

Holy Family Parish
National Catholic Church
1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport. Pa. 15132
412.678.0566 Office; Auditorium 412.664.7009
www.hfpncc.org
Facebook Holy Family National Catholic Church
Celebrating our 100th Year



EASTER 3
April 18, 2021

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

Parish Staff:

Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor 412.276.5562
Ted Gibala, Committee Chairman 412.678.7347
Carol Davelli Chopin Choir Director 412.678.2368
Wendy Blotzer, Organist, Bell Choir 412.926.6029
David Kost, Lector Coordinator 412.519.7771
Patricia Bagshaw, Youth Ministry 412.953.5123
Tom Popovic, Cemetery Coordinator 724.243.3033
Parish Custodian 412.678.7347



Christ Has Risen Christ Has Risen Indeed!

Always check our website www.hfpncc.org or Holy Family National Catholic Church Facebook page for added information or changes.

This Week

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Easter 3

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

+ **Richard Dell** Int. Lenny & Kathy Guy; +**Edmund Adamek** (3rd Ann.) Int. wife Laura Adamek and children Karyn Muse and Alexa Foster.

PNU Branch 132 Meeting

After Mass

PNU District 5 Meeting

7:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Easter 4

Good Shepherd Sunday

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

+**Richard Contrella** Int. Mr. & Mrs. David Kost +**Mack Mastrovich** (21st Ann.) Int Mrs. Carol Davelli

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| T | S | B | U | O | D | Y | E | S | R | STORY | ROAD | BREAD | FRIGHT |
| N | E | O | B | T | R | E | H | E | H | GHOST | DOUBTS | HANDS | FEET |
| E | Y | N | R | O | T | S | C | E | S | TOUCH | BONES | FISH | PSALMS |
| S | E | E | T | R | H | O | U | C | I | | | | |
| S | T | S | O | H | G | H | O | A | F | | | | |
| T | T | A | S | N | I | B | T | E | R | | | | |
| B | D | O | I | Y | R | R | E | P | I | | | | |
| U | Y | S | R | E | F | T | D | C | G | | | | |
| O | E | H | A | N | D | S | U | O | T | | | | |
| D | O | D | S | M | L | A | S | P | H | | | | |

The most important detail in Luke’s accounts of the disciples meeting the risen Jesus may be the fact that He slowly opened their minds to understand what they had previously been unwilling or unable to grasp. Their superficial and self-interested ideas about Jesus as Lord or

Messiah all fell apart with the Passion. Those of us born into a so-called Christian society may unwittingly share their lack of depth of understanding. We sometimes proclaim: “He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day” with about the same amount of wonder as we say, “the light just turned green.” When we read the Gospels, it is all too easy to overlook the mind-boggling confusion they convey and thus avoid their invitation to undergo the transformation they offer. To the extent that we succeed in those evasions, we prevent ourselves from sharing the faith experience of an encounter with Christ that the evangelists wanted to communicate.

Luke quotes Jesus as saying, “Peace be with you,” but that greeting apparently had exactly the same effect as if He had plotted and carried off a plan to make them jump right out of their sandals. Luke says the disciples were “startled and terrified.” That sounds like a progression from bad to worse. When their good sense kicked in, they figured that they were seeing a ghost.

When we read the Resurrection accounts without supplementary overlays of piety and unquestioned faith, we can start to comprehend how hard it was for the disciples to understand the risen Christ. That is simply because the Resurrection fulfilled everything Jesus had tried to teach them during His ministry, but they had never grasped it. They had loved Him, but their faith was never more than a ghost of His own. The risen Jesus had to begin by convincing them that He himself had returned to them and that he was truly alive; they could see the scars of His suffering and just as He had done throughout their life together, He could eat with them.

Luke tells us that Jesus nudged His friends through their incredulity and amazement to the point that He could open their minds to understand the Scriptures. The Gospels attest to the fact that until they had been through Jesus’ death and resurrection, they did not and perhaps could not understand what He had tried to teach them. It was one thing to hear Him proclaim that the last would be first; it was quite another for them to meet their crucified friend arisen from the dead. They had often heard Him preach love and forgiveness, but they began to learn what it meant when He transformed their way of thinking by returning to them with His message of peace. In the end, Jesus mandated His disciples to be His witnesses. He knew that the only way they could learn what His message was about was through preaching it in word and deed.