

**For The Bulletin Of
April 23, 2017**



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

From Father Robert

“The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.” The absent Thomas could not bring himself to such rejoicing in Jesus’ Being alive, for he had not yet encountered the risen Jesus; he had not yet come to believe. Thomas insists on seeing and touching Jesus before he can believe that He is truly alive and well. A week later, confronted by the risen Jesus, Thomas’s obstinate doubt becomes unwavering belief: “My Lord and my God!” Both the disciples and Thomas’s shifts in who and how they were had everlasting effects on them. In fact, from today’s gospel we can tease out myriad shifts: mourning to joy, fear to peace, sinfulness to forgiveness, being behind locked doors to being sent out, inertia to empowerment by the Holy Spirit, not seeing to seeing, obstinate disbelief to acclamation of faith, life before Jesus’ resurrection to new “life in His name.” For those who believe, Jesus’ resurrection shifts their self-understanding and their purpose in life, enabling them to see all things as new. Do we believe?

The risen Jesus is relentless in bringing us to the same belief He coaxed out of Thomas. Today we see and touch the risen Jesus in many ways. We see and touch the risen Jesus in our encounters with His risen Presence through the “many wonders and signs” the Spirit works within and through us who have come to believe. The resurrection asks more of us than merely believing in Jesus’ new Life. Our belief is strengthened by our doing. The doing brings about shifts in our own self-understanding: we are members of Christ’s Body living with His risen Life coursing within us. The doing brings about shifts in our own purpose in life: we now, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, continue Jesus’ saving ministry.

The struggle to believe is no less than the struggle to recognize and encounter the risen Jesus. This is really what our Christian life is all about – encountering the risen Jesus Who lives now within us, and believing that risen Life is given to us to share with others. Our Easter joy doesn’t come from tangibly seeing and touching the risen Jesus; it comes from grappling with the mystery of the resurrection because what the mystery promises is so much: new Life.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Not just Thomas, but all the disciples came to believe because they had “seen the Lord.” Yet we are not disadvantaged because we have not seen or touched Him as did the disciples long ago; the advantage of encountering Jesus comes not from seeing and touching but from *believing*. Because of believing, we can say, “We have seen the Lord!”

Another twist to this seeing/believing issue is hinted at in the first reading. These early Christians enjoyed “favor with all the people.” While other New Testament texts tell us that all wasn’t peaches and cream, this passage does point to the extraordinary good life the early Christians led, with no one in their midst in need. One way that we might say that we have truly “seen the Lord,” is the good works performed by those who claim His name. Jesus’ risen Presence was different from His physical presence before the resurrection (the gospel makes a point about Jesus coming through a locked door.” Therefore, even though we are removed from the historical reality of Jesus’ Presence, we are no less able to “see” and be present to the risen One. The challenge for Christian living, of course, is that we see the risen Jesus in the goodness of others.

How have today’s scripture passages and our belief in the resurrection challenged you?

- For the resurrection to be a lived experience in my daily life, the shifts I must undergo are...
- I know I miss seeing and touching the risen Jesus in others because...
- I received the Holy Spirit at baptism, and...

About Liturgy: Seeing, Believing, and Devotional Items

The church has for centuries helped us to believe what we cannot see by using things perceptible to our senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. The most obvious examples are our sacraments that use water, oil, imposition of hands, bread, and wine – visible signs – to lead us to the invisible

grace God is offering us. The gospel today reminds us, as well, that our belief is strengthened when we surround ourselves with other visible signs of Jesus’ risen Presence and caring love for us.

Without turning our homes into veritable shrines, we might look around where we live and determine if there are *any* signs at all of our belief. When guests come into our home, do they know that we take our religious practices seriously? Do they see a crucifix or statue with a favorite saint? Do they see a well-used Bible? Perhaps a nice Easter present for ourselves might be to go to a religious article store and buy something that is good art that can also speak to us and others about our belief.

These religious articles in our homes can also remind us that religion isn’t simply an hour-on-Sunday deal with God. They can help us turn our lives toward God and express our belief by charitable actions on behalf of others. Belief, after all, is strengthened by the good we do for each other in the name of the risen Jesus.





Divine Mercy Celebration

You are invited to join the members of our parish who have embraced the Divine Mercy Devotion at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon for Sung Evening Prayer, the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Blessing of Divine Mercy Images, followed by fellowship in our parish hall. A meditation/reflection will be given by **Peter Degl’Innocenti, Pastoral Associate.**



YLI Pasta Dinner

You are invited to join the members of our YLI next Sunday afternoon for their annual Pasta Dinner which will be held in our parish hall from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This event also celebrates the 89th Birthday of **Dorothy Lamendola** and my 70th Birthday. We are also grateful to the members of our Social Events Committee and our Knights of Columbus who will participate as well. Come and enjoy the “magical” sauce of the YLI ladies, hot garlic bread, mixed green salad, and from what I hear, other

“surprises” that will unfold throughout the afternoon and early evening. It promises to be a great event. Tickets are available following the liturgies this weekend as well as at the door. Thank you for your support of our YLI.



New Members Brunch and Welcome

Invitations have gone out to all our newly-registered members to welcome them to the parish at a Brunch sponsored by our Pastoral Council on Sunday, May 7th, following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Members of the Leadership of the parish will also be present to welcome them and share some of the “story” of their lives and our parish. If you have received the Letter of Invitation, please be sure to RSVP!



...to the members of our Art & Environment Committee for creating such a beautiful environment for our Holy Thursday liturgy both in the church and in the parish hall for the Altar of Repose: **Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Tom & Stevie Catchings, Denise Moss, Nancy**

DiMaggio, Pat Kramer, Carole Miller, Bob Carvalho, and Peter Degl'Innocenti.

...to all our parishioners who came out to help cut, wash, dry, and bundle the more than 3,800 palm fronds for our Palm Sunday Liturgies: **Carlynn Costello, Pablo & Norma Villegas, Doris Radovan, Rose Necor, Hanny Reingold, Rima Radovan, Mary Theresa Radovan, Drake Sparling, Carole Miller, Pat Kramer, Patricia Britton, Carolyn Van Gilder, Kathleen Maasberg, Monika Kauer, Nancy Di Maggio, Janice Kegler, and Lee Oliver.**

...to those who cleaned the church and parish hall in preparation for Holy Saturday and Easter: **Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, Jun Bajet, Steve Rojek, Cathy Romeo, Jack Goncalves, and Robert Goncalves.**

...to those who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms from Holy Saturday morning through Easter Monday: **Steve Rojek, Robert Goncalves, and Virginia Noack.**

...to the members of our Art & Environment Committee who created such a spectacular environment for the Great Vigil, Easter Day, and the Easter Season: **Dorothy O'Connor, Don Benson, Pat Kramer, Denise Moss, Nancy Di Maggio, Janice Kegler, Tom & Stevie Catchings, Jose Palomino, Theresa Nelms, Carole Miller, and Rich Confetti.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika

Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Jeannine Ford, Harlan Young, Melodye Costanza, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Lorraine Lohmeier, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Judy Quicho, Belen Farin, Dilcia Aparicio and Rowena Cayaban.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Steve Rojek, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Bob Goncalves and various members of the Knights of Columbus.**

THANK YOU From the Knights of Columbus

The St. Ignatius of Antioch Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Committee wants to thank our parish family and the surrounding community for your support in making this year's Lenten dinners a major success. The Knights were able to serve an average 325 meals for each of the six Fish Fry Friday Lenten meals.

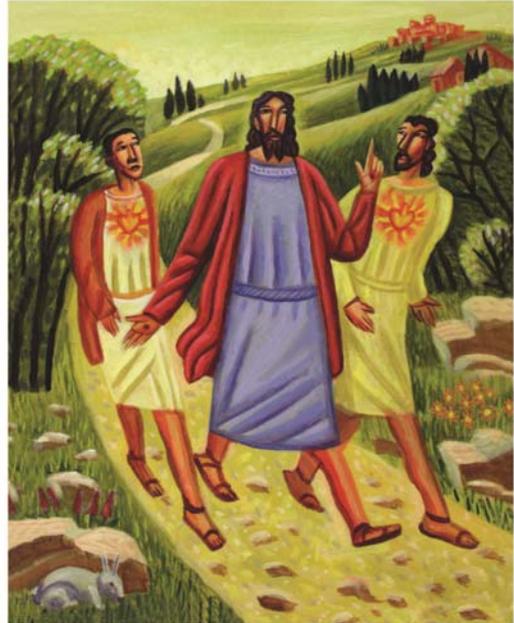
Along with our great parishioners and guests, this success could not have happened without the support of many of the Knights, Knights' wives, children, significant others and all the extra parish volunteers that played a very vital role in making this year's Lenten Fish Fry one of the best we have had.

From the fast and furious bingo games to the excellent clam chowder we served at the last Friday dinner, it is our council's pleasure to support our parish, and we look forward to the upcoming years to continue to make it even greater.

Thank you,
The Fish Fry Committee Members,
Rich Confetti, Ron France and
Bill Barbanica

Change in Envelope Packets

The Building Fund envelope is being eliminated from the envelope packets that are mailed to all registered households. As discussed in the February town hall meetings and in the meeting summary published as part of my insert in the weekly bulletin, the parish is temporarily suspending its fundraising efforts with respect to the Building Project. We are taking this step to allow the parish time to explore alternatives for providing our programs and ministries with the additional space they need to serve the parish and our community. All donations to the Building Fund remain restricted and will not be used for parish operations. If you would like to continue your donations but redirect them to the effort to pay off the parking lot debt to the Diocese, please use the "red" Parking Lot envelope. The Parking Lot Debt Reduction Collection is taken the first weekend of every month. The parish is paying the Diocese \$5,000 each month to eliminate this debt. The current loan balance is \$215,000.



Prayer for Community

Father of all,
on this octave of the Resurrection of
your Son,
bless each Christian family
and community
with concern for the common good.
Like our early Christian ancestors,
let awe come upon everyone,
let us devote ourselves to the
Apostles' teaching,
to fellowship, prayer, and the breaking
of bread.
Stir our hearts with generosity
to share what we have with others
and to praise you gladly.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.