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# HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

## SACRED HEART CHAPEL

Hello Brothers and Sisters of Our Holy Rosary Parish Family,

Wow!!! I am so grateful that we have the Flocknotes which enable us to communicate on the internet. Little did I imagine, when Mary Hendricks presented the idea, that God would use this blessing to enable us to stay together during a world struggle. I pray that God is blessing each of you with strength and courage and a deeper faith and trust in Him.

This week's Gospel has a wonderful recounting of Jesus' appearance to two disciples who are leaving Jerusalem on the day Jesus rose from the dead. They are downcast, discouraged, confused and apparently resigned to the fact that there is nothing more. For these two, their world has changed. They are going back to their life before Jesus. How do they let go of all they had hoped for? Jesus and His promised kingdom are no more.

When our personal world (and in this case, the whole world) is disrupted and the normal pattern of life changes, we suddenly look at ourselves and begin to wonder: How will I cope and walk through this different life we are all facing? What is happening in my faith life? What is changing or not changing in the way I talk with God? How do I view my relationships with family, neighbors and even those I don't want to be close to?

Jesus appeared to these disciples and told them they were so foolish for not believing. Rather than leaving them, He walked with them and opened their minds to the truth of His death and resurrection. Jesus explained to them the revelations from the Old Testament that showed God's plan for His Son, Jesus. Then Jesus accompanied the two to their home and Broke the Bread with them. (Remember, Breaking of the Bread was the early Church word for our Mass today.) It was then that they recognized Jesus and He disappeared from their midst.

When we suffer, and the world suffers, it is a walk in darkness. Where is Jesus and His saving presence? We thought He came to save the world and bring about His kingdom. Could it be that we need to have the truth revealed again? Theresa of Avila, a great mystic who suffered greatly throughout her life wrote this: *Suffering, of course, can lead us in one of two directions. It can make us very bitter and close us down, or it can make us wise, compassionate, and utterly open. Our hearts open either because they have been softened, or perhaps because suffering makes us feel like we have nothing more to lose. It often takes us to the edge of our inner resources where we "fall into the hands of the living God."*

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Most of us here at Holy Rosary are merely inconvenienced. (There are some who are suffering deeply.) But, each of us is called to embrace the reality of suffering that will come into our lives and hold up to God's love those who are suffering now. I must let Jesus teach me as he taught the two disciples what passion and death mean for the saving of our own souls. I must now take this time to ask for wisdom to be compassionate and open to God's love. I now ask for the grace to avoid bitterness and "closing down" when suffering touches my life. I must learn now to "fall into the hands of the living God."

My brothers and sisters, our loving God is alive and Jesus is walking with us. He is teaching us about His saving plan for our world and for ourselves. "For those who love God, all things work together for the good." This is the time to take His truth into our hearts. He is with us always and will not abandon us. We do not have to fall into paralyzing fear. It isn't easy. We take time each day to praise and thank Him. We read His Word and make spiritual communions. We reach out to others, especially those we have ignored. We practice telling God, I fall into your hands.

Brother Roy and I are praying and having Mass for you each day. Mary's loving intercession unites us with God's loving will. Pray the rosary and take time to pray with your family. We are in this together and know that we are here for you.

Peace and love in Jesus' peace, Father Joe

***To our Parishioners: We hope you are all staying safe during this difficult time in our country. Please know that we are praying for you and for your families. If you are in need of food or other basic necessities, please call the rectory and we will be happy to help.***

### **Please remember in your prayers**

Bertha Small, Kate Deasy, Rosemary Austin, Phil Halligan, Randy Trent, Macyah Riley, Karen Trent, Jack Call, Joe Morton, Matthew Linger, David Vincent, Seth Poling, Cathy Lipscomb, Hugh Hensil, Charity Manspeaker, Barbara Elmore, Freddy Caimotto, James Barton, Mike Cerullo, Darell Hyre, Diane Hyre, Lorene Hardman, Freda Cawthon, Vicki Dibble, Gerogetta Sears, Rue Thompson, Eric Harkness, Pat Daigneault, Duane Lohr, Jeff Ball, Linda Hicks, Jane Baxter, Shaelyn Posey, Bill Baxa, P.T. Garton, John Egress, Jalen Welcome, Ron Byrd, Helena Bessinger, Dennis Cortes.

***Please pray for all men and women serving in the military.***

### **Please pray for our homebound**

Gene & Mary Stump, Denna Bayless, Anna Stalnaker, Ron Frye, Gerald Hackney, Rocena Asbury, John Sneberger, Lorraine McLean, James McCartney, Nancy Beverlin, Shirley Linger, Rosie Ketterman, Shirley Helmick, William McLean, Lorene Hardman, Anna Powell, Barbara Elmore, Gerry Stankus

### **Eucharistic Liturgies**

**Saturday, April 25** - Holy Rosary Parishioners  
**Sunday, April 26** - Anthony Dahman and Family  
**Monday, April 27** - Sarah Rosenbury  
**Tuesday, April 28** - Joann Ross  
**Wednesday, April 29** - Allie Plocki  
**Thursday, April 30** - Natalie Brobst  
**Friday, May 1** - The Pallottines  
**Saturday, May 2** - Parishioners of Holy Rosary  
**Sunday, May 3** - Rex Hardman

### **Birthdays for April**

April 15 Libby Anderegg  
April 18 Dennis Cortes  
April 19 Lany Wijayani  
April 21 Linda Hicks  
April 24 Donna Gjolberg  
April 28 Arthur Sayre  
April 29 Denna Bayless  
April 29 Brian Nanners  
April 30 Chase Lewellen

*Congratulations to Pam and Mike Wilson who celebrate their wedding anniversary this month!*

### **In Your Prayers This Week**

Please pray for all of those on the front lines of the Covid Crisis: our healthcare workers and those who keep our hospitals running, necessary store employees, and emergency personnel.



# WORSHIP & MEDITATION

## FIRST READING

"God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father." (Acts 2:32-33a)

## PSALM

Lord, you will show us the path of life. (Ps 16) or Alleluia

## SECOND READING

He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you. (1 Pt 1:20)

## GOSPEL

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" (Lk 24:34)

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

What does it take for our eyes to be opened? Every day, a man laboriously walks down Main Street of town. With great difficulty but graceful determination, he places one foot in front of the other, uses a crudely made staff for support, and walks. His pace is slow, but he walks. What does he hope to see? Where does he want to go? What does he find? We all walk through life. The type of "walking" life requires is not always physical but is most assuredly emotional and spiritual. We walk, we look, we encounter, and we seek. How we do these things and what we actually find is determined by what we carry and what we allow ourselves to discover along the way.

If walking is too challenging for us, we may choose to isolate and stay alone. If we are afraid to walk, we may become overly dependent on others providing for us and abandon the journey. We can walk and pay attention only to what is in front of our feet and never notice the immensity of what is happening around us. The road is never the same twice. The journey is always different. What kinds of things do you notice as you walk through life? It seems that the disciples of the Road to Emmaus missed a lot at first. We do as well.

We are called to walk with purpose, to listen, and to notice things that may not at first be apparent. We have to allow the One who has a special claim on our soul to enlighten, instruct, and inspire us. The incarnate mystery of God is pulsating in and through all of creation, where the presence of the Word who became flesh can be discovered. He has been with us all along. How could we have missed Him? Our journey brings us back to the breaking of the bread, and something begins to stir within us. We begin to understand, and things look differently. Bread, body, wine, and blood bring us to see that everyone and everything is a "Eucharistic" encounter. We become what we eat and we see what we eat. We continue to walk. Our eyes are now opened, and we recognize Him. Our hearts burn. Stay with us. Please stay with us.