

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

The Gospel of this Sunday - the Third of Easter - is the famous account of the disciples of Emmaus. It tells the tale of two followers of Christ who, on the day after the Sabbath or the third day after his death, were leaving Jerusalem sad and dejected, bound for a village that was not far off called, precisely, Emmaus. They were joined on their way by the Risen Jesus but did not recognize Him. Realizing that they were downhearted, He explained, drawing on the Scriptures, that the Messiah had to suffer and die in order to enter into his glory. Then entering the house with them, He sat down to eat, blessed the bread and broke it; and at that instant they recognized Him but He vanished from their sight, leaving them marveling before that broken bread, a new sign of his presence. And they both immediately headed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples of the event.

The locality of Emmaus has not been identified with certainty. There are various hypotheses and this one is not without an evocativeness of its own for it allows us to think that Emmaus actually represents every place: the road that leads there is the road every Christian, every person, takes. The Risen Jesus makes himself our traveling companion as we go on our way, to rekindle the warmth of faith and hope in our hearts and to break the bread of eternal life. In the disciples' conversation with the unknown wayfarer the words the evangelist Luke puts in the mouth of one of them are striking: "We had hoped...". This verb in the past tense tells all: we believed, we followed, we hoped..., but now everything is over. Even Jesus of Nazareth, who had shown Himself in His words and actions to be a powerful prophet, has failed, and we are left disappointed. This drama of the disciples of Emmaus appears like a reflection of the situation of many Christians of our time: it seems that the hope of faith has failed. Faith itself enters a crisis because of negative experiences that make us feel abandoned and betrayed even by the Lord. But this road to Emmaus on which we walk can become the way of a purification and maturation of our belief in God. Also today we can enter into dialogue with Jesus, listening to his Word. Today too he breaks bread for us and gives himself as our Bread. And so the meeting with the Risen Christ that is possible even today gives us a deeper and more authentic faith tempered, so to speak, by the fire of the Paschal Event; a faith that is robust because it is nourished not by human ideas but by the Word of God and by his Real Presence in the Eucharist.

This marvelous Gospel text already contains the structure of Holy Mass: in the first part, listening to the Word through the Sacred Scriptures; in the second part, the Eucharistic liturgy and communion with Christ present in the Sacrament of his Body and his Blood. In nourishing herself at this two-fold table, the Church is constantly built up and renewed from day to day in faith, hope and charity. Through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, let us pray that in reliving the experience of the disciples of Emmaus every Christian and every community may rediscover the grace of the transforming encounter with the Risen Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

During these trying times we are still trying to keep our Church doors open after this pandemic is over. Contributions can be mailed to PO Box 712, dropped off in the mail slot at the rectory (46 Ball Street) or follow the link below to do online giving. We appreciate your generosity to our parish.

<https://stmarysportjervis.churchgiving.com/>

St. Mary's Food Pantry is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, May 1st from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know needs help, please have them come during those times.

Boyscout's Annual Car Wash & Clothing Drive will be on May 2nd, 9am-2pm, Car Wash is \$5 and collect all clothing, shoes, hats, scarves, gloves, handbags, backpacks, belts, toys and games, all bedding and towel items, draperies and curtains, stuffed animals and dolls, Kindly bag like items together.

We are in need of 3 people to step up to be on the Parish Advisory Council for a 3 year term. We thank previous members Steve Riordan, Cheryl Lovelace, and Janet Smith for their 3 years of service. Please call the parish office to submit your name by Friday, May 22nd. Names will be picked on Sunday, May 31st-Pentecost Sunday. If interested, please leave a message at the parish office (845)856-8212 or email st-marys-rectory@hvc.rr.com.

The Cardinal's Appeal is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$8,690 from 43 donors. You can visit Cardinalsappeal.org. All Donations can be mailed directly to : The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish number is **518**.

Blessed Sunday- Few reminders and suggestions:

1. 6pm pray the Rosary together with your family and our parish family from our homes.
2. If you haven't already set up an altar or place of prayer in your homes. Have a Crucifix, image of Our Lady, your favorite Saints etc.
3. If you view Mass online or on Television; try to take the normal postures you would in Church. (We won't be filming Mass online, because we do not have the proper technology to do so worthily) ewtn and our Cathedral do a wonderful job.
4. Continue to pray:
for those that are sick and suffering from the Coronavirus, those that will die, the nurses, assistants, orderlies, maintenance staff and doctors who are putting their lives on the line for all of us, our EMTs, police officers, firefighters, soldiers, and scientists who are all assisting us at this time.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us who have recourse to you.

Announced Masses

- Monday, April 27**
9:00am All essential workers especially health care workers
- Tuesday, April 28**
9:00am For an increase in response to vocations to the priesthood
- Wednesday, April 29**
9:00am Anna Brink, by the family
- Thursday, April 30**
9:00am For all those that have died from the Coronavirus
- Friday, May 1**
11:30am Matthew Avella, by the Avella family
- Saturday, May 2**
4:00pm Kathleen Galligan, by Vince and family
- Sunday, May 3**
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am For those suffering from the Coronavirus and those that have died



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in memory of Emmanuel and Fannie Pirota, by Catherine Westfall.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam., Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ana Anaya, Glenn Lagatol, Ellen Pentland, Shirley Simeone, Belinda Vazquez, and Melissa Rodriguez-Smith.

The collection for April 18th/19th was \$2,940.
Thank you for your continued generosity.