

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 19, 2020



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857
Parish Office: 713.738.2311; Fax: 713.738.3337
CCE Office: 713.731.2775; SVdP Food Pantry: 713.731.2716
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>
E-MAIL: stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com
Parish Office Hours: Mon - Wed 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Closed on Thursday; Fri 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCatholicChurchHouston>

MISSION STATEMENT

We, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the beliefs and traditions of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Through a passion for righteousness and consciousness of duty to God, we uphold the faithful worship of God in our mission to our church family and the Sunnyside Community.

PASTOR:

Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, SSJ

DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins

Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

ADULT FORMATION

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Curtis Jones 713.731.2716

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson

HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

PLANT MANAGER

Anthony Ray Gobert

MAINTENANCE

Violet & Harold Champ

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 6:30 p.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 4:15p.m. - 4:45p.m.

Sundays: 6:45a.m. - 7:15a.m.

9:20a.m. - 9:45a.m.

11:35a.m. - 12:00p.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Judah Choir:

Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

God's Chosen Choir:

Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Youth Choir:

Saturday-12:00pm (Harris Center)

Thursday before the 4th Sunday-7:00pm (In Church)

BIBLE STUDY/

ADULT CATHECHISM:

Tuesday: 6:30 p.m.

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Communion for the sick and shut-in is available. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the parish office for information. Preparation classes are required for parents and godparents.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to proposed date.

WELCOME VISITORS AND

NEWCOMERS

To register, call, come by the parish office or visit our website at: www.sfxhouston.com

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MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE SAID BY FATHER MICHAEL IN HIS DAILY PRIVATE MASS.

- SAT. 04/18/2020**
People of the Parish
- SUN. 04/19/2020**
Monique Clark (D) – Theresa G. Savoy
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
 Family & Friends
Rev. August Thompson (D)
 Marian Richardson & Family
John L. Stewart – Sisters & Brothers
Edward Ray Chavis, Jr. (D)
 Edward R. Chavis Family
Herbert Goodwin (D)
 Stephanie Goodwin
M/M John Hall Jefferson (D)
 James & Bonnie Jefferson
Audrey Miles (D)
 The Hardin & Embers Families
Joseph Lewis (D) – Eva Lewis
Lauretha Sellers (D) – Cheryl Hurts
Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Sr.
 Wanda Dixon/Family
Larry Coleman (D) – Helen Gobert
- MON. 04/20/2020**
Agnes Thompson (L) – Special Intention
Carl Davis (D) – Margaret Chaney
- TUE. 04/21/2020**
Agnes Thompson (L)
 SFX Sisters in the Spirit
Irene Hutchins (D) – The Chaney Family
- WED. 04/22/2020**
Rev Chester Smith, SVD (D)
- THUR. 04/23/2020**
Marian Richardson (L)
 Special Intention
- FRI. 04/24/2020**
Charles A. Lewis (L)
 The Lewis Family



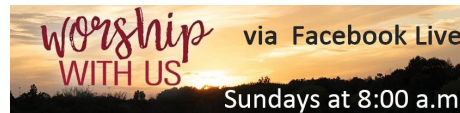
We regret to inform you of the death of **Fr. Chester Smith, SVD**, on Wednesday, April 8. Please remember Fr. Chester and the Smith family, Fr. Charles (twin brother), their sister Marcheta and brother Kermit, in your prayers. May Fr. Chester's soul and all souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



Deacon Alfred Abram, Algy Alfred, Joseph Broussard, Margaret Cadoree, Mary Augustine Chenier, Shirley Curette, Nicole Fontenet, Dee Fontenet, Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Brooke Joseph, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Patrick Martell, Willie Martin Jr., Shannon Martin, Dorothy Milstead, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsort, Cynethia Pichon, William Pierre Sr., Victoria Powell, Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Evelyn Roberts, Oliver Rose, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, MacKenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Pamela Thibodeaux, Ronald Walcott, Agnes Williams, Elizabeth Williams, Patricia Williams, and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

Let us Know

Please let us know when you and/or a family member are ill, in the hospital, or having a surgery, especially if the illness or surgery is serious. Call the Parish Office so that we can put the name on the sick list for prayers and/or visitation if needed. **After 30 days, please call the office to remain on the prayer list.**



Visit the Parish Website: www.sfxhouston.com and click on the Facebook Icon at the bottom of the page.

Lord, we pray for all our current military service members and first responders who put their own lives on the line every day in order to protect our families and our country.

Army:

Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Shanta Charles, Josiah Charles, Stephen Jones, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II, David Stagnoli, Jordan T. McCorkle, Essence L. Casteel

Navy:

Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell, Christian Johnson, Hope Bethany Johnson

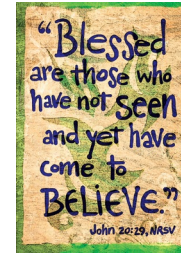
Air Force:

Roderick Jones, Joffre Lander, Bena Sellers, Terrance J Valiare, Thomas Q Valiare II

Marines

Alyssa Dugar, Reginald Ward

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)



A week out from Easter Sunday we have the opportunity to listen to three responses to the Resurrection event. In Acts we hear of the communal practices of the early church. Peter praises God for the “living hope” Jesus brought to all who believe. John tells the well-known story of Thomas, who needed to see the resurrected Jesus before he would believe, and Jesus’ subsequent blessing of those who believe without seeing. Let us listen and believe.

READINGS

FOR THE WEEK

Sunday – April 19
2nd Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)
 Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31

Monday – April 20
 Acts 4:23-31
 Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7, 9
 John 3:1-8

Tuesday – April 21
Saint Anselm,
Bishop & Doctor of the Church
 Acts 2:36-41
 Psalm 93:1-2, 5
 John 3:7-15

Wednesday – April 22
 Acts 5:17-26
 Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
 John 3:16-21

Thursday – April 23
Saint George, Martyr;
Saint Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr
 Acts 5:27-33
 Psalm 34:2, 9, 17-18, 19-20
 John 3:31-36

Friday – April 24
Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen,
Priest & Martyr
 Acts 5:34-42
 Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
 John 6:1-15

Saturday – April 25
Saint Mark, Evangelist
 1 Peter 5:5-14
 Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17
 Mark 16:15-20



All CCE Classes are cancelled until further notice. Catechists will contact parents with information regarding Home Study.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults gives provision for the initiation of catechumens and candidates at a time other than the Easter Vigil “because of unusual circumstances and pastoral needs” (RCIA26). It does not appear possible or prudent to attempt to initiate our catechumens at Easter this year. We will schedule initiation at an appropriate time before the year ends.



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston continues to serve people in need during the COVID-19 pandemic through all of its programs. Food pantries are open for drive-through food distribution with hours each week at our three locations: **Guadalupe Center** in Houston; **Mamie George Community Center** in Richmond; **Beacon of Hope Center** in Galveston. For hours and other assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic, call the COVID Assistance Line at **713-874-6521**.



Remembering our Call to Stewardship

As Catholics, we believe that all we have is a gift from God. Our response in faith is to offer these gifts back to God in gratitude. With gifts of prayer, we pray for our nation, Church and our parishes. With gifts of treasure, we support our parishes even when we cannot be there in person. Sign up for **Faith Direct** by visiting www.faith.direct.net/TX632, or text ‘Enroll’ to **281-949-7600**. You may choose to temporarily use this online giving tool until we return to normalcy, then you can discontinue using Faith Direct and return to your original form of giving (check or cash using your church envelope). Getting set up is easy, contact the Parish Bookkeeper, Edwin Vallery at **281-825-1657**. Stay Safe and God Bless!



To everyone on the front line during these challenging times:

CLERGY: Rev. Michael Saah-Buckman, Deacon Michael Jenkins, Deacon Daryll Drenon

HEALTH CARE: Margaret Drenon, Cassandra Green, Sheila Harris, Barbara Moses, Lois Obiozor, Annie Robertson, Dr. Chantee Vavasseur, Felecia Ward

MAIL CARRIER: Stephanie Jackson
BULLETIN SERVICE: Jenero Mitchell

VIDEO SERVICE: Abra Charles
PARISH STAFF/VOLUNTEERS: Unella Baber, Evelyn Briggs, Violet & Harold Champ, Orell Dargin, Shirley Foreman, Jerry Givens, Hope Jackson, Curtis Jones, Agnes Thompson, Edwin Vallery

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

That we help our parish create a welcoming environment where people feel included. “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” John 20:19 Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. A simple “hello” and a smile goes a long way.

Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion
My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there And unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Prayer in Time of the Coronavirus

Comfort us, O Lord, for we are like your disciples on the storm-tossed seas, unsettled by what lies ahead.

We turn to You, our Healer and Guide, to still our hearts in our time of need and hear our prayer:

Heal those who are sick with the coronavirus and protect the elderly and most vulnerable.

Give strength to all who tend to our health and wisdom to researchers who work toward a cure.

Open our eyes and hearts, as you did during Hurricane Harvey, that we may look beyond our immediate needs to care for others who need help.

Through the Holy Spirit, guide our leaders to make wise decisions for the welfare of all the people they serve.

Grant eternal rest to those who have died from the virus.

May Mary, Our Mother, who has heard our pleas in the storms of our lives, intercede to her Son, that we may find healing and a prompt end to this illness.

Mary, Star of the Sea, pray for us.

Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, heal us. Amen



Strengthening the Church at Home

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Next week is the Catholic Missions

Appeal. Today over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered mission territory because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.



feeding hungry babies

Does your baby need formula?

Call us **713.528.6044** or Visit www.lifehouston.org/locations



NOTICE!!!

The Parish Office will be **Closed** until further notice.



Pastor's Reflection

His Mercy Endures Forever!

Today is **Divine Mercy Sunday**. The Church brings our attention to the Grace and Mercy of God which comforts and strengthens us, especially during these challenging times. When we look at the 2000 plus years of the Christian movement, it has dealt with challenges upon challenges. Some of these situations have attacked the very core principles on which Christianity stands. There have been internal as well as external challenges that have almost derailed the track on which the Christian faith runs. We have had wars and plagues like that which is going on in our world today which have claimed the lives of many believers. We are reminded that the unfailing love and mercy of God that guided the early Christians will guide us too through it all.

St Paul writing early in 50 AD to the Church in Corinth (1Cor 11) gives us an insight into the early Christian church. It was filled with challenges that were destroying the core belief of the Christian faith. In that correspondence he points out some of the struggles the Corinthian church had to deal with. The community was not united as St. Luke portrays some twenty years later. According to Paul's account, the Eucharistic celebration was a potluck meal in which the Christians brought their food. The community relied on the generosity of one another for spiritual and physical sustenance (1Cor 11:18-21). Paul writes to inform the selfish individuals that they are eating bread and drinking the cup of the Lord unworthily and so are bringing judgment on themselves (1Cor 11:27).

In his undertaking to compile the narratives of events that have been fulfilled (Lk 1:1), St. Luke gives us an ideal picture of the Church as Jesus Christ intended it to be. He writes in 75 AD that the early Christians "devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles and to communal life, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). St. Luke gives us a lovely picture of the early Church as one big happy family, where everyone cared for and about one another, like a socialist community.

St. Luke in writing his narratives recognized the challenges that the Church was facing. He also realized that despite these challenges four important elements have prevailed. He invites the Christian community, that is, everyone who has committed himself or herself to imitate Jesus' death and resurrection, to discern and follow his model.

To help us discern our commitment to the risen Christ on this Divine Mercy Sunday, St. Luke asks us to hold on to the teachings of the apostles, i.e. the Bible; help and accept each other as brothers and sisters, i.e. communal life; celebrate the Eucharist in the spirit of the Last Supper as Paul tells us; and pray as one family.

St. John takes us further and suggests that unless we are willing to offer forgiveness to one another, it will be impossible to create the idyllic Christian community that St Luke shares, with us regardless of how hard we try. St. John, with the story of doubting Thomas, reassures us that we who never saw, heard and touched the human Jesus are not at any disadvantage compared to those who did, in order to experience his love and mercy. "Blessed are those who have not seen and believed" (Jn 20:29).

St. Peter summarizes it all for us when he says that our faith in the risen Jesus will be the force to realize this ideal church that St. Luke tells us about in order to obtain our salvation (1Pt 1:3-9). So, as we go through these challenging times, may our faith be strengthened as we join the Psalmist in praying "**May his Love and Mercy endure forever**" (Ps 118).



The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Our Lord gave St. Faustina a set of prayers to invoke His mercy, called the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. On standard rosary beads, pray the following prayers:

First, on the crucifix, one Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostles' Creed.

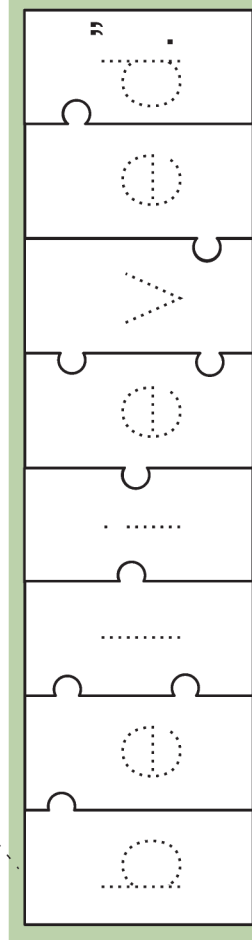
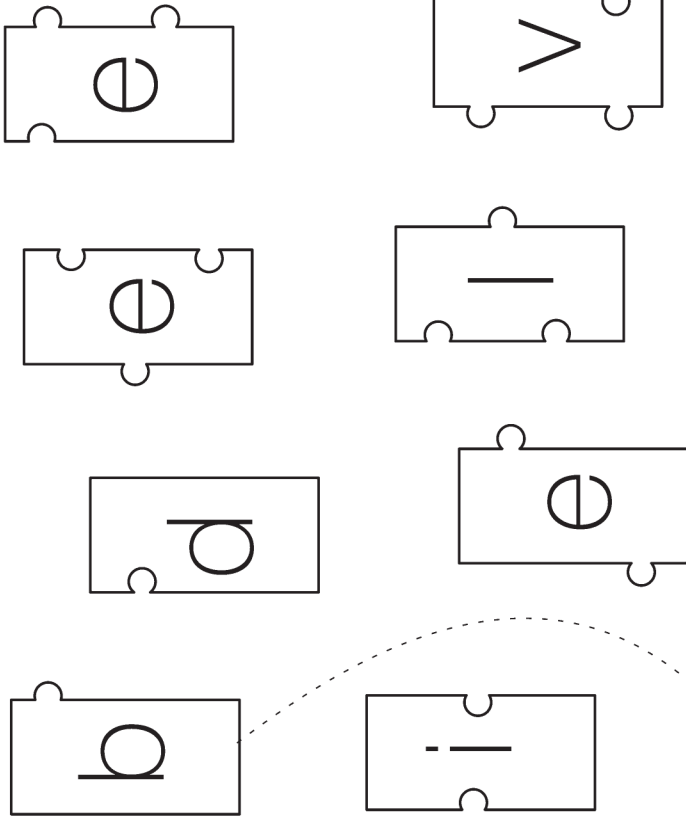
On each Our Father bead, pray: "Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins, and those of the whole world."

On each Hail Mary bead, pray: "For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us, and on the whole world."

Repeat for five decades. To conclude, pray three times: "Holy God, holy mighty One, holy immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Now Thomas believed.
 Jesus said, "Blessed are those who
 have not seen and yet have ...

Match the puzzle letters. Write each letter.



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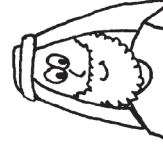
Ages 3+

April 19, 2020 • John 20:19-31

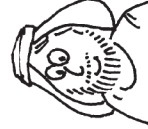
Jesus Appears to His Disciples

After Jesus rose from the dead,
 His disciples — except for 1 — were
 together in a room with the doors locked.
 Which disciple was not there?

Find and circle Thomas.



Peter



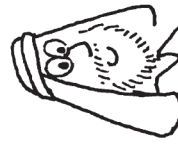
Andrew



James



Thaddaeus



Philip



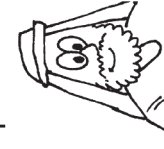
Bartholomew



James, son
of Alphaeus



John



Simon



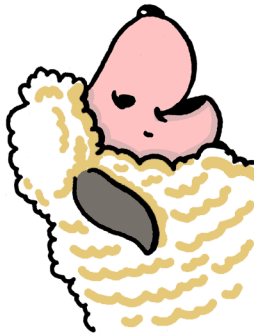
Thomas



Matthew

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Then Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!" What did Jesus say back to him?



Unscramble the names below. Use the numbered letters to fill in the blanks.

1. VIDAD 6 ____ 2
 2. LAPU ____ 12 9
 3. RAMY 10 ____ 5 14
 4. BOCAJ ____ 17 13
 5. PHOSEJ ____ 15 18
 6. REWAND 16 ____ 1
 7. BELITHEZA ____ 8 3 7
 8. ONHJ ____ 4 11
- “ 3 18 17 16 12 15 18 14 13 12 4 16 2 18
- 15 18 18 11 10 18 14 13 12 4 16 2 18
- 3 18 9 8 18 2 18 6 3 9 18 15 18 6
- 16 5 18 7 4 13 15 18 1 4 13 4 16 2 18
- 11 13 7 15 18 18 11 16 11 6 14 18 7
- ”
- 4 16 2 18 3 18 9 8 18 2 18 6

Children's Worship Bulletin™



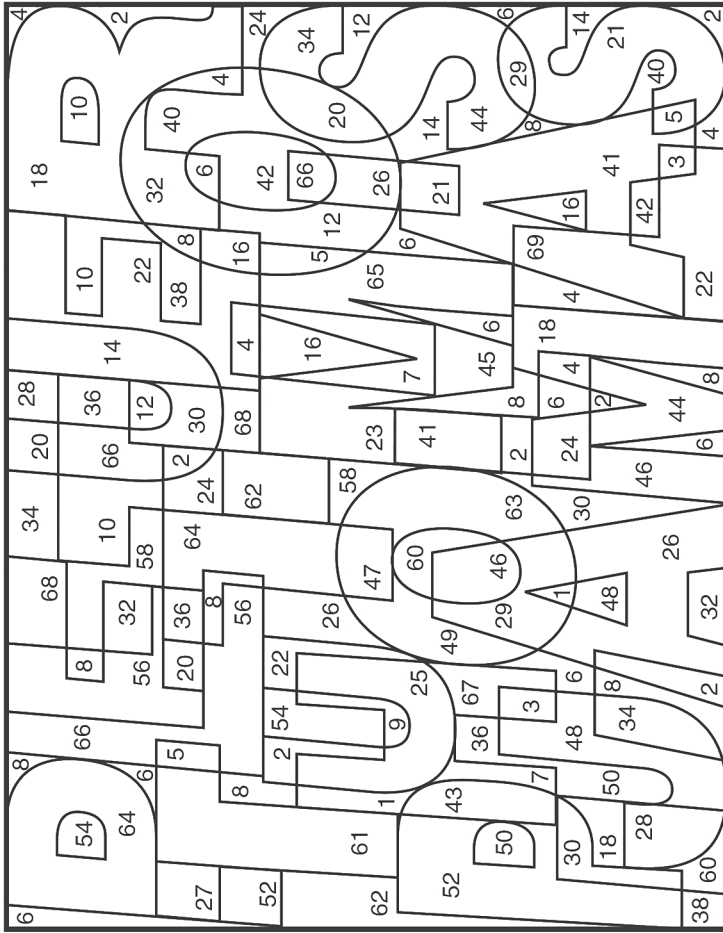
Ages 7+

April 19, 2020 • John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to the disciples. But one of them was not with them when Jesus came. Which disciple was missing?

Shade in all the areas with an ODD number. Find the answer.



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