

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of the Easter Season. Our Gospel reading for today is from St. Luke which is the continuation and conclusion of that first day of the week (the day of the Resurrection) when the two disciples quickly returned from Emmaus. They excitedly told the other disciples about their encounter with the Resurrected Lord and how they recognized him in the "Breaking of the Bread". While they were still speaking, Jesus stood in the midst of them. Jesus spoke to them saying "Peace be with you." These words are the very words that Jesus had earlier in his ministry instructed his disciples to say when they entered a house when they were sent out on a mission. St. Luke likes to make these little subtle connections with previous passages in the gospel. However, in this case this is more than a simple greeting; it is the fullness of the greeting since Jesus, our resurrected Lord, is peace itself. He is and is the cause of all genuine peace. Where Jesus is, there is peace.

Nevertheless, Luke relates to us that the disciples are *terrified, troubled and filled with questions*. The Resurrection is so radically new their reactions are normal. We have seen these reactions earlier in Luke's gospel when Zechariah encountered the angel who announced that he and his elderly wife would conceive and have a son (St. John the Baptist). Mary also had a similar reaction to the Angel at the Annunciation. The shepherds who received the great news of the birth of Jesus had a terrified reaction to the announcing angel. We also recall the reaction of the women at the empty tomb. The reaction of the disciples to the Resurrected Lord is consistent especially when we consider the encounter with the divine has an unsettling effect with humans.

The reactions that we read in the gospels to the Resurrected Lord were initially the thoughts of the disciples who thought they were seeing a ghost or a spirit: a disembodied being. The appearance of Jesus in the room where the disciples gathered was unnerving. Jesus extends his Peace and then proceeds to demonstrate that he has been raised; bodily. This bodily resurrection is so new that it is very difficult to comprehend on the part of the apostles. Just the same it was also very difficult for the early church. For that matter it is also difficult for many people even to this day. (Sadly, some theologians discount the actual resurrection.) It is difficult because it is a matter of faith. This faith is grounded in facts. Knowing the difficulty for the disciples to grasp, Jesus does three things to demonstrate the reality of His resurrection.

Jesus invites the eleven to look and see the nail marks and his pierced side. It is important for the disciples to use their eyes, the use of their sense of vision to actually see the Resurrected Lord. "Look at my hands and my feet." Standing before them is Jesus who was crucified. He bares the marks of his crucifixion.

Jesus invites them to "touch me." Using their sense of feeling they are to realize that a ghost does not have flesh and bones. Even with this, seeing and touching, the disciples are still incredulous. This is overwhelming. It is too good to believe literally.

Finally, Jesus gives them another demonstration; Jesus asks them... "do you have anything here to eat?" Before their eyes Jesus eats a piece of baked fish. I find this little detail interesting since it completes the disciples recognizing Jesus in the "breaking of the bread" at Emmaus. This is a bold reminder of the miracle Jesus performed when he fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish. This is the same Jesus who is now resurrected from the dead. St. Luke is subtle and inspiring.

These three demonstrations provided by the Lord all point to the fact that this is the same Jesus, whom they followed for three years, was crucified, buried and is now resurrected from the dead. These are the facts before their very lives. These facts prove his identity. However, there still has to be the *act of faith*. The act of faith is what we considered last Sunday with St. Thomas the Apostle. After Thomas was confronted with the facts of the resurrected Lord, seeing and touching, St. Thomas made the declaration of faith "My Lord and My God!" The facts point to the identity of Jesus, the act of faith is the declaration that Jesus is the Son of God. The facts lead to the declaration, but the facts are not the declaration of Jesus is Lord.

Looking back to all the miracles Jesus performed throughout his life, Jesus wanted people to believe in him as the Messiah. Thousands of people were beneficiaries of these miracles, but the vast majority did not come to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, the son of God. The point of the teachings and miracles of Jesus' public ministry was always about calling people to believe in Jesus the promised Messiah. The miracles demonstrated God's love for all humanity; the desire of God for the salvation of all people; the removal of all that prevents a sharing in God's love (sin) in and through Jesus, His only begotten Son. The teachings of Jesus were an inspiration for the people to trust in Him. The miracles were to inspire trust in God's love.

We learn so much with this Easter celebration. When we consider all the facts that the disciples of Jesus witnessed, we see that the act of faith is truly what some of the saints called "a leap in the darkness". We also learn that the act of faith is founded upon facts. It is a reasonable thing to trust. Yet we tend to be cautious when it comes to total trust. We often express this as not trusting what we know. Sometimes we do not trust what we know.

There is something that is common to all of us as human beings. Nothing gets into our brain unless it goes through the five senses. We must see, touch, taste, hear and smell in order for information to get into our heads. The disciples had "hands on" experiences of Jesus. This is what they give witness to: the facts that lead to the act of faith. This is captured at the conclusion of the Gospel of St. John. "*This is the disciple (John) who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*" We rely on the testimony of those who were with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry and appeared to them after his crucifixion and resurrection. We depend on their witness and their faith in Jesus Christ. We rely on their eyewitness in order that we may know and place our faith in Jesus Christ: our act of faith.

We know the act of faith is very difficult. We only have to read the history of the Church. The Church has a long history of Saints and Sinners. We can review the lives of the saints and know of their struggles as they put their love and total trust in the Lord. We can also review the many that did not love or put even a modicum of trust in the Lord. Living our Christian Faith is not easy. We tend to be cautious with our trust. We know this about ourselves; we should also consider this about the disciples. Then again, we should be encouraged by them and push ourselves to greater love and faith in the Lord.

We are in the time of Christian Joy as we celebrate the Easter Season. We find encouragement for our faith as we contemplate God's great love for us. "*For God so loved the world*

that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” This is good news. This is a cause for joy. It is also a cause for us to respond with our act of faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Have a great Easter Week.  
Father Ralko

**This week we pray Week I of the  
Liturgy of the hours.**

**Church Support**

April 11, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$8159.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$4,270.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	\$(2,590.00)

**May God bless you for supporting your parish!**

**Youth Ministry News!**

Catalyst Nights – Students grades 7-12 are invited to a Catalyst Night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity center on Sunday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. The evening is led by the National Evangelization Team (NET), college age missionaries. The night includes dinner, presentations, games, skits, prayer, friends and fun. This is a joint, St. Thomas and St. Nicholas youth event and all teens grades 7-12 regardless of affiliation are invited. Parents are welcome!

**Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)** is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition program for men and women who experienced the trauma of being raised in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional home. It is a safe place to learn how alcoholism and other family dysfunction affected the past, how it influences the present, and how to heal the wounds for a better future. Meetings are held in the Saint Nicholas Church Social Hall (Church Basement). **MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THURSDAYS at 7:00 p.m.** Please use the Silliman Street door. Meetings are expected to last no more than one hour, and masks are required. Contact James Sullivan for more Information at (740) 670 –2959.

**The Month of May in honor of Mary our Mother**, we will pray the Rosary before the weekend Masses. Those interested in leading the Rosary before the 5:15 p.m. Saturday Mass or the Sunday 8:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. Mass should contact the parish office.

**The Catholic Schools of Zanesville**

**Bishop Fenwick School**, located at 1030 E. Main Street in Zanesville, is seeking a full-time Physical Education Teacher for the 2021-22 school year.

**Requirements:**

Hold an appropriate Ohio teaching license (Professional, Permanent, Provisional or Resident Educator) or be eligible to obtain one before beginning to teach.

Current satisfactory BCI & FBI background checks

Have attended or be willing to attend a VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children training

Complete the online teaching application for the Diocese of Columbus

Interested candidates may email their resume and letter of interest to Kelly Sagan, Executive Director of the Catholic Schools of Zanesville, at [ksagan@cducation.org](mailto:ksagan@cducation.org)

**MOTHER’S DAY TRIBUTE**

The Muskingum Valley Right to Life will once again be sponsoring a full-page Mother’s Day tribute ad in the Times Recorder on **May 9**. For this we will be collecting names, along with a \$3.00 donation, at all masses, April 25 and on May 2, from all who wish to honor mother(s), both living and deceased, on their special day.

**Real Presence, Real Future reflections: He Is Risen!**

**Deacon. Tom Berg, Jr., St. Andrew Parish**

“Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.” With these joyous words from the Gospel on this Easter Sunday, we celebrate our Lord’s resurrection, his victory over death and sin, rejoicing in his Real Presence in our lives. This is the pinnacle of our Catholic life of faith, what drives and inspires us every day to walk ever closer with our loving Lord as we journey toward the Real Future of God’s promise of salvation for those who put their trust and faith in Him.

To read more about how we are growing together in the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit [www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org](http://www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org)

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP FINDING OUR PEOPLE.** There are rumors that the nursing homes will soon be open for visits and we hope to resume homebound visits soon. It has come to our attention that many people have moved in the past year. Please help us update our nursing home and homebound lists by notifying the parish office with the name and location of those who are either homebound or in nursing homes. We don't want to miss anyone! (740) 453-0597, ext. 14.

**BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS AND PRAYER CARDS!** Looking for a good read? A variety of good books are available in the vestibule (back of the church), including children's books. The suggested donation is \$2.00 per book and proceeds are used to purchase additional books. Free copies of the "National Catholic Register", a Catholic newspaper that covers today's hot topics, are available on the front pews in the church and in the vestibule. Also, prayer cards and pamphlets on a variety of topics are available in the vestibule. These are also free. Take some for yourself and take some to share!

### ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

St. Nicholas Church has a convenient way to make your regular offerings. With our electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Even when something prevents you from attending services, our church will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis. To become an electronic giver, call or visit the church office or our website: [stnickparish.org](http://stnickparish.org).

*Our thoughts and prayers remain with those serving our country currently and with their loved ones at home. We pray for a safe homecoming and that the world may one day be at peace.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARISH IN YOUR WILL. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 453-0597 FOR MORE DETAILS.**

*Please join us each Monday at the St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel at 2:00 p.m. as we gather to pray the Rosary asking Our Lady's Intercession or the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.*

### INCOME TAX

If you would like to have a record of your donations to the Church for tax purposes, please fill in your envelope number, name and address or email and place it in the collection basket. A statement will be sent to you.

Envelope No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

## *What's Happening in Our Parish*

### MONDAY, April 19

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Barbara Miller, Church*

2:00 p.m., *Rosary: Parish Office*

7:00 p.m., *Mercy Bible Study, Parish Office*

### TUESDAY, April 20

9:00 a.m., Mass: *St. Thomas Intention, Church*

### WEDNESDAY, April 21, St. Anseim

9:00 a.m., School Mass: *Anthony Tung Nguyen, birthday, Church*

### THURSDAY, April 22

8:00 a.m., Mass: *St. Thomas Intention, Church*

7:00 p.m., *Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting, Church Basement*

### FRIDAY, April 23, St. George and St. Adalbert

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Margaret Paul, Church*

## *4th Sunday of Easter*

### SATURDAY, April 24, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

4:15 p.m. p.m.-4:45 p.m., *Confessions, Church*

5:15 p.m., Mass: *Judy King, Church*

### SUNDAY, April 25

8:15 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

9:15 a.m., *Sunday School, Parish Office*

10:45 a.m., Mass: *Harold & Mary Lou Roessler, Church*

## *Readings for Week of April 19*

Mon. . . . .	Acts 6:8-15	Jn 6:22-29
Tues. . . . .	Acts 7:51-8:1a	Jn 6:30-35
Wed . . . . .	Acts 8:1b-8	Jn 6:35-40
Thurs. . . . .	Acts 8:26-40	Jn 6:44-51
Fri. . . . .	Acts 9:1-20	Jn 6:52-59
Sat. . . . .	Acts 9:31-42	Jn 6:60-69
Sun . . . . .	Acts 4:8-12	Jn 10:11-18

### **Cantor Schedule**

First Holy Communion Mass  
April 24 11:00 a.m. Kevin McCarthy  
  
April 24 5:15 p.m. Sandy Black  
April 25 8:15 a.m. Janet Moses  
10:45 a.m. Lucille Morosco