



## Peace, the Marker of Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**S**piritual writers tell us that a sure sign of life lived with faith in God is peace, the inner kind of peace that enables you to rest in it with no worry or anxiety. When the risen Lord appears in the midst of the disciples just back from Emmaus and says to them first off, "Peace be with you," that's the sort of peace he's talking about and wishing for them.

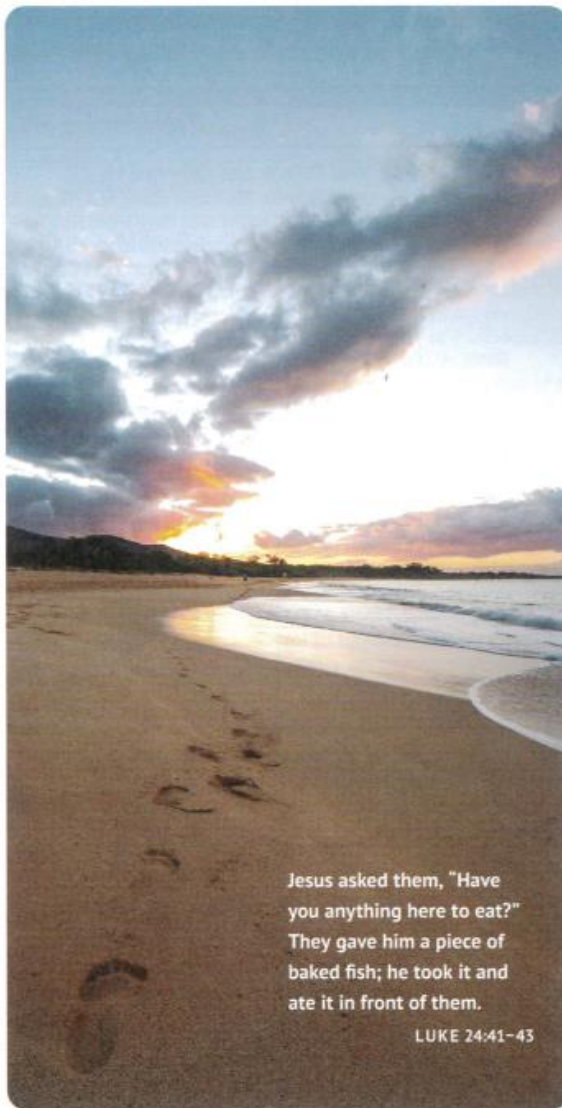
Such peace doesn't seem to be something easy to come by, something that simply plops into the lap of your soul. More than anything it seems to be the fruit of prayerfulness—sometimes praying the rosary or other traditional prayers and sometimes just simply sitting in the quiet, in the midst of love without having to say any words.

There is something about surrendering to God's love over the course of many lived days that eventually brings us to that sort of trusting peace.

The thing about such peace is that only you know if it's genuine. When you feel peace when life turns topsy-turvy, that's God peace. When life is progressing smoothly, it's not easy to know if that's God's peace or just a life without turbulence. But if you're at peace when everything else around you is not, that's when you know it's the presence of God that has you all wrapped up in worry-free wonder. ●

### Reflect

*Have you ever felt at peace even when there is conflict or fear?*



Jesus asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

LUKE 24:41-43

## *St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist*

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### Third Sunday of Easter (B)

#### **Christ's Forgiveness and Peace are Offered to All**

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.

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, 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.

#### **Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of April 15, 2024**

Mon.	Apr	15	4:00 PM	SJ	No Daily Mass
Tues.	Apr	16	5:30 PM	SA	No Daily Mass
Wed.	Apr	17	7:00 AM	SJ	No Daily Mass
Thurs.	Apr	18	5:30 PM	SB	No Daily Mass
Fri.	Apr	19	8:30 AM	SJ	No Daily Mass
Sun.	Apr	21	8:00 AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	Apr	21	9:30 AM	SA	Michael Davenport†
Sun.	Apr	21	11:00 AM	SB	Special Intention

David Pandorf April 21st

**Eternal Rest Grant unto her O'Lord.**

We remember *Louise Hoesel* who recently passed away. May the hope of resurrection bring peace to her.

## Ministry Schedule

Date: April 21	<i>St. Agnes</i>	<i>St. Boniface</i>	<i>St. John's</i>
<b>Time</b>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Conrad & Aleta P.	Chancy & Roni B.	Youth
<b>Lector</b>	Aleta P.	Carla K.	Youth
<b>Server</b>		Dylan P. & Quinton B.	Youth
<b>EMHC</b>	Conrad & Aleta P.	John R. & Mike P.	Youth
<i>Communion to shut ins or Music</i>		Mike P.	Music: Youth

<u>St. Agnes</u>	<u>St. Boniface</u>	<u>St. John's</u>
<p><b>Our Gifts to God &amp; Church</b>  <b>April 7, 2024</b>  <u>Total Collection:</u>                      \$394.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u>                      Dollar Goal = \$4014/so far \$2935                      Donor Goal: 9 out of 16</p> <p>Thrift Store                      Open May 3rd from 9AM to 4PM</p> <p>Needed: Mass Intentions                      for St Agnes.</p> <p><u>Reconciliation Service</u>                      April 21st starting at 12:30 PM                      with Fr Loren.                      Everyone is welcome.</p>	<p><b>Our Gifts to God &amp; Church</b>  <b>April 7, 2024</b>  <u>Total Collection:</u>                      \$950.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u>                      Dollar Goal = \$7306/ so far \$7330                      Donor Goal: 16 out of 19  <b>The dollar goal is REACHED</b></p> <p><u>Next Week</u>                      Please stay after our 11 am April 21 mass                      for a potluck. The theme is Mexican and                      Italian, but anything will be great!                      Stewardship group 1 hosting.</p> <p>The last CCD will be April 24th. We                      will have the meal at 6:10 PM and                      some fun activities to follow.                      Thanks to all that help in anyway.</p>	<p><b>Our Gifts to God &amp; Church</b>  <b>April 7, 2024</b>  <u>Total Collection:</u>                      \$1345.60</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u>                      Dollar Goal=\$5001/so far \$5020                      Donor Goal: 15 out of 17  <b>The dollar goal is REACHED!</b></p> <p><u>Next Week</u>                      Coffee and Rolls                      following Mass April 21st</p> <p><b>April 24 last CCD class.</b>                      There will be mass at 6:15 PM , then                      meal and games. Families are invited.                      Please RSVP to Jenny by April 21st.</p>

**Quote for Today**  
**Blessed Marie Anne Blondin (1809-1890)**  
**Feast day April 18**

“There is more happiness in forgiving than in revenge.”

In cooperation with Jeff Cavins and Ascension Press, Spirit Catholic Radio brings you *The Great Adventure – Your Journey Through the Bible*. Learn how the people, places, and events of the Bible all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith. Tune in on your own, with a spouse, or if possible, gather your bible study group during these times. Upcoming schedule: The Bible Timeline begins April 16, 2024, airing on Tuesdays at 11am and replays at 8pm. Matthew begins April 25, 2024, airing on Thursdays at 11am and replays at 8pm. Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life begins May 11, airing on Saturday at 7am and replays Sunday at 8pm. Discount on materials also available! More details at [spiritcatholicradio.com/adventure](http://spiritcatholicradio.com/adventure)



# Dear Padre,

## What is a “covenant,” and how are marriage and covenant related?

“Covenant” is the word the Church employs to define and describe the sacrament of matrimony. It is clearly based on the idea of “covenant” contained in Scripture. In contrast, society uses the related word “contract,” as in the “marriage contract.” However, these two words do not mean the same thing.

The meaning of “contract” is too limited to contain the full commitment of Christian marriage. When you sign a contract, you are legally bound only to its terms. You need not do more or less than what is stipulated in its wording. Warmth and concern for the well-being of one party for the other are not stipulated in a contract.

A covenant, on the other hand, is different. Although it may contain some aspects of contract, it establishes a personal relationship of closeness, affection, and warmth, and it locks the couple into a mutual commitment to each other’s well-being.

As God freely chose Israel from all the nations possible, so do two people choose each other from all other people. As God declared, “I will take you as my people, and I will be your God” (Exodus 6:7). In the same way, a husband and wife pledge total commitment to each other.

Christian marriage bears the same characteristics of covenant commitment—the personal relationship of caring, loyalty, intimacy, exclusivity, permanency, and, above all, love; hence the use of “covenant” to define Christian marriage. ●



ANDRES SCHNEF / SHUTTERSTOCK

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 15	April 16	April 17	April 18	April 19	April 20	April 21
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:8–15	Acts 7:51–8:1a	Acts 8:1b–8	Acts 8:26–40	Acts 9:1–20	Acts 9:31–42	Acts 4:8–12
Jn 6:22–29	Jn 6:30–35	Jn 6:35–40	Jn 6:44–51	Jn 6:52–59	Jn 6:60–69	1 Jn 3:1–2
						Jn 10:11–18



### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Eating, when we do so together, among family or friends, also becomes an expression of love, an expression of communion, of celebration. How often the Gospels present us with Jesus experiencing this convivial dimension! Even as the Risen One, with his disciples. To the point that the Eucharistic Banquet has become the emblematic sign of the Christian community.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 18, 2021

GIOVANNI CARDILLO / SHUTTERSTOCK