

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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THIRD SUNDAY OF *Easter*

APRIL 26, 2020

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

Today's readings look back at both the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, remembering the promise given to David that Jesus would be raised from the dead. The Psalm and First Peter look forward to our lives as we await our resurrection and consider the sacrifice made by Jesus. Luke tells us the story of another experience of the risen Jesus. The disciples unknowingly walk with Jesus and tell him of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Jesus himself looks back with them to the promises made to Moses and all the prophets about his death and resurrection. Still they do not know who he is. It is only when he blesses and breaks bread and shares it with them that they realize it is Jesus. Then they race back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

SLOW OF HEART

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, two of the disciples hit the road and try to escape all the uncertainty, fear, remorse, and guilt they feel. They feel the same regret that the disciples feel in Acts and First Peter. They meet another man traveling the same road and are astonished when he seems to know nothing about the events that so occupy their thoughts. These events have consumed them, have broken their hearts, have left them downcast and blind to the very person who joins them on their journey. Their companion, Jesus, takes them through their own tradition, through the Old Testament promise that someone just like him would come, be killed, and would rise from the dead. Though they do not recognize him by the words alone, they do not want him to leave. Lucky for them he stays.

IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Despite all the hints, the disciples do not recognize Jesus. They remain consumed with their own confusion and fear and they cannot see who is right in front of them. It is only with the blessing, breaking, and sharing of the bread that they suddenly recognize Jesus. No words, however insightful, can penetrate the confusion and fear the disciples feel. Through the simple act of breaking and blessing bread they recognize Jesus. Even as their "hearts were burning," their minds did not know. How often do we not see what is right before us because we are so consumed with our own worries, regrets, concerns? Like the disciples it takes an action like the breaking of the bread, a reminder of the death of Jesus, his sacrifice, to get us to understand what our hearts already know.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:14, 22-33
Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11
1 Peter 1:17-21
Luke 24:13-35

Were not our hearts burning within us
while he spoke to us on the way
and opened the Scriptures to us?

Luke 24:32

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Mission Statement

Called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to live His Gospel by answering daily, "Yes, here I am Lord". Strengthened by the sacraments and trusting in God's saving grace, we joyfully commit ourselves to sharing our gifts for the continual renewal of our parish and the Maplewood community.

From Deacon John:

More changes and news resulting from COVID-19:

This Sunday, with the beautiful Gospel about the Road to Emmaus, was supposed to be First Communion weekend for our Second Graders. This will be rescheduled after masses resume.

The current Confirmation schedule is also canceled and will be rescheduled.

On Holy Thursday we usually contribute to the parish Food Pantry and Catholic Relief Services “Rice Bowl”. It is never too late to support these.

Last week the first case of COVID-19 for a priest was discovered at Regina Cleri (Shrewsbury) where thirty retired priests live. A few days later, after additional testing, there are now thirteen confirmed cases of COVID-19 among our priests there. Regina Cleri was basically under lock-down since mid-March with no visitors. But this virus transmits quickly and aggressively without anyone being aware of it at the time. Please pray for all of our priests.

We are ALL on the Road to Emmaus:

The Gospel reading today is a favorite of many, including me. Two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, seven miles away. They were devastated because Jesus had just been crucified on Friday...their hopes had been dashed. One disciple was named Cleopas (he is named in today's gospel, Luke 24:18). Who was the OTHER disciple who was not named? The Gospel of John (19:25) mentions “*Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.*” Some scripture scholars think the other disciple was Cleopas' wife, Mary. No wonder they were so downcast. And isn't it wonderful that one of Jesus' first appearances was to a married couple!

Jesus joins the two disciples on their journey and he opens the scriptures to them. And when they invited him to “*stay with us*” they recognized him “*in the breaking of the bread*”. The two disciples went running back to Jerusalem in the dark to tell the other disciples.

The two disciples were downcast and their world seemed turned upside down with the death of Jesus. **Some of us may feel that way now**—fear of COVID-19, bored with the “Stay Home” orders, worried about jobs/income/business, and uncertain about the future. COVID-19 is the virus you cannot see or feel until it is too late. It has caused nursing homes and hospitals to be closed to visitors, families and friends cannot gather in the usual ways. None of us can remember a time when schools, sports and even churches have been closed like this. Like the two disciples we all have to go through this journey by ourselves or just our immediate family.

The turning point was when Jesus “*took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them.*” And that only happened AFTER the two disciples invited Jesus to “stay with us”.

HAVE WE INVITED JESUS TO “STAY WITH US”?

While our ordinary lives have all been changed we can use some of the free time we have to be **aware of our blessings**—whatever health we have, the families we have, the technology that enables us to stay in touch with others. We are especially blessed with the faith we share, our hopes for the future, and the love that Jesus expressed as he died to redeem each one of us.

I miss regular parish life with you. But I am available by phone (314-922-2420), email (johnflanigan@hotmail.com) or text messages. Sue and I are praying for the parish and all of you every day.

May God bless you in a special way,
Deacon John

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marriage/Family Life Update.

"The Archdiocese of Saint Louis Office of Marriage & Family Life is dedicated to preparing couples for a joy-filled sacramental marriage with all the beauty and graces it offers. To service this mission during this time social distancing and gathering restrictions due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Marriage Preparation classes from the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be presented as live webinars during the month of April. The class dates and times remain the same as published on the archdiocesan website <https://www.archstl.org>.

CREATE A FAMILY PRAYER SPACE AT HOME

In the coming weeks, families will be spending more time together at home. One good use of this time would be to pray together on a regular basis. This prayer time together can be enhanced by creating a place in your home dedicated to prayer. Making a place for prayer in our home can help us do what the Gospel tells us, to go into an "inner room" to pray (Matthew 6:6). Make your prayer place as quiet, uncluttered, and "desert-like" as possible. It can be the corner of a room or any unused space. Furnish your prayer place with a Bible, prayer books, cross, rosary, icons, and a candle. Encourage family members to use the prayer place for personal as well as family prayer.

You can bless your place of prayer, saying:
Come, Holy God. Dwell in this place of prayer,
and bless it with your peace and presence.
Bless all who seek you here.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

If you are unable to go to Mass, one idea for prayer together is to find a resource with the prayers and reading for Sunday Mass and pray those together. Your parish may have something you can take home and use. You can find the readings online at www.usccb.org.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Spiritual Heartburn and Typology

The disciples recounted how their hearts were burning within them when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them. One of the many beautiful elements of the Faith is Biblical typology, the fulfillment of elements of the Old Testament

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Spiritual Heartburn and Typology The disciples recounted how their hearts were burning within them when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them. One of the many beautiful elements of the Faith is Biblical typology, the fulfillment of elements of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Common examples are Noah's ark prefiguring the Church, the Flood prefiguring Baptism, and Moses prefiguring Jesus Christ. As we rejoice throughout this blessed Easter Season, let us pray with the Old Testament and see how Christ fulfills what is found in it. St. Augustine wrote, "In the Old Testament the New Testament is concealed; in the New Testament the Old Testament is revealed." Through typology we can experience spiritual heartburn, the best kind, and more fully appreciate God's plan in salvation history.
archstl.org/dynamic

Letters from Heaven

Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

After the Resurrection the disciples were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and has ...

	P	E	R
P	A	E	A
S	O	T	D
I	M	O	N

A _____!"

Answer: *appeared to Simon*

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Join the 2020 Census Team!
Be a part of History!
2020census.gov/jobs
1-855-JOB-2020
(1-855-562-2020)

Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339 TTY / ASCII
www.gsa.gov/fedrelay
The Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) provides telecommunications services to allow individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or have speech disabilities to conduct official business with and within the federal government.
The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Form D-448
September 2018



Starting at \$17-\$20/hr Paid Training Multiple Positions
Flexible hours Weekly Pay No Cold Calls

Schedule For The Week

Sunday, April 26

8:30 a.m.

12:00-3:00 p.m.

Monday, April 27

10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 28

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 30

9:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

Friday, May 1

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 2

4:00 p.m.

Mass-Suspended

First Eucharist-Postponed

Senior Exercise-Cancelled

Choir-Cancelled

Parish Hall Walking-Cancelled

Small Faith-Cancelled

Quilting-Cancelled

Adoration-Cancelled

Parish Hall Walking-Cancelled

Mass-Suspended

4:15-4:45 p.m.

**CONFESSIONS—with Fr. Pete
St. Luke's Parish**

Sunday, May 3

8:30 a.m.

Mass-Suspended

Weekly Offering



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Register for simple & convenient

Online Giving at:

<https://>

www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357

March 28th/29th: 1st Collection: \$3,205.00 2nd Collection: \$626.00

Online Giving: \$902.25

April 4th/5th: 1st Collection: \$1,160.00 2nd Collection: \$492.00

Online Giving: \$1,833.25

April 11th/12th: 1st Collecton: TBD 2nd Collection: TBD

Online Giving: \$852.25

April 18th/19th: 1st Collection: TBD 2nd Collection: TBD

Online Giving: \$1,687.25

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: I want to remind you that collections remain essential to the continued operation and existence of our parish and our mission. Thank you to all who use online giving. It helps so much during times like this, snow days and vacation times. It is EASY to sign up for online giving on the internet at www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357. You may make one-time payments or set it up for automatic payments—it is very flexible. Otherwise, please mail or drop-off your contribution. Many expenses continue.

Stewardship

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn while you speak to us. Luke 24:32

The life, death and Resurrection of Jesus is a legacy of love. As baptized Christians we are called to continue Christ's mission of love and service. Through the ministries and activities of the parish we have the opportunity to put our unique gifts to work for God. We are the 'Body of Christ', doing the work of the Lord here on earth.

Read the Scriptures, listen intently to the weekly readings at Mass and feel the burn in your heart. Your gifts may seem small, but when combined with the gifts of other parishioners, miracles can happen. We will be together again soon; make a resolution to do more, give more and love more!

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

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

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59, or, for the memorial, Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24;

Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-6;

1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

STAY WITH US, LORD

Walk with us, Lord,

along the road of resurrection!

Explain for us, so slow to believe,

the things that Scripture says of you.

Break the bread of the Eucharist with us

whenever we share our lives

with our brothers and sisters.

Stay with us

each time night approaches

and the daylight fades in our hearts!

—From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published

by World Library Publications. p.168

Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.



Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church, Lexington, KY

PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

Deacon John Flanigan, Parish Life Coordinator
314-922-2420 (cell) 314-645-3307 ext. 201
johnflanigan@hotmail.com
Father Peter Blake, Sacramental Minister
314-644-2144
Deacon Clyde McEntire, Deacon (Retired)
Kathleen O'Reilly, Parish Nurse, 314-644-6805
Father Michael Esswein, Pastor 314-962-5955

PARISH STAFF

Eva May, Administrative Assistant, 314-645-3307 Ext. 202
Colleen Eichler, Campus Manager, 314-645-3307 Ext. 206
Daniel Jenkins, Maintenance Assistant

Parish School of Religion

Karen Lightfoot, PSR Coordinator, psricmaplewood@gmail.com
St. Vincent DePaul Help Line
314-289-6101 ext. 2226

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tim Yohe, Chair
Nikki & Todd Bircher
Deacon John Flanigan
Laura Miller
Mary Bankston
RJ & Suzee Irwin
Becky Konersmann
Ken Amend

Schedule

We will announce when Masses resume.

SVDP Food Pantry: Saturdays from 9:30-11:00am

Ministry Schedule-Suspended

Saturday EM's: *Suspended until Masses resume*
Saturday Lectors:
Saturday Servers:
Saturday Usher Captain:
Saturday Gifts:
Sunday EM's:
Sunday Lectors:
Sunday Servers:
Sunday Usher:
Sunday Greeters:
Sunday Gifts:



Hope and Healing

“There is no grief like the grief that does not speak.”
Henry Longfellow.

The grief over an abortion experience is often so deep that it seems to be silent. Women and men may bear this burden for years thinking that there is no hope of forgiveness or peace. Project Rachel/Project Joseph offers free, private, professional counseling for anyone who is suffering because of an abortion experience. Call Project Rachel/Project Joseph at 314-792-7565 to begin your journey of healing and reconciliation.



Suspended until mass resumes.

Please email the church to reschedule a Mass Intention-scheduled from March 16th-present or call Eva May at 314-776-7172.

Please Pray For:

Eileen Lencz, Jim Haislip, Alice Hezel, Gary Gray, Ellen Simmons, Chuck Ellermann, Mona Tillman, Heidi Barks, Madelyn McClure, Paul Rygelski, Mary Johnston, Jim White, Everleigh Lauber, Jack & Pamela Warner, Pam MacDonald, Nancy Maurer, Linda Amend
Terry & Ron Kippenberger (family of Rita Kippenberger)
Lisa Massack (sister of Joshua Capstick)
Jamie Jackson (Granddaughter of Annabelle Moran)
Pam Brown (former parishioner)
Tony Simmons (son of Tom & Ellen Simmons)
Sr. Barbara Paul (former parishioner)
Jan Pilla (daughter in law of Eddie Pilla)
Nick Simmons (son of Tom & Ellen Simmons)
Carl & Susan Case (brother and sister in law of Pat Curtis)
Mary Lucas (friend of Al & Maureen Daniels)
Drew Becker (son of Paul Becker)
John Biondo (brother of Maria Gray)
Deimeke Family
John Graves (brother of Karen Bish)
Lisa Hanley Blake (daughter of Celene Hanley)

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Col. Peter White, USAF, son of Jim & Lucy White
Senior Chief Matthew J Paul, USN, son of Maria and Gary Gray
William Patrick Flynn, USN, son of Patrick & Michelle Flynn

To add your loved one's name (s) contact Eva at the rectory. 314-645-3307 or email at icmaplewood@gmail.com

Rest in Peace

Jerry Hobbs, son-in-law of parishioner, Bill Jones
&
former parishioner, Sylvia Squires

CONFESSIONS—with Fr. Pete

Available at St. Luke's Parish
Saturdays 4:15 to 4:45

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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SOFTWARE

MSPublisher 2010
Adobe Acrobat X
Windows 7

TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 12:00

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

April 26, 2020

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 through 6

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE PRINT ONLY 25 COPIES

