First Communion 2019

Over 120 children from St. Joseph School and Religious Education received First Holy Communion this spring. The children celebrated at Mass with their families which included visiting clergy and grandparents who traveled from as far away as Ireland. We joyfully welcome them to the Eucharistic table!
Easter Season Calendar and through the end of June

Sunday, June 2 • Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
Sunday, June 9 • Solemnity of Pentecost
Sunday, June 16 • Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Sunday, June 23 • Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Upcoming Events at St. Joseph Catholic Church
More information at www.stjoseph-libertyville.org

May 23 Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations, 3:00 p.m., Church
May 25-26 New Deacon Dan Coughlin assists at all Masses
June 8 5K Run/Walk at Seminary, see p. 5 for registration details
June 15 Women’s Morning of Reflection, 8:30-11:00, Koenig Center

Parishioner Daniel E. Coughlin was Ordained a Deacon on May 11 at Holy Name Cathedral.

Dan will assist at his First Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 25.

The parish will host a reception for Dan and his wife Jo Anne in celebration and recognition of this accomplishment.

May 25 6:00 p.m. Koenig Center
All are welcome!

Congratulations to Deacon Gino Wilcox on his ordination!

It is with great joy that Mundelein Seminary congratulates Deacon Gino Wilcox, who will soon be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Las Cruces. For many weeks, he served in your parish to gain the pastoral skills necessary to become a holy, joyful parish priest. We are so grateful to you, his Teaching Parish, for the ways in which you welcomed him—and the other seminarians assigned to your parish—into your community, homes, and lives. You are helping to form the next generation of parish priests for the Catholic Church. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Mundelein Seminary. Please join us in praying a novena for all the seminarians who will be ordained as priests this year. Sign up by visiting www.usml.edu/classof2019.

Thank you for supporting your future parish priests!

Mundelein Seminary would like to express its gratitude to Fr. John Trout, the staff and parishioners of St. Joseph Parish for participating in our Teaching Parish Program this year. For many weeks, our seminarians have spent time at your parish to gain the pastoral skills necessary to become holy, joyful parish priests. We are so grateful for the ways you have welcomed our seminarians into your community, homes, and lives—and you are a vital part of their priestly formation. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Mundelein Seminary. Please join us in praying a novena for all the seminarians who will be ordained as priests this year. Sign up by visiting www.usml.edu/classof2019.

Fr. Ken Kiepura
Celebrating 50 Years of Priesthood!

Fr. Ken will preside at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, June 1. Immediately after Mass everyone is invited to join Fr. Ken in the Koenig Center for a reception. We will celebrate Fr. Ken and his years of ministry with fellowship, food and refreshments. Please join us!

Pray the Rosary Please join other parishioners in church at 7:55 a.m. Monday through Saturday to pray Our Lady’s Rosary.
Community Building

Guild Circle News:
St. Rose Quilt Circle: Do you have an interest in sewing and quilting? Are you interested in sharing ideas and techniques? Are you looking for fellowship? If so, St. Rose Quilt Circle is for you! Join us on Monday, May 20, from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Formation Center Room D. Whatever your skill level, come and create, learn and laugh with us! For further information, contact Diane at dmvsew@gmail.com.

St. Anne de Beaupré Card-Making Circle: Join us this week, Tuesday, May 21 at the Formation Center at 9:30 a.m. We have a wonderful group of ladies who enjoy making greeting cards. For more information, call Terrie Coconate 847-682-1652 or email terrie.coconate@yahoo.com.

Babysitting During Mass
Would you be interested in having your 1-3 year old children play with their peers while you participate in Sunday Mass? Or would you be interested in volunteering your time watching young children while their parents attend Mass? We are looking for volunteers to fill this role on a rotating basis for the 9:00 a.m. Mass, starting this September through May. Babysitting will be located in the Loughry Room. Please click on the Google link if you are interested in participating:
https://forms.gle/1huAy2qs3QC9gM1j8
Please contact Justine Lutz with any questions. justine.lutz@me.com.

Mothers with Young Children
MYC’s Book Club is meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. Check out Meetup for more info and to RSVP.

Bee-Boppers, Wednesday, May 22 at 10:15 at Elawa Park Join singer/songwriter Lindsey Smithwick, as she plays and sings songs that will make your little one want to move and groove. Check out Meetup for more information and to RSVP.

Summer Morning Park Play Date on Wednesday, June 5 at 9:30 a.m. at Lake Charles Park Join us for our first summer park play date! This is a great park with lots of things to climb, swings, and slides. Don’t forget your sunscreen! Check out Meetup for more information and to RSVP.

Please join us in welcoming the following new parish members:
Samuel & Courtney Parr and Doug & Megan True.
Welcome to our community of faith!

Senior Corner
KEENAGER – Free newspaper by Catholic Charities. Call 312-655-7425.
ST. JOSEPH PARISH SPONSORED • May 20, Quilt Circle, see above article • May 21, Card-Making Circle, see above. • June 15, Women’s Morning of Reflection • Ministry of Praise, call Debbie Costa at 847-347-3601.

LIBERTYVILLE SENIOR COUNCIL & SENIOR CENTER • May 13, Birthday Bash lunch at noon, party at 1:00 • May 14, Planting Party, 10:00 a.m. • May 20, Darlene Hopp, Nutritionist/Dietitian, discusses healthy eating, 1:00 p.m. • May 22, Flower Show & Lunch. $7 • May 23, Cubs Watch Party on Big Screen, 1:30 p.m. • May 28, Tea Party, 2:00-3:30 p.m. • May 28, program on prostate cancer research. 1:00 p.m. • Footloose at Marriott, $37, please register • May 31 Drum Circle, 1:00 p.m. • Men’s Bowling on Monday and Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. at Fairhaven Lanes in Mundelein. • Free art class, 1st & 3rd Thursday’s by John Kirkpatrick, register at Senior Center. Information about Senior Events along with exercise, cards, woodcarving, line dancing, dominos and more are identified in the Senior Update on tables in Narthex. Lending Closet of used medical equipment. RTA Reduced Fare Passes at Libertyville Township. Dial A Ride, 6 a.m.-6 p.m., 800-201-6446 • Cook Park Library afternoon movies on Thursday (Cook) or Friday (Aspen).
Meet Our New Parish Youth Ministers

Hi! We are Tom and Brigid Dutton, and we're very excited to be the new Youth Ministers at St. Joseph! We have three children: Meaghan, age 16, Katie, 15, and Keegan, 12, and we've been active parishioners since we moved to Libertyville in 2002.

While neither of us has a formal education in theology, we both share a passion for working with young people, especially teenagers! When we were in our early 20s, we volunteered to help with the youth group at our parish in Oak Park, and we went on the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) twice.

During our years at St. Joseph, we have actively involved ourselves with the parish's youth through mission trips, teaching them in Religious Education, and assisting at youth group meetings and events.

As we step into this role, we have lots of ideas and hope to help our teens grow in their faith through service opportunities, social events and community building. For this journey to be successful, we need support and input from teens, parents and other parishioners who feel called to help shape and guide our young people.

In the words of Pope Francis, “Let us encourage the generosity which is typical of the young and help them to work actively in building a better world.”

You can contact us by talking with us after Mass (usually after the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass) to talk, or feel free to email us at bdutton@stjoseph-libertyville.org. You also can reach us by phone/text (847-275-2597).

We look forward to hearing from you and are excited about what the future can hold for the youth of our parish!

CARMELFEST FOR 6TH-7TH GRADERS

Carmel Catholic High School invites 6th and 7th grade students to CARMELFEST on Friday, May 31, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Salvi Arena at Carmel Catholic (Entrance C). It will be a truly one-of-a-kind event with games, food, music and much more! The $5 admission fee gives students access to all attractions as well as food. Attractions include tug-o-war, obstacle course, human foosball, meltdown, music, dancing, and video games. All students are required to submit a permission form completed by their parent or guardian.


SUPPORT THE ANNUAL TEEN MISSION TRIP (AMT) BY PURCHASING HANSA COFFEE!

To order, email stjosephamt@gmail.com

$20 per bag
**Dash Around the Lake: Coming Up Soon—Get Registered!**

All ages invited to 5K Run or Walk on June 8 Join us on Saturday, June 8 at 9:00 a.m. for the Dash Around the Lake 5K Run or 5K Walk. Register early at www.dasharoundthelake.org. Enjoy an opportunity to experience a beautiful, unique course on the private grounds at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary)—a 930-acre campus with a route through the woods along a road circling the 100-acre St. Mary’s Lake. Organized by the St. Joseph’s Knights of Columbus Council 3674. Net proceeds to support our parish youth group’s Catholic Mission Trip to Appalachia this summer and local Knights of Columbus service events. • CARA certified • USATF measured • For all levels of runners and walkers. See the website above for event information and contact email.

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**Exploring Lay Ministry Day**

“Come and See” what the Institute for Lay Formation has for you!

Saturday, June 8, 2019

at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake,

1000 E. Maple Ave., Mundelein, IL.

9 am to 2 pm; 800 Building, Room 106

Lunch and a tour of the campus are included

We offer programs for adult Catholic who want to know more about their Catholic faith as well as for parish ministry leaders. Our programs range from a two-year certificate to a three-year master’s degree in Pastoral Studies. For more information, call 847-837-4550 or email ILF@usml.edu.

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**Summer Scripture Conference at Seminary**

Sunday June 23–June 28 at University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein

Do you know that a nationally recognized gem of Catholicism is in our own backyard? Retreat, learn and renew this summer! Presentations by some of the best Scripture Scholars in the world. Pray, eat and socialize with speakers and other attendees, and find respite on our peaceful grounds.

This year, we will study “According to the Scriptures: How the Old and New Testaments Relate to Each Other”. We will look at what Jesus was referring to from the Old Testament in his word and deed. We will also look at how the Old Testament scholars would have interpreted some things very differently than what we understand today in light of Jesus Christ and the New Testament.

Four different Biblical Scholars will offer 3 lectures each, starting with one in the evening, and finishing with two the next morning (evocative of Genesis). Attendees may commute or stay overnight. The best way to enjoy the program is to stay for the week from Sunday evening through Friday morning to experience the rhythm of prayer, study and relaxation with the community. Choose Single Speaker option for a taste of this event. C.E.U’s available. For more information and registration see: www.summerscripture.org. Or call: 847-837-4558. Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SummerScriptureSeminar/

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**Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations**

Please join the vocations ministers in praying for all members of the clergy and for all those leading consecrated lives during Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in our church.

**Prayer for Vocations**

Almighty Father, we beg you for an increase in religious vocations and holy marriages in our parish. Help us to be generous in our response to your call. Choose from our homes those who are needed for your work and strengthen us with the courage to say “yes” and to follow you. Help us as a parish and as families to recognize and foster vocations to the priesthood, religious life, lay ministry or whatever path you are calling us to follow. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.
Where do I register?
Please register Grades 3-8 for the day program; register high school students for the evening program.

www.givecentral.org/TTChicago

When is it happening? At St. Joseph: June 23-27, 7 to 9 p.m. for Grades 9-12; June 24-28, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for Grades 3-8

Where is it happening? St. Joseph Catholic Church campus, Libertyville

What’s happening? Kids entering Grades 3-8 and high school teens are inspired to learn and live their faith in this week-long program packed with games, skits, songs and more! Bring a lunch and water bottle!

Who’s instructing? College students and seminarians share their joy for Jesus with the group. This year’s team will focus on the Sacraments and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

What’s the cost? (For day program) fees start at $50 for 1 child (Fee includes T-shirt) High school evening program starts at $30 for 1 teen.

INFORMATION: Contact Joy Levering at mjlevering1@yahoo.com
Roar into the fun at VBS!

REGISTER FOR VBS 2019!

Children entering Preschool thru 5th Grade, join us for a week of crafts, songs, Bible stories and more!

June 17-21, 2019
9:00 AM - Noon

Register on St. Joseph’s Parish website under Faith Formation / Summer Programs

You’re invited this summer

Become a Vocations Prayer Family

What is the opportunity:
Families can sign up to take home the Fr. Victor Ivers Chalice for one week during the summer and pray as a family for people to hear God’s call in their lives and respond to that vocation.

When is it taking place?
The chalice will be available for ten weeks during the summer (one family per week). Families will receive the chalice and prayer guide on Sundays at the 10:45 a.m. Family Mass (June 9 through August 11) and return it before Mass begins on the following Sunday.

How can we sign up? Register on the parish website at https://stjoseph.ivolunteer.com/vpd2019

Please, only sign up for a week that you know you will be in town.

INFORMATION:
Email dretseck@sjoseph-libertyville.org

Seeking & Finding

— a call to put busyness aside for a while in order to rekindle our relationship with God—

Saturday, June 15, 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Please join us for Mass at 8:30, followed by a continental breakfast and a program in the Koenig Center.

Sponsored by the Women’s Council of St. Joseph Catholic Church.
Please register at wcstjoseph@gmail.com.
**PRESIDENTS/DEACONS**

**Saturday, May 25**
5:00 p.m.  Fr. Trout
Homilist:  Deacon Coughlin

**Sunday, May 26**
7:15  Fr. Hennessey
Homilist:  Deacon Coughlin
9:00  Fr. Kartje
10:45  Fr. Kartje
10:45 KC  Fr. Luboyera
Homilist:  Deacon Coughlin
12:30  Fr. Trout
Homilist:  Deacon Coughlin
5:00 p.m.  Fr. Luboyera
Homilist:  Deacon Coughlin

**IN MEMORY**
Please pray for the souls of:
- Connie Carrizales
- Fran Hoffman
- Donna Pucin

**Your time & talents are appreciated:**

**Traditional K-6:** Co-catechists needed on Sundays:
Grade 1-6; on Tuesdays: Catechists in Grades 2, 3, and 6

**Confirmation Prep (Grades 7-8):** Grade 7 catechists needed

**Faith Weaving (once a month):** Sundays: Grades 3 and 4 (together); Fridays: Grades PK and K (together) 1 and 2 (together) and 5 and 6 (together).

**SCHEDULES**

**Sunday Masses** 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 7:15, 9:00, 10:45 a.m. (10:45 in Church and in Koenig Center), 12:30, 5:00 p.m. Prearranged **Baptisms** at 1:45 p.m. **Saturday Masses** 8:30 a.m. (Second Saturdays-Sacrament of Healing at Mass)

**Weekday Masses** 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. or as scheduled. **Holy Day Masses:** 6:30, 8:30 a.m., Noon, 7:00 p.m. **Reconciliation** Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon or by appointment.

**BAPTISMS**
Landon John Tait, son of Jennifer (Brumm) and Jeffrey Tait

**BANNED OF MARRIAGE**
Ashley Marie Tworek & Andrew James Thibodeau
Shout Praises to the Lord!
Enroll in the Ministry of Praise! The Ministry of Praise is a call to those in nursing homes, retirement homes, the home-bound and all seniors. What will Ministers be asked to do? Simply pray. Each month you will receive a letter from a staff member or parishioner asking you to pray for intentions. It is a call to join in a chorus of prayer. There are no dues or meetings. Please contact Debbie Costa at 847-347-3601 or email Debbie at drc233@aol.com.

Ministry of Care Home Visits
If you or your loved one are ill or elderly and unable to attend Mass on the weekend, we would like to hear from you. Our trained Ministers of Care are available to visit your home to bring Holy Communion. Please contact the Parish Office (847-362-2073), or Arlyss Lasecki (847-778-8023) or Judy Salzman (847-393-7689) to arrange for a Home Visit with Communion.

Need a Low Gluten Host?
If you are in need of receiving a low gluten Host, we will be consecrating a number of low gluten Hosts to be kept in a special ciborium in the Tabernacle. Please come to Communion at the presider’s station and indicate that you receive a low gluten Host.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church live streams the 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday Masses and occasional special events. To view the live stream video: go to www.stjoseph-libertyville.org. Scroll down until you see the box titled Live Stream Video.

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PRAYER & WORSHIP COMMISSION Spring Ministry Fair
After all Masses May 18-19
Tables will be set up in the Narthex. Please consider joining one of our ministries and help serve the St. Joseph Catholic Church community.

- Altar Servers (Adult and Children)
- Bereavement Ministry
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- Extraordinary (Eucharistic) Ministers
- Family Mass
- Greeters
- Legion of Mary
- Liturgy Coordinators

- Ministry of Care
- Ministry of Praise
- Music Ministry
- Prayer Shawls
- Proclaimers
- Sacristans
- Ushers

Stop and talk to us TODAY!
One of the most effective job networking tools is the “handbill” or networking brief, yet too many job seekers and career changers are just not familiar with this simple variant of your resume. A well-designed handbill can substantially shorten your transition time. At our next meeting, Dan Barber, career transition expert, will present a talk entitled *Network into Target Companies Using Your Handbill*. Take advantage of this opportunity to increase the effectiveness of your networking meetings. After Dan’s talk we will discuss this and other topics of interest to those of us in career transition. Our meeting is from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Formation Center (112 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Libertyville 60048), Room C. Please enter from the rear of the building. Our sessions are free, and all are welcome—please join us and bring a friend!

The St. Joseph Employment Ministry assists the unemployed and under-employed in the pursuit of fulfilling work. Anyone with a job to fill or an interest in assisting job-seekers is also invited to attend. Meetings are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and typically feature topical presentations followed by discussion and group networking. All are welcome! If you have questions, please contact John Jennings at jfjennings@comcast.net. Employers are invited to post open positions with us by sending an email to: StJosephEmploymentMinistry@yahoo groups.com.

**Around the corner, at St. Mary of Vernon:**

**WERC Support Group** employment-related meetings are usually held on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. See: [https://maryofvernon.org/bulletins](https://maryofvernon.org/bulletins) for specifics, as well as helpful job-search tips. WERC members and guests will have the opportunity to meet to ask questions of the team and each other, network, share success stories and advice, and discuss the challenges of the job search. Meetings take place in Rooms 110-112 of the Parish Center, 236 U.S. Highway 45, Indian Creek, IL. All are welcome. Questions? Contact the WERC team at SMVWERC@gmail.com.

**Green Tip**

**ENCOURAGE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO TAKE ACTION**

Legislators want to hear from us. Find an environmental issue you are passionate about – local, state, or national. Contact your official by phone, letter, email, fax, or social media. Be brief, concise, specific. Let them know that you are a constituent and tell them how the issue affects you. And be polite. You can start by contacting your Illinois state representative to support the Coal Ash Pollution Prevention Act. On May 9, the state senate passed the bill and it has moved to the House. Illinois has the most coal ash impoundments of any state, with at least 80 at dozens of power plant sites. At every location tested, toxic coal ash pollutants such as lead, arsenic and mercury have been found leaking into groundwater. [https://ecojusticecollaborative.org/major-coal-ash-bill-passes-il-senate/](https://ecojusticecollaborative.org/major-coal-ash-bill-passes-il-senate/). 70 million Catholics can be a force for change. Let’s get active!

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**Catholic Charities Collection Last Week**

Thank you for giving to Catholic Charities on Mothers Day to help the mothers, children, and seniors from our community who are struggling. You can also contribute online at [www.catholiccharities.net/donate](http://www.catholiccharities.net/donate) or mail your check directly to Catholic Charities at 721 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60454.

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Members of St. Joseph Catholic Church’s Care for Creation Ministry joined others in Springfield on May 9 for Environmental Advocacy Day. They met with State Representative Mary Edly-Allen to thank her for her support of the Clean Energy Jobs Act and to encourage her support of the new bill protecting against toxic coal ash. To learn more about this ministry, please contact Louise Przywara at louise.przywara@gmail.com or 847-340-5033.
Mental Health Mondays
Program begins May 20 at St. Mary of the Annunciation

Each year, 1 in 4 families are affected by mental illness. As Christians, we need to help and support individuals, family members and friends who have this illness. After last year’s 5-night informational program, a number of those who attended expressed interest in an ongoing opportunity to meet and discuss various issues related to mental illness. To meet this need, we will have meetings at St. Mary of the Annunciation on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. beginning Monday, May 20. A different aspect of mental illness will be discussed each month from a practical and spiritual standpoint. There is no cost to attend. Workbooks will be used to facilitate the discussion. The topic for the meeting on May 20 will be the first chapter of the workbook: “Building Your Faith”. If you have any questions regarding this program, you can email Deacon Jerry Nora from St. Mary of Vernon at geinora@aol.com or Deacon Al Sedivy at uscals1@yahoo.com.

DIRECT DONATIONS FROM AN IRA TO SUPPORT THE PARISH

If you are over 70 ½, there is a new law that could impact how you donate monies to the Parish. At the close of 2015, lawmakers approved the Protecting American from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act. A provision of this Act made available distributions from individual retirement accounts through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs). This is superb news for Catholics looking to support their favorite missions and our Parish in a tax-advantage way.

Rules for Qualified Charitable Distributions
- Donor must be 70 ½ or older at the time the distribution is made
- QCDs are made from IRAs or Roth IRAs
- Distributions must be made directly to an organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions
- $100,000 annual limit
- Charity receiving gift must provide donor proper documentation of the gift

Benefits
- Can satisfy required minimum distribution (RMD) requirements in year QCD is made
- QCD amount is not included in the donor’s adjusted gross income, helping to avoid increased taxes on SSI, higher Medicare premiums, and the loss of deductions
- Provides donors that use the standard deduction a tax break for the contribution.

Because the color of your envelope determines how your funds are distributed. When you make a donation to the church, the funds are distributed to support St. Joseph Catholic Church as well as the Archdiocese of Chicago. If you want your donations to be used exclusively here at St. Joseph Catholic Church, then choose a blue or gold envelope. The blue envelope goes to the maintenance of our facility and the gold envelope supports our Social Justice programs.

100% of the donations received in these envelopes stay within our parish.

You can also contribute using the blue or gold envelopes online through our Give Central Link: https://www.givecentral.org/location/181. Thank you for your generosity!
THOUGHTS ON GIVING “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” (John 13:34) It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes strength and courage to love someone when we feel unappreciated, used or feel our opinion doesn’t matter. It takes courage to “love my neighbor” when he may be someone I don’t like, someone I don’t know or someone that doesn’t look like me.
Standing on the Rock CD

by James Wahl

FUN AND FAITH-FILLED MUSIC
for little ones, with 10 songs based on Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus.

This is a new music collection for preschool children and those who are in early grade school.

$17.00 + S&H

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I am patronizing your business because of it!
BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

A JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP—JESUS COMPANIONS US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

1. Proclaim God’s Word. Choose someone to read the Scripture. After reading, there is silence from the group in reverence.
2. Invite Response. Invite individuals to respond to a word, phrase or passage that strikes them in some way.
3. Praise God. After a period of response, close by leading the group in praise of God by praying together the Glory Be.

NEXT SUNDAY’S GOSPEL — John 14:23-29

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.

Response: Glory to You, O Lord

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

In our world today we are constantly bombarded with messages to entice us to want more things. Whether it is a new car, new home, a better job or the latest high-tech gadget, we are continually encouraged to be dissatisfied with what we already have. Striving to “keep up with the Jones’” can be a taxing and stressful pursuit. In addition, we can become distracted from the sources of joy that surround us as we tend to the urgent and aggravating. Or we may just become restless and bored with our routine lives, uttering phrases like “There has to be more to life than this.” The way of the world really promises us nothing but a constant pursuit of temporary pleasure or freedom from pain. In next Sunday’s Gospel Jesus promises something entirely different and far more valuable to those who are willing to turn to Him. Jesus promises “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives it do I give it to you.” This promise is worth spending time with. It is Jesus’ answer to our lamentations. Yes, there is more to life than that which even our best days can promise us. Jesus promises hearts that are not troubled or afraid. He invites us to look at our lives through His eyes and not those of our neighbor’s, our bosses, or even our friends. Jesus wants us to know that confidently seeking to feed our hearts and souls with His loving presence is the strongest possible antidote to our daily stresses, pains, doubts, fears and aggravations. The Gospel reveals that in times of distress we should turn to the Holy Spirit, who will remind us of all the things that Jesus told us. We will be encouraged to put aside fear, for the Father knows our every need. In the unconditional manifest of the sacrifice of His son on the cross, He wants us to be joyful and to live in peace, not merely for the present moment but in every moment on into eternity.

For further reflection on the Holy Spirit, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 687-741; and paragraph 227 on trusting in God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What things in my life cause my heart to be troubled or afraid? What keeps me from asking the Holy Spirit to lead me to greater peace in these areas?
2. It is the role of the Church working through the Holy Spirit to remind us of all that Jesus told us. What reminders of Christ’s teachings do I need to take to heart? Are there any teachings of the Church that I cannot reconcile with my understanding of Christ’s teachings? What might I do to find Christ through better understanding of the Church’s teaching?
3. As Jesus gives us peace so to are we called to bring His peace to others. Where do I bring the most peace into the lives of others? Where might I be disturbing the peace of others inappropriately?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21</td>
<td>St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de’ Pazzi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29</td>
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