

# DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

[www.bnspcatholic.org](http://www.bnspcatholic.org)

**Mission Statement :** Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**MARCH 31ST, 2024**

St John Church (SJ) - 415 37th St, Bellaire, OH 43906

St. Mary Church (SM) - 240 E 40th St, Shadyside, OH 43947

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM - SM Saturday 5:30 PM - SJ

Sunday 11:00 AM - SM Sunday 9:30 AM - SJ

## WEEKDAY MASS

6:00 p.m. (Mon.) SJ 8:00 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) – SJ 8:00 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) - SM 8:00 a.m.



## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - SM

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - SJ

Monday: 5:00p.m. - 5:45p.m. - SJ

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 -7:45a.m. - SM

Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:45a.m. - SJ

## CENTRAL OFFICE

3745 Tallman Ave., Bellaire, OH 43906

Phone - 676-0051 - Fax - 671-9776

Email: [stjohns3745@comcast.net](mailto:stjohns3745@comcast.net)

**Office Hours: M,W,F -**

**8:00am- 12:00pm / 1:00pm-4:00pm**

Fr. Daniel Heusel, Pastor (SJ), Pastor (SM)

Cell: (740) 298-4158

Email: [dheusel@diosteub.org](mailto:dheusel@diosteub.org)

Mrs. Tonya Grimm, Secretary

(740) 676-0051

Email: [stjohns3745@comcast.net](mailto:stjohns3745@comcast.net)

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal

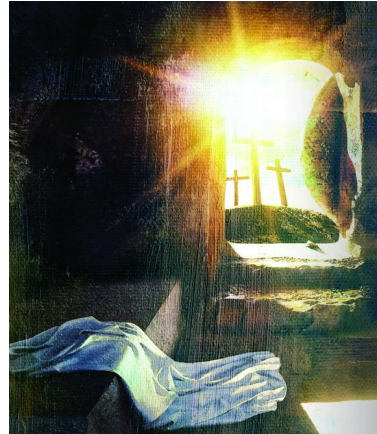
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1. Text MISSION2LOVE to 84576 or
2. Go to [StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com](http://StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com) and sign up there! Receive updates, including the weekly bulletin, via email and text message!



[www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs](http://www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs)

[www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan](http://www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan)



## EASTER SUNDAY

He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

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

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*Collect of Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Even as the disciples saw the empty tomb and the discarded burial cloths, they did not understand what had happened. But they kept faith, trusting that the Lord was at work. Let us keep that same faith when we do not find God where we expect Him to be. ©LPi

## This Week

**Sunday: Happy Easter!**

*Easter Egg hunt outside after each of the masses*

3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)

**Monday: Parish Office closed**

3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)

**Tuesday: 9:00am-5:00pm - Eucharistic Adoration (SM)**

11:15am Bellaire Fellowship of Churches Mtg (CC & T)

3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)

**Wednesday: 3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)**

**Thursday: 3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)**

5:30pm Holy Hour of Reparation (SJ)

7:00pm OCIA (SJH)

**Friday: 3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)**

**Saturday: 3:00p.m. Divine Mercy Novena (SM)**

**Sunday: Divine Mercy Sunday**

9:30-10:45am Parish School of Religion (SM)

2-4pm Divine Mercy Devotions - 2-3pm Confession /

3-4pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour with Sung Chaplet (SJ)

4-6pm Jesus and the Eucharist Study (St Mary Sartori Hall)

6-7:15pm Confirmation Prep Session 1

**Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, Saturday, March 30th, Easter Vigil in the Holy Night**

**8:00p.m.** (SJ) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

**Sunday, March 31st, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Derek Feller 30th Birthday deceased (The Homer Family)

11:00a.m. (SM) + Tom Gianangeli (Tom, John, Anthony & Vince)

**Monday, April 1st, Monday within the Octave of Easter**

6:00p.m.(SJ) + John Kolenich III 4yrs. deceased (Vince & Sons)

**Tuesday, April 2nd, Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**

8:00a.m. (SM) + John & Ann Farrier (Granddaughter)

**Wednesday, April 3rd, Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Francis E. Leinweber (Jeanne Busack)

**Thursday, April 4th, Thursday within the Octave of Easter**

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Dale Louda Sr. (Sarah Horne)

**Friday, April 5th, Friday within the Octave of Easter**

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Helen Dunaway anniversary deceased (Family)

**Saturday, April 6th, 2nd Sunday of Easter**

4:00p.m. (SM) + Ed & Irene Snyder (Family)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Busack & Secontino Families (Jeanne Busack)

**Sunday,**

9:30a.m. (SJ) Steve Kiss Jr. - God's Healing Graces for Body, Mind & Soul (Mary Ann)

11:00a.m.(SM) + For the People of St. John's & St. Mary's



**Lord, bless and protect those serving our country,** especially:

Lt. Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzels, Lance Corporal Zachary Knowlton, Staff Sgt. Wm. Kayne Melko, HTF Kory Melko, Sgt. Joshua Hall, Staff Sgt. Aaron

Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, Staff Sgt. Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, Master Sgt. Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster and Pv89env) \$3974Pvt William Clegg , Petty Officer Alex Rader, Pvt. Colton T. Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, Staff Sgt. Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Corporal Vincent J. Kolenich II, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beverdidge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook



**MEAT LOAF DINNER**

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Bridgeport, Sunday April 7th, 11:00-3:00pm Meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and a roll, cake and beverage. \$10.00 eat in or take out. Golf cart service to transport to and from the church parking lot.

*Jesus, I trust in You!*

**Offertory Collection**

**For the Weekend of March 23/24**

**St. Mary's:** Adult (75env) \$1,414, Loose \$162.52, Easter (2env) \$20, Easter Flowers (15env) \$194, Holy Thursday (3env) \$35, Good Friday (3env) \$30, Building Fund (8env) \$145, Food Pantry (1env) \$25, Candles \$119

**St. John's:** Adult ( 104) \$2,939, Easter (3env) \$50, Easter Flowers (9env) \$200, Holy Thursday (4env)\$70, Rice Bowl (2env) \$50, Good Friday (4env) \$70, St. Vincent de Paul (6env) \$185, Grade School (1env) \$20, Building Fund (2env) \$40, Candles \$23



**PRAYER LIST**

**Please Note:** *This prayer list is an important part of our love for our brothers and sisters in need. Names will be included on this list for four weeks at a time. After four weeks a*

*person's name will be removed but can be added again the next week simply by calling the office. Please pray for the following:*

Vicky Oboy, Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, , Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Fr. Sam Saprano, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Magan Nichole Sechrest, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, Isaac Salva, Baby Everett Sommers, Steve Kiss Jr., Lucy Kowalski, John Bires Jr., Shannon Koher, Paul Heagy, Pat Tedeschi, Ed and Rose Grammar, Irene Lloyd, Susan Gray, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Bryan Grimm, Sydney Battistelli, Dr. Matt Sokus, Christian White, Joe Boston Jr., Camden Brown, Peggy Kotson, Sandy Fijalkowski, Ted Corder, Tom Galinski, Barney Wiley, Susan Vasey, Gilbert Patt, Bob, Bill & Tom, Julie Sharpe, Sally Shopper, Judith Weckbacher, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Sally Traversa, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Eric Allen, Herk Sparachane, Zachary Oboy, Tom & Margie Merryman, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, James Jeter, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, Dan Busack, John Hanasky, Anna Johnson, Beverly, Beau Boston, Mary De Genova , Sharon Leonard, Rosalind Fitch,Susy Sands, Laine Castello, Sandy Grimm, Theresa Baker, Kevin West, Gwen Brown, Jack Selmon, Brody Beckett, Jeff Stolz,



**St. Mary Central Martins Ferry Quarter**

**Auction** Saturday, April 6, 2024, in school gym.

Doors open at 11 a.m. for shopping, Auction begins at noon. Tickets on sale in the school office.—\$5.00, includes your entry and 1 paddle. 20 vendors on hand for 3 rounds of bidding. Chinese Auction, and 50/50 raffle also. Concessions available. Only 200 tickets sold. Don't wait! Get tickets now!

**Ministers for the Weekend of April 6/7**

**St. John's:** April 6th **EM:** K. Ball **Lector :** S. Homer

April 7th **EM:** T. Young **Lector :** C. Flowers

**St. Mary's :**

April 6th **EM:** Volunteer **Lector :** E. Kalinowski

April 7th **EM:** L. Gates **Lector :** A. Schamp

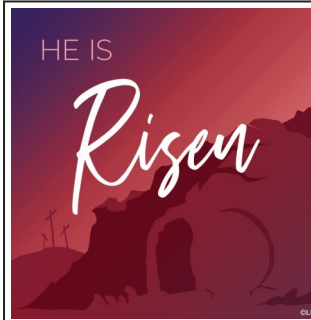


**HAPPY EASTER!**

The encounter with the Risen Lord made all the difference in the lives of his disciples. We encounter the Risen Lord every day in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It can change your life!

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Next Sunday, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, is Divine Mercy Sunday! Join us every day this week at 3:00pm for the Divine Mercy Novena and next Sunday, 2-4pm, St. John's, for Eucharistic Adoration, Confession and Devotions!



**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering

over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our "cemeteries" where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare! — *Father John Muir*  
©LPi

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

**A Happy Ending Isn't the Whole Story**

"Is there a happy ending?"

When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, "Is there a happy ending?"

I can't say I blame them. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it's not going to go badly — or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It's a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast-forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily-ever-after.

Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It's the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It's the day that puts everything right.

But if we learned anything from this week — from the Passion and death of the Lord — it's that we can't press fast-forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear — it's crucial, isn't it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter doesn't happen without Good Friday.

So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn't all that matters. —Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPi

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*Sign up and receive our parish bulletin, daily bible verse, monthly calendar, updates and alerts on schedule changes, and more, sent to your cell phone and email address.*



**CONFIRMATION PREP CLASSES**

Our schedule for confirmation prep classes: Classes will be held 6:00pm-7:15pm, Sunday April 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5. Confirmation will be Monday, June 3rd at 6:00pm at St. John's. It's not too late to sign up for the classes, 5th Grade through Adult are welcome! Call or text (740) 298-4158.

**JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST STUDY**

We won't meet this week but we will begin meeting again for the last three sessions on Sunday, April 7 and Monday April 8. It's not too late to join us! It's been a blessing!

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at Flocknote.com/txt. *Have questions? Need help signing up?* Call the parish office!

THIS WEEK ON  
**FORMED**

Week of April 01, 2024



**Easter in Art: Mary Magdalene (Part 3 of 3)**

Learn about the "apostle to the apostles" in this discussion with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp. They take a look at a famous painting of Jesus's encounter with Mary Magdalene following the Resurrection.



**He is Alive! | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids**

Why can we have hope? Because we know how the story ends... with the most incredible miracle ever! Follow along and experience the joy of Jesus' friends as they discover He defeated death and rose from the grave.



**Am I Saved? | The Search | Episode 6**

In this episode of The Search, explore how Jesus' profound act of love, revealed through his life, death, and resurrection, is a personal salvation for each of us. Despite feeling unworthy or burdened, God enters our messy human condition to transform us from within. His generous love, beyond what we deserve, reflects the amazing reality of God's mercy, shaping a relationship that forever changes our lives.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](http://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and SPYGLASS PRESS

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) / April 7, 2024**

**First Reading:** The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. (Acts 4:32)

**Psalms:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)

**Second Reading:** For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. (1 Jn 5:3-4)

**Gospel:** 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." (Jn 20:19)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

- CCC 448, 641-646: appearances of the risen Christ
- CCC 1084-1089: sanctifying presence of the risen Christ in the liturgy
- CCC 2177-2178, 1342: the Sunday Eucharist
- CCC 654-655, 1988: our new birth in the Resurrection of Christ
- CCC 976-983, 1441-1442: "I believe in the forgiveness of sins"
- CCC 949-953, 1329, 1342, 2624, 2790: communion in spiritual goods



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**Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions**  
2-4 p.m.  
St. John Church

Next Sunday April 7th

**Schedule:**

Eucharistic Adoration: 2-4 p.m.

Confessions: 2 - 3 p.m



Divine Mercy Holy Hour: 3-4 p.m. Including: Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Litany of Divine Mercy

*I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: "Jesus, I Trust in You."*

(Diary of St. Faustina, 327)

EASTER



**MASSTIMES.ORG**



Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) and enter the city, state or zip code of the place you'll be visiting. And bring Fr. Dan back a bulletin!

**Prayer of Blessing**

Dear Lord, Pour your blessings upon us today, we who trust in your name and call upon you. Send us your Spirit, enlighten our hearts, fill our lives with your abundance. Amen. ©LPi



**SAINT OF THE WEEK –  
EXAMPLES OF OUR  
FAITH**

**Venerable Francis-Xavier  
Nguyễn Văn Thuận**

Venerable Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, (1928 – 2002) was born in Huế, Vietnam and was the nephew of South Vietnam’s first president. He entered seminary when he was a teenager and was ordained in 1953 at age 25. By 1975 he was appointed as the coadjutor archbishop of Saigon, just as the Vietnam War came to an end. Only six days after his appointment, Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese Army and Francis-Xavier, targeted for his faith and connections, was arrested, and detained by the regime. For the next 13 years, he endured immense hardships in captivity, including nine years of solitary confinement.

Throughout his imprisonment, Francis-Xavier’s devotion to Jesus sustained him. Denied access to the Mass and to the Sacraments, he secretly celebrated Mass while confined with whatever resources he could find — even if he only had a few drops of wine and a piece of bread as the elements for the Eucharist.

While imprisoned, he became known for his joyful spirit, sharing hope and encouragement with fellow prisoners, and writing powerful faith reflections on scraps of paper, which were smuggled out and circulated among Catholics worldwide.

Released from prison in 1988, Francis-Xavier continued to inspire the Church from house arrest as well as from exile in Switzerland. In 1994, Pope John Paul II appointed him as the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, recognizing his dedication to promoting peace, reconciliation, and social justice. Fourteen years later he died of cancer in Rome at the age of 74.

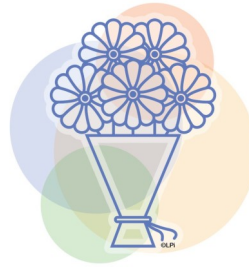
In recognition of his heroic virtues, Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận was declared Venerable by Pope Francis in 2017. His cause for beatification is ongoing, and he continues to be an important figure for those facing oppression and adversity, inspiring them to remain steadfast in God’s love. Venerable Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, pray for us! © LPi

**REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE**

**First Reading:** Peter emphasizes his personal witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. *To whom this week could you witness your faith in the resurrection of Jesus?*

**Second Reading:** Paul taught the believers in Colossae to anticipate the return of the resurrected Jesus. *How does your family celebrate Easter Sunday?*

**Gospel:** Mary Magdala, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple were the first to experience the joy and mystery of the empty tomb. *Do you recall when you first started believing in the resurrection of Jesus?* ©LPi



**ST. MARY CENTRAL ANNUAL  
FLOWER SALE**

St. Mary Central School, Martins Ferry, is having its annual flower sale. Flowers are sold by flats, hanging baskets and ferns. These beautiful flowers are also the perfect Mother’s Day gift.

Order forms are available in the back of the church. To place an order, fill out the order form, include your payment, and drop in the collection basket. You may also place an order through any St. Mary’s student. The last date to order is Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

Flowers will be available for pick up on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, from the hours of 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s parking lot.

If you have any questions, you may call the school office at 633-5424. *Thanks for your support of our fundraisers!*

**Readings for the week of March 31st, 2024**

**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/ Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

**Monday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/ Mt 28:8-15

**Tuesday:** Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18

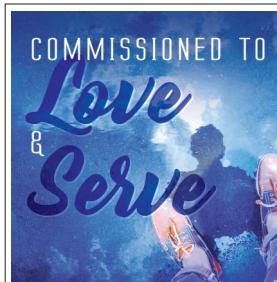
**Wednesday:** Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35

**Thursday:** Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48

**Friday:** Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14

**Saturday:** Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15

**Next Sunday:** Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31



**SERVE DAY**

**Saturday, April 6**

The Bellaire Fellowship of Churches is planning a “Serve Day” this Saturday, April 6, 2024, 9am to 12 noon at the Bellaire Park. (Rain date will be April 13).

We will be doing simple tasks around the village—tasks for all ages and abilities! Our purpose is to get out and be a public witness of serving our community as Christians. You might help sweep a sidewalk or pick up trash or paint a bench.

If you can serve, please notify your pastor (call or text Fr. Dan at (740) 298-4158) or text or call Cheri Miller at (740) 310-7174, or just show up! Let’s give a visible witness to our love for Jesus and our community.

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**What Would Mary Do?**

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene.

I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes — but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

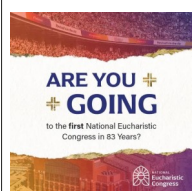
I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers — she didn't dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus' presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt. In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you.

*"She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.'"* — John 20:2 ©LPi



**Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress**

**July 17-21, 2024...5 days**

Come make history with us in Indianapolis at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, where we will gather at the feet of Jesus for the first time in nearly a century, boldly anticipating a new Pentecost. Your life—and our Church—will never be the same. The trip includes bus transportation with Steubenville and Cambridge departure points, lodging, daily transfers between hotel and event locations, and breakfast daily. Price is \$799.00 per person double occupancy (triple, quad & single rates available). For more information and to register call Wendt Touring at 740-282-5790. See brochure on church bulletin boards for more info!

**WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Spiritual Communion**

**Question:** What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

**Answer:** The practice of making a “spiritual communion” dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way. ©LPi

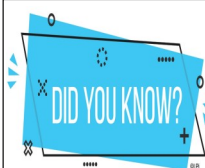


**BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE**

**Our Easter Mission**

“Have no fear. The outcome of the battle for life is already decided, even though the struggle goes on against great odds and with much suffering... "Christ is now raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep ... so in Christ all will come to life again" (1 Cor. 15:20-22). The paradox of the Christian message is this: Christ - the head - has already conquered sin and death. Christ in his body - the pilgrim people of God - continually suffers the onslaught of the Evil One and all the evil which sinful humanity is capable of.

”The liberating message of the Gospel of life has been put into your hands. And the mission of proclaiming it to the ends of the earth is now passing to your generation. Like the great apostle Paul, you too must feel the full urgency of the task: "Woe to me if I do not evangelize" (1 Cor. 9:16). Woe to you if you do not succeed in defending life. The church needs your energies, your enthusiasm, your youthful ideals, in order to make the Gospel of life penetrate the fabric of society, transforming people's hearts and the structures of society in order to create a civilization of true justice and love.” – Pope John Paul II to Youth, August 15, 1993, Denver, Colorado.



**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** Which two items can be consumed without officially breaking the Eucharistic fast?

**Answer:** Medicine and water. ©LPi



**THE DATE OF EASTER**

**Question:** Why does the date of Easter change every year, while most other celebrations are celebrated on the same day?

**Answer:** Every feast is celebrated at a certain time for a reason. Saints feast days are commonly the day of their

death. While we don't know Jesus' exact birthday, we celebrate the "light of the world" around the time of winter solstice, as dark, wintery days begin to lengthen again. We have a historical clue, however, to when the Easter events occurred. We know that Jesus was crucified the day before Passover. The Jews calculated the date for Passover based on both the solar and lunar calendars. It corresponds to the first full moon after the spring equinox. The early Christians maintained this connection in their celebrations of Easter on the first Sunday after the paschal full moon.

We don't re-calculate the full moon every year. As astronomy developed, so too did the forecasts of when Easter would occur in future years. The Church has created a table of calculated dates, projecting the date of Easter decades in advance. The date of Easter also determines the date of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, as well as the feast days following in the Easter season, including Pentecost. So these feasts move, too! This tradition may seem complicated, but it connects our Christian faith now to what has come before — our Jewish roots and the real, historical reality of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.

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**Easter Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Good and gracious heavenly Father, we come before you on this Easter Sunday with full and grateful hearts for the gift of the Paschal Mystery that you showed us in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, our brother by adoption, Jesus Christ.

Bless us and all those who profess belief in your saving love.

Bless also those who have yet to profess belief in you. You are God for all.

We ask all this in Christ's name.

Amen. ©LPi

EASTER



**HOUSE BLESSINGS**

Fr. Dan is scheduling annual house blessings. If you would like to have your house blessed please sign up at the church entrances and Fr. Dan will schedule a time to come and bless your home and family.



**Build and Center Your Marriage on Christ**

Whether you've been married one year or fifty, Catholic therapist Greg Schutte will guide you from over 30 years of experience. *You don't just have to survive in marriage—you can thrive!* We are excited to offer "Building a Eucharistic Marriage", seven sessions for all married or engaged couples and are designed to support couples in renewing their understanding of what it means to have a Sacramental Marriage and to rediscover the one they fell in love with many years ago! *We are looking for couples to go through this program. If you are interested in these sessions please contact Fr Dan.*

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

Our parishes have a conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and our patron is St. Martin de Porres. A "conference" is the basic unit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on the parish level and is made up of parishioners of St. John's and St. Mary's parishes. We meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in the St. John's Church basement. **Do you or someone you know need assistance? Would you like to learn about our work? You can reach someone from the St. Vincent de Paul society by calling 740-340-8540.**

“  
**ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS CHRIST AND THE POWER FLOWING FROM HIS RESURRECTION!**  
 ”

MYSTIC AND FOUNDER

- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

**Hope in an Empty Tomb**

This Easter, in churches all over the world, people will be fully initiated in the Catholic Church. Those who have come from another Christian denomination have already begun their journey with Jesus Christ. But for those who are baptized at the Easter Vigil, a new reality has come to pass. Each newly baptized man, woman, and child have become new creations in Jesus Christ. They have died and risen with the one who rose on the third day and whose empty tomb we celebrate every Easter. Easter Sunday morning, they awake after many months of RCIA and all have the same question before them: "Now what?"

When one finds themselves having journeyed through various thresholds of conversion and now they bear the name of Christian, the time comes to chart the course of life as a disciple. Stewardship is that course of life. How one lives out their life from now on is the life of stewardship. The less one understands true stewardship and the value of their gifts and talents to the Body of Christ, the harder the journey.

Those of us who were baptized many years ago can easily fall into a false sense of comfort. We forget that sense of excitement those coming into the Church experience at the Easter Vigil. However, the story of that empty tomb reminds us of the power behind our baptism. Today, we, too, are called to discipleship and a stewardship way of life. Jesus continues to provide the answer to our, "Now what?"

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**Read the Acts of the Apostles During the Easter Season**  
*(Fr. Dan notes: I found this on the Internet but don't know who the author is to give proper credit—but it's a great introduction!)*

**INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ACTS**

The Book of Acts, the full title of which is the Acts of the Apostles, has a unique place in the Church's liturgy and in Scripture. In the liturgy, for the whole Easter season, rather than reading from the Old Testament, we take the first reading from the Book of Acts. The Easter season focuses on the fruits of the Resurrection of Jesus, and that includes the Acts of the Apostles.

In Scripture, the Book of Acts fulfills a unique role in the New Testament, acting as a kind of bridge between the Gospels and the letters of St. Paul and the other Apostles. It is also the only narrative account of the beginnings of the Church, and gives us the historical context for the letters. As John Bergsma puts it, the Book of Acts is the only "biography" we have of the infant Church.

Written by Luke, the Book of Acts is basically the sequel to the Gospel of Luke, continuing the story of Jesus' mission. Luke ends his Gospel with the Ascension of Jesus into heaven; he begins the Book of Acts with the disciples awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:1, Luke tells us that His Gospel dealt with all that Jesus began to do and to teach; the Book of Acts, by implication,

**Read the Acts of the Apostles During the Easter Season (continued)**

then, tells the story of what Jesus continues to do and to teach through his followers after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. One of the things to notice as you read Acts is how the disciples do what they do and say what they say in the Name of Jesus. After Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles in the upper room (Acts 2), the book recounts the spread of the Gospel, as, filled with the power of the Spirit, the disciples continue the work of Jesus.

The Book of Acts can roughly divided into two general sections. The first section focuses on St. Peter and his ministry, and the second section on St. Paul and his ministry. And while there are some who try to drive a wedge between Peter and Paul, St. Luke is careful to present them as equally important and parallel figures in the infant Church. They both preach the same message (see Acts 2, 3, and 13). They both heal a lame man (3:1-10; 14:8-11). They both heal people without even so much as touching them (5:15 and 19:12). They both defeat magicians (8:9-21 and 13:8-12) and both raise people from the dead (9:36-42; 20:7-12). Both Peter and Paul confirm others with the Holy Spirit after they have been baptized (8:17 and 19:6), and both escape miraculously from prison (12:6-9 and 16:19-34). So while the book of Acts is basically divided between the two ministries of Peter and Paul, Luke shows that there is a unity: both of them are carrying out the mission of Jesus, doing the works He did, and preaching salvation in His Name.

There is also a geographical progression, a fulfilling of the Great Commission which Luke reports in Acts 1:8, as Jesus says to them: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2), the disciples first proclaim Jesus in Jerusalem, then throughout Judea and Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth, with the great missionary journeys of St. Paul, as recounted in the second half of the book.

**READING PLAN**

- Octave of Easter: Chapters 1-4
- Week 2: Chapters 5-8
- Week 3: Chapters 9-12
- Week 4: Chapters 13-16
- Week 5: Chapters 17-20
- Week 6: Chapters 21-24
- Week 7: Chapters 25-28

**WHAT TO PAY ATTENTION TO**

Acts is a book precisely of action: the apostles act, going from one place to another, preaching, performing miracles. But underneath it all, the Holy Spirit is acting in and through them; the Holy Spirit is the protagonist of the Book of Acts. It is the Holy Spirit who is at work in the apostles, enabling them to continue the mission of Jesus with the same works of Jesus done in His Name. As you read, try to pay attention to and trace the following themes:

- The action of the Holy Spirit
- The power of Jesus' Name
- the growth of the Church
- conversion
- Kerygmatic preaching
- bearing witness
- the sacraments



It will help you to take notes as you read. If you read the four suggested chapters each week, you can divide them up during your week, so that you can read, say, a chapter a day Monday-Thursday, taking notes on each chapter, and then on Friday or Saturday, go back and review your notes.

### KEYS FOR PRAYING WITH THE BOOK OF ACTS

Scholars say that Luke intentionally left the Book of Acts incomplete—it ends with Paul still in prison—because he wanted readers to recognize that the Holy Spirit wants to keep writing the story of the growth of the Church in and through each one of them, each one of us. We are supposed to continue the work of the apostles in our own lives, here and now, in 21st century Oregon. So spend some time in prayer with what you read, and ask yourself: Are there any parallels in my own life? Where and how is the Holy Spirit seeking to work in and through me? How is Jesus calling me to be a witness to Him? What have I seen Him do in my own life or in the lives of those around me? What is God calling me to do today to continue “writing” the book of the growth of the Church?

### More Resources to Study Acts on Formed Luke-Acts | The Bible Project



A fully animated series about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as portrayed by The Gospel of Luke, as well as the companion narrative about the movement he started in Acts.

The Bible Project is a nonprofit group dedicated to spreading the Word of God. Through dynamic and engaging videos, they aim to present the story of the Bible as a unified whole leading to and culminating in Jesus Christ..

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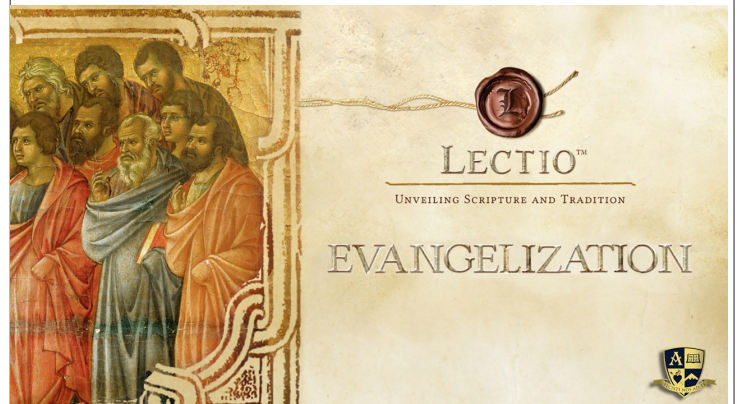
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### The ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



### Acts of the Apostles with Mark Hart

Mark Hart gives a refresher on the Acts of the Apostles, which show us how to live as brothers and sisters in Christ led by the Holy Spirit.



### Lectio: Evangelization with Dr. Mary Healy

In this 10-part Bible Study, Dr. Mary Healy combines insightful biblical study with Church teaching and practical advice to show how modern Catholics can effectively impact their world for Jesus Christ. She explores topics such as the call of Jesus to evangelize, the power of the Sacraments, the role of charisms for building up the Body of Christ, techniques from St. Paul for reaching a secular culture, and more.

Using the Lectio Divina approach of reading, reflecting, responding, and contemplating, the accompanying workbook presents classic artistry, penetrating questions, and personal reflection to take the teachings to a deeper level.

### Episode 1: Why Study Acts?

"We'll talk about signs of our modern times—sobering reminders of how desperately our world needs a restoration of a biblical worldview. We also look at the missionary character of the Church and answer the question: How can the evangelization efforts of the early Church help us today?"



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