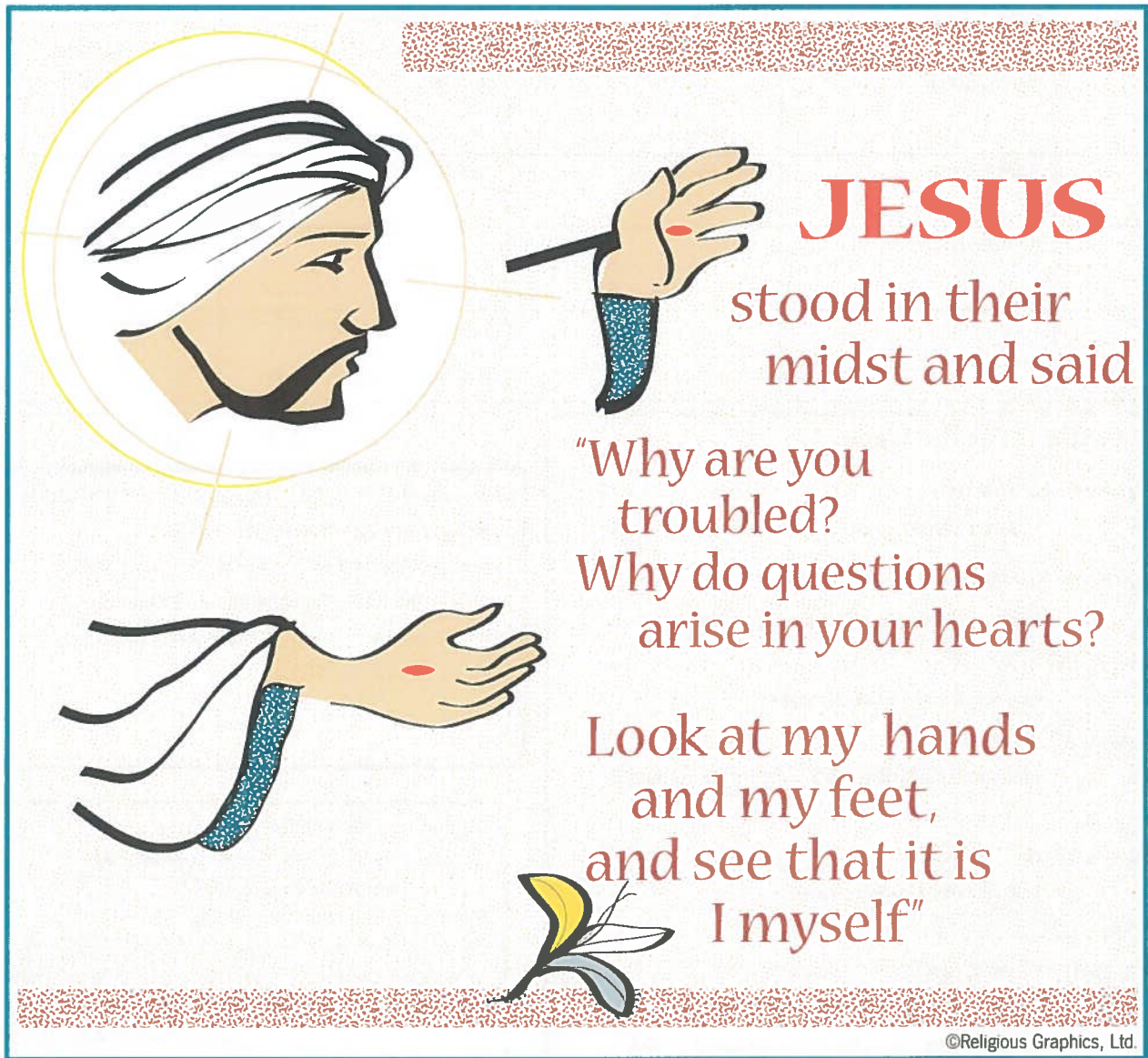


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 13-14, 2024



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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

Quotes: "Souls that make an appeal to my mercy delight me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask."
—Words of Divine Mercy as revealed to Saint Faustina Kowalska

Third Sunday of Easter

April 20-21, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, April 20 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 21 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 21 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 21 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Gery Wright Dave Emling Dan Hoffman Bob Schultz	Kyle Ferris Darryl Ferris	Jerry Ogrentz Dallas Ferris Jeff Steinke Bob Buente	Joe Smolkovich Kim Smicker Wayne Bisailon Brent Fulton
Lector	Bobbi Buza	Terri Weakley	Jeff O'Connor	Steve Jacob
Servers	Xander Buza			Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Karem Miller R. Leader—Rita Thiesen	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 15 (SMM)

8:00 am +Laura Jensen (Margarita Thiesen Family)

Tuesday, April 16 (SH)

8:00 am +Dick Fitch (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, April 17 (SJ)

8:00 am +Leola Ader (Sue Kuntz)

Friday, April 19 (SMM)

8:00 am +Francis & Aldine O'Brien (The Family)

Saturday, April 20 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, April 21

7:30 am (SH) +Inez Crawford (Jackie Cross)
 +Leland Denault (Rob/Gayle Landeck)
 9:00am (SJ) +Dennis Bush (Debbie/Gene Jensen)
 10:30am (SMM) +Brian Buckley (Judy Schneider)
 +Cindy Frerichs (Mark/Sue Richie)

Question of the week:

How do I sense Jesus' presence in my life? When do I feel a sense of peace in my heart?

A Look Ahead

Mon., April 15—Combined Parish Council meeting SMM 7 pm

Sunday, April 21—Youth Mass at SMM

Saturday, April 27—First Communion at SMM

Sunday, April 28—Confirmation 3:00 at SJ

Sunday, May 5—SJ Youth Mass, May Crowning and last Religion Education Class

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

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

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

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

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

Collections Week of April 6-7, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,962

St. Jame—\$2,129

Landscape—\$715

Sacred Heart—\$1,120

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection Rethink—An Acronym to Handle Anger

RETHINK is an acronym for anger management developed by the Institute for Mental Health Initiatives. Although anger is both natural and inevitable, it can be channeled into healthy directions:

R—Recognize when you are feeling angry or when it is a cover-up for fear, stress, shame, fatigue.

E—Empathize with the person who is the target of anger.

T— Think about what it is in a situation that is creating anger. Is there another way of thinking that might create humor? A solution?

H— Hear what the other person is saying. When people are hurt, they want to be heard.

I— Integrate respect and love with what you say about your anger.

N— Notice how your body changes when you're angry. Heartbeat quickens, teeth clench, hands perspire, for example. Practice a quick form of gaining control, such as counting to 10.

K— Keep your attention on the subject at hand. Don't bring up old grudges and wounds.

Gospel Shorts—Forgiveness in Jesus's Name

Forgiveness does not come naturally to human beings. Nevertheless, forgiveness is the mission of the church. "Forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in (Jesus') name to all nations." We can be helped in learning to forgive but recognizing that we are sinners ourselves and that we have been forgiven. Forgiveness of sins is central to the New World of God that we see in Jesus.

Practicing forgiveness can, indeed, be difficult. It is not, however, that difficult. Most of the slights we experience can be readily forgiven, if we wish to do so. For the more difficult kinds of forgiveness, we can at least remind ourselves that forgiveness is the right thing to do, and, more importantly, it is how Jesus would have us live.



**THEY KNEW HIM
IN THE BREAKING
OF THE BREAD**

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Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of April 14th the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns for the Riley/Fitch families and the St. Joseph candle burns in prayer for Harry Bailey.

St. James—

- ◆ There will be an Open House for Rita Thiesen's 75th birthday in the Church Hall on Sunday, June 9th from 1-4 pm. Please join us.

All Parishes—



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

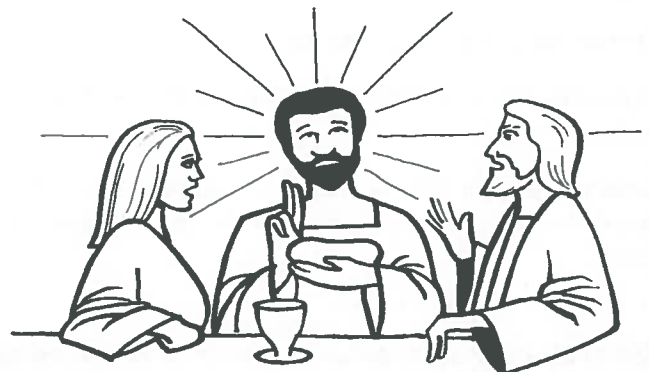
+Madeline Bouchard

May Madeline and all the faithful departed
rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to Gary, Marla, Glenn and families
and to her friends.

A Stewardship Moment Third Sunday of Easter Weekend of April 13/14, 202

An underlying lesson from all three readings this weekend is that the Risen Christ has wiped away our sins, not only for individuals, but throughout the world and its history. The terrible power of sin has now been reversed and our coming to perfection through the love of God is part of the Easter experience. As stewards of God's love we are called to participate in Christ's redemptive activity. The stewardship questions for us are many: How do we resist injustice at home or in the workplace? How do we confront violence in our language and attitudes? How do we bring Christ to others?



AND THEY RECOGNIZED HIM
LK. 24:31



Obscure saint of the week: St. Benezet (April 14) was a shepherd. During an eclipse he received a vision telling him to build a bridge over the Rhone at Avignon; angels would watch his flocks while he was gone. When the church and civil officials refused to help him, he lifted a huge stone into place, and announced it would be the start of the foundation; eighteen miracles occurred, the officials recanted, and the bridge was built. Legendary founder of the bridge-building brotherhoods.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Bernard of Tiron was a monk in the Poitou area of France. Bernard became a hermit and later a traveling preacher. He founded a Benedictine monastery in the Tiron Forest and served as its abbot. Monks from his house moved throughout the British Isles, spreading the faith and building monasteries.

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*).

Old eyeglasses sitting around? This agency collects old eyeglasses, makes the necessary repairs, then sends them overseas to people in need. The Knights of Columbus will be placing collection boxes in the back of each church. Please consider helping with this project by donating your unused glasses. Prescription and reading glasses are needed. Please do not include glass cases.



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Who exactly saw Christ after His Resurrection?

During the 40 days before the Ascension, who knew that Christ walked among us again?

The Gospel accounts of the Resurrection and the following 40 days can be difficult to sort out. While they all agree that Our Lord revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene and the eleven Apostles, they vary as to who else saw Him and when the revelations occurred.

It gets confusing quickly, so let's look at each account:

Matthew lists the **holy women**—Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome—and the eleven **Apostles**.

Mark records that **Mary Magdalene**, the **two disciples at Emmaus**, and the **Eleven** saw Him.

Luke lists the **holy women**—Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Joanna, and others with them—the **disciples at Emmaus**, and the **Eleven**.

John writes about **Mary Magdalene** and the **Eleven** seeing Him.

In addition to the Gospels, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians that “**more than 500 brethren at once**” saw the Resurrected Christ.

The Church has always piously believed that the **Blessed Mother** was the first to see her Son. She did not accompany the holy women to the tomb on Easter morning because she knew the tomb was empty. The Gospels are silent on this point because Our Lord's visit to His beloved Mother was private and for her alone.

So, before the Ascension, the Resurrected Christ revealed Himself to the Blessed Mother, Mary Magdalene and the holy women, the Apostles, and over 500 disciples.



The last thing I remember is winning the state lottery, Publisher's Clearinghouse Sweepstakes, and Reader's Digest Sweepstakes all at the same time.



St. James & St. Margaret Mary confirmation students participated in a retreat on Saturday, March 9 led by Jerry Chenski. It was an day filled with so many activities that helped our students prepare for Confirmation which will be held at St. James on Sunday, April 28.



Questions Catholics Ask

Why do Catholics believe Jesus is God incarnate?

The key word is *believe*. The doctrine of the Incarnation is a belief, not a piece of evidence. No one can prove to you that Jesus is "one in being with the Father," and if they say they can, you ought to cross to the other side of the street.

The term "Son of God" is key to the Christian theology of Incarnation. In Hebrew scripture, "son of God" denotes a person with a special relationship to God. In the New Testament the term describes the unique relationship of Jesus to God. In the Jewish sense, then, angels are sons of God. So are the whole people of Israel and the king of the nation. Finally, Jews post-biblically began to refer to the anticipated Messiah as son of God. None of these Jewish usages implied a divine nature, only a privileged relationship.

In Christian usage the title is first applied to Jesus because he saw himself that way. God is his Father: It's repeated often enough that we might just as easily say Jesus saw himself as God's son. But did he mean "son" in the Jewish sense or the later Christian doctrine? We don't know. Clearly the gospel writers and Saint Paul used the title after Jesus' resurrection appearances to say something more about Jesus than anyone had claimed before.

Here's a brief rundown of how the term evolved for early Christians. First, they understood that Jesus views himself as the "Son in whom [God] is well pleased"—as testified by a heavenly voice at the accounts of his baptism and Transfiguration.

Next, they saw Jesus as the anticipated Messiah; as good Jews they used "son of God" for that awaited figure.

Third, as the church moved into the Gentile world, concepts like "messiah" began to lose their meaning. The world outside Judaism wasn't waiting for a saving hero. But the pagan world did employ "son of God" to refer to heavenly beings of various sorts. The term was a better fit to describe what Christians meant by Jesus.

As the church fathers mined scripture in search of understanding, they drew together traditions of prophecy, Wisdom, and Divine Word (the *Logos*) to see Jesus as sharing in the divinity of God both before his human birth and afterwards. At the Council of Nicaea in 325 Jesus was declared begotten of God before time began and "one in being with the Father."

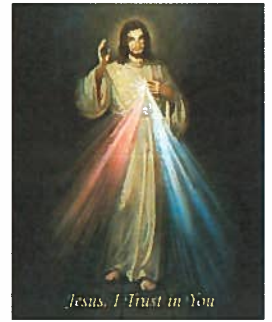
Scripture

• [Genesis 6:2](#); [Exodus 4:22](#); [Deuteronomy 32:8](#); [2 Samuel 7:14](#); [Job 1:6](#); [Psalm 2:7](#); [Jeremiah 31:9](#); [Hosea 11:1](#); [Matthew 5:45](#); [7:21](#); [11:25-27](#); [16:16](#); [26:63](#); [Mark 1:1](#); [14:36](#), [61](#); [Luke 10:21-22](#); [John 1:1-18](#); [11:27](#); [20:31](#); [Romans 1:3-4](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [1 Thesalonians 1:9-10](#); [Hebrews 1:2-4](#)

Bishop Hick's Column—Faith Inspired Movies

Contemporary movies are challenging to watch and often dubious to recommend. It seems so many contain agenda-laden themes, disturbing violence, immorality, and obscene language. I keep hoping to uncover that diamond in the rough that is worth watching—either in the theater or streaming live in the comfort of my home.

When I worked as the vicar general in the Archdiocese of Chicago, I had a colleague who would thoughtfully alert me to the latest Catholic, faith-inspired movie. In 2019, he recommended *Love and Mercy: Faustina*. A few days later, I invited a group of seminarians and priests to join me at a movie theater in downtown Chicago to enjoy this movie together. We were all inspired by the life of Sister Maria Faustina, an uneducated nun in Poland who allowed God to do extraordinary things through her.



Here's what was so inspiring: Helena Kowalska entered the convent in 1925 and took the name of Sister Maria Faustina. She toiled at menial tasks to fill her day in the kitchen or garden but was not always treated kindly by others. Yet throughout her humble existence and faithfulness, she experienced mystical encounters with Jesus that clearly revealed God's forgiveness, mercy, and boundless love for humanity. These experiences prompted her to pen her now-famous diary, *Divine Mercy In My Soul*. She also was gifted with a beautiful vision of Jesus, that most of us now recognize as the Divine Mercy image (shown right). It touchingly portrays Jesus with His right hand raised in a gesture of blessing. His left hand is touching His chest, emanating rays of red and white light. These rays symbolize the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side, which signify the graces of mercy and forgiveness. Of course, the rays also represent the sacraments of Eucharist and Baptism. The bottom of the image is inscribed with the spiritual words of surrender: *Jesus, I Trust in You*.

Saint John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina in 2000—the first saint of the new millennium. He affectionately named her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."

Every year on the second Sunday of Easter we, as the Catholic Church, celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a good reminder to focus our attention on God's sacrificial love. On this particular Sunday, we especially pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a powerful prayer invoking God's mercy. Most of us would agree our world, our society, and our very souls are in such need of God's grace these days.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, we pray to turn away from division, hate, and vindictiveness, so we can refocus our gaze and actions on God's mercy, forgiveness, and love.

I love the collect prayed at the beginning of Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, which boldly proclaims: God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast, kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Recently, my "movie whisperer" colleague from the Archdiocese of Chicago emailed and encouraged me to see the movie, *Cabrini*. He informed me that it is about an Italian immigrant, Francesca Cabrini, who fights the odds to help the poor and orphans, and ultimately becomes the first American saint. I immediately told him, "Based on your recommendation, I am determined to see it soon!"

When you see a good, faith-based movie which you enthusiastically give two thumbs up, I encourage you to recommend it to your family and friends. Your endorsement may be a simple way for you to evangelize and help spread the good news of our faith.

Saints Frances Xavier Cabrini and Maria Faustina Kowalska, pray for us, and may the Divine Mercy of God bless you today and always.



Salvador Larraín (c. 1826-1852), CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 | 1 Jn 2:1-5a | Lk 24:35-48

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

It's only been two weeks since Easter, but already the holiday can seem like another item checked off our to-do lists. It's easy to get complacent as we go about our busy lives - marking celebrations, important dates and gatherings on the calendar. Today's readings remind us that the Resurrection is not just a story or a metaphor about something ordinary that happened more than 2,000 years ago. It was so different and so shocking that it trembled the very earth, and nothing has been the same since! Luke describes the confusion the disciples felt when they first saw Jesus in his resurrected body. Here was their Lord and teacher, back from the dead, but not as a ghost or spirit as they might have expected: He was just as real as before. He was eating, speaking, touching, and interacting. And yet he *was* different. He could arrive in a locked room without using the door, pass among people unnoticed (as on the way to Emmaus), and give gifts of wisdom and insight directly to the disciples. Today's Gospel offers Jesus' explanation that these things were done to fulfill the promises God made to the prophets.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus, and his death and resurrection, was not meant to benefit only a few people. We, as his disciples, must spread the Good News that sin and death don't have the last word. St. Peter gives us an inspiring example today when he speaks to the people. Look at how different he is from the man who denied Jesus three times! He boldly goes into the crowd - the same crowd that condemned Jesus to death - and preaches on what a gift we all have been given by Jesus' sacrifice. Peter knows, and we know, that Jesus' defeat of death means everything. We are freely offered salvation through Christ's saving action. Like the members of that crowd, we're invited to be witnesses to this great act of love, and to re-align our lives with God's will. Like Peter, we can speak the Good News without fear.

ACCOMPANY How can we imitate Christ in the way he reached out to his disciples who were wracked with fear and doubt? Perhaps we know somebody who feels trapped by sin, or unworthy of good things, or a constant failure. Let's be honest, sometimes that person is us! We all need encouragement and accompaniment from time to time. Find a way to be that encouragement for someone this week who's having a tough time. You don't have to fix their problems; just listen, let them know you care, and offer a sincere and hopeful encouragement that brighter days lie ahead.

3rd Sunday of Easter

<p>Sunday, April 14 Acts 3:13-15,17-19 Ps 4:2,4,7-9 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48</p>
<p>Monday, April 15 Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24,26-27,29-30 Jn 6:22-29</p>
<p>Tuesday, April 16 Acts 7:51 – 8:1a Ps 31:3c-4,6-7b,8a,17,21ab Jn 6:30-35</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 17 Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a,4-7a Jn 6:35-40</p>
<p>Thursday, April 18 Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9,16-17,20 Jn 6:44-51</p>
<p>Friday, April 19 Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1-2 Jn 6:52-59</p>
<p>Saturday, April 20 Acts 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-17 Jn 6:60-69</p>

Jesus knew his apostles well. He knew some felt shame and remorse for having denied and abandoned him. However, His sign of peace let them know that they were forgiven and that He still loved them. Our Divine Savior continues to offer Himself in peace and forgiveness to us all.



How can we find this peace in Christ? What if you have doubts? What if you're angry? What if life has been challenging, and things don't seem fair? What if you feel abandoned and God doesn't seem to be answering your prayers? What if you feel guilty because of sin and mistakes? Christ's peace and unconditional love are offered to all, especially to you.

First, ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and tell him in your own words that you need Jesus and want Him to help. "Apart from me, you can't do anything," says the Lord (Jn. 15:5). Then, read the Bible, go to Confession, and nourish your soul with Holy Communion.

spiritual books, or the Rosary.

To hear back from God, we must listen. Begin by letting go of all the busy conversation and spiritual reading and just sit silently in love and total surrender with our Lord. The goal is to bask

in His glory, trusting His holy will in all things.

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace." May the peace of our Lord be with you always.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What matters are troubling you that you can bring to prayer?
- † As Christ displayed patience with the disciples' lack of understanding and unbelief, how has he been patient with you? How are you patient with others?
- † How does the virtue of forgiveness lead to peace?
- † How has Christ's resurrection made a difference in your life? Since Jesus calls us to do so, how can we share the literal truth of the Resurrection, and how can we witness this in our lives?

Prayer is another crucial element in reaching interior peace, as it raises your mind and heart to God in a relationship of love, trust, and peace. God wants to hear from you! He wants to hear about your praise, thankfulness, frustrations, anger, worries, needs, and repentance.

Many people begin with standard memorized prayers and then move into more honest, intimate conversations. Meditative prayer can be fruitful as well, like praying with Scripture,