

**Holy Family Parish**  
**National Catholic Church**  
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**Facebook Holy Family National Catholic Church**



**Second Sunday in Easter-Low Sunday**  
**SPECIAL HOME SERVICE AND**  
**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**April 19, 2020**

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements (six months in advance), please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.276.5562 or 412.678. 0566. **Office Hours:** Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at [bsleczkowski@aol.com](mailto:bsleczkowski@aol.com)

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**Continuing our Discipleship**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN EASTER-LOW SUNDAY

### PENITENTIAL RITE

### ACT OF CONTRITION

O God, from the depth of my heart I am sorry for sinning against You. Through my sins I have turned away from You, displeased You and offended You. I promise to confess my sins, to do penance and with Your grace to amend my life by following You closely and keeping Your commandments.

### ENTRANCE HYMN

Psalm 40: 2-4

C: I waited, waited for the Lord, Who bent down and heard my cry, drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mind of the swamp, set my feet upon rock, steadied my steps, Alleluia!  
R: And put a new song in my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and they shall trust in the Lord, Alleluia!  
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world with out end. Amen.

### KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship You; we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of + God the Father. Amen.

**OPENING PRAYER** Let us pray. [*pause briefly*] Heavenly Father, You redeemed us through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Grant that we may benefit from the graces merited by our Savior. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

Acts 2: 42-47

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His mercy endures forever." R:

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just: R:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. R:

### Second Reading

1 Peter 1: 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith,

more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

### **Gospel Acclamations.**

John 20: 29

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **Gospel**

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name. The Gospel of the Lord.

## REFLECTIONS

Faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is much more than simply believing in an amazing fact. Our readings remind us that belief in Jesus' resurrection is accepting and participating in a relationship that can enliven every part of our lives—now and forever. In other words, continuing as disciples

John may speak of Jesus appearing simply to “the disciples,” unnumbered and unnamed, includes ourselves in the picture. To enable those disciples to be sent as Jesus was sent, Jesus breathes on them and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” When we recall that this remarkable action is occurring near the end of a book that began with the words, “In the beginning,” it is not hard to see in this breathing a connection to the creation of Adam. Easter enables a new creation: a frightened people are empowered to live out Jesus' mission of sharing the life of God with others through their own self-giving in imitation of Jesus. If the statement, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed,” is not clear enough for us, the author's own statement of purpose is crystal clear: “These signs are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.”

If we want a mental picture of what “life in his name” means, we need to look no further than that Luke provides in today's first reading from Acts. Although many have through the centuries, taken this portion of the Acts as a model for their community life, the context of this passage in Acts suggests that Luke intends this to be a portrait of Christian community generally. The details are worth looking into more.

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to the communal life to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. We recognize here the perennial ingredients of Church life. The apostolic “teaching” would, no doubt, include the sayings of Jesus and the interpretations of his life by way of texts from the Hebrew Scriptures. The “communal life” includes the generous sharing of possessions mentioned later in this description. The “breaking of the bread” seems to be, as in the Emmaus account in Luke's

Gospel the celebration of the Lord's Supper. And “the prayers” likely include continued engagement in the Jewish liturgy.

Awe came upon everyone. Some interpret this as a description of outsiders’ response to the apostolic “wonders and signs,” but the statement can just as easily be taken as a description of the community itself. If so, it likely refers to that fear of God which the Hebrew Scriptures name as the beginning of wisdom. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus, repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit have revived an awe in these pious Jews for the presence and power of the Creator.

And many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. “Wonders and signs” with its peculiar reversal of the usual order “signs and wonders” echo the wonders and signs mentioned in the quotation from Joel and applied to Jesus’ healing actions in Peter's Pentecost speech. By using the same phrase here, Luke underscores the fact that the apostles continue the divinely empowered ministry of Jesus to be illustrated by the healing of the lame man through Peter and John.

All were together who believed and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. This spells out part of what is meant by the earlier mention of communal life. The very phrasing suggests that such sharing of goods is a spontaneous expression of the Easter faith. When we take the God the Father personally, we use His gifts differently and more generously.

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. This note puts us in touch with the realities that the Jerusalem Christian community still saw themselves as Jews very much in contact with their Israelite tradition and community, and that their own homes served as the place for the Christian breaking of the bread. Strikingly, Luke can use the descriptive word “those who were being saved”—to describe new Christians.

## NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by

the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## GENERAL INTERCESSION

**Celebrant: the risen Christ brought His peace to the apostles as He showed them His pierced hands and side. Let us pray confidently in His name, knowing that He brings true peace through His victory over death.**

L: Our response is “Lord, hear our prayer”.

That the whole community of our National Catholic Church may remain faithful to the teachings of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation, that the covid-19 virus be eliminated and that this pandemic is not used as a political tool, but we be united as one nation under God, let us pray to the Lord.

That the peace of our risen Lord may spread through our world today, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Divine Mercy of Christ teaches us about love and forgiveness to each other, let us pray to the Lord.

That we will share the Good News of Faith to all family, community, and friends to build His Church and continue His Mission until the day Jesus returns, let us pray to the Lord.

That the risen Lord places His healing hands upon our sick, those names in our petition basket, and for those who cannot attend due to human frailty.

That the faithful departed will enter the sure hope and promise of their heavenly inheritance, especially +Leo Gibala and +Edmund Adamek (2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.), let us pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant: Father of Infinite Mercy, we do not see your Son, but we love Him, and offer our prayers in His name. We rejoice because we believe in Him who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **OFFERTORY VERSE**

O God, I will present my thank offerings to You. For You have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life. Alleluia. Psalm 12b-13

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord, our God, accept the offerings of Your rejoicing Church which You have enlivened this day; and grant us the gift of perpetual gladness, for You have given us cause for great joy. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### **ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**



Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

### **COMMUNION VERSE**

Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O My people! Alleluia.

Ezekiel 37: 13

### **PRAYER AFTER SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

Let us pray. [*pause briefly*] Lord, Jesus Christ, to You belong the keys of life and death by the will of the Father. Preserve us through these Holy Mysteries that our redemption may be assured and our doubts relieved. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **PRAYER IN TIME OF NATIONAL ANXIETY**

Let us pray. I come to You, Lord, in this time of uncertainty and confusion that has gripped our nation. I pray that our leaders and representatives in government are filled with Your peace, strength and courage. May your gifts of wisdom and understanding, fortitude and counsel be sought and utilized by them for the well-being of our country. By their belief and trust in You may they provide capable leadership, promote unity and peace, and be attentive to the concerns of our people. May Your Church provide support and comfort; and help strengthen our hope for peace through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



### **THE ANGELUS**

#### ***ASKING THE INTERCESSION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER***

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary ...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O Lord, we ask You, pour forth Your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. In the name of the Father and of the Son of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **This Week**

**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

**Easter 2**

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

+Leo Gibala Int. Ted & Janis Gibala; +Edmund Adamek  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Ann.) Int Laura Adamek and Family

**Sunday, April 26, 2020**

**Easter 3**

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

+Piekielek & Gliwa Families Int Steffania Piekielek

These are the recommendations from the Prime Bishop and the Bishops of the church. The Church doors will be open for all the celebrations, but it is recommended to stay home or keep a social distance if attending the liturgy.

Until the sanctions from the Covid -19 Virus is lifted and we return to normal activities, there will only be one Sunday Mass to be celebrated at 9:00 A.M. The 11:00 A.M. will not be celebrated. Again, it is recommended to stay home.

*Always check our website [www.hfpncc.org](http://www.hfpncc.org) or Holy Family National Catholic Church Facebook page for added information or changes.*

## Low Sunday Word Search

R	O	F	D	E	I	S	A	M	D
K	E	E	K	E	E	W	H	O	E
E	S	A	E	L	S	A	F	H	R
V	O	R	S	A	M	O	H	T	F
E	C	A	E	P	R	T	L	H	I
I	S	E	H	G	T	H	A	C	N
L	K	R	I	O	N	G	I	G	G
E	E	V	O	I	L	I	F	I	R
B	E	W	R	O	N	E	F	E	E
E	L	H	A	N	D	S	S	O	S

WEEK	DOORS	CLOSED
FEAR	PEACE	HANDS
FORGIVE	THOMAS	HOLES
FINGER	EIGHT	BELIEVE



### District 5 PNU

A reminder that the quarterly meeting of District 5 will be held today at 3:00 P.M. This will be a teleconference. All Spojnia members and potential members are invited to participate. There is much important information to share. To attend the teleconference dial 1-800-977-8002 and when prompted enter code 086657#

Registration applications for Convo 2020 are now available this July. All parish youth ages 12-20 should attend. Chaperones will be needed. Registration forms are now available. Contact Fr. Bruce.

### Graduates

Although we are at a quarantine lockdown, Holy Family still wants to honor the 2020 High School and College Graduates. Please send Fr. Bruce your name and a list of awards and school achievements.



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## **Today's Reading's Message on our continual Discipleship to be understood.**

### **First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47**

The new Christians followed the teaching of the apostles very closely. They always met with the community. They prayed together and shared the Eucharist with each other. Everyone was amazed. The Apostles did many great things that showed God's power. All the believers in Jerusalem were united and shared all they had. Some sold land and personal items. These believers would distribute their profits with the other Christians, especially the needy. Every day, they prayed in the Temple and shared the Eucharist in their homes. They ate together with happy and simple hearts. They always praised God. And, the people in Jerusalem thought highly of the Christians. Every day, the Lord added more people to the community of the saints. These short verses for Acts presented the ideal possible in the Christian community. Starting and ending with the neophytes, Acts described the drawing power of community living. Why did the community grow so quickly? The calling card of evangelization was the "wonders and signs of the apostles" that caused an awe among the populace of Jerusalem. But there was more. A spirit of unity based upon a common concern, a Christian love. The neophytes were devoted to the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, and worship. The Jerusalem community itself attended Temple worship together and shared the Lord's Supper in the homes of the faithful. And they would sell real estate and personal possessions for the good of the needy in the community seemed to sum up the reason for their growth: a

love and joy that pervaded their lives together. The source and end of that love, of course, was the Lord. The Lord himself gave unity to the early Christians. How do you express Christian joy? In prayer? In fellowship? In study? How does that joy reflect the activity of the Lord in your life?

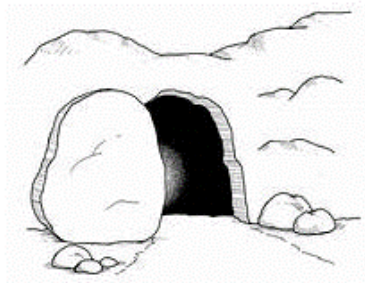
### **Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3-9**

Thank our God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy, God gave us a fresh, new start when Jesus rose from the dead. This is a hope that lives in us. God also gave us an inheritance that will never die. It is pure and will never fade away. It is being kept safe for you in heaven. Faith tells you the power of God watches over you. It also tells you God is preparing a place for you in heaven. This will be shown at the end of time. That thought should make you happy, even a little bit. You might need to suffer in various ways, but this will prove your faith is much more valuable than gold that is molded in fire and formed. In this way, your faith will be worthy to praise, glorify, and honor God when Jesus comes again. You love and trust Jesus even though you have not seen him. This is an indescribable and glorious joy! Just think of it. You have already received what you desire in the end, the salvation of souls. Like gold that was melted in the furnace to be shaped for jewelry, faith was to be tested in the “furnace” of life so it would be worthy for worship in the Kingdom. In other words, what the Christian suffered in this life would prepare him/her for life in the next. Americans do not like this line of reasoning. We admire sacrifice, as long as it is someone else’s sacrifice. We like gratification now! But we should take these words from 1 Peter to heart. Life is not always comfortable. In fact, it can be challenging, even oppressive. But, the measure of a life well spent is not the line: “the one with the most toys at the end wins.” The measure is really the strength of character derived from the journey. The core of this strength is faith. Do we still reach out to God and others, during this time of the pandemic even when the cost was high? The kind of faith that can answer “yes” despite the hardships in life is the faith worthy for the Kingdom. The benefit of the Christian life: a faith tested in fire that still looks forward to glory of heaven. How is faith worth the risk? How is the Christian life worth the journey? How have both prepared you for the afterlife?

## **Gospel Reading John 20: 19-31**

Peace is more than a lack of conflict. A lull in action between two opponents only gives them a chance to regroup, to recharge for the next round. A void of violence does not lead to happiness. True peace, on the other hand, gives us happiness, since it is built on trust. The gospel tells us how Jesus gave his followers peace because they trusted him. In spite of skepticism, he offers us the same peace. The peace Christ give us heals the fear and cynicism of the world. This peace builds bridges of trust and allows us to walk together to the Father. His peace allows us to continue to believe and to hold on to his very life. Let us, then, offer each other the peace of Christ, the Shalom of his Spirit. How can you offer the peace of Christ to others in your daily life?

Faith in the Resurrection leads us to the conclusion Jesus is true God and true man. By the Resurrection, we receive the gift of a new eternal life, free from evil. We become one with our Savior who died and rose for us. And, as he rose, Christ assures us that we, too, will rise on the last day. We do not know what Christ's risen body is like. On the one hand, the risen Jesus could be touched by his followers. His body still had the wounds of the passion. On the other hand, he entered locked rooms at will and appeared to his followers as he wished. His body was not limited by space and time. While his body possessed signs of his past, it was transformed to a new plane. The body of Christ now possessed the power of the Spirit. The resurrection was at once a moment in history two millennium ago and a moment for all time. That which space and time bound was raised to the eternal. When we profess Christ is risen, we acknowledge our faith in a life beyond despite our present limitations. We can touch that very life through the Spirit. And, because of the Spirit, our shortcomings that stand in the way of eternal life can be swept aside. Why does the Christian walk lead through forgiveness to peace? How have you experienced that road?



## **Parish Stewardship**

These have been difficult days for many of us. Some have been laid off from their jobs. Hopefully we get back to our normal lives and importantly back to worship, hearing the Word of God and receiving the Holy Eucharist. Easter just isn't the same this year. We miss our rituals and liturgies. Due to the current mandates issued in our country and state, our parish lost valuable fundraising events which were necessary for our everyday expenses. Even though you haven't been able to worship each Sunday, home worship bulletins have been made available on our website, but your weekly financial donations are also needed. Continue to fill each weekly envelope as if you were attending Mass every Sunday. You can send in your donations through the mail or hold onto them until we resume our Sunday obligations. This is also a part of our discipleship. Most importantly though, be safe and follow the guidelines so we can eradicate this contagious virus. Let us keep praying for each other for we are all family.

## **What is Low Sunday?**

The first Sunday after Easter. The origin of the name is uncertain, but it is apparently intended to indicate the contrast between it and the great Easter festival immediately preceding, and also, perhaps, to signify that, being the Octave Day of Easter, it was considered part of that feast, though in a lower degree. Many parishes experience lower attendance on Low Sunday than on Easter Day. Its liturgical name is *Dominica in albis depositis*, derived from the fact that on it the neophytes, newly convert, who had been baptized on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil services, then for the first time laid aside their white baptismal robes. St. Augustine mentions this custom in a sermon for the day, and it is also alluded to in the Eastertide Vesper hymn, "Ad regias Agni dapes"

(or, in its older form, "Ad cœnam Agni providi"), written by an ancient imitator of St. Ambrose.

Today this Sunday can also be called Doubting Thomas Sunday, referring to the Apostle Thomas not believing the first appearance of Jesus after His Resurrection in the upper room nor the testimonies of the brother Apostles. Remember what Jesus said to Thomas; "Put your finger here and see my hands and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." There is a beautiful hymn, "We Walk By Faith" The lyrics should be applicable to our faith.

We walk by faith and not by sight:  
No gracious words we hear  
Of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
But we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,  
Nor follow where he trod;  
Yet in his promise we rejoice,  
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,  
And may our faith abound;  
To call on you when you are near,  
And seek where you are found.

That when our life of faith is done  
In realms of clearer light,  
We may behold you as you are  
In full and endless sight.

Christ Has Risen; Christ Has Risen Indeed!