

St Anthony Church

409 W. Columbia Ave, Belleville, MI | 734-697-1211 | stanthonybelleville.com

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Faith Companions



About twenty years ago, I pulled a particularly interesting article from the *Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* and placed it in my "homily material" file.

By pure chance, while I was paging through that file this weekend, it fell into my hands. It describes a phenomenon taking place in the waning years of the Twentieth Century ... one, at least in a small way, I saw recurring these last two years, up to the State-imposed lock-down last month. My prayer is, once the stay-at-home restrictions are lifted, this trend will continue ...

The *WSJ* carried this article (April 10, 1998), about the large number of successful young professionals who were returning to the Church after having stepped out for a while. The article began by noting that in the past people who had stopped going to church did not feel a need to return until they married, started a family, or were struck with some major tragedy. In the late 1990's, people at the height of their careers and at the peak of their success were taking another look at religion. These were people who had anticipated that success would bring them happiness. Instead, it left them with an emptiness. Someone referred to their success this way: "They landed on the moon and now find themselves asking, 'Is this all there is? There's got to be more to life than this!'"

A case in point is Mary Kay, the head of a Hollywood production company. She left the Church when she left home. She conned herself into believing that religion was no longer relevant for her. But when success came, it didn't taste the way she thought it would. It left a void; something was missing. At first, she tried to fill the void by attending lectures by New Age

gurus and taking university courses on a variety of spiritual topics. But the emptiness persisted.

Then, one day, she finally admitted to herself that she was separated from her faith. She was no longer walking with Jesus. But returning to the Church wasn't easy. She said that it wasn't until she asked God to forgive her for being away that she felt comfortable going back to church again. The *WSJ* article went on to list other examples of other successful people who have returned to the faith for similar reasons.

The story of these young professionals bears a similarity to the story of the two disciples in this weekend's Gospel. They, too, once walked with Jesus. They, too, once talked with Jesus. They, too, once believed he was sent by God to establish God's Kingdom. Then came the events of Good Friday! All their hopes and joy got smashed into a thousand pieces. Disillusioned, they left Jesus behind and went their own way.

It's against this background that they met the "stranger" walking along the road to Emmaus. They listened to him, as they had once listened to Jesus. They walked with him, as they had once walked with Jesus. They watched him break bread, as they had once watched Jesus break it. The "stranger" was not a stranger at all. Incredibly, it was Jesus himself. He was not dead, he was risen and alive.

Something very similar happened to the professionals described in the *Wall Street Journal*. There was a time when they listened to the words of Jesus in the Liturgy of the Word, and there was a time when they watched Jesus break bread in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In other words, there was a time when they, too, walked with Jesus

and were filled with hope and joy. Then came a tragic day when, for some reason, their hopes and dreams got smashed into a thousand pieces. Crestfallen, they, too, left Jesus behind and went their own way.

This should cause each one of us to pause and to reflect ... The stories of the professionals, of the Emmaus disciples, are not unlike our own story. There has been a time in our life - perhaps several times - when our relationship with Jesus got smashed into a thousand pieces. Perhaps we even stopped walking with Jesus for a while. But then came a grace-filled day when we met someone - a friend, a spouse, or even a stranger. And through that person's example Jesus spoke to us again - as he spoke to the two Emmaus disciples. And it was through that person's example that we returned to church, and our eyes were opened, and we recognized Jesus once again, in the breaking of the bread.

Our Gospel this Third Sunday of Easter reminds us that there are many people today - like the two Emmaus disciples and the "young, urban professionals" - who are experiencing an emptiness even though they are successful. **We are invited by Jesus to be for these people what the "stranger" - what *He* was for the two Emmaus disciples.**

And here we need to keep something very important in mind. If Jesus is to speak through us today to people who no longer walk with him, *it will not necessarily be through our words, but through our love, our kindness, and our forgiveness.* For in this world of skepticism, people are not looking primarily for words, but compassion, concern, kindness, and forgiveness. Words can come later.

God bless you.

Fr. John Kiselica

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Catholic Social Action

Crisis Pregnancy Hotline, 800-Bethany
Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-4355
Project Rachel Ministry, 888-722-4355

CYO (Youth Athletics)

Leonard Szweda, 699-3519

Knights of Columbus

William Alati, 347-0426

Men's Club/Ushers

Leonard Szweda, 699-3519

Natural Family Planning

Rachel Faitel, 395-5624

RCIA

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Darrel Recker, 572-0157

St. Anthony Marriage Enrichment (SAME)

Rachel Faitel 395-5624

St. Theresa Circle

Betty Kurczewski, 699-2608

St. Vincent de Paul

Contact Rectory, 697-1211

Welcome Team

Linda LeBlanc, 262-5008
Carol Ann Pesta 697-0500

Scouting

American Heritage Girls,
Angela Vinareik, 697-7756
Boy Scouts, Jeff Smith, 699-7994
Cub Scouts, Misty Myers, 512-3487

Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org

FORMED log in:
stanthonymbelleville.formed.org

Regular Office hours:
Monday - Thursday 9 am to 3 pm



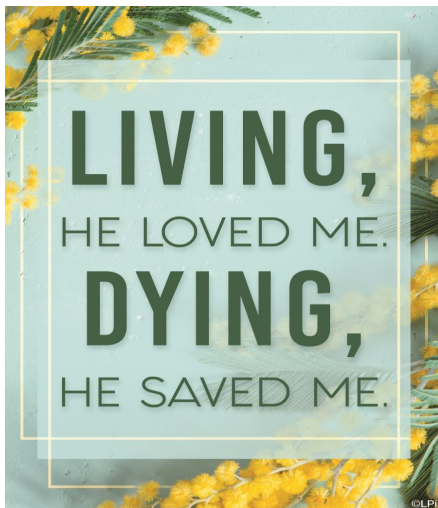
Our Friends, Family and Loved Ones . . .

- Richard Willet
- Margot Shields
- Joshua Lowery family
- Jonathan McKenzie
- Mary Talaga
- Marti Brown
- Betty Kurczewski
- Joan Huziak
- Jim Whittico
- Carol Sobacki
- Carol Luscomb
- Emily Greca Henson
- Gina Simpson
- Jane Atchinson
- Leona Harris
- Theda Conroy

For Those who serve overseas . . .

- Lieutenant Red Powell
- Marine Corps Cody S. Pratt
- Master Sgt, Daniel Babcock
- PFC Michael C. Davis
- PFC Zach Rhodes
- SPC Lawrence J. Maples, Sr.
- SPC Travis Weber
- Staff Sergeant Alejandro Gonzalez
- Staff Sergeant Theresa Gonzalez

*The prayer list is updated monthly.
To continue prayers or to add the names of your loved ones, please contact the parish office.*



Do you know someone who would like to:

- Learn more about the Catholic Faith?
- Return home to the Church and more actively practice his/her faith?
- Prepare for Baptism?
- Join the Catholic Church community?
- Have other needs, requests or questions addressed?

Or perhaps this describes you?

Every year, the Catholic Church welcomes thousands of new members and returning members through the process of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Call Darrel Recker (572-0157) or Carol Uhal (485-7544) for information about how to get started!

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The Faith Community of St. Anthony Parish, Belleville, open to the Spirit as disciples of Jesus Christ, envision our mission as Proclaiming, Witnessing and Celebrating the Kingdom of God among us through Service, Healing and Reconciling Love.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Teresa Dore

734-699-3373



The Third Sunday of Easter *52 Sundays*

EXPLORE THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

The Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

- In the beginning of today's Gospel story, the disciples were frustrated and discouraged when Jesus came along side and began to converse with them. Share a time when you talked to Jesus about something that frustrated you. What did Jesus say back to you?
- When do you find it easy to invite Jesus to walk with you? When do you find it difficult?
- In what way does today's story remind you of Mass?

FAMILY FUN

Have an indoor family picnic together. It can be a meal or a snack. Set up a large blanket on the floor for the family to sit on. Relax, and enjoy each others company. Remember to follow the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" guidelines.

FAMILY PRAYER

Emmaus Prayer

Lord, as we walk down the journey of life, we ask that you would be our constant companion, particularly on those days when we are disheartened or when we have strayed off of your path. When we are downcast, we ask that you lift our spirits. When we are confused, we ask that you enlighten our minds. When we are disappointed, we ask that you give us hope. You, Lord, have blessed us with your gospel. Open our minds and hearts to receive your word, and send your Holy Spirit to give us understanding. May your teaching take root in our lives and guide us in your ways. While we have faith in you, Lord, we also have our moments of doubt. We ask that you would deepen our faith, so that rededicated to you, we would give bolder witness, and freely and gladly give generous service. You gently ask us to invite you into our hearts and homes. With a spirit of welcome and humility, we invite you to dwell with us always. We offer our praise and thanks for the many ways that you feed us and provide for our many needs. Keep us closely connected to our brothers and sisters in faith. Help us to see others with the eyes of love. Fill us with your compassion. May we work tirelessly to foster relationships in our community built on the foundations of truth, mutual respect, cooperation, and trust. Amen.

Pax,
Teresa

This Week's Readings

Saturday April 25th St. Mark	1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2] Mk 16:15-20
Sunday April 26th 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a] 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35
Monday April 27th	Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab] Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday April 28th St. Louis Grignon de Montfort	Acts 7:51—8:1a Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 7 & 8, 17 & 21 Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday April 29th St. Catherine of Siena	Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1] Jn 6:35-40
Thursday April 30th St. Pius V	Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1] Jn 6:44-51
Friday May 1st St. Joseph the Worker	Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15] Jn 6:52-59
Saturday May 2nd St. Athanasius	Acts 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12] Jn 6:60-69
Sunday May 3rd 4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1] 1 Pt 2:20b-25 Jn 10:1-10



Fun Facts! Sunday, April 26 is National Pretzel Day! A young monk first started baking pretzels around the year 610. He folded the dough into a shape resembling a child crossing its arms in prayer. It is said that the three holes in a pretzel twist represent the Holy Trinity.