

*Welcome to the Holy Family Parishes of*  
**Our Lady of the Holy Rosary**  
**Sacred Heart**  
**Ss Philip & James**

Mission Statement

A family of God constituted  
by the Holy Eucharist and  
strengthened by the Holy  
Spirit to make God known,  
loved and served.

3<sup>rd</sup>

SUNDAY OF EASTER

Then the two  
recounted what had  
taken place on the  
way and how he was  
made known to them  
in the breaking of  
bread. —Lk 24:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**Cluster Office Hours**

Monday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Telephone: 563-847-2271

Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday 12:00 noon

(unless otherwise noted).

- Sacrament of Baptism: Please call the cluster office for arrangements.
- Sacrament of Matrimony: Please contact Pastor 9 to 12 months prior to wedding date.

# **What the Emmaus Journey Has to Teach Us**

This week we have the privilege of reading about the journey to Emmaus by the two disciples of Jesus. It's a particularly ordinary story situated in the daily life experience of two disciples.

The background to the story is that the two disciples mentioned in the story had been disappointed about the turn of events of Jesus' life and ministry. Their level of disappointment had closed their minds and hearts to the news of the resurrection, and they embarked on a journey to return to their village (their former ways).

Their disappointment led them to think that this was over with; they were done! Their conversations turned sour, there was despair. Have you ever had an Emmaus journey experience in your life? Disappointments occur when we get a different outcome than the ones we might have wished for, such as getting a different answer to something you have prayed so hard about. Anytime I saw myself on an Emmaus journey, I would say like St. Peter: "Lord I have worked hard all night and have caught nothing". Usually, that makes me realize that it is not the end of the story, there is a savior who can turn things around, and he does!

It was not so much of a surprise that Jesus drew near to these two disciples in their time of disappointment and despair in an unrecognized form. Jesus posed as a stranger traveling by the same road on foot. One thing sets him apart, he takes interest in them and invites himself to their conversation. He helps them to take a different look at how they feel, he takes time to journey with them through scriptures to understand things from God's perspective.

They have to reframe the issues. For instance, instead of saying 'it's over' can you just give God a chance? What about instead of doing all the talking if you allowed some other voice to come through to you. Instead of feeling lonely and abandoned can you believe for once that you are not alone? God is indeed part of our journey of life. Can you think of a time when God was no longer part of the journey? Is it at all possible to travel alone on the road of life?

The two disciples decided to take a deeper step by inviting Jesus to stay with them, then they invited him to dinner and what happened revived their drooping spirits; it got them back on their feet. It gave them the energy to run back to Jerusalem-to walk back the road of disappointment and believe in the resurrection. Jesus revealed himself to them in the breaking of the bread. Yes, he is the bread of life; our Eucharist!

Sometimes life can feel empty and we can be disappointed that the beautiful plant died a few days after it was planted. We can feel deeply disappointed during a time of quarantine, and the time of pandemic can truly be empty and despairing. Let us still realize that there is a divine friend, faithful and dependable who promised to remain with us until the end of time. He is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He died, but he is now alive forever more!

Now, do you have an Emmaus journey experience to tell? Do you have a story of how God's voice spoke to you in the midst of a disappointment?

Shalom!  
Fr. Francis Odoo

## **How is your prayer life?**

Have you ever felt like your prayer life is going nowhere? Or, do you want to deepen your prayer, but don't know how to breathe new life into it?

When it comes to prayer, the answer is always Jesus. Not only are we supposed to address our prayers to Jesus, we also should sit at his feet and learn the art of prayer!

One of the primary ways we can imitate Jesus' own prayer is to pray from a "converted heart."

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains:

*"2608 From the Sermon on the Mount onwards, Jesus insists on conversion of heart: reconciliation with one's brother before presenting an offering on the altar, love of enemies, and prayer for persecutors, prayer to the Father in secret, not heaping up empty phrases, prayerful forgiveness from the depths of the heart, purity of heart, and seeking the Kingdom before all else. This filial conversion is entirely directed to the Father."*

In order for our prayer to have the greatest effect, we must pray from a converted heart. As Jesus says elsewhere, "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)

This challenges us to look inside our heart and see where our allegiance lies. Is our heart fully converted to the Lord? In what areas of our lives are we still serving another master?

St. Ignatius of Loyola wrote a similar meditation in his *Spiritual Exercises*, encouraging the individual to envision a battlefield with "Two Standards." One of the standards features God and his army, while the other is Satan and his army. Which side do we choose? Is our heart fully converted to the Lord and dedicated to his cause?

From the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



# A Time of Testimony and Witness

Over the past few months, people have witnessed the systematic removal of all they have relied on for security, entertainment, and basic necessities to protect themselves from the coronavirus. They are realizing, maybe for the first time, they don't have control over huge aspects of their lives they thought they controlled. Those of us who believe in God have always known we're not in control. God is. He is the one with the plan.

Many today are filled with fear and anxiety, uncertain about their future. This is a good time for us to reach out to them. We can share from our own experience what helps us have peace in moments like this and why at the end of the day, belief in God is the answer. This is a time of testimony and witness.

God has commissioned us to be missionary disciples, to evangelize. At first, we might think how can we possibly reach out to people in this time of social distancing, but there are actually numerous ways we can share our faith because we know that God is always with us, through every trial we face in life, and we can share that message with those who are struggling. Sharing our faith doesn't mean grabbing someone by his/her shirt and saying, "Let me tell you why you need to believe in Jesus!" (By the way, that's not a good approach in normal times!) But we can reach out to people in small ways with compassion and understanding.

For those who use social media, post little things on Facebook — prayers, images, pictures, or quotes. People are looking for reasons to have hope. They want hope and encouragement, and these posts will resonate with them. Whether digitally or in person, invite people to explore resources you have found helpful like EWTN, Catholic radio programs, and talks on YouTube. And of course, one of the most powerful things any of us can do at this time is pray. Pray for the world. Pray for those on the front lines, fighting this invisible enemy. Pray for the scientists and researchers. Pray for politicians to make wise decisions, concerning the sanctity of life. Pray for those who have died and those who have lost loved ones. Pray in thanksgiving for all we have received in this life. Just pray.

Clearly, God is drawing us closer to Him at this time, giving us the opportunity to grow deeper in our faith and share it with others. On Easter, the whole Church gathered around its shepherd, Pope Francis, as he offered his blessing to the world. We need to heed his resounding words. "For some weeks now, it seems that everything has gone dark. We find ourselves frightened and lost... Embrace the Lord...that is the strength of our faith, freeing us from fear and giving us hope."

Colleen Burke  
Evangelization Team

## Reflect and Respond to Scripture

**First Reading** In his first speech in Acts, Peter focuses on God's work in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. What do you think the resurrection of Jesus says about God?

**Second Reading** Peter asserts that the resurrection of Jesus should give believers "faith and Hope" in God. How do you remain focused on this objective in your spiritual journey?

**Gospel Reading** Jesus' resurrection appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus is one of the most well-known and beloved resurrection stories. What do you think makes this resurrection account so appealing?



**Celebrate!** And remember, **Easter is more than a day - it's the way.**

In fact, today is the Octave of Easter which opens into an entire Liturgical Season. We will celebrate Easter for fifty days until we celebrate the next great Feast, the Feast of Pentecost. Alleluias will permeate our worship - and they are meant to inform our lives.

That is because, in the words of the great western Church Bishop, Augustine, "we are an Easter people and alleluia is our song."

**Everything is different now because the Tomb is empty.** We are different now because we have been raised with Christ. We have been capacitated, through the Resurrection, to begin living our lives in a new way. Have you heard the old adage, used often in a disparaging way, "He's so heavenly he is no earthly good." I suggest again that it misses the mark completely.

**We Easter people are called to be so heavenly - to live our lives so attractively - that we bring Goodness Himself**

**to the earth** and move the earth toward its eternal recreation in Him. Easter is more than a day; it is a way of living our lives now in Him, and with one another for the sake of the world.

Because He has been raised, heaven has come to earth and earth can now come to heaven.

**Because He has been raised, the new creation has already begun.** The seed of the kingdom is manifested in the Church which is His Risen Body, the sign of the new heaven and new earth. That Holy Place of Habitation where all men and women are called to be set free from the Law of sin and death, live and graze, being fed on His Word and nourished on His Body and Blood, healed by His Oil of Mercy and prepared for eternity.

**As we continue to overcome many challenges during this Coronavirus pandemic, I invite you to make the MOST of your Easter season.**

From the Catholic Online School

## POPE'S FRANCIS' PANDEMIC PRAYER

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



### Cluster Parish Prayer List

#### 1. Our Shepherds:

Bishop Thomas Zinkula, Archbishop  
Michael Jackels, Fr. Francis Odoom,  
Deacon Mike Shiel

#### 2. The Aged & Infirm:

- Melvin Duwa, Elmer & Dorothy Hasenmiller, Gloria Kagemann, Grace Kinney, Dick Nodurft, Natalie Regan, & Carolyn Schwien
- Betty Anderson, Jerica Christensen, Rich Kleineck, Dennis Koppes, Wendy Larive, Leonard Lasack, Rhonda Murphy, Carmie Nowachek, & Marilyn Stevenson

## ONLINE MASS OPTIONS

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Vatican News Live Stream of Pope Francis' Masses— [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

Catholic TV Mass—  
<https://www.watchthemass.com/>

EWTN Daily Mass—  
<https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception— <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>

Daily Mass on YouTube - [Catholic Mass Today](#)

Archbishop Jackels online for Mass each Sunday morning at 9:00 am until public Masses resume: [www.dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts](http://www.dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church on Facebook— Mass, family rosary, praying together, etc.—Follow the page to join.

St. Joseph Catholic Church on Facebook— Mass—Follow the page to join.

### **Pope Francis Prayer Intention** **For April**

**We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.**

### **DAILY READINGS** **READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 4/26**

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35

**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51

**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59

**Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69

**Next Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10