

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

and that repentance, for
the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached

in his name

to all the nations

LUKE 24:47



Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. David A. Costa, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali, Parish Deacon
Sister Kathleen A. Corrigan, S.U.S.C., Pastoral Associate
Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. & Rev. R. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., Weekend Assistants
Mrs. Martha O'Neill, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School
Mr. Adam Turcotte, Director of Music
Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor
Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal
57 Richards Avenue,
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074
smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org www.smhschool.com

Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent
Towne Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-1173 or email ripco@comcast.net

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saint Mary Church • Saturday 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on designated Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact the office at stmaryna@noozi.com for more information and available dates/locations.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged through the parish office. Please call to arrange a visit.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the first Friday of each month in **Saint Mark Church** beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm with Benediction.

Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mary Church**
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mary Church**
Sunday 11:00 am **Sacred Heart Church**

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Tuesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**
Wednesday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service
Saint Mark Church

Links to: Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

Parish Office

14 Park Street,
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760

Parish e-mail • stmaryna@noozi.com
Parish website • www.saintmaryna.com
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248

Faith Formation • TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823

Music Ministry • transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com

MASS Intentions

April 13/14 – The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Saturday 4:00 pm **April 13 – Vigil (St. Mary)**
Matthew McGowan
Sunday 8:00 am **April 14 (St. Mark)**
Marjorie Morrissey
Raymond Gauthier
Sunday 9:30 am **April 14 (St. Mary)**
Teresita Cadena
Sunday 11:00 am **April 14 (Sacred Heart)**
Mike Bruno
Arthur Desrosiers

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Monday 8:00 am **April 15 (St. Mark)**
Gloria Pion
Tuesday 4:30 pm **April 16 (St. Mark)**
Bill Miniscalco
Wednesday 8:00 am **April 17 (St. Mark)**
People of the Parish
Thursday 8:00 am **April 18 (St. Mark)**
People of the Parish

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April 20/21 – The 4th Sunday of Easter

Saturday 4:00 pm **April 20 – Vigil (St. Mary)**
Mary & Joseph Cabral
Barbara Linfield
James R. Stack
Sunday 8:00 am **April 21 (St. Mark)**
Noreen Darragh
Sunday 9:30 am **April 21 (St. Mary)**
Philip & Karleen Winn
Sunday 11:00 am **April 21 (Sacred Heart)**
Harry Belham
Raimundo “Ray” Rodriguez

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Parish Contributions

Collection for April 6/7: \$14,382.06

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Please Remember our Deceased Parishioners:

Dawn Elizabeth (Gaboury) Ryan
Lori Ann (Nolin) Read
H. William “Bill” Donnelly
Mary L. (Tally) Curran
Thomas Mournighan



*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.
Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Thoughts for the Easter Season:



I live in faith of the Resurrection, but such is the nature of my faith that so much of me remains entombed. Break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my compassion,
break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my sense of mercy,
break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my humility,
break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my humanity,
break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my love,
break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my sense of joy,
break open the tomb.
Where I've buried my willingness to forgive,
break open the tomb.

Adapted from Catholic Relief Services

I am the *Light* of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in *Darkness*.

©JPPC

Gazing Into the Heavens!



New Website & New Online Giving Platform



Please note that we are in the process of redesigning our parish website and plan to roll out our new online presence within a few weeks. As part of this process (and it is a lengthy process, for sure!), our online giving platform will also change.

At present, our parish uses two distinct online giving companies. These were both used before the merging of the parishes into the new Transfiguration Parish. The new website company has an online component which ties directly into our parish census allowing for more streamlined financial recording and tracking. There are many threads that need to be woven together before this process is up and running.

When all of these moving parts are in place and ready to work for us, we will be doing a full roll-out of the new website and the new online giving platform. Your patience is GREATLY appreciated!

2024 Mass Intention Book

The 2024 Mass Intention Book is open. The current Mass schedule provides for fewer opportunities for parishioners to remember their beloved dead at weekend Masses. For this reason, we will schedule, when necessary, multiple intentions for weekend Masses. There is no limit on the number of daily Mass intentions. Please contact the office via email, phone, or in writing with your requests.



2024 Lenten Parish Charity

As announced previously in this bulletin, we are currently gratefully receiving your donations for our 2024 Lenten charity: the Holy Union Sisters ministering in Tanzania, Africa. The Sisters are currently celebrating 50 years of presence and work among the people in this developing nation. To mark this significant anniversary, they are focusing on three projects: a new autism center at their school for physically challenged children & youth; a new formation house for the Congregation; and a health care center for a growing, rural village. Our donations will help make these projects a reality.

You may use the donation envelopes found at the doors of each of our church buildings or use your own envelope. If doing this, please mark it "Lenten Charity." If writing a check, please write it out to "Transfiguration Parish." The parish will send one combined check to the Holy Union Sisters. Your donations may be sent directly to the parish office or dropped in the collection basket at weekend Mass. We ask that you send your donations *on or before April 28!*

As of this printing (April 14), our parishioners have donated a remarkable **\$18,715.00** for the good work of the Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania! On behalf of the Sisters and those they serve throughout Tanzania:

Mungu awabariki sana!
(May God bless you abundantly!)

Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule



Tuesday, April 16, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
Tuesday, April 23, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
Tuesday, April 30, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
Tuesday, May 7, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
Tuesday, May 14, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
Tuesday, May 21, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)

Prayer and Pizza

Are you looking for another way to deepen your spirituality? Do you have "knots" in your life that you need help undoing? Please join us on the third Tuesday of each month for "Prayer and Pizza."

Following the 4:30 pm Mass this **Tuesday, April 16**, we together will pray the rosary, which will be offered up to Mary, Undoer of Knots (maryundoerofknots.com). Whether you pray the rosary daily or have never prayed it before, please consider joining us for "Prayer and Pizza." All are welcome! Please contact Rick Leco (508 930 9264) or Vicky Curran (508 930 3306) with any questions.



BAPTISM

We Welcome in Baptism:

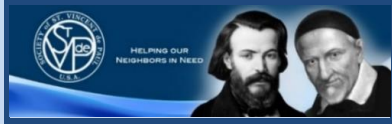
On Tuesday, April 2, 2024 we welcomed a new member into our Catholic faith at Transfiguration of the Lord Parish. Please welcome and remember:

Lucy Lorraine LeCompte



Child of John & Abby LeCompte
Godchild of Wyatt LeCompte & Shannon McKeon
Congratulations to Lucy, her parents, godparents, family and friends on this joyous celebration of faith and family!

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are in need or are suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the parish hall in Saint Mary Church. Please join us!

Invitation to Serve:

Are you looking for a new way to experience God? The members of Transfiguration Parish's St. Vincent de Paul Conference invite you to share in their ministry of experiencing God by helping those in need. We see Christ in those who we help, and when we see Christ, we experience God. Christ said, "*what you do for the least of my brothers, you do unto me.*" Come and join our Vincentians after each Mass this weekend, **April 13/14**, for an informal discussion, about their ministry which has been running strong in North Attleboro since 1957. Learn about our Food Pantry and the many other resources we offer to our neighbors in need, and hear about other programs we participate in within our Attleboro Area District throughout the year. Please consider joining us, as we continue this important ministry in our local community.

Call for Assistance:

If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.

2023 Donation Statements Are Now Available

The 2023 year-end tax reports are available, **PER YOUR REQUEST, for those parishioners using the budget envelope system. Loose checks mailed or placed in the collection are not recorded by the budget company.** Please contact Martha in the office at stmaryna@noozi.com or call 508-695-6161 and leave a message with your name and address if you would like your statement. Contribution letters will be mailed. Thank you for your support of our parish community.



Please join us at **Saint Mark Church** on Friday, **May 3rd**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. with Benediction. Remember, as we share in the work of Redemption, so will we be rewarded with our own redemption. For more information call Joanne Regali (508-643-3821) or Arlene Hall (508-801-2243). Please leave a message if the call is not answered immediately.

Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese
508-695-3823; transfigurationreled@gmail.com

Faith Formation Office hours:
Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Dates of First Communion:



May 4, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church
May 4, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church
May 11, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church

Confirmation Thank You

This past Sunday, April 7, eighty-eight of our young men and women celebrated the fullness of Christian initiation as they received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Edgar da Cunha conferred the sacrament before a church packed with family and friends. Many thanks to **Mrs. Elaine Corvese**, director of Faith Formation, and the members of our Confirmation formation team: **Jennifer Alger, Mary Bennett, Katie Brintnall, Mary Leddy, Miles Miller, Laura Nesbit, Patricia Reynolds, Jennifer Souza, Jeffrey Souza, and Margarita Velazquez.**



Knights of Columbus Council #330



Monthly Meeting:

Council #330 of the Knights of Columbus has been serving the Catholic Community of North Attleborough for 125 years. The Knights meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the St. Mary Church Hall. Please drop by on meeting nights if you'd like to learn more about the Knights. Council #330 is committed to assisting local charities that align with the values of our Faith such as the Parish, the Parish school, and Abundant Hope. Please contact Jim Schromm via email with any questions: jim.schromm@verizon.net.

Knights of Columbus Diaper Drive:

The Knights of Columbus are organizing a Diaper Drive to benefit Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. We are requesting donations of diapers in all sizes, but **Abundant Hope is in dire need of larger size diapers. (sizes 4, 5 and 6).** We are also requesting donations of diaper wipes. We will have containers at each of the three North Attleborough churches, **starting the weekend of April 14, and continuing into the month of May.** Thank you very much for your support of Abundant Hope and the Knights!

SAINTS

SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART

Experience a Day as a SMSH SAINT:
Shadowing Opportunity for Middle School Students
And find out why SMSH is such a special place where students thrive!



Middle school students thrive at SMSH! Why? Our middle school students are encouraged to grow as individuals, discover ways to become servants in their community, and gain knowledge as they become lifelong learners. The goal is that they are disciplined and well-prepared for high school; engaged in learning about Catholic faith and morals; and challenged to practice those ideals in their lives.

Prospective middle school students are invited to join our vibrant SMSH community as they shadow and embody the spirit of being a SMSH Saint for a Day!

During this special day, your student will immerse themselves in the SMSH community by making new friends among our SMSH Saints, attending classes, sharing lunch and engaging with our amazing faculty and staff. Your student will have the opportunity to ask questions of all kinds, or simply observe and absorb the unique atmosphere of SMSH.

Participating in this program provides a firsthand experience of community life at SMSH and a chance to see what it's like to be a part of our Saints community.

Middle Schoolers interested in taking part in the SMSH Saint for a Day shadow experience can easily sign up by contacting Mrs. O'Heir in the main office at 508-695-3072. Schedule your day now!

Friends of SMSH Outing

As announced, the Friends of SMSH is offering various one-day and multi-day outings. Join us on Wednesday, May 22 for the "**Ricky Nelson Remembered**" show, at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA. Price per person is **\$89.00** and includes luncheon, tax and gratuity, and show ticket. Information flyers are available at the doors of the church or you may contact Nancy Chapman or May Courbron at 508-243-2904 or by email: friendsofsmsh@gmail.com for more information. Please note that tickets are **NOT** sold at the door.

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School: We Are Family!



It is so wonderful to see older students mentoring younger students - which is a given in our Catholic schools. All of the students benefit greatly from these relationships - which is why this is a tradition that has gone on for decades! The SMSH buddy program teaches older students about the responsibility of caring for someone younger and gives the younger students a sense of comfort knowing that another student is looking out for them. And if you were to ask any SMSH alum, what makes SMSH SMSH - they would all respond - SMSH is a family! We invite you to learn more about our Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School students and programs by visiting our school's website at: www.smshschool.com.

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Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School: Your Story Starts Here



Do you have a child who will be 4 years old by August 2024? As parents, you are the primary educators of your child; thus, it is never too early to plan for your child's education. Our LITTLE SAINTS program is an adventure to help each child encounter feelings of success and experience opportunities for discovery. We build upon a child's natural talents and curiosity to help your child become a confident learner and be fully prepared for Kindergarten - academically, socially, and spiritually. Call us at (508) 695-3072 to set up a time to tour our school and meet our amazing Pre-K4 staff! We invite you to learn more about our Kindergarten through Grade 8 Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School students and programs by visiting our website at: www.smshschool.com.

From the Diocesan Office of Child Protection:

Did you know... All members of the clergy, Directors of Religious Education and teachers in our schools are Mandated Reporters in Massachusetts and required by law to report any suspected child abuse. Many children will not tell anyone they are being abused. Because the Diocese believes in our moral obligation to protect children, we extend the safe environment training to all who minister, work or volunteer. Watch for signs of abuse and, if you are concerned about a child, share those concerns with a mandated reporter at your parish or school. Let us all be a voice for children who may not be able to speak for themselves.

Saint of the Week:

Saint Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes

Feast Day: April 16th

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of an extremely poor miller in the town of Lourdes in southern France. The family was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. Bernadette, 14 years old, was known as a virtuous girl though a dull student who had not even made her first Holy Communion. In poor health, she had suffered from asthma from an early age.

There were 18 appearances in all, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16. Although Bernadette's initial reports provoked skepticism, her daily visions of "the Lady" brought great crowds of the curious. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.

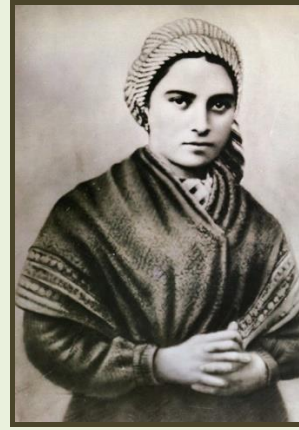
According to Bernadette, the Lady of her visions was a girl of 16 or 17 who wore a white robe with a blue sash. Yellow roses covered her feet, a large rosary was on her right arm. In the vision on March 25 she told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was only when the words were explained to her that Bernadette came to realize who the Lady was.

Few visions have ever undergone the scrutiny that these appearances of the Immaculate Virgin were subject to. Lourdes became one of the most popular Marian shrines in the world, attracting millions of visitors. Miracles were reported at the shrine and in the waters of the spring. After thorough investigation, Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862.

During her life, Bernadette suffered much. She was hounded by the public as well as by civic officials until at last she was protected in a convent of nuns. Five years later, she petitioned to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers. After a period of illness she was able to make the journey from Lourdes and enter the novitiate. But within four months of her arrival she was given the last rites of the Church and allowed to profess her vows. She recovered enough to become infirmarian and then sacristan, but chronic health problems persisted. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35. Bernadette Soubirous was canonized in 1933.

Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there. Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand—as we all must do from time to time.

Saint Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes



"If one dream should fall and break into a thousand pieces... never be afraid to pick one of those pieces up and begin again. That's the beauty of being alive... We can always start all over again. Enjoy God's amazing opportunities bestowed on us. Have faith in Him always."

-St. Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes

Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

Monthly Meeting:

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Thursday, **May 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church's Library.** We hope to see you there!

Local Walk for Life - May 10th | 9:30am-2pm:

Diocese of **Fall River**
Southwest MA • Cape Cod • The Islands
Secretariat for **The New Evangelization**

LOCAL WALK FOR LIFE
The National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette, North Attleboro
May 10, 2024

Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha,
S.D.V., D.D.

Massachusetts State Legislature
Representative Alan Silvia

Individuals are invited to attend the Local Diocesan Walk for Life on Friday, May 10th, at La Salette Shrine in North Attleboro. The day will include Mass with Bishop da Cunha, keynote by Massachusetts State Legislature Representative Alan Silvia, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration, and Walk for Life. Registration for Mass is -required due to limited seating. Register yourself or a group here:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/cjsz3fg>
For more information, email irobinson@dioc-fr.org.

The 3rd Sunday of Easter - April 14, 2024

READINGS FOR THE
WEEK



Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

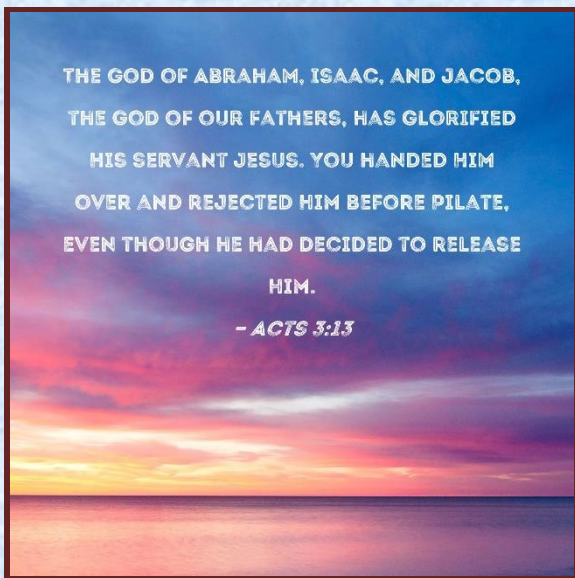
Peter said to the people:

"The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence when he had decided to release him. You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. Now I know, brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did; but God has thus brought to fulfillment what he had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer. Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB,
THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, HAS GLORIFIED
HIS SERVANT JESUS. YOU HANDED HIM
OVER AND REJECTED HIM BEFORE PILATE,
EVEN THOUGH HE HAD DECIDED TO RELEASE
HIM.
- ACTS 3:13



Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O my just God,
you who relieve me when I am in distress;
have pity on me, and hear my prayer!

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

Know that the LORD does wonders for his
faithful one; the LORD will hear me when I call
upon him.

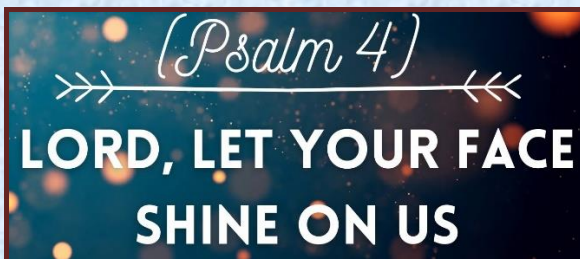
R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine
upon us! You put gladness into my heart.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.

As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep,
for you alone, O LORD,
bring security to my dwelling.

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.



Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

My children, I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep his commandments. Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them. But whoever keeps his word, the love of God is truly perfected in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;
make our hearts burn while you speak to us.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mission and Reconciliation:

The readings of this Sunday's liturgy celebrate the mission entrusted to us by the risen Lord and describe that mission in terms of reconciliation. Easter is the great celebration of reconciliation. All things are made new—are reconciled to God—in Christ the risen Lord. As Christ's mission was one of reconciliation, so is it the mission of all who die and rise with Christ and who seek to witness to his resurrection in their lives.

Comment:

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles focuses us on the preaching of Peter. This bold orator is the same man who thrice denied Jesus, the same man who was too afraid to stand by his Master's cross, the same man who experienced a dramatic conversion at the Resurrection, and the same man who is now taking to heart and to action the mission of reconciliation imparted to him by the risen Lord. For Peter and the other apostles, the Resurrection was an experience of unparalleled forgiveness and reconciliation. Their abandoning of Jesus was forgiven, and that same forgiveness is now the subject of Peter's preaching: "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away." Peter knew what he was talking about. He had experienced it himself.

In the second reading, John reminds us that although Christ brings forgiveness and reconciles us to God, the day-to-day difficulties of life remain. John assures us that Christ intercedes for us, but John also calls on us to live the reconciled life by adhering to God's commandments. Conversion, John says, is not simply an exercise of the mind. It is a much more total activity, one that must be evidenced in all that we do. Only by living the reconciled life do we really "know" Christ.

Like the other accounts of the appearances of the risen Lord, today's Gospel passage begins with an experience of reconciliation: "Peace to you." The Gospel then goes on to show how the mission of reconciliation and peace is to be shared: by beginning with the Scriptures. In other words, the good—and reconciling—news is spread first by proclaiming and explaining the meaning of the Scriptures. That is why, in today's first reading, Peter begins his proclamation by explaining that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophets and of the promise (covenant) made by God to Abraham. Proclaiming this reconciling good news is the mission given the apostles by Jesus. As the apostles begin to fulfill this mission, the Church is formed.

Reflection:

First there is mission, then the Church. The mission of reconciliation the risen Christ gave us comes before the Church. Indeed, the Church exists only because of the mission and only to fulfill the mission. When the Church ceases to carry out its mission, there is no church. It seems mighty important that we understand this primacy, to put first things first. As Church, therefore, we must be concerned, first of all, with reaching out, not in. We must extend to people, in concrete situations—in the flesh—the message and meaning of Christ's reconciling love. Happily, when we do that, the Church grows and flourishes. Attending to the mission puts first things first and only then begets the Church.

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Invest time each week to expand your vocabulary and deepen your faith.

14 April 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Liturgy of the Eucharist \ˈyü-kə-rəst\

Eucharist, Greek for "thanksgiving," is the formal name for the Mass. Also part three of the four-part movement of the Mass: the Introductory Rite, Liturgy of the Word, **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, and Concluding Rite. The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** includes the people's offering, the Eucharistic Prayer, and the Communion rite.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-Liturgy-of-the-Eucharist>

CONTEXT

Liturgy is, therefore, both word and action . . . the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the action that flows from the word.

—Sister Julia Upton, R.S.M.

The Liturgy of the Word centers its action at the ambo, the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** at the altar. The first is fundamentally verbal, the second primarily visual. The first is story, the second tangible sacrament.

—Alice Camille

WHY IT MATTERS

We celebrate our faith in two main units of liturgy that serve as the spiritual lungs of the church: Word and **Eucharist**. The first tells the story of how we came to be the People of God. The second gives thanks for this astonishing reality. In addition, the church teaches in *Lumen Gentium* that the faithful, "as true witnesses of Christ," are "obliged to spread the faith by word and deed," which includes taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice, "the source and summit of the Christian life."

From the General Instruction of the Roman Missal: The Church has arranged the entire celebration of the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** in parts corresponding to precisely [the] words and actions of Christ (no. 72).

RELATED WORDS

Ritual | Mass | Eucharistic Prayer | thanksgiving

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Why are Catholics focused on Eucharist?

A Eucharistic spirituality is ground-level for Catholic life. It's built on three gospel accounts of the Last Supper, in which Jesus employs well-known forms of Jewish prayers of praise and thanksgiving and urges his friends to "do this in memory of me." While John's gospel doesn't recount this narrative, he does have an extended teaching on Jesus as the bread of life.

Early Church teachers like Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Cyril, Ambrose, and Augustine agreed that **Eucharist** had several meanings. One is the impact of the Passion of Christ for human history. Another is the unity Christians share as the Body of Christ. Engaging this sacrament has profound moral implications for those who do.

In the medieval church *why* Jesus makes this self-offering was obscured in debates about *how* it's accomplished ritually and theologically. Most believers adored the Host but fewer embraced a life of thanksgiving. The Second Vatican Council sought to restore "full, conscious, and active" participation so that the People of God might remember that the *why* of **Eucharist** is more vital than the *how*.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-Eucharist-focus>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (APRIL 14)

Grace-filled beginnings

The disciples on the road to Emmaus and those in the Upper Room experienced Jesus in bodily form and also in his role as rabbi. He helped them "connect the dots" of their Jewish tradition so they could see that the Resurrection was the fulfillment of the hopes of their ancestors.

READINGS: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48 (47 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/041424.cfm>). "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

FAITH IN ACTION

Allow Easter to help you locate yourself in the vast sweep of history and see that you are the intended beneficiary of God's grace since the beginning of time.

