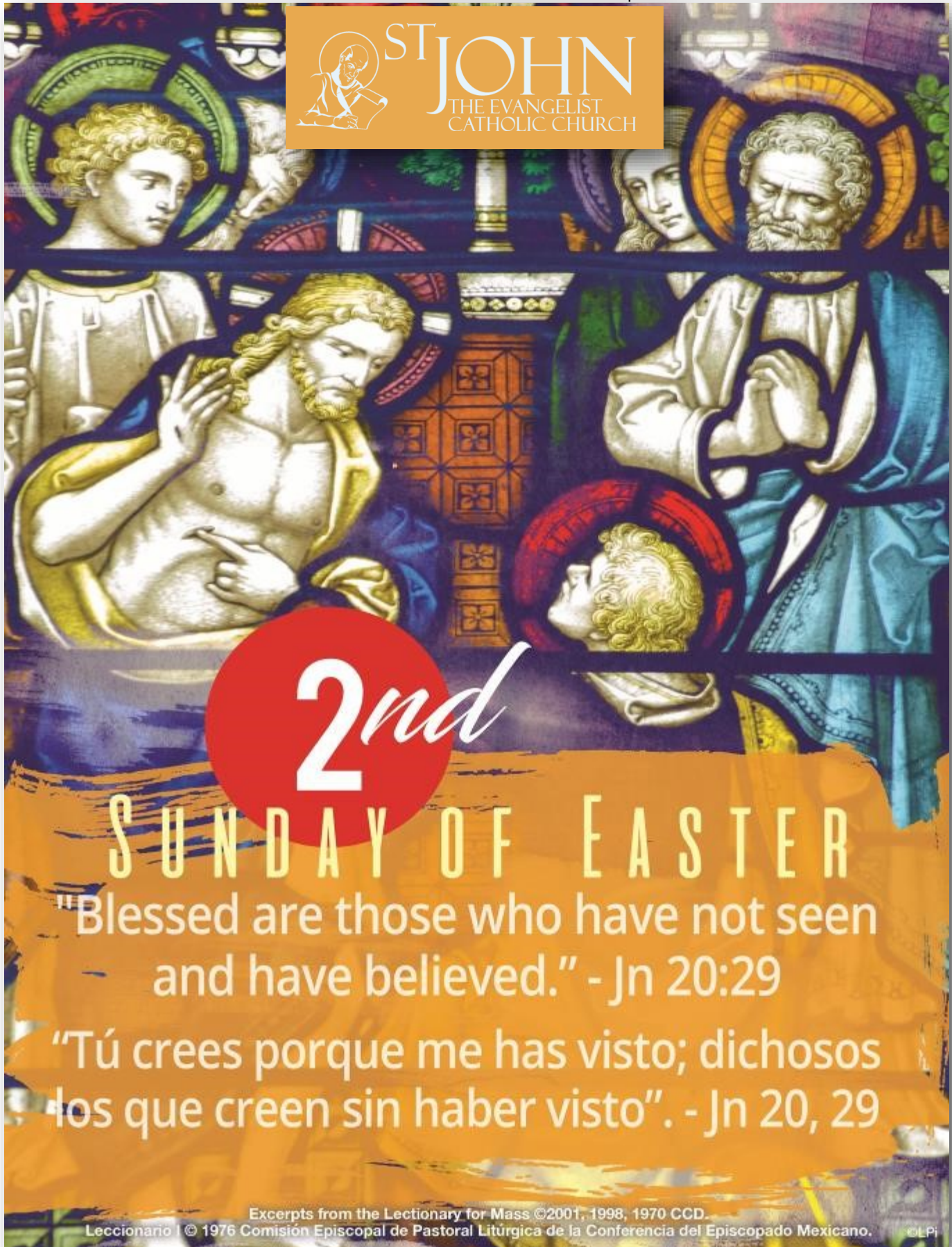




ST JOHN
THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH



2nd

SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Blessed are those who have not seen
and have believed." - Jn 20:29

"Tú crees porque me has visto; dichosos
los que creen sin haber visto". - Jn 20, 29

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
Leccionario | © 1976 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano. © L.Pi

All weekend, weekday Masses, Adoration are **CANCELLED until further notice.**
Office hours: **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**, please call 785-843-0109. Website: www.sjevangelist.com
Reconciliation: Wednesday 11:00 am-12:00 pm, 7:00-8:00 pm; Saturday 3:00-4:00 pm

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN

St. John the Evangelist, a Catholic Capuchin Franciscan Parish, welcomes all who are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaims His Gospel through prayer, worship, His Word, and the sacraments. Members, inspired by the Holy Spirit through faith formation and spiritual renewal, witness to the Gospel in lives of justice and charity, build up families and children through education, hospitality and fellowship, and serve those in need with compassion.

“GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD.”
~PSALM 118

PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Fr. John Cousins
Associate Pastor.....Fr. Barnabas Eichor
Principal, St. John School.....Mr. Chris Reffett
Director of Liturgy & Music.....Lisa Roush
Religious Education Director.....Lois Mersmann
Catecismo en español.....María Mota
High School Youth Director.....Anastasia Pine
Middle School Youth Director.....Abby Wagner
RCIA.....Michael Podrebarac
Business Manager.....Cris Denning
Stewardship Director.....Samantha Romero
Assistant Administrator.....Meg Milburn
Parish Coordinator.....Ellen Sickinger
Database.....Patty Guadian
Multimedia Communication Coordinator.....Jacinta Hoyt
Technology.....Karen Dixon
Maintenance.....Jeff Jenicke

St. John Catholic School.....Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal
1208 Kentucky St. 785-843-9511

www.sjevangelist.com/school

Catholic Charities.....Abigail Chikanda
1525 W. 6th, Suite A 785-856-2694

achikanda@catholiccharitiesks.org

Rummage House.....Linda Brey
13th & Kentucky lbrey525@gmail.com

Shopping Hours: (CLOSED until further noted)

Wednesday — 11:00 am-3:00 pm; Thursday (first and last of month only) — 1:00pm-4:00 pm; Saturday — 8:30am-12:30 pm

Centro Hispano.....Lydia Diebolt
204 W. 13th St. 785-843-2039

centrohispano.lydia@gmail.com

SIMON PARISH CENTER

Mailing Address 1229 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone.....785-843-0109

Office Hours (CLOSED TO PUBLIC) Please call.

Monday—Friday 8:30 am—4:00 pm

Weekend Masses (CANCELLED until further notice)

Saturday.....4:30 pm

Sunday.....7:00 am, 8:30 am, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm (Spanish), 5:00 pm

Weekday Masses (CANCELLED until further notice)

Monday-Friday.....7:30 am

Saturday.....8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

In the Padre Pio Chapel (inside the north church entrance)

Wednesday.....11:00 am-12:00 pm, 7:00-8:00 pm

Saturday.....3:00-4:00 pm

.....(and by appointment)

Adoration**CANCELLED until further notice.**

.....Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 7:00 am—9:00 pm

.....in the Padre Pio Chapel

Bulletin Deadline

Submit info by **noon on Thursday** to bulletin@saint-johns.net ten (10) days prior to the bulletin you wish info to appear.

Please submit text electronically (via computer/email) as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

Advertise in the Bulletin

Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information call Doug Wolfe:

800-950-9952 x5833

dwolfe@4LPI.com

Pastoral Council

parishcouncil@sjevangelist.com

Connie Ehrlich-Chair,

Christine Wenger-Vice Chair,

Susan Tabor-Secretary,

Brent Crandon, George Diepenbrock,

Luis Gonzalez, Larry Koster,

Lisa Leroux-Smith, Jason Tanking

Finance Council

Brian Green, David Ehrlich,
Meredith Lang, Brent Crandon,
Jeannette Mercier

School Council

Mr. Chris Reffett,
Mike McDonald—President
Caroline Bennett—Vice President
Jim McDonald—Secretary
Hanon Misko, Emily Malin
Lisa Leroux-Smith

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

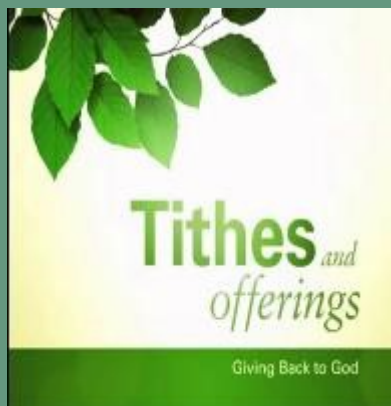
TITHING WHILE WE ARE AWAY ...

Thank you for your continued support of St. John Parish. Your support helps us to continue our mission during this time of change.

If you would prefer to give your weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly tithes via a check or cash you can drop your tithes in the secure lock box outside of the parish office porch on the SOUTH side of the church office. You can also mail your check to 1229 Vermont Street Lawrence, KS 66044.

If electronic giving is your preferred method you can give via our electronic giving method **PushPay**. This can be a one time or recurring gift. Simply visit our website: www.sjevangelist.com and click on the Online Giving Link on the home page. Or text "stjohncc" to 77977 to give via your mobile device.

Thank you for your continued generosity to St. John Parish!



Mass Opportunities

While our sanctuaries are closed in an effort to contain the spread of the virus, there are several opportunities to "virtually" attend Mass on a daily and weekly basis.

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Archbishop Joseph Naumann is broadcasting daily Mass at 8:30 am each day on his Facebook page at: facebook.com/archbishopnaumann

The Capuchins Franciscan of Denver will live stream Mass every Sunday from the St. Francis of Assisi Friary Chapel. Mass will begin at 8:55 am. Capuchin Franciscans: capuchins.org/mass

Father Mitchell Zimmerman and the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center at the University of Kansas are offering several online opportunities throughout the week. Holy Mass, Adoration and Holy Hour. St. Lawrence will stream private Masses on its KU Catholic Facebook Page according to the following schedule. facebook.com/kucatholic



MONDAY - THURSDAY: 5:15 pm
FRIDAY - SATURDAY: 12:10 pm
SUNDAY: 11:00 am

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas: archkck.org

The Vatican: <http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

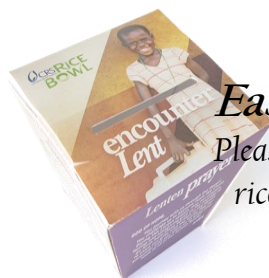
Other Resources

Sites for prayer and reflection:

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/>

UPDATE: ARCHDIOCESAN 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Due to the current health emergency, the Annual 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Archbishop Naumann, that was scheduled for June 8th at Nativity Parish, has been **rescheduled to August 23rd at Nativity Parish at 2:00 pm**. Please continue to send in the names of couples from your parish to receive an invitation to the Mass via fax, mail, or email. Email to: flifsec@archkck.org



Easter Week
Please hold on to your
rice bowls for now.

SAINT JOHN SCHOOL



VACANT POSITIONS AT ST. JOHN SCHOOL

4th/5th Grade Science/ Social Studies

Seeking a 4th/5th grade teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. Duties will include the development of classroom plans for the development of science and social studies. Interested applicants should complete the teacher application process at: www.archkckcs.org.

We are on the look-out for
**MATH & SCIENCE
TEACHERS**
4th/5th Science & Social Studies
sjevangelist.com/school/job-opportunities/

COVID-19 UPDATE FOR ENROLLMENT IN ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

If you are a new family who is enrolling for the first time or a returning St. John family...

- Simply complete the [enrollment form and submit online](#)
- Paying Enrollment Fee? You can mail a check or pay using our [Pushpay online giving](#) platform

We care about you and your family! Families undergoing financial stress due to the Coronavirus are able to delay their enrollment fees or pay in installments until August 1, 2020. Please complete the enrollment form and we will work with you on how to proceed with your enrollment fee. Please contact Cris Denning at **785-843-0109** to discuss your particular situation.

STUDENT RESOURCES WITH SCHOOL CLOSED

Because of the ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, St. John School is closed until further notice. Teachers and staff have placed resources on student Google Classroom pages so that students may stay current with their studies. Additional staff links are posted below for other subject areas. Our plan is to provide educational resources as a way to keep the learning going. We don't want to overwhelm everyone, but wanted to make sure we stay connected to our students. Teachers are available by email, so feel free to ask questions if needed.

Karen Dixon is going to be coordinating technology needs. Here is a note from her: "In order to provide educational activities for your student(s) during the school closure, the St. John staff is posting suggested activities on their websites. Many of these activities require devices with internet access. If you need a laptop for your child(ren), and have internet at home, please contact Ms. Dixon kdixon@sjeagles.com or Chris Reffett reffett@saint-johns.net. We will arrange a pickup time at school. By signing out a laptop, you will be accepting financial responsibility for any damages. Please only check one out if you absolutely need it, but we want to make sure it is accessible if needed. All teacher websites are located here: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/facultyinfo>." Paper packets of materials can be made available if needed.

Jessica Dunn, Art: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Jessica+Dunn&Salutation=>

Chelsea Solomon, Music: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Chelsea+Solomon&Salutation=>

Michael Kennedy, Physical Education: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Michael+Kennedy&Salutation=>

Karen Dixon, Technology: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Karen+Dixon&Salutation=>

Karen Rinke, Library: <https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Karen+Rinke&Salutation=>

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

PARISH PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Center to request someone for the "Prayer List."

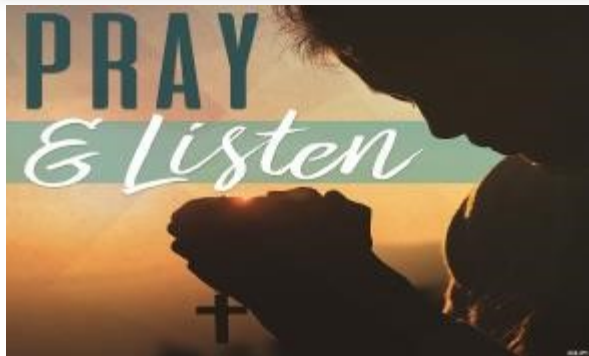
Thank you on behalf of the families of those individuals for whom we pray.

Nicole Allensworth
Andrew Bouchard, son of Steve & Patti Fisher
Susan Guenther Brown, friend of Craig Fincham
Curtis Burns, friend of Joe & Bev Mater
Roger Caldwell, brother of Leila Soper
Hank Desch
Garrett Dreiling
Linda Erp, mother of Emily Vigne
Joanne Feist, friend of Ginny Short
Colette Fisher
Linda Flyer, friend of Le Marie Gilbert
Janet Fox, family of Norb & Jeanette Otter
Rudy Fritz
Ed Garza
Marianne Gowen
Bonnie Griggs
Tony Guadian
Buddy Hadl, brother of Shirley Steffen
Michael Hamer
Lonna Hamm, daughter of Larry & Martha Hamm
Mary Hane
Peggy Harders, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter

Newt Hasson
Dustin Harper-Head, great-nephew of Mary Head
Lori Haynes, friend of Fleda Umscheid
Luke Henry, nephew of Galen & Beth Uhrich
Kathy Higley
Bob Holek
Tina Jinkens
Michele Johnson
Allen Kehde
Diana Matthews
Leo Mauler, son of Al & Marcy Mauler
Russ McDonald
Jim McMurray
Ed Medrano
Zackary Messerly, nephew of Debra Bradley
Linden Morgan
Lisa Morrow-Welsh, daughter of Linda Brey
Augustus Nelson
Danny Nguyen
Diane Nichols, sister of Phyllis Stone
Theophilus Obiefule
Josephine Ramirez
Eva Ricketts, mother of Ingrid Hartman
Joel Rivera
Virginia Romero

Jon Rossillon
James Sandy
Alexander Ramirez Salazar
Jerry Schurer
Greg Schurer, brother of Mick Schurer
Mary Kay Seidl, sister of Loretta Seidl
Pete Sethatut, father of Paula Higbie
Christine Shipley
Gerald Simon
Brett Smith
Meyer Sneed, son of Taylor & Melissa Sneed
Linda Snyder, aunt of Dan Taylor
Cameron Stupansky, friend of Kathy Colson
Jack Taylor, brother of Daniel Taylor
Deloris Tharp
Amelia Tinio
Enriqueta Valverde
Mary Vannicola
Cindy Vasquez, sister of Gina Hodges
Trent Wallace
Jeanette Walker
Ted Walker
Susan Williams
Nancy Wright
Jon Yarnell

IN MEMORIAM-DIANNE HOFFMANN



"The Leaven" is on Audio Reader

If you or someone you know would benefit from an audio version of "The Leaven", the Archdiocesan newspaper, one is available! It is available through Audio-Reader here in Lawrence. All you need is to be able to have someone certify that you have an impairment that impairs your ability to hold or to read printed material. To receive the service, please call Audio-Reader at 785-864-4600.

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

Information below reflects donations received July 1, 2019 through April 12, 2020.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	\$29,807.69
Average weekly collection amount	\$28,698.47
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD.....	\$1,222,115.29
Actual collection fiscal YTD.....	\$1,176,637.62
Net Shortage.....	\$45,477.67

Visit: www.sjevangelist.com/giving for more information or to set up and manage your account today!

Contact Cris Denning at: cdenning@saint-johns.net or by phone at **785-843-0109** if you have any questions.

Until weekend Masses resume and the parish office reopens, parishioners may send their tithe in the mail.

Or you may sign up for PushPay for auto bank withdraws at: sjevangelist.com

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGÉLIO – ALENTAR UN ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA

19 de abril de 2020
Domingo de Pascua

“Tomás exclamo: ‘Tú eres mi Señor y mi Dios.’ Jesús replicó: ‘Crees porque me has visto. ¡Felices los que no han visto, pero creen!’” (Juan 20:28-29). La aparición de Jesús y la incredulidad de Tomás tiene una referencia fuerte de fe. Su incredulidad se convierte en una profunda confesión y convicción de fe. Esta escena del Evangelio se repite día a día en la Eucaristía cuando convencidos del amor de Jesús hacia nosotros le decimos desde el fondo de nuestro corazón, Señor mío y Dios mío. También hoy la Iglesia celebra el Domingo de la Misericordia, a ocho días de la Resurrección del Señor. Es como si fuera un solo día de celebración.

Pero ¿de dónde viene el celebrar el Domingo de la Misericordia? San Juan Pablo II dio a la Iglesia el decreto Misericors et miserator el 5 de mayo del año 2000. Así fue como quedo establecido el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia en la Liturgia de todo el mundo. Ese domingo fue canonizada Santa Faustina por el Papa San Juan Pablo II. Nos dice la historia que el Papa Juan Pablo II beatificó (1993) y canonizó (2000) a Santa Faustina justamente en el segundo domingo de Pascua de ambos años. “Y tú, Faustina, don de Dios a nuestro tiempo, don de la tierra de Polonia a toda la Iglesia, concédenos percibir la profundidad de la misericordia divina, ayúdanos a experimentarla en nuestra vida y a testimoniarla a nuestros hermanos.” dijo el Papa en la canonización de su compatriota polaca. Jesús resucitado se manifiesta a nosotros en la Eucaristía de cada domingo. ¿Crees esto?

©LPi



“Aquí están mis manos; acerca tu dedo. Trae acá tu mano, métela en mi costado y no sigas dudando, sino cree”. Tomás le respondió: “¡Señor mío y Dios mío!” Jesús añadió: “Tú crees porque me has visto, dichosos los que creen sin haber visto”.

— Jn 20. 27-29

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Usanza de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **785-304-5509**.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR

Cada primer sábado del mes de **6:00 a 9:00 de la noche**, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parróquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR

Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

Preparación al matrimonio por la Iglesia Católica, solo para parejas que viven juntos y tienen niños.

Adultos que necesitan los sacramentos de confirmación y primera comunión.

CATECISMO EN ESPAÑOL

Las Inscripciones son en agosto. Por favor para mas información llamar a Maria Mota.

CONFESIONES

De **1:00 pm a 1:45 pm** Habrá confesiones en español para quien lo necesite, y pueda recibir este sacramento.

LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 19 DE ABRIL

Domingo: Hch 2, 42-47/Sal 118, 2-4. 13-15. 22-24 [1]/1 Pe 1, 3-9/Jn 20, 19-31

Lunes: Hch 4, 23-31/Sal 2, 1-3. 4-7. 7-9 [cfr. 11]/Jn 3, 1-8

Martes: Hch 4, 32-37/Sal 93, 1. 1-2. 5 [1]/Jn 3, 7-15

Miércoles: Hch 5, 17-26/Sal 34, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 [7]/Jn 3, 16-21

Jueves: Hch 5, 27-33/Sal 34, 2 y 9. 17-18. 19-20 [7]/Jn 3, 31-36

Viernes: Hch 5, 34-42/Sal 27, 1. 4. 13-14 [cfr. 4]/Jn 6, 1-15

Sábado: 1 Pe 5, 5-14/Sal 89, 2-3. 6-7. 16-17 [2]/Mc 16, 15-20

Domingo siguiente: Hch 2, 14. 22-33/Sal 16, 1-2. 5. 7-8. 9-10. 11 [11]/1 Pe 1, 17-21/Lc 24, 13-35

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor
Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee

Well, we have just celebrated our first internet Easter. I know that this experience has challenged me to think about my experience in some different ways.

Though I missed the experience of attending Mass with my parish community (I really did!), I also appreciated the experience of availing myself to the experience of Mass in a variety of settings and locations. I could also watch observances of religious services of other faiths; I had always wanted to see a real Jewish Seder.

I found myself experiencing a different kind of community connection; I still felt connected locally, but I'm also experiencing a stronger, more global connection.

Hence, I re-ignite my compassion for my sisters and brothers around the world who live in poverty and a lack of medical care each and every day. I re-ignite my compassion for persons in this country, all around our country, who are homeless and lack resources and a roof over their heads each and every day. I carry this re-igniting into my local community and will bring it into new energy and resolve to make a positive difference for our poor and marginalized when our gathering restrictions are lifted. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

JUSTICE MATTERS

Justice Matters – an interfaith network working for justice

For those of you who missed the Justice Matters virtual Solutions Briefing you can still see the video and get caught up and learn what you can do right now, from your home, to ensure that justice for the most vulnerable in our community is not forgotten during the coronavirus. (You can also see our calls to action listed below.) For those of you who did attend, please share widely with your friends, family, and anyone else in your social network.

- YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Kvsc0GBWcLs>

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1580455205581813/posts/2262590487368278/>

Calls to action that you can do safely from your home

1. We want all Douglas County residents to have an opportunity to vote on jail expansion. If you want the community to vote on expanding our jail, text **DEMOCRACY** to **33777**.

2. We want all Douglas County residents who are unsheltered, or who are living in homeless shelters, to be quickly rehoused into long-term housing. If you are a landlord and you'd like to help out, please text **LANDLORD** to **202-410-4202**

Upcoming events

NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY (scheduled for April 20, 6:30pm, Lied Center of Kansas) - **Cancelled due to coronavirus**

JUBILEE CELEBRATION (June 8, 6:30pm, First United Methodist Church - West Campus) - Join us as we lift up our wins for the year!

Check out the Justice Matters' website for additional information on events and issues being addressed

www.justicemattersinkansas.org



KIDS SHARING THE GOSPEL

SHARING THE GOSPEL

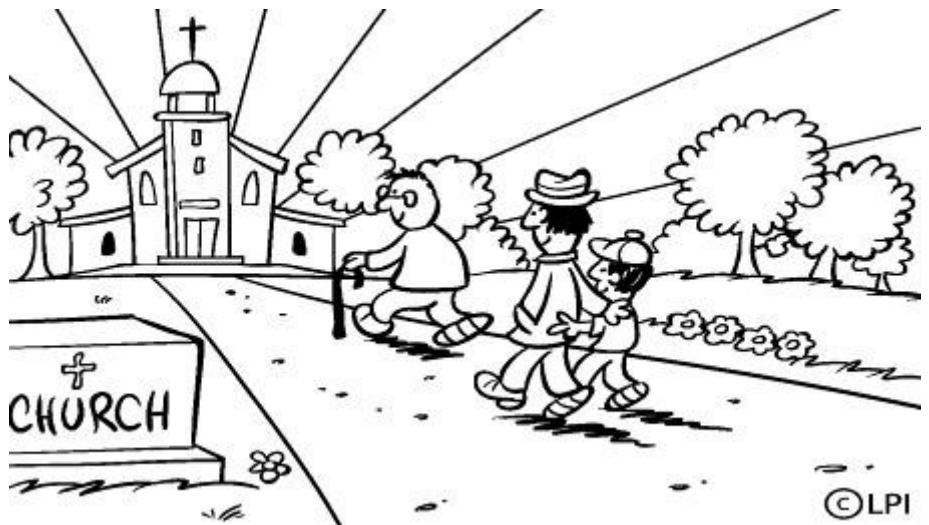
The disciples must have been very surprised when they saw Jesus alive again. They got to see him, listen to him, and touch him. We don't get to see him like the disciples did after Easter. But Jesus calls us blessed when we believe in him. One day we'll see him again in heaven.

PRAYER

Jesus, I can hardly wait to see you in heaven. Amen

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Tell a friend why Jesus is special to you.



LIFE WILL BE VICTORIOUS

by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann

In St. Matthew's Passion narrative, on three different occasions, Jesus responds to questions with variations of the phrase: "You have said so." The first time occurs after he has told his apostles that one of them will betray him. They all begin to reply one after another with their own question: "Surely, it is not I, Lord?"

The fact that they ask the question betrays their own lack of confidence in their ability to remain faithful.

Peter is the exception. He boasts: "Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be."

We all know how that turned out. Several verses later in the courtyard of Caiaphas, Peter, weeping bitterly, exits the Passion narrative because he swore three times that he did not even know Jesus.

Judas, like the other apostles, asks the question: "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" To which Jesus replies: "You have said so."

Note that, in contrast to the other apostles, Judas addresses Jesus as "Rabbi." The other apostles acknowledged Jesus as Lord, implying they have given him authority over them. Judas recognizes Jesus as a teacher, but he has not surrendered his heart to Our Lord's will.

Later in the Passion, when Jesus is being interrogated by the Sanhedrin, Caiaphas, the high priest, demands: "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus replied again: "You have said so."

Later still in the Passion narrative, when Pontius Pilate is attempting to find a graceful way out of being forced to convict Jesus, he asked: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus responds again: "You say so."

In each of these instances, Our Lord used an idiom essentially to say "yes." Jesus makes no compromises with the truth, even when that proves very inconvenient.

Our Lord affirmed the uncomfortable reality that Judas was a traitor.

Jesus acknowledged to Caiaphas that he is the Christ, the Son of God. In so doing, Our Lord essentially sealed his fate with the Jewish religious authorities.

When Pilate asked Our Lord if he was the king of the Jews, Jesus does not equivocate. By acknowledging his rightful claim to this title, Jesus has made certain his crucifixion.

Our Lord has validated the accusation of the Jewish high priests — namely, he is a threat to Caesar. Pilate believes he has no options, but to permit what the enemies of Jesus desire: to allow Our Lord's execution.

In St. John's Gospel, Jesus informs Pilate that his kingdom does not belong to this world. In other words, Jesus does not claim to be an earthly ruler like Caesar.

Our Lord counsels Pilate that he came into this world to testify to the truth and everyone who belongs to the truth listens to his voice. This prompts Pilate to pose the million-dollar question: What is truth?

Earlier in John's Gospel, Jesus asserts that those who become his disciples will know the truth and the truth will set them free. What



is this truth to which Jesus alludes? With Pilate's unwitting cooperation, this truth is revealed on Calvary — namely, God's amazing, merciful love for each of us.

The freedom that springs from the truth of God's love is quite different from the world's notion of freedom. Freedom for Pilate was not much different from our cultural notion today. It is the ability to choose to do what I want to do, when I want to do it. Freedom for Jesus was to embrace his Father's will, to choose to do the good — to choose the noble, to choose to love.

Jesus came to teach us the truth about God, the truth about his love and mercy. Jesus came to teach us the truth about ourselves — namely, that we are made in the divine image.

We are made for greatness. Jesus came to make us his sisters and brothers and thus become beloved daughters and sons of his heavenly Father.

This truth makes us free, because we can live this truth and exercise it in any circumstance. There is no situation in which we cannot choose to do the Father's will, to love others by seeking their good before our wants and desires. This is the truth that sets us free!

We can exercise this freedom in any and every situation. This understanding of authentic freedom can be lived as a child or senior citizen, as married or single, as a CEO or sanitation engineer, as a president or a prisoner, in the midst of a pandemic or a "shelter in place" order.

With Jesus, we always live in the truth of our identity. As beloved sons and daughters of a loving and merciful God, we have been set free to live our true identity anywhere and everywhere.

For Jesus, freedom and truth are tethered to each other, unlike our secular culture that proposes we can be whatever we imagine ourselves to be, no matter how contradictory it may be to physical reality. This is a fool's freedom that can only lead to personal confusion and moral chaos.

When our life in this world is complete and we come before the tribunal of God, hopefully we can say with integrity and certainty that we are a faithful disciple of Jesus. And Our Lord will reply: "You have said so!"

From The Leaven

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2020

- SUN 4/19** Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
- MON 4/20** Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
- TUE 4/21** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
- WED 4/22** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
- THR 4/23** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
- FRI 4/24** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15
- SAT 4/25** 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20
- SUN 4/26** 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

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2020

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday
- Tuesday:** St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** Earth Day
- Thursday:** St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr
- Friday:** St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr; Arbor Day
- Saturday:** St. Mark, Evangelist
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Easter

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Have you ever experienced awe? Awe is commonly defined as a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder. A moment of awe has the ability to lift us up out of ourselves and immerse us into something that causes us to wonder about ourselves, the meaning of life, and truth. Awe is an experience of connection that links us to something that is beyond the normal happenings of life. For us who believe that the resurrected Christ is present in all of life and the totality of

the universe, being touched by awe can lead us to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!" Pondering the vastness of God's presence also brings us to a profound sense of God's mercy, which is the showering of His unconditional love on each of His daughters and sons. When we internalize this mystery, we may find ourselves standing in awe once again and feeling an intense sense of peace.



SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020 | 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

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

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WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Discerning Vocations

Question:

What does it mean to discern a vocation?

Answer:

The word vocation comes from the Latin word vocare, meaning "to call." A vocation is a calling or invitation from God to serve in a particular way. For Catholics, that calling might be as a priest, sister, or married person. Vocation is the way we respond to the invitation to share in God's grace and witness to God's love in the world.

Discerning a vocation is the process in which we pray for God's guidance. We listen for God's message that is often quiet and unassuming in a world filled with noise and distractions. We look at our gifts and talents, seek the advice of others, examine our motives, and listen to see what God is asking of us. The goal of discernment is to follow what the Lord wills, not what we think is the best idea. Many men enter a seminary to discern if that is their vocation, only to discover that their calling is to marriage. Others have resisted the idea for long periods of time, until finally they could resist no more. Some great saints have described that dilemma. Vocation is a human process of divine origin, and each of us must strive constantly to hear the call of God in our lives.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020 | 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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