



St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

Staying Connected During COVID-19

Online Giving:
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April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter
You have made known to
me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in
your presence.
— Acts 2:28



Dear Friends,

Lucy from the Peanuts cartoon fame, pictured with an air of discouragement, posed the questions, “Do you think that life has any meaning when you have failed nine spelling tests in a row, and your teacher hates you?” While most likely for very different reasons, I rather suspect that most of us have experienced our own times of despair, a time when it feels as if all of life is falling in upon us, time like the ones we are in right now with feelings of frustration, isolation and even fear. Whether it is dealing with the effects of Coronavirus or other major and disturbing moments in like, the truth is that each of us has known times of anguish and despair, times when we have felt all alone, times of confusion and pain.

One particular and very personal time for me like this was during my Freshman year in College Seminary. But at the very worst moment, at the most painful, loneliest hour, I experienced an encounter with the presence, the love, the grace of God firsthand. At a time when my heart was strangely warmed, a heart burning with love, a heart strangely warmed. I knew the love of family and friends but this was a different kind of love, a love that was and still is unexplainable but somehow whole, complete total love of who I am. In an instant, in a heartbeat, my life changed for the better that ice cold, wintery, snowy Iowa night and since then, my life has never been the same!

My friends, are these not indications of an Easter power and presence within us, the gift of the risen Christ’s Spirit? Burning hearts, hearts strangely warmed, are hearts ablaze with the promise of resurrection and new life, with the good news that fear and death do not have the final word, that love is stronger than hatred, that peace is indeed a possibility!

Live your Easter life, my friends to the fullest!

In the Divine Word, I am

Fr. Rick Andrus, SOD

Today's Readings

First Reading — God has raised the crucified Jesus, who now pours forth the Holy Spirit upon us (Acts 2:14, 22-33).

Psalms — Lord, you will show us the path of life (Psalm 16).

Second Reading — Our faith and hope are in God, who raised Jesus from the dead (1 Peter 1:17-21).

Gospel — Through his words and in the breaking of the bread, the risen Christ made himself known to two disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).

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Readings for the Week

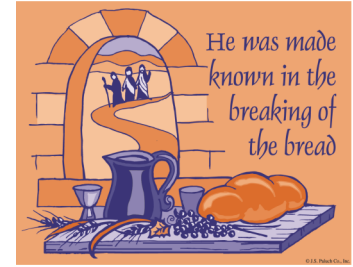
- Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday: **Memorial of St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort**
Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday: **Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena**
Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday: **Memorial of St. Pius V**
Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
- Friday: **Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker**
Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59, or, for the memorial, Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58
- Saturday: **Memorial of St. Athanasius**
Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69
- Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

GOD'S PLAN

Saint Peter speaks to us twice today. In the first reading, we hear an excerpt from his sermon on Pentecost; in the second part of his first letter. Once a frightened, uneducated fisherman who often said just the wrong thing, now Peter is speaking what he knows to be true. Everything Jesus had said now makes sense. His death and rising were all part of God's plan, and our faith and hope can be centered on God.

Today's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus with two of the disciples. Frightened, sad, and confused, the two of them don't recognize Jesus, who tells them what we heard Peter say above: All this had to happen as part of God's plan. In the end, these disciples recognize Jesus as we are to recognize him—in the breaking of the bread.

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May they rest in peace...

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Paul and Jones family at the passing of Mr. Leon Paul, father of Mrs. Angela Jones. Also to the Smith family, at the passing of Fr. Chester

Smith, SVD.

May God grant them peaceful eternal rest. May the same God grant comfort and consolation to the families as they grieve the passing of their loved ones.



PRAYER FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

God of everlasting goodness,
you sent your Son among us
to bring healing, peace, and reconciliation to our weary world.
Be with all health care workers and their assistants
in this time of the Coronavirus pandemic.

As they continue Jesus' ministry of care,
renew them in mind, body, and spirit.
Keep them safe from infection and illness,
and may Christ's healing presence flow through them
as they serve those entrusted to their care.

We ask this in his name,
Christ the healer,
who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND



Audrey Christopher, Mary Smart, Carolyn Christophe, Dorothy Bazile, Myrtis Coleman, Robert Seals, Mona Seals, Sylvia Collier, Lena Batiste, Marie Myles, George Bell, Mary Lena Price, Willis Reed, Jr., Annie Joseph, Rosa Johnson, Harry Sills, Denovas Crockett, Jasman Benjamin, James Hayward, Gussie Trahan, Cheryl Crockett, Brenda D. Hickman, Quincy Hamilton, Charles Davis, Jr., Jessie Joseph, Rose Crockett Carter, Dianna Franklin, Meredith Jones, Gregory Cornell, George Cornell, Mable King, Barbara Rodney, and Mercedes Mackey

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Ronnie Gauthier, Helen Celestine, Florence Jackson, Geraldine Floyd, Betty Hammond, Frank Ross, Mona Bossier Bailey, Walker Williams, Barbara Brennan, Richard Dillon, Calvin Thomas, III, Joel Rivera, Dorie Martin, Alberta Conner, Martha Reinhart, Dana Simoneaux, Nichelle Hollins, Jessica Hughes, Ernie Butitta, Edna Dixon, Charles Bethley, Janet Bossier, and Jenna Scott

THANK YOU FRONTLINE WORKERS!



A LITANY FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Lamb of God, you comforted the sick and healed their infirmities, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you called your disciples to care for the poor and anoint them with oil in your name, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you suffered and died on the cross and then rose again to destroy death and bring us life, hear our prayer.
Holy Mary, Help of the Sick, pray for them.
Holy Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for them.
Holy Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, pray for them.
Holy Mary, Our Lady of the Angels, pray for them.
St. Rafael Archangel, Patron of healers, pray for them.
St. Luke, Patron Saint of doctors, pray for them.
St. Agatha of Sicily, Patron Saint of nurses, pray for them.
St. John of God, Patron Saint of the sick and of caregivers, pray for them.
St. Dymphna, Patron Saint of those who suffer mental illness, pray for them.
St. Blaise, Patron Saint of those who suffer illness of the throat, pray for them.
St. Bernardine of Siena, Patron Saint of those suffering from respiratory and chest ailments, pray for them.
St. Camillus of Lellis, Patron Saint of hospitals and nurses, pray for them.
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patron Saint of nurses and caregivers, pray for them.
St. Joseph, Protector of the Church and Patron Saint of the dying, pray for them.
All you holy men and women, especially those who cared for the sick and the dying, pray for them.
When they are overworked and exhausted, be their strength, Lord Jesus.
When they are scared and worried about their health and family, calm their fears, Lord Jesus.
When they are called to serve again and again, fill their hearts with courage, Lord Jesus.
When they deal with difficult cases and situations, grant them patience, Lord Jesus.
When they work tirelessly and see little fruits of their labors, give them peace, Lord Jesus.
When they stand by the bed of the sick and the dying, comforting them, fill them with compassion and love, Lord Jesus.
When they communicate with family members who must remain separated from their loved ones who suffer, give them wisdom, Lord Jesus.
When they feel lonely and sad from seeing all the suffering and being away from their families and friends, take their tears and assure them of your presence, Lord Jesus.
Should any of them die from exposure to the virus or resulting from the stress of such difficult and painful circumstances, grant them a place among the saints of heaven, Lord Jesus.
When the pandemic has passed and we can draw near to each other again, help us to honor their work and shower them with gratitude, Lord Jesus.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

