



2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:29

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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APRIL 19, 2020

Our mission at Immaculate Heart of Mary - is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to praise His name, by being a Christ-centered, welcoming, unified community. Called to holiness, we celebrate the love of God through prayer and worship, the Eucharist and other sacraments, catechesis, evangelization and service to all. Always His people, we strive to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure.

Gospel Meditation ~ Second Sunday of Easter

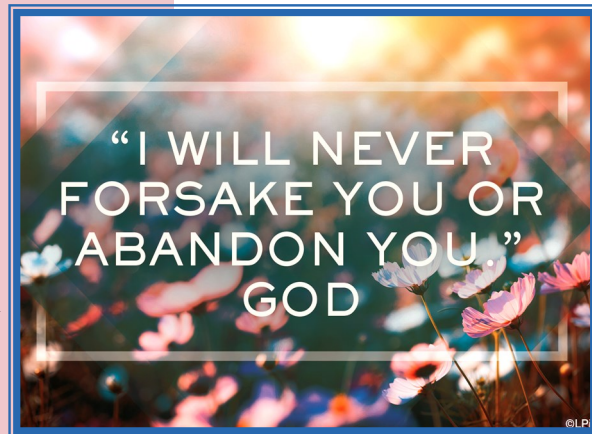
A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

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IHM PRAYER MINISTRY~ We believe as faith-filled people, prayer matters and offers hope. If you think you might be interested in being part of the prayer tree ministry; which is made up of a group of people who pray for others — for anyone who would like to have prayers said for themselves for wellbeing; a relative, friend, or for a family member, contact Brenda at 518 271-6184.

Let us continue to pray for the well-being of one another, and an end to this virus.

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**Check your local TV station
(Watervliet 1303) for times of
taped Sunday Mass.**


RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS ~ Give Yourself Completely

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out. —Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



In Memoriam ~ 2020-21		
 <p>In loving memory of our Families: The Carlsons, The Mardigans, The Foleys & The Butlers requested by Bob & Carol Carlson 2/7/21</p>	<p>In loving memory of Albert P Morelli, Donald & Eileen Gallagher Hogan requested by Don & Patti Hogan 1/10/21</p>	<p>In loving memory of Joseph V Germano requested by the Family 1/10/21</p>
<p>In loving memory of John A O'Brien requested by the Family 10/25/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of William T Sr, Julia F and Robert A Fahr requested by the Family 8/23/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of Bryan T Roberts (son) Raymond & Helen Werner (parents) requested by Judith Pope 7/19/20</p>
<p>In loving memory of The Barron & Rys Families requested by the Family 7/19/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of John T Sherlock requested by his wife and Family 7/19/20</p>	<p>In loving memory of the Edward Brooks Family, Foglia Family & Monticup Family requested by Rose Brooks & Family 5/24/20</p>

Readings for the Week of April 19, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15

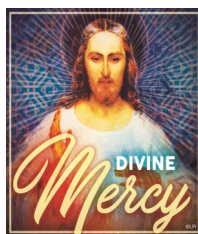
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20

Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35



In loving memory of
Adam & Katherine Novak
John & Rosalie Novak & Florence Szpot
requested by the Family
5/10/20

The PARISH OFFICE is CLOSED for all transactions until further notice.

However, parishioners may still continue to mail in their weekly parish envelopes OR drop them off in the MAIL SLOT at the 7th Ave. Entrance Door. Thank you for your continued support to your parish.

MARY'S SOUP KITCHEN and FOOD PANTRY are CLOSED at this time.



Sharing the Gospel

Jesus gave the power to forgive sins through his apostles. Today the priests are his apostles. They remind us of how God forgives our sins. You have the power to forgive those who hurt you. It is your choice to forgive as Jesus has forgiven you. It is healthy for you to forgive. Anger makes your body tense and your muscles ache. When you forgive others, God sends his love to fill your body and soul with peace.

Prayer

Lord, help me forgive those who hurt me.

Something to Draw

Draw yourself forgiving a friend who broke your baseball bat.

Mission for the Week

I will pray for those who hurt me and forgive them.

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Read the Gospel and Color



Please Note:

Since all regularly scheduled Masses are canceled until further notice, we will NOT be scheduling any new Mass intentions until this directive is lifted. Intentions that have been previously reserved will be rescheduled at a later date before any new intentions are taken. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of this situation.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Due to closure of parish business office the Finance and Administration section will resume at a later date.

Lighter Side ~ What Next?

God was talking to one of his angels and said, "Do you know what I have just done? I've just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that great?" The angel said, "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God said, "I think I'll call it a day."

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