This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Psalm 118:24

LITURGY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM
SUNDAY: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM
1:00 PM (Spanish)

ADORATION: Thursdays from 12:00 - 8:00 PM
HOLY DAYS: VIGIL MASS 7:00 PM; 8:00 AM, 7:00 PM
RECONCILIATION: Saturdays from 3:00 to 4:00 PM
Prayer for the Pandemic
Corona Virus situation

Almighty and merciful God, who show your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the corona Virus in various parts of the world.

We come before you asking for quick control of the outbreak, for the healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors, nurses and healthcare workers that they may courageously and cautiously take care of those affected.

We pray for those doing the research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the People.

Lord, we ask all these through the loving intercession of St. Catherine of Siena, St. Joseph, and Our Blessed Mother.

Amen

Though the office is closed, the office staff will be checking in on their phone messages to provide as much assistance as possible with this critical time. We ask that you please utilize the designated personnel extensions to leave our staff your message. Thank you.

For Emergency Anointing of the Sick
(Only for those who are experiencing an imminent death)

Call (925) 228-2230 Ext 1006
Please leave your name, phone #, address
Dear parishioners, parents, students, and friends,

May the Lord comfort and protect you and those you love.

At this point, we can all agree the world and the Church are going through the most hellish Lent in history, created by the invisible enemy of life, the COVID-19. What is natural to us as people of faith, such as our community Sunday Mass, hospitality, in-person interactions, corporal and spiritual works of charity and mercy, all of which have been suspended to prevent the deadly widespread of the virus. As good and responsible citizens of both heaven and earth, we embrace this social and spiritual distancing with mixed feelings of sadness and sacrificial love. We shelter-in-place to save lives.

Paradoxically, as Christians, we are going through the most profound experience of faith: *The Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ*. As we embrace the worst from the lethal Coronavirus, let us not forget the Lord’s victory over the enemy of life, the virus of sin, and death. He embraced it. He accepted it. He suffered through, and He victoriously conquered it so that in Him, with Him, and through Him, we shall experience new life in God. Thus, as we shelter-in-place, let our prayers, praises, and sacrifices, joined with the Son’s, go out to the loving Father, Who art in heaven. Even from our homes, we will have joyfully celebrated the Holy Week in commemoration of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord.

We invite you to join us in praying for our heroes and martyrs of charity, doctors, nurses, firefighters, and many others, who are on the front line of the battlefield to fight on our behalf. We continue to storm heaven with prayers and sacrifices for their health and protection. In so many ways, they imitate the Lord in facing the invisible enemy and simultaneously giving up their lives for the sake of others. This is the most excellent proof of love we wish to see. We also pray for consolation and healing for those who fall victim to this virus and their families.

We promise to do our best to stay connected and journey with you throughout this crisis. Therefore, we are thrilled to continue offering the following:

**8 AM Daily Mass, Adoration, and the Rosary:** Shelter-in-place does not mean to stay out of touch!

- You are invited to get in touch with God via the Live-stream-daily on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialStCatherineofSienaChurch/)
- The link can also be found on our website: [www.stcmtz.org](http://www.stcmtz.org).
- We encourage all to pray daily the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 PM.

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**Prayer to recite when one cannot receive communion but is participating in the Holy Mass at home.**

**An Act Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

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**Prayer for the Pandemic Corona Virus Situation**

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

“I will be with you always” (Jesus)!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Anthony and Pastoral Staff
Easter is our celebration of Christ’s resurrection which guarantees every one of us our own resurrection and eternal life. Hallelujah!

The word Easter comes from the earliest varieties of Old English, which come from the older German word for east, which comes from the even older Latin word for dawn.

Starting with the first day of Spring, our days are now longer than our nights. This will continue until September 22 when nights will once again become longer. Every day starts in the East with the dawn so “Easter” is the perfect name for this time of year and for a feast of daylight. Christ is our light. He rose on Easter to banish the darkness and shine forever in glory.

Easter is the oldest and most important feast day of the Christian Church. Christ’s rising is the foundation of all our faith and hope. It proves three things beyond all doubt:

1. Death is not the end of life
What we see on earth is not everything. Our planet, our galaxy and universe are only the physical signs of God’s creation. Beyond these are heaven and everlasting life. All physical things have a birth, a life and a death. Our bodies, nature, and even the stars will all pass away. Spiritual life, by contrast, is infinite. That part of us that is divine will live on after our corporal life is ended.

2. It is possible for people to rise from the dead.
Did you know the bible contains at least a dozen specific examples of people being resurrected?

a. The prophet Elijah raised the widow of Zarephath’s son from the dead. (1 Kings 17:17–24).
b. Elisha also raised the Shunammite woman’s son from the dead. (2 Kings 4:18–37).
c. After Elisha died and was buried, another man’s body was put in the grave. Scripture records that, “…when the body touched Elisha’s bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet.” (2 Kings 13:20–21).
d. Jesus raised the son of a widow in Nain (Luke 7:11–17).
f. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus of Bethany (John 11).
g. The saints in Jerusalem were raised with Jesus, “the earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open... the bodies of many holy people...were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.” (Matthew 27:50–53).
h. The apostle Peter raised Tabitha in the coastal city of Joppa. (Acts 9:36–43).
i. The apostle Paul raised Eutychus, a young man who lived in Troas. (Acts 20:7–12).
j. Jesus raised himself from the dead on Easter (Mark 16:1–8).

3. Each of us will rise from the dead too.
The bible pronounces in more than a hundred places (I counted them myself) that the dead will all rise. This is a confirmation of our own, individual destinies. Here are just a few examples:

a. “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live” (John 11:25)
b. “Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!” (Isaiah 26:19)
c. “Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?” (Acts 26:8)
d. “To those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.” (Romans 2:7)
e. “For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:52)

Jesus has conquered death and, through God’s grace, so will we. This is really great news. Despite all the depressing things we hear about quarantine, economic collapse, grocery shortages, and pandemic, the forecast couldn’t be better. Our spiritual nature transcends all these travails up to and including death. Lots of people have already risen from the dead and we will soon be one of them thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ. Happy Easter!
March 15 & 29, 2020

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Weekly Offering: $4,418.00
Catholic Relief Services: $ 555.00

ON-LINE GIVING - MARCH

Weekly Offering: $7,306.00
Maintenance: $ 435.00
Education: $ 540.00
Easter: $ 100.00

Thank you for your continued support, both spiritual and financial.

If you are looking for a ways to help your parish, here are a few options:

1) On-line Giving: www.stcmtz.org
2) My parish App: click on the “giving icon”
3) Diocesan Support for the Parishes
   * Go to the Diocese of Oakland home page
     Click on the Giving tab
     Select the Parish Support option
     https://www.oakdiocese.org/parish-support

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SUN 4/12
7:00 Armando Abesamis†
8:30 Agapito & Erlinda Bonifacio†
11:00 Int. People of the Parish
1:00 Louisa Socorro Doña†

MON 4/13
8:00 May Ann Martin†

TUE 4/14
8:00 George Avila Sr.†

WED 4/15
8:00 Int. St Catherine School and Families

THU 4/16
8:00 Special Intention

FRI 4/17
8:00 McLoughlin & Curtin Families†

SAT 4/18
8:00 Rose Porto†
4:30 Rose Delchini†

SUN 4/19
7:00 Mario Dy-Liacco and Simona Nano†
8:30 Mitch & Ann Costanza†
11:00 Barbara Berg

St. Catherine Parish offers deepest sympathy and prayers for the family; and, the repose of the soul of all Victims of the Coronavirus who entered into eternal life.

THE MYSTERY OF EMPTINESS

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! This Paschal greeting is customary in Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches on Easter Sunday. Then there is Saint Augustine’s acclamation of joy: We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song! However you express it, Easter is the time for rejoicing because Jesus Christ, our friend and brother, is risen from the dead. And yet today’s scriptures are less joyful than one would expect for the most important feast in the Christian calendar. Perhaps we are being asked to look deeper into the mystery of the Resurrection, just as Peter went into the tomb to look deeper into the mystery of its emptiness.

Mary Magdalene, who loved the Lord so much that she risked everything, possibly even her life, to go to the tomb before daybreak, finds the stone rolled away and assumes that someone has taken Jesus’ body. Frightened and sad, she runs to tell Peter and John. They all run back to the tomb, but what do they expect to see? Peter enters the tomb and sees. John enters, sees, and believes. But what does he believe? Scripture states, “For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead” (John 20:9). They went home, not really knowing what had happened. But John “believed” something.

What do we believe? Somewhere between that Easter morning and Peter’s confident teaching about Jesus in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, something (the Risen Christ) happened. Peter has evolved from his bewilderment into a witness to the Resurrection.

What are we to find in the empty tomb? Maybe the Colossians reading has an answer. By entering the empty tomb of our lives to seek the Lord, we see, we believe, we die, to be raised with Christ. “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). And we will rise in glory with him.

Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Ps 118:1-2, 16–17, 22–23; Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6b–8; Jn 20:1–9 or Mt 28:1–10

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WE NEED A RESURRECTION

I don’t know about you, but every year around this time I feel like I could use a resurrection. Especially this year as I and many of us are “sheltering in place” in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our weather adds to the malaise: we’re teased one day with light and warmth, then winter returns with cold, rain, or worse. Yes, it’s getting lighter outside, but these end-of-winter doldrums seem to match what’s going on inside us as well. We all need a change. We all need some good news. We need to be able to sing “Alleluia!”

And today, at least streaming online or on television, we have. The opening hymn, the sequence, the Gospel acclamation, alleluias everywhere! Blessed release! What are we to be so happy about? Saint Peter tells us today—he gives us the whole story, beginning with John the Baptist and going through Easter Sunday. And Peter doesn’t stop there. There are appearances by Christ after his resurrection, and a commissioning, and the promise that everyone who believes in him has forgiveness of sins through his name. Alleluia!

But travel with me now back to that first Easter morning as John tells it today. It’s dark, and Mary Magdalene is approaching the tomb. But look! Something’s wrong! The stone’s been rolled away! This is bad news, not good news. Agony, humiliation, and death aren’t bad enough; now Jesus’ body has been taken away. Mary runs to tell Peter and the other disciples. Breathless, she’s not singing alleluia.

Peter and the beloved disciple run to the tomb and find it empty. See, the wrappings are in one place and the cloth for Jesus’ head rolled up in another spot. After a week of bad news, all they get is an empty tomb. The story says that the disciple sees and believes, but it ends by reminding us that they didn’t yet understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead. Not much to sing alleluia about, is it?

So why this story today, on the most joyous day of the year? Maybe it fits because we already know the rest of the story. In the very next verses, the Risen One appears to Mary Magdalene in the garden there, and later on to the other disciples. We have Peter’s words from today’s first reading, which, by the way, converted an audience of Gentiles on the spot. We know the meaning of the empty tomb, and it’s not bad news. It’s the best news there is. Out of death and defeat comes new life. God has promised it. God has done it. Alleluia!

It seems that these days we are waiting to see the rest of our own story. We’ve lost our way, we’ve lost a loved one, our jobs are in jeopardy, we don’t know when this virus assault will end. We’re at the empty tomb in the darkness, and we don’t know what it means. We need resurrection. Well, the good news today is that resurrection will come. The story of passion and resurrection is our own story. Our empty tombs take on new meaning when we allow God to lift us up. The people who are awaiting baptism will know resurrection.

Your uncle who overcame alcoholism knows resurrection. Sheltering in our homes, we will know resurrection. The triumph of Christ over darkness and death is complete, and we know it because of the faith of everyone who has ever gone this way before us.

Even as we wait at the empty tomb, we can sing alleluia. We can sing alleluia because we know the rest of the story, even before we get to the end.

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TODAY’S READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37–43
Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23
Colossians 3:1–4 or
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8
John 20:1–9 or Matthew 28:1–10 or
(at an afternoon or evening Mass)
Pray Chaplet of the Divine Mercy everyday at 3 PM.
We would like to invite all of us to pray together at this hour to emerge the world in the ocean of the Lord’s Divine Mercy. May the mercy of God bring us consolation and peace.
St. Catherine of Siena School has embraced Remote Learning and we are continuing to provide a Catholic Education virtually to our families. **Follow our journey on our school website, Instagram and Facebook @stcathmtz scsgoesremote**

“Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.”- Pope Francis, 3/27/2020 Extraordinary Blessing

We made to the end of Week 2 of Remote Learning. My favorite part of this week was seeing our 8th graders shine and lead the school for morning announcements and remote spirit week. We remain hopeful that school can open our doors and resume as normal on May 4 and until then we remain strongly rooted in our faith, community, and providing a Sustained Learning program during this time of Shelter-in-Place. The staff and faculty are working to provide a curriculum that can be done at home and we are navigating week by week reviewing parent and student feedback. We encourage our families to use this time to create family memories and grow in our faith together.

Teachers and Principals across the Lumen Christi Academy are collaborating on Zoom Calls and messages to share best practices, focusing on providing academics while staying connected in our faith. Your teachers and I are committed to administer a quality Catholic education remotely through a sustained learning program. We are St. Catherine strong and I am proud and honored to be part of this community.

Jessica Griswold
Principal
FACILITIES

To assure that our Church and facilities testify to the greater honor and glory of God.

Due to the grave health risk involved in public gatherings; All masses, liturgies, events, trainings, ministry and organization meetings are suspended until further notice. All facilities are closed to the public.


IN LIGHT OF COVID-19
We’re relying on our app to communicate with you

Please download our app and allow notifications.

To Download
Text “App” to 88202 or search “myParish” in your app store.

New Parish App!

St. Catherine of Siena has launched our own app for iPhone and Android smart phones.

This will allow us to better communicate with you throughout the week and keep you updated with relevant parish news or updates. The app is very well designed and very intuitive. It will be a great resource for parishioners by providing: daily Mass readings, Catholic news and prayers, convenient prayer and Confession reminders, our bulletins and so much more.

We hope for our new app to be a tool for fostering stronger parish life at St. Catherine of Siena Parish and School, and better engaging the New Evangelization.

Available in both English and Spanish

Vida Católica Cada Día Catholic Life Every Day

— St. Catherine of Siena App —

Busque “myParish” en su App Store o vaya a myparishapp.com para bajar

Search for “myParish” in the App Store or go to myparishapp.com to download

Available para aparatos Apple y Android

Download our app today! Available for Apple and Android devices.

8 AM Daily Mass will be livestreamed
Sunday Mass will be livestreamed at 11 AM
Litanies are prayers to our Lord, his Blessed Mother, and the saints consisting of a series of petitions and responses. Although they are traditionally used in church services, they can also be prayed in private devotions, and may be sung.

The word “litany” itself comes from the Greek word “litie,” meaning “prayer” or “supplication.” In public worship, one person recites the first part of the prayer, which is followed by a response from the congregation (such as “pray for us”).

These prayers have their roots in the pre-Christian era when Jews used this responsive pattern in public worship. The first Christian litanies probably consisted of the frequent repetition of the words *Kyrie Eleison* (Greek for “Lord have Mercy,” the same words we pray at Mass). The faithful added more and more prayers and petitions over time until there were over eighty different forms of litanies by the 17th century!

It was then, in 1601, that Pope Clement VIII officially forbade publication and public recitation of any of these other than the *Litany of the Saints* and the *Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary* (also known as the Litany of Loreto).

Since then the Holy See has approved four additional ones for public use. These pay tribute to the *Most Holy Name of Jesus*, the *Sacred Heart of Jesus*, the *Most Precious Blood of Jesus* and St. Joseph. There are many others that can be used for private prayers, however, such as the Litany of St. Jude, the *Litany of St. Michael*, the *Litany of St. Therese*, a *Litany for the Dying*, and the *Litany of Humility*.

These prayers are rich in imagery. For example, the Blessed Virgin Mary is referred to as Mother, Virgin and Queen under various titles but also as a “spiritual vessel” “gate of heaven” and “refuge of sinners.” The Sacred Heart of Jesus is called the “Sacred Temple of God,”“the burning furnace of charity,”“victim for our sins” and most importantly “salvation of all who trust in Thee.”

St. Joseph, “Spouse of the Mother of God,” is given due honor as the “Head of the Holy family,” the “Diligent protector of Christ,” and “patron of the dying” (one of the many titles of his patronage).

Whether prayed publicly or privately, these prayers give us a wonderful overview of the attributes that make our Lady, our Lord, and His Church so special.

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**A Litany to Pray Frequently in Time of Health Pandemic**

This may be prayed individually or in alternation with others.

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, hear us.*

*Christ, hear us.*

*Christ, graciously hear us.*

*O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,* have mercy on us.

*O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,* have mercy on us.

*O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,* have mercy on us.

*O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,* have mercy on us.

*From all evil,* Lord, deliver us, we pray.

*From every sin,* Lord, deliver us, we pray.

*From everlasting death,* Lord, deliver us, we pray.

*By your Incarnation,* Lord, deliver us, we pray.

*By your Death and Resurrection,* Lord, deliver us, we pray.

*By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.* Lord, deliver us, we pray.

*Holy Mary,* pray for us.

*Holy Mother of God,* pray for us.

*Mother of the Church,* pray for us.

*Mother of Christians,* pray for us.

*Mother of the human family,* pray for us.

*Refuge of sinners,* pray for us.

*Comforter of the afflicted,* pray for us.

*Consolation of the lonely,* pray for us.

*Solace of the fearful,* pray for us.

*Hope of the poor,* pray for us.

*Health of the sick,* pray for us.

*Companion of the dying,* pray for us.

*Strength of caregivers,* pray for us.

*Help of Christians,* pray for us.

*Queen of angels,* pray for us.

*Queen of apostles,* pray for us.

*Queen of martyrs,* pray for us.

*Queen of virgins,* pray for us.

*Queen of all saints,* pray for us.

*Queen of Heaven,* pray for us.

*Lamb of God,* you take away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

*Lamb of God,* you take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

*Lamb of God,* you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

*Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,* that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son,* and of the Holy Spirit.

*Amen.*
**READINGS & REFLECTIONS**

**Sunday, Apr 12, 2020**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)**

**What do you see?**

Once more, we arrive at the most significant void in sacred history: that empty tomb of Easter. What we see in this space defines the shape of our destiny. Do we view nothing or everything in this place? Is Jesus simply gone or restored to glory? Is death the end of us, or the start of something everlasting? Are we God’s cherished children or just another expression of nature’s capriciousness? Most of all, are we prepared to call Jesus Lord and to follow him through death into life? Or do we have other plans?


**Monday, Apr 13, 2020**

**MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

**Put the Resurrection to work**

Do we bravely race from the tomb toward new life as Mary Magdalene and Mary did, or burrow into timid cover? Consider the example of Henri Perrin, born this day in 1914. He was part of the French worker-priest movement where priests went to work in factories to bridge the abyss between the working class and the church. The Vatican grew alarmed by the political activism of the priests on behalf of labor, and stopped the experiment. The concerns of worker-priests were given new life in the Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes,* “On the Church in the Modern World,” and later by Pope John Paul II, who demanded of priests that the “fumes of incense mix with those of industry.” Reflect on what worker-justice concerns you can give new life.

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). “Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed.”

**Tuesday, Apr 14, 2020**

**TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

**Our star witness**

Mary of Magdala was first to witness and testify to Jesus’ Resurrection. She is called “apostle to the apostles” for good reason. Mentioned by name in the gospels more often than most apostles, Mary traveled with Jesus and helped support his ministry financially. The question is, how do we witness to resurrection in our own life and times? In a world too often bent on destruction and death, how can we witness to hope and to life? Let “the Magdalene” be an inspiration!

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262). “Mary went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ and then reported what he had told her.”

**Wednesday, Apr 15, 2020**

**WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

**Call for backup**

The miracles of Jesus did not end with Jesus’ earthly sojourn. Today’s reading from Acts describes Peter and John healing in Jesus’ name. What confidence that must have taken, to try healing a man lame from birth! The word *confidence* means “with trust.” A nice way to understand the power of faith. Be a healing presence in the world, with the trust that Jesus has your back!

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). “Peter said, ‘I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.’”

**Thursday, Apr 16, 2020**

**THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

**Eat, drink, and take heart**

Where would Catholic culture be without food and drink? In today’s gospel Jesus reassures his disciples that he is not a ghost by eating a piece of baked fish. Food is simple, basic, and necessary. It is natural that we eat and drink together at the Eucharist, at parish dinners, at family meals. Every bite of baked fish can remind us of our Savior. Savor your next meal with fellow believers and let it drive out fear as it opens you to love, the way it did for Jesus’ disciples 2,000 years ago.

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264). “Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones.”

**Friday, Apr 17, 2020**

**FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

**No need to hide your solidarity**

However did the fish symbol—two intersecting arcs—come to be associated with Jesus? Because his disciples were fishermen? Because of the miracle of the loaves and fishes? Because Catholics eat fish on Fridays? The letters of the Greek word for fish, *ichthys,* are an acronym for “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.” It was a secret symbol used by the persecuted early Christians. What outward sign of solidarity can you make with those who are persecuted for their faith today?

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). “Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish you just caught.’”

**Saturday, Apr 18, 2020**

**SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER**

**The news is still good**

Do you ever think about how the followers of Jesus must have felt after his death? We see their situation through the lens of the Resurrection, but they thought his death was the end of everything. Those grief-stricken men and women were lost and afraid. Imagine their disbelief when some among them began to report that they had seen Jesus. Disbelief began to feel like hope as he continued to show up and even eat with them. That was the beginning. Two thousand years later, we continue to share the meals and tell the stories of this incredibly good news.

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). “She went to announce the good news to his followers.”