

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

<u>Churches</u>: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am—4:45pm / Confessions: Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 1:30pm, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 11:30am Gift Shop Hours: Mon - Wed - Fri 9:30am - 1:30pm & Sun 6:30am - 2:30pm

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org March 31, 2024 | 31 de marzo 2024

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Reading I - Acts of the Apostles 10:34a,37-43 | Psalm - 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 | Reading II – Colossians 3:1-4 | Gospel – John 20:1-9 Primera Lectura - Acts of the Apostles 10:34a,37-43 | Salmo - 117:1-2,16-17,22-23 | Segunda Lectura - Colosenses 3:1-4 | Evangelio – Juan 20:1-9



EASTER SUNDAY

He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

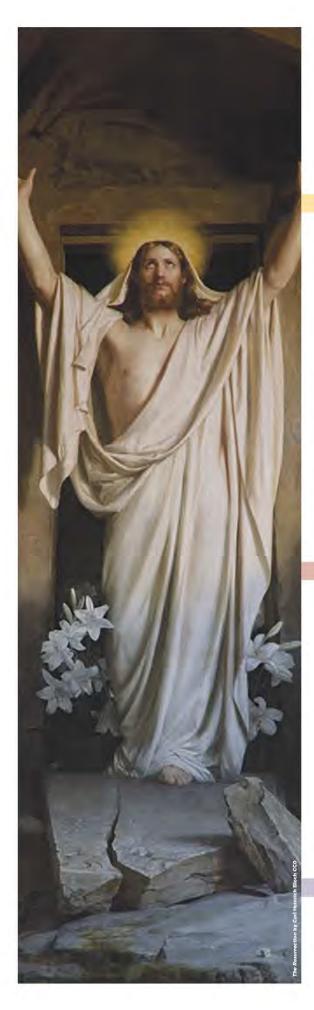
Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings 1st Reading/Primera Lectura: Acts (Hechos) 4:32-35 Psalm/Salmo: 118 (117):2-4,16ab-18,22-24 2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: 1 John (1 Juan) 5:1-6 Gospel/Evangelio: John (Juan) 20:19-31

SEEKING

Easter Sunday is a day all about seeking. The early Christian communities gathered around the Apostles, seeking more about the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus. Saint Paul told the baptized Colossians to "seek what is above." Mary of Magdala went to the tomb, seeking to find the Lord's body so that she could anoint it. We come to church on Easter Sunday seeking many things. For some of us, this is a once-a-year journey, when we seek connection with the foundations of the Christian faith. For others, this day is the culmination of a long journey of Lenten repentance. For the newly baptized, this is the first day of a new life filled with promise and expectation. Whatever it is that we seek, let us be inspired by the disciple whom Jesus loved who, when he saw the wrappings of cloth inside the empty tomb, "saw and believed." © Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.



Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish – We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at **saintmichaelparishkona.org.** To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.



March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 | Jn 20:1-9

Written by

DISCIPLE

THE FAITHFUL

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Wishing you a blessed Easter! One of our commitments in growing as disciples of Jesus, especially at the beginning of this most important season of Easter, is to study Scripture. John's Gospel today depicts the story of the empty tomb - the reactions of Mary of Magdala and the two disciples trying to make sense of what they had seen. What we may have missed, however, are the words of St. Peter in the first reading from Acts speaking of Jesus: "This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." Jesus appeared post-resurrection to those to whom he was closest - the witnesses chosen by God whom he had commissioned to preach the Gospel to all people, so all might believe in him. In this way the chosen few, Christ's heralds, would bring the Good News of his resurrection to the many. So we too, now, are witnesses, chosen by God in our baptism and come to this table of thanksgiving and sacrifice. By faith we grow as his disciples, ready to go forth to lead others to him.

GO EVANGELIZE PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we know, these first disciples of Christ went on mission throughout the known world to preach to the Jews as well as the Gentiles. Their task was not easy; all endured opposition and hardship; many were martyred. But gone was the fear they may have felt at the crucifixion; by the power of the Holy Spirit these early missionaries were full of courage and commitment, and were driven to proclaim the risen Jesus to all. What does this have to do with us today? By virtue of our baptism, we also are chosen by God to be his witnesses in the world. We are called to "preach the Gospel" with how we live our lives. When we trust in the promises of Christ and know the peace that only he can bring, it gives us the strength to testify to friends, family and others that God loves us and has redeemed us. Good News indeed.

GROW & GO Christ is risen, Alleluia! The Resurrection means that nothing can separate us from God's love and presence with us. Spend time this week in prayer contemplating these two truths: The purpose of our lives is to continually GROW in intimate relationship with God; and Jesus' final command to his disciples and us is to "GO and make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28:19)

Life of Stewardship

Today, we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ! Our readings today reveal how we can live out the joy of Easter all year long in our day to day lives.

Our Gospel portrays the third day after Jesus' death when Mary of Magdala visits Jesus' tomb. Once she saw the stone removed, she ran to tell Simon Peter and John. They ran to the tomb as well, and upon seeing, they believed. We can tell the relationship that these disciples had with Jesus because of the way they responded about Him - they "ran." Mary didn't see the empty tomb and think, "someone else will figure it out." Peter and John didn't hear the news and think, "I will check on it later." They each responded with conviction as they "ran" for Jesus.

We must ask ourselves, "Do I have a relationship with Christ to the point where I am running to Him each day?" The way these disciples responded is how we should respond to Christ. We must avoid complacency, and as intentional disciples, we must stop rationalizing our choices by telling ourselves we will someday get around to putting God first. Every moment throughout our day is an opportunity to respond to God in gratitude, compassion and eagerness. And although there will be moments when we do not "feel" like responding to Him, it is in those moments when we faithfully respond anyway that matters the most.

Let us celebrate this glorious day with prayer and feasting, for Christ is risen! And let us strive to carry this Easter joy with us all year long by how we respond to Christ each day. Happy Easter! - *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

Parish News Special Collection for St. Joseph's School

This weekend we will take up a special collection for **St. Joseph's School,** the only Catholic School on the Big Island located in Hilo. Catholic schools exist for the formation and education in the Catholic faith, gospel values, traditions, and the love and knowledge of the person of Jesus Christ. The development of the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, personally, socially, and physically, is the focus of Catholic education. Please prayerfully consider supporting Catholic education on the Big Island. Envelopes were provided in last week's bulletin and are available in the kiosks.

An Evening with Francesca LaRosa - April 2nd

Francesca LaRosa will perform on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7pm. We will have a potluck dinner in Grace Parish Center beginning at 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Francesca LaRosa, is a Catholic composer and singer songwriter from Indianapolis. It is Francesca's mission to help others grow in their faith by memorizing the sacred Word of God, as well as prayers and hymns, through music.

Confirmation & First Holy Communion "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you." - Ezekiel 36:26

Bishop Larry Silva will preside at the Restored Order Mass of Confirmation & First Holy Communion for the West Hawaii Vicariate at **10am on Saturday, April 13** at St. Michael's . There will be eighty candidates from St. Michael the Archangel, St. Benedict, Annunciation, and Our Lady of Lourdes.

Baptism Class

There will be a Baptism Class at 9am on Saturday, April 20th in the Parish Office Conference Room. All parents and godparents must attend a Baptism Class before baptizing their child. To register, please email Cheryl at baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org.

Knights of Columbus Dinner & Dance

Join us for a wonderful evening of music and dancing at the second Knights of Columbus "Spring Love" dinner and dance on April 20th in the Grace Parish Center at 5:30pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and will be available after all Masses starting on March 23rd.

Traveling Neighborhood Rosary Inspires Community Prayer

"The Holy Rosary not only serves admirably to overcome the enemies of God and religion but is also a stimulus and spur to the practice of evangelical virtues which it injects and cultivates in our souls. Above all, it nourishes the Catholic Faith, which flourishes again precisely in opportune

meditation on the sacred mysteries, and raises minds to the truths revealed to us by God". - Pius XI

Display the statue of the Blessed Mother in your home and invite your Catholic neighbors to pray the Rosary with your family. For more information, call **Beth Smith at** (760) 212-4533.

Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, **Sunday, April 7 after the 1:30pm Mass.** We will pray Consecration Prayers to God Our Father and Divine Mercy. The Consecration prayer helps us to acknowledge God as our Eternal Father, to honor Him, and to give Him our commitment to follow His commandments. For more information, contact **Romana through the Parish office.**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Jesus chose the desert as a place to pray in solitude. He fought temptation, the temptations of the devil himself. Call upon the Lord to help you fight temptation. Often, we crowd out the opportunity to be victorious for Christ. We allow "My schedule", "My time", "My life" to come before the voice of Christ which says, "Come to Me". When we permit this, temptation wins. Think about it!

Try to pray as St. Augustine prayed, "God, give me the grace to triumph over my enemy, temptation." You have a special hour of adoration waiting for you . . Wednesdays from 7:30am to 5pm. Call the office at 808-326-7771 to claim your victory!

Faith Formation

Grades K-5

Grades K-5 will not meet on Easter Sunday. Classes will resume on April 7.

Faith Formation/Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

Practice for Confirmation and 1st Holy Communion is on Thursday, April 11th at 6 pm. Meet on the Lanai at 5:45 pm. Our next meeting will be On Sunday, April 14th for Mystagogy. Youth will also receive their certificates. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

Stewardship of Treasure

Mar 18th - 24th, 2024

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 1,450.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 12,460.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 5,647.00

Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$4,937,199.68** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments. *Mahalo* for your continued generosity.

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024 MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: \$10,831.00 MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: \$1,724.18

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in 'Ohana in Christ to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit **saintmichaelparishkona.org** and click our **ONLINE GIVING tab.** Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

Men of Faith

The St. Michael's Men of Faith ministry invites men of all ages to join us weekly on Wednesdays on the south lanai from 5:30 - 6:30 PM following Evening Prayer and Benediction at 5pm. Together, we seek to grow closer to Christ and His Church. Our **Purpose** is to encourage men to become daily followers of Christ. Biblical basis: Luke 9:23 - Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Our Mission is to help men renew their minds and transform their hearts and lives for Christ. Biblical basis: Romans 12:2 -"Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." Our weekly gathering is a review and reflection upon the prior Sunday's readings and discussion of how they help draw us nearer to Christ and to live in the Faith. Contact Deacon Craig Camello (ccamello@rcchawaii.org) or John Czajkowski (jbczajkowski@hotmail.com) for more information.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, "Oh my God!" Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our "cemeteries" where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter - if we dare those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare! -*Father John Muir*, ©LPi

Treasures From Our Tradition

Our tradition has a way of honoring age old customs, and is patient with how practices unfold in different places. The name of today's feast illustrates this well. English is a Germanic language, and our word "Easter," or German "Oester," points back to the pagan goddess Eoestre, the star of the vernal equinox feast. The Greek title "Pasch" reaches back in a more helpful manner to the Hebrew "Pesach," or "Passover." "Paschal Triduum" may be slow to replace "Easter" in our vocabulary, but it is clearer about the mystery we celebrate today, the culmination of three days laden with mystery and meaning.

You can hear the older term, and the resistance to English influence, in the Irish "Casca" and Scottish "Pask." Romance languages stay close to the deep paschal tradition, with the French "Pâques," Spanish "Pascua" and Italian "Pasqua." Memories of our pagan past with "Oester" will not soon fade away: even Japanese Christians are under her spell, for today's feast is called " Isuta." Swahili, a young language, takes the more traditional route with "Pasaka." Each language yields a rich insight into the feast. Spanish includes a sense that today is a "big Sunday" by adding the designation "Pascua" to the greatest feasts, such as "Pascua de la Natividad" (Christmas). Once Christ is risen, every step of life's journey is illuminated by the light of the Pasch!

- Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Everyday Stewardship - A Happy Ending Isn't the Whole Story

"Is there a happy ending?" When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, "Is there a happy ending?"

I can't say I blame them. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it's not going to go badly - or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It's a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves

REV. KONELIO FALETOI

Pastor and Vicar Forane of the West Hawaii Vicariate

> Rev. Royd Mweemba Parochial Vicar

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> DAVE BATEMAN Finance Council Chair

SHARMAYNE NAONE Stewardship Committee Chair & Safe Environment

ROBERT LEOPOLDINO / DON DAVID Capital Campaign Committee Chairs

> **TJ Moses** Parish Life Coordinator

> > WALTER BACXA Music Ministry

RENE LEMUS Music Ministry & Spanish Baptism Ministry

CAROLINE SMITH / LOUELLA BRANCO Funeral Ministry

> PAULETTE ADAMS Wedding Coordinator

MAYRA RAMIREZ Spanish Wedding Coordinator

> BILL CULHANE Food Pantry Ministry

THELMA BACXA Community Outreach Ministry

> CAROLYN LIVINGSTON Gift Shop Manager

SUSAN KEEN Business Manager skeen@rcchawaii.org

JANICE LACRO Administrative Assistant stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily ever after.

Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It's the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It's the day that puts everything right.

But if we learned anything from this week from the Passion and death of the Lord - it's that we can't press fast forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear - it's crucial, isn't it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter does not happen without Good Friday.

So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn't all that matters.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments *What Would Mary Do?*

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene. I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes - but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers - she didn't dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus' presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt. In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, ©LPi 5

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH • 6pm - MISSA PRO POPULO

SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST

- EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
- 7am MISSA PRO POPULO
- 9am MISSA PRO POPULO
 1:30pm MISSA PRO POPULO
- 4pm MISSA PRO POPULO

MONDAY, APRIL 1ST

- 7am Puninaniokalani Smith, deceased, Birthday Remembrance & Kara Ursua, Birthday Blessing
- 5pm Marge Gardner, Rest in Peace

TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND

- 7am John O. Torres, Rest in Peace
- 5pm Marge Gardner, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD

• 7am - Florence Jablowski, Rest in Peace

THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH

- 7am Veronica Gallo, Rest in Peace
- 5pm Marge Gardner, Rest in Peace

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH

- 7am Barbara Daniels, Rest in Peace
- 5pm Marge Gardner, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

• 7am - April Bernabe, 56th Birthday Blessing

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **326-7771**. If you'd like to request a specific day and Mass time, *please call well in advance of the date to secure it*.

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..." —Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry The Food Pantry is open the <u>2nd</u> <u>and 4th Saturdays of the month</u> from 9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.

Hearts Before Minds

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Peter's discourse
- Colossians 3:1-4 Mystical death and resurrection
- John 20:1-9 The empty tomb

Each of the four gospels recounts slightly different details of Jesus' resurrection. Yet they all begin with a note that the stone which had sealed the tomb has been rolled away, and that the tomb where Jesus' body was laid is now empty. Those who first saw these things were confused and couldn't understand

what they were seeing. Despite Jesus' predictions during his lifetime that he would die and be raised from the dead, none of his followers seemed able to comprehend immediately what had happened.

Some Jews at the time of Jesus believed there would be a general resurrection of all of the dead at the end of time. Others, like the Sadducees, didn't even believe in that. It's no wonder, then, that it took some time for Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the other disciples to piece together the incredible news that Jesus had been raised from the dead. It would take them many more days and weeks to really begin to understand all the implications of his resurrec-

tion. They had nothing in their experiences to compare this to as they lived into a completely new reality -



Sheepish Question: Where do I see and celebrate new life today?

a lived experience of life after death. Their hearts would have felt the joy long before their minds could make sense of Jesus' resurrection.

Questions of the Week

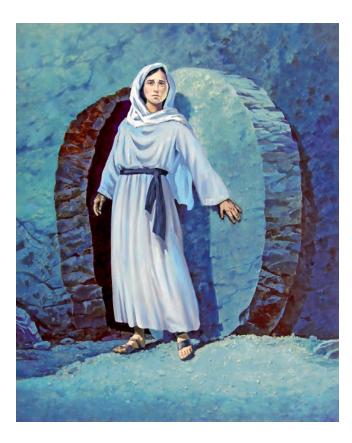
Does Easter feel any more significant to you this year because of how you experienced Lent? Why?

Have you ever been so surprised by joy that it took you some time for your mind to catch up to what your heart was experiencing? How so?

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JFD

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Beacon of Light

Lord God,

you who conquered the darkness of evil, also vanquish the fear in our hearts. We rejoice that your resurrection, frees us from the slavery of sin and leads us to eternal life. Grant that we may follow the path. that your light shines for us and share with others the love that you have given us. You live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 31, 2024 He Has Risen!

Today's readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4; John 20:1–9. The Lord has risen! Alleluia! Our rejoicing at Easter Time acknowledges that Christ's light has conquered darkness. Jesus came to do God's will; he paid the ultimate price, and now we proclaim with joy his resurrection. Our Lord prepared his disciples for his death and resurrection, telling them, "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me" (John 16:16). Jesus' rising from the dead should have come as no surprise to the disciples, yet they were surprised. As today's Gospel proclaims, "They did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead." Even though we understand, we still need to be open

to seeing with the eyes of our hearts so that we can embrace the resurrected Christ.

After the forty days of penitence of Lent, we celebrate the light defeating the darkness for fifty days. During Easter Time, we are invited to meditate on how our actions allow us to be light for others. How do you aid others to dispel the darkness surrounding them? Do you carry the message that Jesus is alive? Are you willing to shout it? When we share the light of Christ that permeates our lives, we show appreciation for the faith that we have been given. Through Jesus Christ, God has fulfilled his promise and given us eternal life. Let us not be afraid to rejoice in the new life we have been given.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 1 Trust

This week the Gospel shows Jesus encountering his disciples in varied settings. As we pray with these readings, we might see ourselves reflected in the encounters. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were fearful yet overjoyed upon seeing the empty tomb. How many of us have been stopped by our fears? These women trusted what the angel told them about our Lord. When we allow fear to overcome and paralyze us, problems are created. When afraid, seek the help of God, who has given you new life. *Today's readings: Acts 2:14,* 22–33; *Psalm 16:1–2a, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

Tuesday, April 2 Conversion

Many of Jesus' followers are like Mary of Magdala and do not recognize the risen Lord. They continue to seek the Jesus they had known before he fulfilled his mission. To recognize the resurrected Jesus, we ought to rely on the eyes of our hearts, which are filled with faith and trust in the Lord. Allow your heart to have a true conversion leading God to dwell within you. *Today's readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20, 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 3 Bread of Life

Imagine that, as one of the apostles, you followed Jesus and broke bread with him just before his death. Then he was nowhere to be found, or so you think. After Jesus' death, the disciples began to feel alone and disillusioned. When have you had an encounter with someone and realized it had been Jesus? At Mass, Jesus becomes the Bread of Life for us. He has not abandoned us; he remains within us, offering spiritual sustenance. *Today's readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 4 Agents of Peace

While the disciples spoke of how Jesus had become known to them in the breaking of the bread, he appeared, saying, "Peace be with you." Rather than being overjoyed, the disciples were scared. Jesus had to show them his wounds for them to believe it was he who had returned. Reflecting on this scene, consider whether you are at peace. Do you bring peace to others? Is there someone with a restless heart who needs your offering of peace? *Today's readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab, 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 5 Moving Forward

Jesus' followers have gone back to their old lives. Many people do the same today. After we experience a genuine encounter with Christ, it can be easy to return to our former ways. The harder path is to continue to move forward in the faith journey. As easy and as comfortable as our old life might have been, Christ calls us to a new life in which we surrender ourselves to God. *Today's readings: Acts 4:1–22; Psalm 118:1–2, 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 6 Is It Really He?

At the end of this first week of Easter, consider how you allowed yourself to be transformed. When have you recognized the presence of Jesus in your faith journey and opened yourself to change? Are there times that Jesus could rebuke you for your unbelief and hardness of heart, as he rebuked the apostles? As you read of the encounters Jesus had throughout his glorious day of resurrection, ponder how you have been the living Christ for others. Take to heart the message of light and hope brought about through the resurrection. *Today's readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:24; Mark 16:9–15.*



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