

**For The Bulletin Of
May 5, 2019**



**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

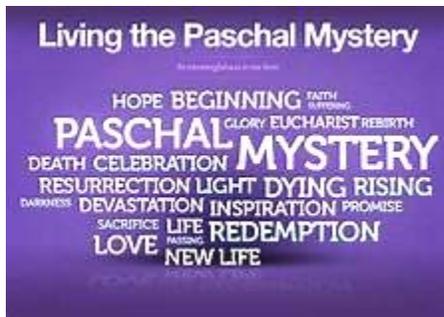
From Father Robert

Last week we read from the conclusion of John's gospel. Today we read from the epilogue, the chapter that follows the conclusion. Scholars refer to John 21 as the epilogue in part because it is markedly different from the preceding chapters in some vocabulary and in style. In fact, it is so different that it was likely written by a different author to address, in part, realities that had emerged in the decades following the initial composition of the gospel.

Today's reading incorporates two stories: one of the appearance on the seashore, followed by another of the rehabilitation of Peter. The Beloved Disciple, who remains nameless, is the first to recognize Jesus with the proclamation, "It is the Lord!" (John 21:7) This is an echo of the discovery of the empty tomb when, even though Peter was the first to go into the empty tomb, the Beloved Disciple "saw and believed" (John 20:8). The Beloved Disciple is portrayed as the true model of discipleship. And he does not appear in any other gospel!

Another nod to earlier stories in the Gospel of John includes the mention of a "charcoal fire," as that is the place where Peter denied Jesus three times (John 18: 18) The presence of a charcoal fire here sets the stage, narratively speaking, for Peter's threefold rehabilitation. Three times Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" and three times Peter responds affirmatively. This three-time inquisition is quite obviously a retort to Peter's threefold denial during the passion. After the Beloved Disciple died, the Johannine community – for whom the Beloved Disciple was a model of discipleship – was coming to recognize their role in the greater Christian world, which was led (at last figuratively) by Peter. But the last story we heard about Peter was his denial of Jesus. Thus, the epilogue, the additional chapter following the conclusion, tells the story of Peter's rehabilitation. Peter represents the larger Christian community. Though he denied Jesus, unlike the Beloved Disciple who was the ideal, Peter was effectively forgiven and placed in a leadership role. Thus in the Christian imagination, Peter represents the ideals and realities of discipleship. No Christian community is an island unto itself. Even leaders can stumble; when they do they can be forgiven by Jesus Himself. Such is the power of the Risen Christ.





Living The Paschal Mystery

Sometimes it's easy to imagine the saints and disciples as those who had it all figured out. But today's gospel reminds us otherwise. Even now, a time after the resurrection, the disciples are fishing. They do not seem to be about the business of preaching or teaching. Instead, they have gone back to what they were doing before they met Jesus, returning to what was known to them, what was comfortable. One nameless disciple recognizes Jesus and his proclamation causes Peter to jump into the water and swim to the seashore to meet Jesus. Jesus does not harangue or scold Peter for the weakness he showed during the passion. Instead, Jesus asks him three times whether he loves Him. And three times Peter says "Yes," though clearly becoming a bit agitated. But in so doing, Jesus rehabilitates Peter and gives each subsequent Christian the hope and promise of rehabilitation when we fall short too. The saints and disciples were real human beings with faults and shortcomings. Jesus did not choose perfect human beings. Rather, He chose disciples, those who would follow Him. And He chose us too. Our task is to follow. When we fall short Jesus will be there for us as well.

Today's gospel is the last of the resurrection appearance stories. How have you heard today's readings? What questions have they raised for you?

- In the first reading the apostles, led by Peter, tell the authorities, "we must obey God rather than men." Has there been a time in your life where you needed to take a stand for God's law? How did you find the strength to do so?
- Today's psalm proclaims, O Lord, You brought me up from the nether world; you preserved me from among those going down into the pit." What sustains your faith in times of despair?
- What groups of people are missing in your life? How might you become more welcoming of all?
- Who are the "lambs" that Jesus has given you to tend and feed? How do you serve them?



About Liturgy: Companions At Table

How many of your most significant moments in life have taken place at a meal? There's something about sharing food and drink that enables us to share our innermost selves as well with the others at that table. In the same vein, how difficult it is to spend even one moment at a meal with someone who has hurt you.

How remarkable then is this breakfast at the seashore! Over a charcoal fire with a piece of fish and a bit of bread, the Risen Christ reveals His true self to the one who betrayed Him. Instead of resentful words that reprimand, Jesus gives to Peter words of compassion and trust: “Feed my lambs.” Christ does not keep score; there is no logbook in heaven recording our every sin. There is only an empty seat at Jesus’ table waiting for us to sit down and be fed, forgiven, and sent once again.

This is what we mean by being companions at the Lord’s table. We are those who break bread with one another. Recognizing that all of us are sinners before God, we share our brokenness and the brokenness of the world with Christ and with one another at the Altar. In return Christ takes these broken pieces of our lives and mends them together, multiplying them into an abundance of blessing for those in need of compassion and forgiveness. In grateful response to this healing, we say “Amen” to the cup of blessing and the new covenant, a sharing in the Blood of Christ that will lead us where we might not want to go. Yet we do not go alone. Our companions around the heavenly and earthly altars go with us.

Francis, the Bishop of Rome has said “All family life is a ‘shepherding’ in mercy. Each of us by our love and care, leaves a mark on the life of others” (*Amoris Laetitia* 322). In our homes, there is a table where every day, over a bit of bread, we have the opportunity to shepherd and feed our companions in mercy, forgiveness, courage, and love.



The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of **Teresa Paciente** By her daughter, **Maria Torones**.



During our celebration of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. this morning, the children of our Faith Formation Program will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. We are grateful to their catechists and parents who have prepared them for this next step in their initiation into the life of Jesus. Congratulations to: **Joseph Clarke, Emma Haas, Chloe Oncena and Taylor Joyce Vocal.**

First Quarter Financial Report

The financial report for the first quarter of 2019 is included in this week's bulletin. It contains important financial information as well as an update on the status of the Kitchen and Parish Hall Expansion Project.



New Members Brunch

Following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, 45 newly-registered families along with the Neophytes will be welcomed to our parish with a Brunch, prepared by the members of our Pastoral Council. The Brunch will be held in the parish hall and our newest members will be introduced to the members of the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, and the Finance Council as well as being introduced to the history of the parish, its programs, ministries, and outreaches. Welcome! We are blessed and grateful that God has brought you to St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish!



Our parish is blessed with many volunteers who share in a variety of ways that help with the operation and maintenance of the parish. Once again it is an honor to thank them for all they do for us: those who clean the church each week: **Thelma & Reno Benasfre,**

Al Cosce, Mencey Osborne, Alfred Madoshi, Emilia Freking, Angela Bueno, and Jun Bajet.

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Rose Salamanca, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Steve Rojek, and Fr. Robert.**

...to **Dilcia Aparicio** 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, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, 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:

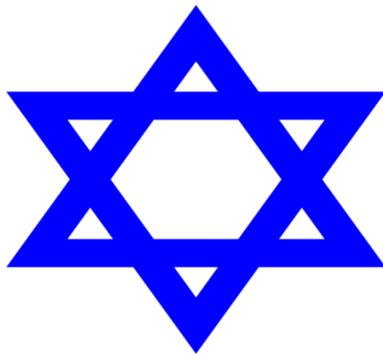
Frances Rojek, Mel Costanza, Maryann Peddicord, Estrella Rusk, Rowena Cayaban, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Paul Riofski.

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

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza (Lead), Carole Miller Sherry Webb and Dilcia Aparicio.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keeps watch over our vehicles during the weekend Liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Tony Gumina.**

April 27, 2019



PLEASE, NEVER AGAIN

April 27, 2019

The wounding and killing at the Chabad Synagogue of Poway, California, on the last day of Passover is just not another day in the history of violence in America and the World. The growing terror of anti-Semitism has deep historical roots. In light of the more recent attacks on Jewish people in their places of worship, we must confront the root causes of anti-Jewish hatred and do whatever it takes to remedy this unfortunate situation.

The nineteen-year-old shooter declared he was "saving his people" as if Jews were somehow a threat to his

future well-being and our Nation's survival. We need to understand where and from whom a nineteen-year-old boy would learn such hatred. He claims he plotted for four weeks before carrying out his murderous assault. If we were to examine his four-week descent into the conviction others must be murdered, we will find a sorrowful history of hatred that benefits nobody.

The tragedy that is this boy's life retells the story of why it is necessary to celebrate the Passover. We, as a people and a World, need to be delivered from the clutches of hatred and violence. We need to be delivered from all the hatred that would enslave us.

Once again, the time has come for us as a people and a World, to confront any form of hatred or prejudice that might lurk in our hearts. The time has come to examine our public and religious speech to ensure that institutional violence is not unwittingly preserved in our teachings, our prayers, or our public worship. We must make it a priority in our public and governmental life to elect leaders who will uncompromisingly stand up for human rights and not use one religion against another for political advantage.

It is more than painful to once again need to express our sympathy and solidarity with our sisters and brothers who have been victimized by this senseless and unspeakable violence.

Let us together enter into the Synagogue of our hearts and assure one another, especially our Jewish sisters and brothers, that we will confront and remove all forms of anti-Semitism and religiously motivated violence from our

hearts, lives, and institutions.

We stand with Rabbi Anvari, who continued his sermon after being shot in the hand, by saying:

"One message from all of us in our congregation is that we are standing together. We are getting stronger. We are getting stronger. Never again. You can't break us. We are strong."

Let us stand together praying and hoping that our work and dedication to peace will soon bless and transform this World.

Peacefully,

Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.,

