



Coming Home a Few at a Time

RESUMING PUBLIC WORSHIP IN TIME OF ONGOING PANDEMIC

The following are the guidelines for parishes in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Archdiocese. These guidelines have been checked with the state and Douglas County Health Department. The full text of the guidelines and related videos are on the Archdiocesan Website at archkck.org. Please review those materials.

The following are some of the highlights of the guidelines for attending Mass at St. John for the weekends of May. Please check before each weekend to see if there are any changes. In addition, two Masses will be [livestreamed](#) (11:00 am & 1:00 pm.) For those wishing to attend Mass (the obligation to do so is still lifted):

Weekend Masses

Saturday Masses – 2:30 pm (Archbishop has given permission) and 4:30 pm

Sunday Masses – 7:00 am, 9:00 am, and 11:00 am,
1:00 pm (Spanish), 3:00 pm (Spanish), and 5:00 pm

- 60 people per Mass. Length of Mass – no more than 45 minutes.
- Sign up required for each weekend.
Go to: <https://signup.com/go/kgMurHM>
- 1:00 & 3:00 pm sign up, call Luis Gonzalez at 469-939-4467 or Maria Mota at 785-304-5509.
- Make sure you are checked in at the church (contact tracing).

- Everyone must bring and wear their own mask.
- Enter the church via the front doors (Kentucky St. ONLY).
- Sanitize hands before and after Mass (sanitizer available)
- Observe social distancing (6 feet) between family units or individuals.
- Receive Communion one pew at a time with 6 feet distancing.
- Leave church one pew at a time via doors (Kentucky St.).
- Every third pew may be occupied.



Persons with higher vulnerability to the virus, for personal safety reasons, are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the dispensation and refrain from attending public Mass.

The 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish), Masses will be livestreamed at: <https://youtu.be/lbI8-GJL4zM>

Out of charity and concern for the welfare of others, anyone with any kind of acute symptoms, a fever or recent exposure to an infected person should not attend religious services

Weekday (Monday – Friday) Masses

7:30 am and 12:00 noon

Confessions

Wednesdays: 11:00 am-12:00 pm, 7:00-8:00 pm and SATURDAYS: 11:00 am – 12:00 NOON

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.

“Let us see your *kindness*”.
~Psalm 85

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.....Maria 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 notice**
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

Saturday.....2:30 pm and 4:30 pm
Sunday7:00 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am,
..... 1:00 pm (Spanish), 3:00 pm (Spanish), 5:00 pm

Sign up required for each weekend: <https://signup.com/go/zrvweXA>

Masses to be livestreamed at:<https://youtu.be/lbl8-GJL4zM>
Sunday 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

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

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..... 11:00 am-12:00 pm
.....(and by appointment)

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, Terry Gunselman
Michael Burrichter

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

PARISH JOB OPENING

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION: St. John Parish in Lawrence, KS is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. This person would develop, articulate, and administer a vision and direction for parish faith formation programs. He/she would oversee all faith formation programs and evaluate their effectiveness, and develop/implement ideas and programs that would be available for parishioners from womb to tomb. Ideal candidate will be a bilingual (English/Spanish) practicing Catholic who holds a degree in Catechesis or Theology and/or has equivalent work experience relating to faith formation. This person would also have strong knowledge of Catholicism, intercultural competence in ministry, strong interpersonal skills, proven organizational and leadership skills and computer/technology competencies. 2-4 years of parish ministry experience preferred.



Please see full job description and requirements at: www.sjevangelist.com. This is a full-time position and eligible for the Archdiocesan benefits package with start date of July 20. The position will be open until filled.

Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. John at: frjohn@saintjohns.net (use DFF on subject line) or 1229 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

ST. JOHN MEXICAN FIESTA ANNOUNCEMENT

We are sad to announce that we have decided to postpone the 40th Annual St. John's Mexican Fiesta until next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While our summer Fiesta would bring much joy and togetherness that we all need right now, we feel that we cannot risk the well-being of our volunteers and guests. This has been a difficult decision for our Fiesta committee, but necessary to protect all involved. We ask you to join us in prayer for all who have been affected by this crisis and for the end of this worldwide pandemic so we can soon come together to celebrate community, friends and family.



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 tithe via a check or cash you can drop your tithe in the secure lock box inside the back porch of the parish office 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!



Memorial Day

©LPi

SAINT JOHN SCHOOL



OPPORTUNITIES TO GET OUTSIDE

Several of our garden areas and preschool playground areas are in need of some cleaning up. Because we are not in school, our green team has not been able to keep some of our garden areas from over growing. We also have a preschool play area that tends to get overgrown when school is not in session. If you would like to volunteer your time to get outside and help us out, please email me at: reffett@saint-johns.net to schedule a time.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020 WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!!!



Congratulations
Class of
2020

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
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
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
Mike Owens
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
Linda Snyder, aunt of Dan Taylor
Joseph Soza
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
Bob Walrafen, uncle of Kalin Callewaert
Susan Williams
Nancy Wright
Jon Yarnell



"The Leaven" is on Audio Reader

Did you know "The Leaven", the Archdiocesan newspaper, 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 May 17, 2020.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	\$29,807.69
Average weekly collection amount.....	\$28,699.58
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD.....	\$1,371,153.74
Actual collection fiscal YTD.....	\$1,320,181.00
Net Shortage.....\$50,972.74

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.

Photo by: Jay Soldner/The Leaven

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

REANUDANDO LA ADORACION PUBLICA EN TIEMPOS DE PANDEMIA

Volviendo a casa algunos pocos a la vez

Las pautas para seguir por las parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Kansas son las siguientes. Estas pautas han sido revisadas y evaluadas por el Departamento de Salud del Condado de Douglas. El texto completo y los videos relacionados se encuentran en el sitio web de la Arquidiócesis en: archkck.org. Por favor revise esos materiales.

Los siguientes son algunos de los aspectos más destacados de St. John para los fines de semana del mes de mayo. Verifique antes de cada fin de semana para ver si hay algún cambio. Se transmitirán dos misas en vivo (11:00 a.m. y 1:00 p.m.) para aquellos que deseen asistir a la misa esta obligación ha sido levantada.

Misas de Fin de semana:

Sábado Misas: 2:30 y 4:30 p.m. (Dispensación otorgada por el arzobispo)

Domingo Misas: 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 -español, 3:00 -español, y 5:00 p.m.

- 70 personas por Misa.
- Duración de la Misa: No más de 45 minutos.
- Se requiere registrarse cada fin de semana. Vaya a <https://signup.com/go/kgMurHM>
- **Regístrese para las Misas** de 1:00 & 3:00 p.m. con: Luis Gonzales al: **(469)-939-4467** o con María Mota al: **(785) 304-5509**
- Asegúrese de estar registrado/a en la iglesia.
- Todos deben traer y usar su propia mascarara.
- Entrar a la iglesia por la puerta principal (UNICAMENTE por la calle Kentucky).
- Desinfectarse las manos antes y después de misa (desinfectante disponible).
- Mantenga el distanciamiento social (6 pies) entre sus acompañantes y los demás individuos.
- Pase a Comulgar manteniendo los 6 pies de distanciamiento y banca por banca.
- Desalojar la iglesia de la misma manera: manteniendo la distancia y por la puerta principal de la calle Kentucky.
- Deberán sentarse cada tercera banca.

Se recomienda encarecidamente a las personas con mayor vulnerabilidad al virus, y por razones de seguridad personal, que aprovechen la dispensación y se abstengan de asistir a Misa pública. Las Misas de 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. se transmitirán en vivo.

Por caridad y preocupación por el bienestar de los demás, cualquier persona con algún tipo de síntomas agudos como fiebre o exposición reciente a una persona infectada no debe asistir a los servicios religiosos.

Misas de Lunes a Viernes: Comienza el lunes 18 de mayo

7:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Confesiones:

Miercoles: De 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Sabados: De 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

DIRECTOR DE FORMACIÓN DE LA FE

Director de formación de la Fe: La Parroquia de San Juan en Lawrence, KS. estabuscando un Director de Formación de Fe de tiempo completo. Esta persona estaría encargada de desarrollar, articular y administrar una visión y dirección para los programas de formación de fe Parroquial. El o Ella supervisara toda la información y programas de fe y evaluará su efectividad, desarrollará e implementará ideas y programas que estarían disponibles para los feligreses desde el nacimiento hasta la muerte. El candidato ideal será un Católico practicante bilingüe Inglés/Español. Que tenga un título en Catequesis o Teología y/ o tenga una experiencia laboral equivalente relacionada con la formación en la fe. Esta persona también tendría un gran conocimiento del Catolicismo, competencia Intercultural en el ministerio, fuertes habilidades interpersonales, organización y liderazgo comprobados, habilidades competentes en informática y tecnológica 2-4 años de experiencia en el ministerio parroquial.

Consulte la descripción completa del trabajo y los requisitos en www.sjevangelist.com. Esta es una posición de tiempo completo y elegible para el paquete de beneficios Arquidiocesano con fecha de inicio del 20, de Julio del 2020, La posición estará abierta hasta que se cubra.

Por favor envía una carta de presentación y curriculum vitae al padre John frjohn@saint-johns.net Use DFF en la línea de asunto o envíe a 1229 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor
Social Concerns for Peace
and Justice Committee

Healing: That's what we need!

Today we live in a culture of contempt and divisiveness. Despite the many opportunities for growth that have come from living through the coronavirus pandemic, one can find division there too: Are the restrictions we're asked to live with to great or too narrow? Who's fault is this pandemic anyway? Masks or no masks? And so on.

I believe that the fundamental work of peace and justice is to bring about peace and healing in a broken and conflicted world. If one takes a look at the principles of Catholic social teaching, opportunities for peace-making and healing are quite evident. Take a look:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person. (Healing the wounds of disrespect and loss of dignity)
- Solidarity. (healing the wounds of brokenness and schism)
- Care for God's creation. (healing the wounds of our violated sister Mother Earth)
- Call to Family, Community and Participation. (Tending to the wounds of

broken families and communities; conflict; division)
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. (healing the wounds of greed and injustice; inequity of resources)
Rights and Responsibilities. (healing the wounds of exclusion and discrimination)
Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers. (healing the wounds of worker injustice)
At this time in our lives, we are very aware of and grateful for the sacrifices that our medical workers and first responders (all healers) make as they work to bring about healing in those who have fallen ill with the coronavirus and others in their care. They have been heroes many times throughout history; tending to the wounds of war and the ravages of other diseases in their own time, such as polio and AIDS. And those who work in mental health also find themselves working to heal the ravages of a broken society through the pain their clients present when they work with them. Others, such as teachers, are healers. Parents and brothers and sisters



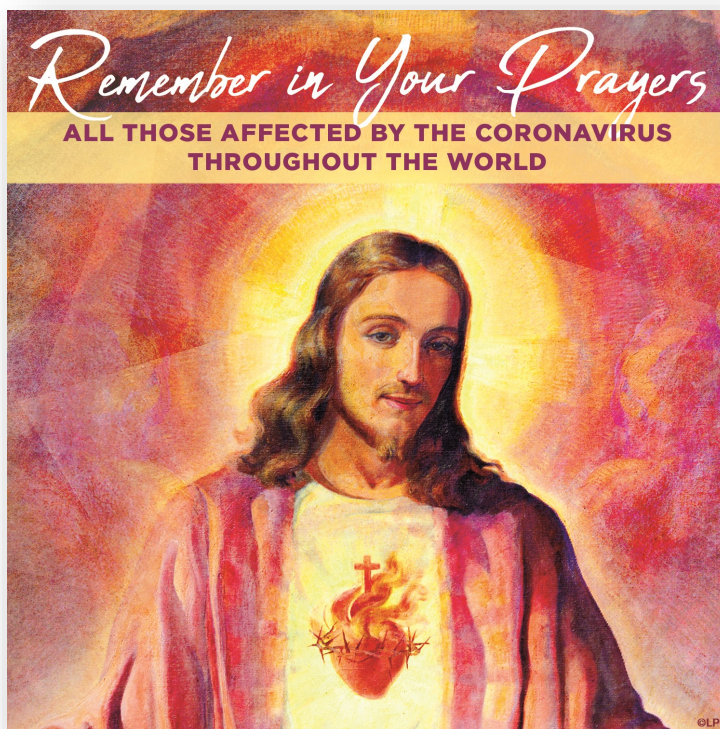
are called upon to help bring about healing. Healing is very much a part of our vocation as Christians.

The next time you find yourself feeling irritated or tired of hearing about a particular social ill or community injustice or peace issue, I invite you to think of the call to healing and say a prayer that God will show you, and anyone whose work it is to do, the path of bringing peace and healing to that brokenness.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK WHY KNEEL?

Why do we kneel at Mass?

Since the beginnings of the Church, kneeling has been a key posture of prayer. We see Saints Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles kneeling in prayer. Early in the 4th century, the Council of Nicea prohibited kneeling on Sundays and special feasts. Kneeling began more as a posture of penance for our sins, but in the history of the Church, it has become more a posture of reverence and solemn prayer. You will notice that the times we kneel at Mass are tied to the consecration of the holy Eucharist. We kneel in both anticipation of what will occur and then in awe of what has taken place: Jesus Christ becomes truly present to us under the guise of bread and wine. The profoundness of this event has over time led the Church to mandate in the current General Instruction of the Roman Missal that kneeling is the only posture allowed during this time. The sheer awesomeness of the holy Eucharist leads us to fall to our knees in wonder and thanksgiving.



AREA NEWS



BCYC VIRTUAL enc-ounter



Youth Ministers,

With camps, conferences and mission trips being canceled, we know this summer is going to look different from any other. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we are still committed to transforming lives in Christ! This summer, we will be offering **BCYC Virtual Encounter** so that you can host a life-changing conference for your teens right at your own Parish!

Although the format will look a little bit different, we are committed to have the Benedictine Charisms of Community, Stability and Simplicity at the heart of our conference, and to focus on the needs of Gen Z. This was true for our regular in-person experience and will hold true for BCYC Virtual Encounter as well!

Our keynote speakers this year will also remain the same! We are excited to be joined by Sr. Bethany Madonna, Noelle Garcia and Mark Bocinsky! Of course the Monks of St. Benedict's Abbey will be with us as well, and our BCYC Missionaries will be here giving testimonies, leading activities, and supporting parishes remotely!



Sr. Bethany Madonna



Noelle Garcia



Mark Bocinsky

When you register for BCYC Virtual Encounter, we will provide all the content you need to host your own life-changing youth conference in your own Parish! Our vision is for you to build community among your teens right at home. We will stream all sessions for you and your group to watch live (or you can watch them after they air to allow for more flexibility), send your leaders small group questions for each session, provide printable booklets for your teens for the weekend, and more! We would love to talk with you about registering your group for BCYC Virtual Encounter. Please check out [our website](#) to see the schedule and find details of how the virtual conference will work. If you have any questions, please reach out to us!

BCYC VIRTUAL enc-ounter

KIDS SHARING THE GOSPEL

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Jesus prayed for His friends. He knew they were a special gift from God. Jesus was patient with them. He taught them about God. He cared about His friends and forgave them from His heart. Everything that Jesus did showed what God was like. Be a friend like Jesus. Care for your friends like God does.

PRAYER

God, thank you for my friends. Help me to treat them like you would.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Draw a picture of you with your friends.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

The next time you talk to God, pray for each of your friends. Ask your friends to pray for you, too.



Puzzle

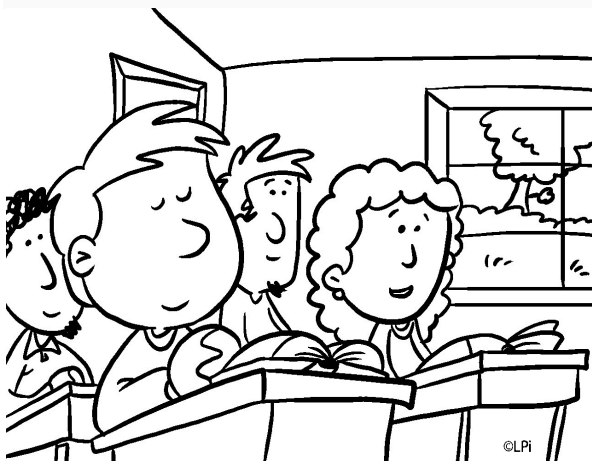
Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

ETERNAL
CHRIST
FATHER

GLORY
GIVEN
FOLLOWERS

WORLD
SHOWN
PRAYING

E	A	I	T	O	I	E	U	P	E	Y
T	C	H	R	I	S	T	Y	A	R	I
A	F	L	O	H	R	E	O	I	A	T
S	O	A	F	W	O	R	L	D	P	O
I	L	N	A	E	L	N	I	S	R	N
R	L	Y	T	R	E	A	V	E	A	U
A	O	R	H	U	G	L	O	R	Y	R
H	W	U	E	F	I	T	E	W	I	A
U	E	T	R	A	V	O	N	U	N	L
C	R	I	U	G	E	F	A	L	G	E
O	S	H	O	W	N	U	G	O	Y	I



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7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



DAILY READINGS

Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20 7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:12-14/Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 [13]/1 Pt 4:13-16/Jn 17:1-11a

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [cf. 7b]/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39.

Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 55, 56 [52b] or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39.

Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23

FOCUS ON THE WORD

UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

What does faith and religion do for us? Ultimately, they remind us of some truths we conveniently forget: we are created by a loving God, we have imperfections, we sin, we need to be forgiven, we have a mission and a purpose, it's not just about us, and we hunger for the joy of salvation. These are human truths that are not dependent upon whether we like them. Ignoring them places us on the paths of comfort and satisfaction as we blindly pursue the busyness and superficiality of our empty lives. Instead of pursuing supernatural and lasting pleasure, we choose things that are easier and quicker to obtain: sex, drugs, travel, houses, cars, fame, popularity, self-achievement and satisfaction, physical enjoyment, and the like. We may also find ourselves falling victim to more negative responses to what life brings us: anger, envy, lust, pride, gluttony, greed, and apathy. Human hearts can become so hardened to the truth that violence becomes the response of first choice. Being a Christian is hard! Yet, as Pope Francis reminds us, the Church needs to be a field hospital that has to be prepared to



provide people with the remedy they need. What we need is Jesus Christ. The Church, with all of the glory of the sacraments, exists to help make Christ present and real for us. Once we find Christ, we find joy. Joy is a matter of the heart that is beyond pleasure and happiness. It is not found in some earthly satisfaction, only in Christ. Once we accept that we are destined to be in Christ, then we will discover eternal life. Namely, "that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ." It is easy to conveniently forget truth and pursue

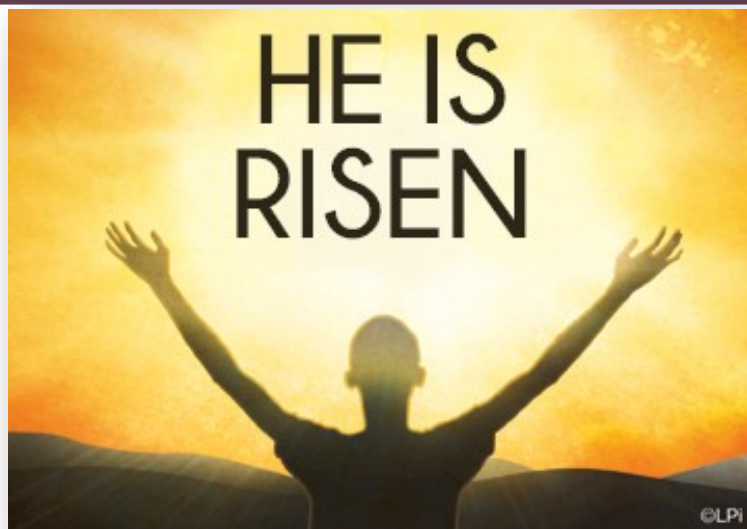
illusions immediately within our grasp, but at what price? A man celebrating 60 years of marriage remarked that it took so much effort and so many attempts to convince his wife that they were meant to be together. Even his friends told him he was foolish. He easily could have given up and pursued other interests. He chose to persevere and is so grateful that he made that choice because he now has a pearl of great price. Do we see a value in persevering in our faith regardless of the cost? If we don't take the risk, we could lose more than we know. ©LPI

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Everlasting Easter

The Easter season is almost over. This season is always a tougher one for us Catholics. We get Advent and Lent: preparation. We are on board with Christmas, mainly because we like to keep up our decorations until someone tells us the exact day we must take them down. But Easter as a season is a bit more difficult to observe. The rest of the world has moved on. There are no Easter eggs left in store windows and all those religious movies on television have given way to reruns or season-ending episodes. It just feels like Easter anywhere ... except in the Church. The truth is that it should feel like Easter all year-round in the Church. Every Sunday, we celebrate a mini-Easter. Our

Lord is ALIVE! He is risen and alive, and we need to celebrate. We also need to be about the work of the Lord. We are an Easter people who bear witness to His resurrection through our stewardship. If He had never risen, then we would be called to nothing by no one. But He lives! As this Easter season is drawing to a close, it is prudent to reflect on what His death and resurrection mean for each of us. How has it changed us? How does it motivate us? It doesn't



look like Easter in most corners of the world, so it is up to us to bring a little Easter to every place we go and to everyone we meet.
—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS