

Home Religious Education for Sunday, April 12th -Sunday, April 19th
What's happening in Scripture this week for Families,

Bible Readings for the Mass from Home 3rd Grade to 12th Grade:

Monday April 13

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33 St. Peter's speech at Pentecost
Psalm 16, "***Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.***"
Gospel, Matthew 28:8-15 Mary Magdalene at the tomb

Tuesday, April 14

First Reading Act 2:36-41 St. Peter's speech at Pentecost, "***Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.***"
Psalm 33, "***The earth is full of goodness of the Lord.***"
Gospel, John 20: 11-18 Mary Magdalen sees Jesus resurrected from the dead.

Wednesday, April 15

First Reading, Acts 3:1-10 Peter heals the crippled man. "***I have neither silver nor gold, but I have I will give you, "IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST THE NAZAREAN, rise and walk.***"
Psalm 105 "***Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord.***"
Gospel, Luke 24: 13-35 Jesus appears to two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. "***The disciples told the Apostles all they had seen, and how He was made known to them in the breaking of the Bread.***"

Thursday, April 16

First Reading, Acts 3:11-26 Peter address the people about how their leaders put Jesus unjustly to death.
Psalm 8 "***O Lord our God, how wonderful your name in all the Earth.***"
Gospel, Luke 24:35-48 The Apostles are told about Jesus appearing on the Road to Emmaus.

Friday, April 17

First Reading, Acts 4:1-13 St. Peter is brought before the High Priest for healing a man in Jesus' name.
"***Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified.***"
Psalm 118 "***The Stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.***"
Gospel, John 21:1-14 Jesus appears to the Apostles while they were fishing.

Saturday, April 18

First Reading, Acts 4:13-21 "***So they called them back and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. Then Peter said, "it is better to be righteous before God rather than men.***"
Psalm "***I will give thanks to you for you have rescued me.***"
Gospel Mark 16:9-15 "***Jesus appeared to the 11 and said, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.***"

Sunday, April 19

First Reading, Acts 2:42-47 "***They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers...and daily the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.***"
Psalm "***Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, his love is everlasting.***"
Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3-9 "***you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, which is more precious and purified than gold that is tested by fire, can be accomplished.***"
Gospel John 20:19-31 "***he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.***"

Explanations and Reflections For Parents and Students 3rd through 12th Grade

The First and Second Readings

-In this week's first readings from Mass, all come from the Acts of the Apostles, written by St. Luke. We read about the Apostles right after Pentecost, having received the Holy Spirit. Immediately they went out into the streets and began to preach about Jesus' Resurrection. They preached about changing hearts and turning away from sin, faith in Jesus as God's only Son who suffered and died for their sins, and how their leaders had Jesus killed out of ignorance and jealousy.

-Soon after, Peter is confronted with a crippled man and in Jesus' name heals him. Others, loyal to the high priest tell him the Apostles are still preaching in Jesus' name, and they are brought in for questioning. Afterwards they are strictly warned that publicly preaching about Jesus and against the leaders would put their lives at risk. The Apostles do not stop preaching and teaching about Jesus, even when they are arrested/ beaten.

-The Apostles knew after seeing Jesus crucified that to continue to preach the Gospel meant their lives would be at risk. This is why God sent the Holy Spirit to them at Pentecost, to take away their fear through a supernatural trust in Him. The same Holy Spirit that comes to us through the Sacrament of Confirmation and through prayer, to strengthen us in COURAGE, HOPE, FAITH, and LOVE, to live out what we believe, even before those who may persecute us for it.

Prayer and Reflection

-In many parts of the world Christians face persecution for believing in Christ's Resurrection. Sometimes they even face death. What if someone told you could not go to Mass, or talk about or practice your faith ever again in public? Would you feel something was missing? What if the Apostles cared more about living and easy life than telling the world about Jesus risen from the dead? If you knew Jesus really rose from the dead, and wanted everyone to put faith in his Resurrection and eternal life, would you tell others, or keep silent?

We believe that without Jesus' death on the cross and Resurrection we could not have eternal life and that this is something God wants to offer to everyone. The world can only know about the "Good News," if we are willing to live our witness to the Christian faith daily. Let us pray this week for all our brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer to live out their Christian faith under persecution.

The Psalms

-All the Psalms speak of hope in God in difficult times, and how Jesus himself was rejected by his leaders, but because God already knows all things, even his rejection, God's plan for our salvation was still accomplished. "*The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.*"

-This helps us to understand that difficulties and crosses in life, if accept them with great love and Gratitude they can produce great holiness in us. "*If you wish to be my disciple you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.*" We cannot do this without faith backed up daily prayer especially the Rosary. God never abandons us and can bring great growth and holiness in us if we learn to imitate Jesus, and the Blessed Mother, who accepted with joy God's will for at all times trust.

"Then Mary said to the Angel, "Let it be done to me according to your word...and Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit and conceived.

"Father, if this cup can pass from me, let it, but not my will, but yours will be done."

Prayer and Reflection, pray each day after reading each Psalm

-Jesus, help us to trust in your goodness and love for us. You who the world rejects. Help us to rejoice and trust in you always. "Jesus I trust in you."

The Gospels

-In the Gospel we see Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalen, after his Resurrection. She does not recognize Jesus at first, and does not know he has risen from the dead. When he speaks to her, she thinks He is a gardener, before He calls her by name, and she turns to see her Lord and God risen from the dead.

-Mary Magdalene tells the Apostles she has seen Jesus risen, and they must see for themselves. We must live life like Mary Magdalene in that moment and tell others about the Lord's Resurrection through the lives we live, so that they too will want to see for themselves.

-Next, Jesus appears to two disciples, sad after his crucifixion, walking to a nearby city of Emmaus. Jesus is in disguise, and as they walk He explains to them how all these things that happened were prophesied about Him having to suffer and die. Finally, Jesus offers to break bread with them, and says the same words of the Eucharist in the Mass:

"This is my body, this is my blood, given up for you." At those words, they realized it was Jesus, and He disappeared from their sight, leaving only the Blessed Sacrament."

-After the two disciples got back to Jerusalem, they told the Apostles about what happened and said: *"our hearts burned within us as He spoke, and how He was made present in the breaking of the bread."*

-Lastly, Jesus appears to the Apostles after his Resurrection. He sends the Holy Spirit upon them and tells them, as his priests, to forgive sins in his name. (Sacrament of Reconciliation)

-Thomas, who was not with them on that morning does not believe at first Jesus has really risen, unless he puts his fingers into the wounds in Jesus' hands and side.

-Jesus comes back again the next Sunday as the Apostles are together celebrating the Mass, and says to Thomas, *"Come Thomas, put your hands into my wounds, and do not continue to disbelieve, but believe. Then Thomas said, "My Lord, and My God. Then Jesus said, "Blessed are they who have seen and believed, even more blessed are they who have NOT seen, and believe."*

-This is an excellent teaching on what we believe about Jesus' body and blood in the Holy Eucharist.

Prayer and Reflection

My dear Jesus, you ask us to believe in something the world says is impossible, in your Resurrection from the dead. And yet this is the truth your Church has proclaimed for 2,000 years. Even your own disciples had a hard time believing it. Mary Magdalene didn't recognize you until you called her name. Thomas refused to believe what the prophets foretold about you before you were even born.

You appeared before the Apostles and they could hardly believe you were present. Two times after your resurrection you appeared and referred to your body and blood in the Eucharist. Once while celebrating Mass with the two disciples in Emmaus, and once telling Thomas, *"Blessed are they who believe and have not seen."*

Help us dear Jesus to have faith in your Resurrection. What the Apostles later shed their blood to preach to others. And in the Holy Eucharist, the Most Blessed Sacrament, through which you continue to be present in every Church until the end of the ages.

This week, let us pray for ourselves that we might have greater faith and trust in You, for all those who have no faith, or struggle in their faith, and especially for family and friends who have lost their faith in God and the Resurrection, that we can live in a Godly way, that gives others hope in the Gospel that the Apostles shed their blood to protect.

-The Sunday after Easter is called Divine Mercy Sunday. We are asked on this day to pray as a family, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on the Rosary, remembering the Great Mercy of God that we are given through the Sacred Heart of Jesus, poured out through the Most Holy Eucharist.

1) Apostles Creed,

2) Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

3) On Big Beads, *"Eternal Merciful Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity, of your dearly beloved Son. Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In atonement for our sins, and of the whole world."*

4) On little beads, “*For the sake of his sorrow passion, have mercy on us, and on the whole world.*”

5) Closing prayer, x5 “*Jesus, I trust in You.*”

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy recited in English on Formed, and Spanish on Youtube.

-www.watchformed.org/divine-mercy-chaplet-franciscan-friars-of-the-renewal

-[www.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJczyerAxdU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJczyerAxdU)

- The Divine Mercy Chaplet is also available on the Free Catholify Phone App.

Lessons for Grades K-3rd Grade, Read Scripture and explain

Monday, April 13 -It is Easter Week. This week we remember Jesus’ Resurrection from the Dead.

Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can enter into heaven, because his death on the cross paid the price for our sins. This is the message of the Gospel, that God loved us so much he would pay any price so be able to love us forever.

Today we read about Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene who went to Jesus’ tomb and his body wasn’t there. Do you know anyone who has died. What if you went to visit their grave and they weren’t inside, and appeared to you? How would you react? Mary responded with great joy. Would people still be afraid of death if they really believed Jesus rose from the dead?

Tuesday, April 15 -After Jesus’ Resurrection St. Peter and the other Apostles told others about Jesus rising from the dead. Not everyone wanted to hear the message. The Apostles were arrested, and even beaten up. But how could they keep silent after they saw Jesus? They couldn’t, because that wouldn’t be true. They went all over the world and spoke about Jesus Rising from the Dead, because He is the Son of God. Most of them were even killed for their belief in Christ. But they weren’t afraid to die, why would they be, after they saw Jesus risen from the dead.

Wednesday, April 16 -St. Peter heals a crippled man in Jesus’ name, and is arrested for it. Even healing a man was looked at as bad by those who hated Jesus and wanted the Apostles to never mention him, or the Resurrection again. If they had been silent the Church would not be there today.

In the Gospel Jesus appears to two disciples in disguise who do not recognize him until he celebrates the Mass just like Jesus did, and then disappears, leaving only the Eucharist behind. What a beautiful way to explain what happens at Mass. Jesus is always present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Thursday, April 17 -Jesus continues to appear to the Apostles after his Resurrection, even when they are fishing. Jesus was in disguise, but they recognize its Jesus by how he acts and what he says. Can other people see Jesus in your actions? How do you see Jesus in their actions? How do you act like Jesus?

Friday, April 18 -Jesus’ command to the Apostles, and to us, is to go out and preach the Gospel to everyone. Some people like a priest do this at mass. Other people, like your parents teach you the gospel. How is Jesus calling you to teach others about his Resurrection in your life right now?

Saturday April 19 -Jesus appears to the Apostles after his Resurrection, and gives them the power as Priests to forgive others of sins. This is why priests can forgive the sins of others, because Jesus gave them his authority to do this. Priests forgive sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

First Communion Grades 2 and 3

-This week students should watch the Blessed Program video: Chapter 5, lessons 4,5, and 6., And Read and reflect on the K-3rd Grade scriptures and reflections above.

-www.dynamiccatholic.com/blessed/first-communion/program-view/session-5

Confirmation I

- 1) Read the reflections on the Readings for Mass each day this week, spending time in prayer and reflection while reading them.
- 2) The Sunday after Easter, April 19th, is the Feast of Divine Mercy, of which we have an image of in our Church. This Image was painted at the order of St. Faustina of Poland (d 1938) and was asked of her by Jesus in apparitions before she died. The devotion to this image and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy celebrate the Divine Mercy of Jesus poured out on the cross, especially for those most trapped in sin.

“Mankind will not have peace until it receives my Divine Mercy...Let the sinner not be afraid to approach my mercy, I desire to pour it out on them.” -Jesus’ words to St. Faustina

There are special graces, and blessing attached to celebrating this day, especially with praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with the Rosary.

How to Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

- A) Apostles Creed,
- B) Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.
- C) On Big Beads, *“Eternal Merciful Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity, of your dearly beloved Son. Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In atonement for our sins, and of the whole world.”*
- D) On little beads, *“For the sake of his sorrow passion, have mercy on us, and on the whole world.”*
- E) Closing prayer, x5 *“Jesus, I trust in You.”*

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy recited in English on Formed.org, and Spanish on Youtube.com.

English -<https://www.watch.formed.org/divine-mercy-chaplet-franciscan-friars-of-the-renewal>

Spanish -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJczyerAxdU>

- 3) Reflections on the Message of Divine Mercy, in English
-www.watch.formed.org/videos/the-saving-power-of-divine-mercy-by-fr-jason-brooks
-www.watch.formed.org/videos/orientation-and-introduction-1 -Fr. Michael Gately
- 4) The Divine Mercy Chaplet is also available on the Free Catholify Phone App.

Confirmation II and Family Catechesis

- 1) Read daily Scripture, and reflections and explanations above.
- 2) Lessons, activities, for Family Catechesis Available on Parish Web Page and Facebook, or can be downloaded from Sophia Institute web site:
- <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/familyoffaithvol2supplements#y2april> .
- 3) Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, directions above.