direct, profound experience. However, that's not what we're offered.

But within the community we can indirectly experience Jesus—his goodness, his unselfish service to others, his desire to bring people together in peace and harmony. Today's first reading provides a glimpse of such a believing community devoted to "the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Like our patron Thomas, we might be skeptical at first, but it is within a family or community of kindness and generosity that we can have our own experience of the risen Jesus. †

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:42–47

Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

1 Peter 1:3–9

You may have to suffer through various trials, so...the genuineness of your faith...may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John 20:19–31

These [signs] are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah,...and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Thomas has been known throughout history as "the doubter." However, he might be considered the patron saint of all of us.

A Word from Pope Francis

The Lord is not looking for perfect Christians; the Lord is not looking for Christians who never doubt and always flaunt a steadfast faith. When a Christian is like that, something isn't right. No, the adventure of faith, as for Thomas, consists of lights and shadows. Otherwise, what kind of faith would that be?

REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I struggle with doubt?
- Where do I feel my faith strengthened and renewed?

Persevere in Faith!

By Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM

Sometimes I find it very difficult to believe. I'm sure I'm not alone, that I'm not the only one who asks whether what I profess to be true is indeed real. Surely there are many others who doubt God's love for them or that God even exists at all. I know there are many greater and holier exemplars of Christian living who likewise struggled from time to time with "dark nights of the soul," with uncertainty, with doubt.

The apostle Thomas—the one many know as "doubting Thomas"—exemplifies holiness that brings comfort to me during my faith struggles and also humanizes the saints. We are accustomed to thinking that to be holy or a disciple is to be unshakable in our convictions and sure-footed in our beliefs. And yet, what is revealed in the Gospels and in the lives of the saints is that the kind of sanctity God desires is not one of apodictic certitude but one of perseverance. The perseverance in our Christian faith is manifested in how we live in and through the struggles of our lives and our faith. Though Thomas doubted the resurrection, he still returned to the upper room with the gathered community of believers. The task for us is to reflect on how we respond to those inevitable moments of doubt and uncertainty in our Christian lives of faith.

As the Easter octave comes to a close today, we are sent forth into the remaining Easter season with the challenge to persist in the good works of faith, living our faith not only in thought and word but also in deed (James 2:14–16), even when we struggle to make sense of what has been handed on to us and find it difficult to recognize God's presence in our lives. †

Thomas the Apostle doubted, as most people do. He still exemplifies holiness and humanizes the saints.



Divine Mercy Sunday

By Rev. Alfred McBride, OPraem

On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the canonization of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II proclaimed to the world that the first Sunday after Easter, "from now on throughout the Church, will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'"

In Psalm 118, we sing a comforting sentence three times for emphasis: "His mercy endures forever." The Gospel begins with the risen Christ appearing to the apostles on Easter night, calming them and giving them "Peace." He fills them with joy, breathes on them, and charges them with these words: "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Christ gives his apostles the power of God's mercy for the sinner: the gift of forgiving sins from God's always-full treasury of mercy. With these words, Jesus gives us the gift of the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). We can choose to accept or refuse his present. Please, accept it. †

In Psalm 118, we sing a comforting sentence three times for emphasis: "His mercy endures forever."



Lord Jesus, when we are tempted to doubt that good triumphs over evil, that life is stronger than death, fill us with faith and hope, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 17–22

Monday, Easter Weekday:

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, Easter Weekday:


Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

Friday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

Saturday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 6:1–7 / Jn 6:16–21

Bringing Home
the Word 

April 16, 2023

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