



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

Reflections with Fr. Mark

April 26, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

Practice patience! Stay close! These are practical and intelligent suggestions to anybody in a crisis. And, yet, like some of the disciples we make bonehead moves that can be considered foolish. We see this in our Gospel today, too, as we hear about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Let's look at what I mean.

The travelers to Emmaus (and, of course, no one really knows where Emmaus is. I was taken to at least three of them during visits to the Holy Lands) abandoned hope too soon. They left "community closeness" to venture out having lost hope following the crucifixion of Jesus. They leave the community of faith that would have strengthened them. Along the way they discount stories that Jesus is still being encountered. It's no wonder they did not recognize Jesus as he walked with them. Boneheads! Okay, now look in the mirror and say "hello"! We do the same exact thing!

How often do we hear friends or family who leave the faith? How often do we journey alone because the community frustrates us? How often do we not believe the presence of God in our lives? Perhaps we have blinded ourselves or our closed-mindedness allows for failure to recognize Him in our midst! As with the disciples, Jesus walks with us always! Sometimes, we just don't "come, to the table" to share a meal with Him.

Peter's letter today is speaking to the Gentile churches in Asia Minor and he knows the recipients of his letter need to break from their past in order to embrace God's gift to them in Jesus Christ. Each of us needs to let go of past ways of thinking and doing. When is the last time you embraced change? Sometimes it is this intransigence that blinds us from the newness of life offered in the new life of Resurrection in Jesus. The Good News announces change and newness of life throughout its pages of Old and New Testament. But it is in Jesus that we are freed from the chains of all that binds. May this Easter free you from that which binds and usher in a new relationship of recognizing the power of Jesus Christ in your life.

So, in our time of living and worshipping differently then we have: practice patience and stay close. Patience in learning: a new way to pray, to receive communion, to relate, to teach, to learn and in being human. It will show that you are willing to become anew, to change. But, stay close, too: To Him, to each other, to your soul and to the community that is apart. While many of our practices may change for some time into the future we can continue to grow in new ways and new life. God is Good all the time. All the Time God is good!

Be assured that our daily journey includes you in our prayers.

Happy Easter! He is Risen! Alleluia!

Fr. Mark

Watch Sunday Mass from St. Luke at Home: The recordings are available on our Parish website, www.stluketemplecity.org, and sent through our e-communications. The services will remain posted so you may view at your convenience.

Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications: <https://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19>