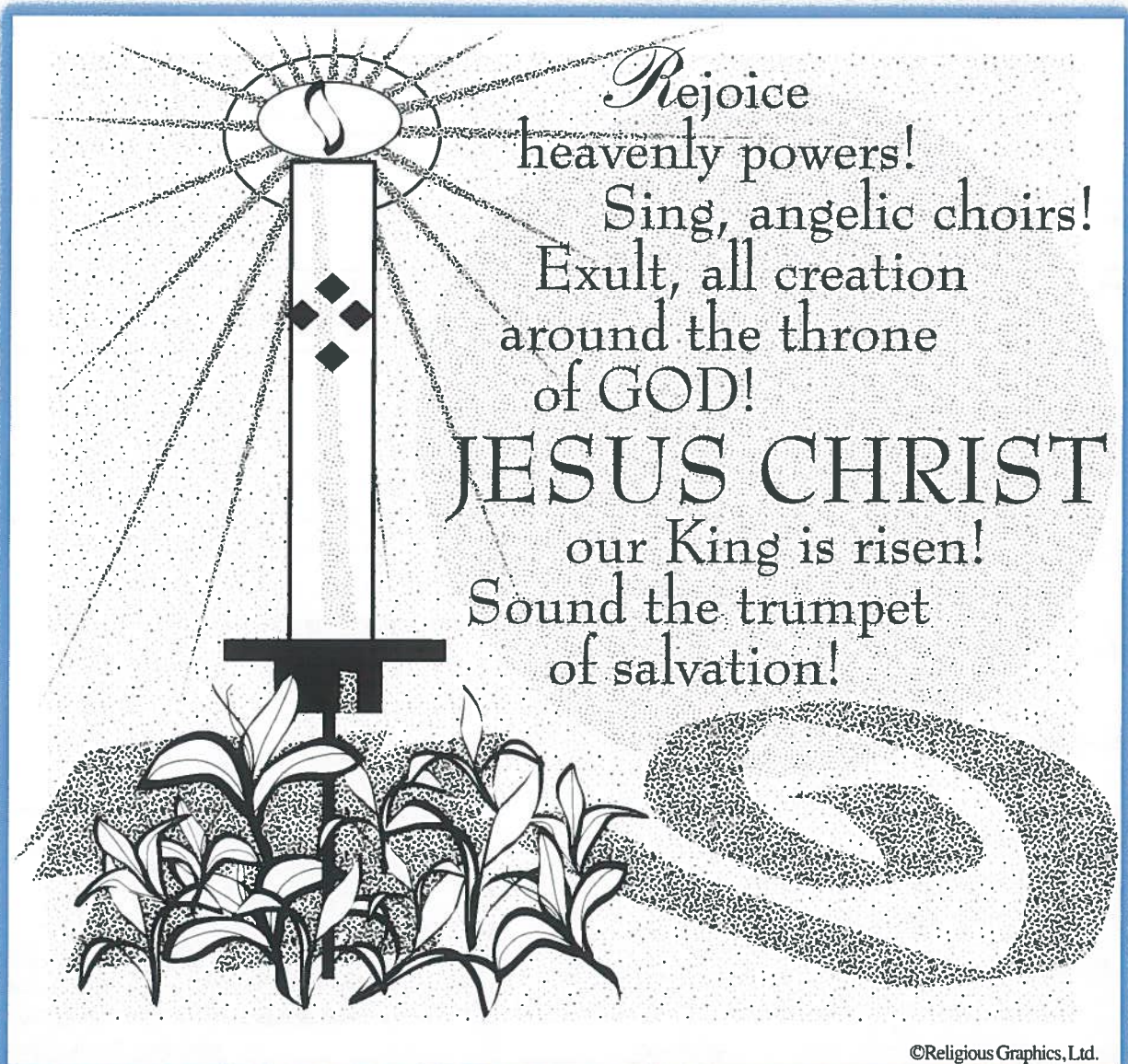


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

APRIL 15-16, 2023



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: " Those who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears."

~St. John Paul II

Third Sunday of Easter

April 22-23, 2023

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, April 15 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 16 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 16 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 16 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Dave Emling Gery Wright Todd Datweiler Dave Emling	Dennis Pankey James Mallaney	Todd Mesewicz Jeff Martin Dallas Ferris Cathy Jensen	Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles Kim Smicker Corey Eich
Lector	Hillary Webb	Mike Hertz	Jeff O'Connor	Diane Long
Servers				Bella Eich
Greeters			Greeter— Dallas Ferris R. Leader—Peerboltes	Brent Fulton

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 17 (SMM)

8:00 am +John Evans Sr. (Dennis/Janice Schneider)

Tuesday, April 18 (SH)

8:00 am +Joann Anderson (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, April 19 (SJ)

8:00 am +Pat Perreault (Bee Papineau)

Friday, April 21 (SMM)

8:00 am +John Koerner (Sheila Koerner)

Saturday, April 22 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Daniel LeDuke (Darlene Dittus)
+James Jepsen (Martha Schneider)

Sunday, April 23

7:30 am (SH) +Louise Devine (Lavern & Vicki Denault)
9:00 am (SJ) +Leland Denault (Joe/Tina Petersen)
10:30am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

Questions of the week:

With eyes of faith, how do I see Christ's wounds in my community?

A Look Ahead

Tuesday, April 18—SMM CCW meeting 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 20—Community Quilters at SJ 9 am

April 29/30—2nd collection for Missions Appeal

May 6/7—K of C Food for Families Drive

Wednesday, May 10—K of C Blood Drive at SJ 3pm-7pm

Saturday, April 22—First Communion at SMM

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

St. James – Carolyn Levyclevystjames@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line– SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman-602-670-8888 (call or text)

Collections Week of April 8-9, 2023

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,839

St. James—\$3,531

Sacred Heart—\$2,190

Holy Land—\$310

Holy Land—\$85

Holy Land—\$215



Give blood.
Give life.

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive
Wednesday, May 10 3pm—7 pm
at St. James Parish Hall

For appointments call or text
Joe Petersen 815-861-9634

Appointments preferred

Gospel Shorts

Easter's Wonderful Promise

In the ordinary course of life, we dream and plan, hoping our lives will go smoothly. It is a shock to be reminded of how quickly dreams and hopes can be shattered. In a moment when we experience life and death standing side by side, we are jolted into the reality that our certainties are not so certain.

After the exhilaration of the Easter Sunday affirmation, "Christ is Risen," the Sunday after Easter gave way to the fear and doubt of the broken hopes and dreams of Jesus' disciples. Their fear was contagious, producing doubt within us. But our doubt is productive. Our search for the truth and the answer to our question "Did Jesus rise from the dead?" opens us to recognize the risen Lord. As we seek the Lord, he comes to us, blessing us with peace, sending us forth to continue his mission, and empowering us, with the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Current Status for 2023 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
St. MM	\$9,900	\$6,770	\$5,243
St. James	\$8,000	\$6,140	\$5,860
Sacred Heart	\$6,100	\$6,866	\$3,851



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection is April 1-2 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."
Matthew 25:35

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ CCW meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18 at 7 pm

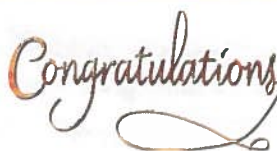
St. James—

- ◆ It's Baby Shower time! Our Lenten charity drive is for the Pregnancy Resource Center in Kankakee. Donations of baby and toddler items will be accepted throughout Lent. There is a list of the most requested items on the bin.

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of April 16, the St. Joseph candle burns in prayer for healing and a complete recovery for Sue Sorenson.
- ◆ If you have anything you would like to donate to this year's garage sale, please call Rhonda 815-545-9519 or Jamie 815-278-9520. The proceeds will benefit The American Brain Tumor Association this year.
- ◆ We will be starting the bathroom remodel at Sacred Heart. Anyone wishing to work on this project or donate labor or materials, please call Ken Wenzelman at 922-7086 or Joe Petersen at 861-9634
- ◆ Our CCW will be selling "Split the Pot" tickets from this weekend until our parish breakfast on May 21 when the drawing will take place.

All Parishes:



We would like to extend our congratulations to Kyle John Stone, who received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist on April 8 at St. James and Christopher

Reynolds, who received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and his First Eucharist on Saturday, April 8 at St. James. Blessings to you both as we welcome you into the Catholic faith.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

DIVINE MERCY CONFESSIONS WILL BE SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH FROM 2:00 TO 3:00 PM AT ST. MARGARET MARY.

A Stewardship Moment Weekend of April 15-16, 2023 Divine Mercy Sunday

In today's first reading, the four activities of the earliest church are introduced to us as priorities of the church: devotion to the teachings of the apostles, communal fellowship, the Eucharist and prayer. The early members of the church saw themselves as devoted stewards of these activities. These were not options. They were the fruits of a genuine conversion to a life in Christ. Sharing in the Eucharist was the most intimate expression of fellowship, while the most common expression of fellowship in the New Testament was that of sharing financial resources – giving. It was not a perfect community, but one that gave evidence of God's active presence in its midst. This early community offers us an excellent example of how to better exercise stewardship in our own parish families.

Saint of the week: St. Anselm (April 21) was born to the Italian nobility. After a childhood devoted to piety and study, at age 15, Anselm wanted to enter religious life, but his father Gundulf prevented it. Anselm became rather worldly for several years. Upon the death of his mother, Ermenberge, Anselm argued with his father, fled to France in 1056, and became a Benedictine monk at Bec, Normandy in 1060. He studied under and succeeded Lanfranc as prior of the house in 1063, then abbot of the house in 1078.

Because of the physical closeness and political connections, there was frequent travel and communication between Normandy and England, and Anselm was in repeated contact with Church officials in England. He was chosen as the reluctant Archbishop of Canterbury, England in 1092; officials had to wait until he was too sick to argue to get him to agree.

As bishop he fought King William Rufus's encroachment on ecclesiastical rights and the independence of the Church, he refused to pay bribes to take over as bishop and was exiled for his efforts.

He travelled to Rome, Italy and spent part of his exile as an advisor to Pope Blessed Urban II, obtaining the pope's support for returning to England and conducting Church business without the king's interference. He resolved theological doubts of the Italo-Greek bishops at *Council of Bari* in 1098.

In 1100 [King](#) Henry II invited Anselm to return to England, but they disputed over lay investiture, and Anselm was exiled again only to return in 1106 when Henry agreed not to interfere with the selection of Church officials. Anselm opposed slavery and obtained English legislation prohibiting the sale of men. He strongly supported celibate clergy and approved the addition of several saints to the liturgical calendar of England.

Anselm was one of the great philosophers and theologians of the Middle Ages and a noted theological writer. He was far more at home in the monastery than in political circles, but still managed to improve the position of the Church in England. He was a counselor to Pope Gregory VII. Later he was named a Doctor of the Church in 1720 by Pope Clement XI.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Roman Adame Rosales (April 21) was ordained on November 30, 1890. He was a parish priest at Nochistlan, Zacatecas, Mexico in 1913, a position he held until his death. He was especially known for his ministry to the sick, and his devotion to Our Lady. He built chapels in the areas around Nochistlan. In addition, he founded the *Daughters of Mary of Nocturnal Adoration*. When government persecutions of religion began, he took his ministry underground.

On April 18, 1927, he conducted a Lenten service at Rancho Veladones. One of the people at the service betrayed him to a Colonel Quinones, and Father Roman was arrested the next day. Jailed at Mex-ticacan, Mexico, he was forced to walk miles to the parish at Yhualica. Quinones had commandeered the rectory for his own use; he kept Adame tied to an outdoor post during the day, threw him into a cell at night, and neglected to give him food or water. Some local lay people offered to buy the priest's freedom; Quinones demanded a \$6,000 bribe, pocketed the money, and ordered Father Roman executed anyway. One of the soldiers, Antonio Carillo, refused to shoot Adame; the other soldiers shot him.

Reflections Give Lavishly and Give Abundantly

The more you give, the more you get ... The more you laugh, the less you fret ... The more you do unselfishly, the more you live abundantly ... The more of everything you share, the more you'll always have to spare ... The more you love, the more you'll find that life is good and friends are kind.



My Lord and my God
JN. 20:28

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it (*from John 20*).



Catholic Snacks, get fed

What does the word "Alleluia" mean?

What exactly are we saying when we exclaim, "He is risen! Alleluia"?

Alleluia is the well-known proclamation of Easter joy. All through Lent we haven't seen or spoken a single syllable of the word, but now it bursts forth everywhere we look.

The word comes to us from the Jews—it was their cry of praise to God. It is often used in the Psalms.

In Hebrew, *Allelu* is an exclamation reserved for divine praise meaning "All hail" or "Glory in the highest." *Ia* refers to God Himself, "Him Who Is."

Allelu-ia, therefore, means "All hail to Him Who Is" or even—roughly—"Glory to God in the highest."

When Catholics adopted the phrase, it soon became very important in the Liturgy and Office.

It is always removed during Lent because of its joyful character, and returns with the great celebrations of Easter:

During Eastertime it is the characteristic Paschal note of varying parts of Mass and Office, constantly appearing at the beginning and end, and even in the middle, of psalms, as an instinctive exclamation of ecstatic joy.

—*The Catholic Encyclopedia*

Lent is over. The Easter season has begun. Before us is a time of rejoicing and celebration. What better way to celebrate than with the Psalms? Our Book of Psalms Color Journal will inspire joy and creativity as it takes you through the Psalms in a unique way—the pages featuring beautiful designs to color and space to write reflections and prayers. Contains 365 entries for each day of the year, but is not year-specific—so you can start and finish anytime.

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Although there have been 21 "ecumenical councils" convened so far in the church's history, Trent (the 19th) has the rest beat in many ways. For one thing, it lasted the longest, from 1545-1563. It crossed the reigns of five popes, including Paul III, Julius III, Marcellus II, Paul IV, and Pius IV, and two emperors (Charles V and Ferdinand). This council comprised 25 sessions and issued more reforms and dogmatic decrees than any prior, setting the church on its course for the next 400 years.

An ecumenical council usually involves assembling bishops and others who represent the entire church from all over the world, so it's not undertaken lightly or frequently. While two such councils have followed in the wake of Trent, Vatican I (1869-1870) lasted less than a year and was never formally finished due to the outbreak of war. The more well-known Vatican II (1962-1965) is the only council since Trent to have a significant impact on the direction of the church.



A session of the Council of Trent

Why did Trent pack such a punch?

Timing: It was a response to the challenges issued by the Reformation and gave birth to the movement known as the Counter-Reformation. It reexamined the nature of faith, grace, sacraments, the power of the papacy, and education of the clergy.

But the council was also good for drama: a great historical mess of a convocation, adjourned several times due to turmoil from within and without. Paul III convened it, hoping to respond to Luther's reforms in a matter of months. He made the greatest progress of the entire 18 years in the first two years by affirming the "equal reverence" of scripture and tradition—contrary to Luther's insistence on scripture alone—and producing the response to Lutheran teaching on "justification by faith." Paul III also oversaw teachings on the efficacious nature of sacraments and the affirmation of seven of them—contrasted with the Lutheran adherence to two. The rest of the agenda was left to his successors.

Julius III made his contribution in affirming other teachings on the sacraments, especially the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, opposing the purely symbolic approach of the reformers Zwingli and Calvin. Marcellus II showed great promise but died 20 days after assuming the office. Paul IV had no interest in continuing the council at all, holding what have since been called "unrealistic" views of papal authority; it was he who first issued the *Index of Forbidden Books*—so extensive it shocked even his supporters. Pius IV reconvened Trent in the face of new threats from Calvinism. He defined the nature of ordination's indelible character and the sacramentality of marriage and brought the council successfully to a close. In the face of a sea change in the Christian world, the Catholic self-understanding had been expressed in ways that would prove enduring.

Scripture

- Predecessor to the councils: Acts 15, the "Council of Jerusalem"

COMMUNITY QUILTERS

Do you sew?

Can you cut?

Can you iron?

We are hoping you will join us!

NO FEES OR DUES!

Just fun!

3rd Thursday of each month

St. James Irwin hall

9am – 12

For more information call:

Patti 815-614-3757 or Karen 815-953-8016



Divine Mercy Chaplet

Introduction:

Our Father, Hail Mary, &
The Apostles Creed.

On the Our Father beads, pray:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body
and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your
dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus
Christ—in atonement for our sins
and those of the whole world.

On the Hail Mary beads, pray:

For the sake of His sorrowful
Passion—have mercy on us and
on the whole world. (x10)

Repeat decade cycle 5 times

Concluding Prayer:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy
Immortal One—have mercy on us
and on the whole world. (x3)



April 16, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sunday of Divine Mercy

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

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"I'll believe it when I see it." We've all said this at some point, usually in response to hearing about someone unreliable doing something out of character. St. Thomas had the same reaction in today's Gospel when he wasn't there when the other disciples saw Christ for the first time since he rose from his tomb – "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Although Jesus helped Thomas with his unbelief, he blesses those who have not seen, but believe. Have any of us seen the nail marks in Christ's hands and feet, or the wound in his side? Do we see Christ's body and blood on the altar, or do we see only the gifts of bread and wine? Christ comes to us in ways we can understand initially – parables, bread and wine, the face of people we meet throughout our daily lives – but our faith in what we have not seen, in the great mystery of our salvation, is what makes us Christian.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today's first reading, we hear reports of the lives of the first disciples soon after Pentecost: communal living, breaking bread together, prayer, selling of their property and possessions and redistributing among themselves according to individual needs. To our ears today, this idyllic community living seems almost incredible. Yet these first disciples were infused with the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to proclaim the Gospel and think of others before themselves. As Christ's disciples today, how are we behaving toward one another? If we truly are among those who have not seen and yet believe, let's act in full confidence. As we heard in the second reading, our faith is "more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire." We certainly aren't perfect, and our faith at times can be sorely tested, and yet this is our call: to share this faith by doing good works in Christ's name to make disciples and build the kingdom of God.

INVITATION People often see Christ through the words and actions of others. This week, actively seek out opportunities to be the hands of Christ. What opportunities does your community have to practice corporal works of mercy?

Sunday, Apr 16, 2023

Put disappointments behind

Learn a lesson from the experience of the apostle we've come to know as "doubting Thomas." Insisting that our expectations be met is often the path to disillusionment and heartbreak. The way to peace is another route entirely. As Saint John Chrysostom taught, "So you want peace of heart? Then do not seek health, nor wealth, nor fame, nor power, nor luxury. Seek wisdom in God's sight, stick to the virtues, and nothing will be able to make you sad." Start by cultivating the seven big virtues: faith, hope, love, prudence, temperance, courage, and justice. And leave disappointment in the rearview mirror.

SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 (43).
"Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"

Monday, Apr 17, 2023

Reborn and renewed

Are Catholics "born again"? Yes, when we are baptized. In Baptism, we die with Christ, in that all sins are purified, and are reborn as children of God. Once done, it need not and cannot be repeated because by Baptism we are incorporated into Christ, configured to Christ, and sealed forever with the "indelible spiritual mark" of belonging to Christ. Catholics can, however, renew baptismal vows—and often do at Mass, especially during the Easter season, including the Easter Vigil Mass. Cherish this opportunity to restate your promises, profess your faith, and strengthen your commitment to Christ and church once again.

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8 (267). *"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God."*

Tuesday, Apr 18, 2023

The high cost of beauty

On this day in 1506, Pope Julius II laid the cornerstone for today's St. Peter's Basilica, initiating the most celebrated architectural project in all of Christendom. The work involved renowned Renaissance artists Raphael and Michelangelo and took 120 years to complete. The result? Ralph Waldo Emerson declared it "an ornament of the earth . . . the sublime of the beautiful." To appreciate its beauty and grandeur, take a virtual tour of St. Peter's Basilica.

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268). *"The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes."*

Wednesday, Apr 19, 2023

Free advice

From the Book of Exodus to the Book of Acts, biblical literature is filled with stories of God delivering people from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light. And, as the church instructs in its 1984 document on liberation theology, the "most radical form of slavery is slavery to sin." Reflect on God's activity in your own life, especially during times that you were stuck or caught in a

destructive pattern. God created us free and longs to see us free. Whatever fetters might have you tied down or wrestling in the dark at the moment, know that you can turn to God for release. Liberation is what God loves to bring!

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269). *"The angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison [and] led them out."*

Thursday, Apr 20, 2023

More than enough to go around

If you grew up in a household marked by scarcity, the "theology of abundance" might be hard to embrace. This concept, popularized by Lutheran theologian Walter Brueggemann, is that God's generosity and abundance are overflowing, and that discipleship means sharing freely of both material and spiritual riches to rid the world of poverty in all its forms. How do you experience God's overflowing generosity? And how are you paying it forward?

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270). *"He does not ration his gift of the Spirit."*

Friday, Apr 21, 2023

Sad face emoji

Behind smiley emojis and Instagram-worthy photos, many people are struggling to make it through the day. With so much heaviness of heart, Easter can seem totally out of place. Yet, the Paschal Mystery reminds us that we need not be struggle-free in order to allow the warmth, light, and new life of Easter to wash over us, if even a little. God welcomes us in just as we are and offers to us abundant love, holding us when we ourselves can hold no more. As we continue this season, what might you allow God to hold for you?

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271). *"Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."*

Saturday, Apr 22, 2023

Calming the waters

The Sea of Galilee is said to be prone to sudden, violent storms, with temperature swings and gusty winds provoked by the high mountains that surround it. Whether we understand Jesus walking on the choppy waters literally or figuratively, the message is clear: Jesus is our bridge over troubled waters. Whatever turbulence you might be experiencing, reach out a hand to the many incarnations of Christ in your life—those who will stand by you and stand with you, those who are ready to reach out a steadying hand as you face the storms of life.

EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272). *"The sea was stirred up because a strong wind was blowing."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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