

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



A Sense of Peace

God of peace and source of all life,
we praise you for the gift of new life we
received in Baptism.

Like the disciples,
we too hide from our call to evangelize.
Grant us, who are filled with fear and doubt,
a renewed sense of hope and peace.

In Baptism, you claimed us,
so help us to hear your voice,
which calls us from our isolation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire us to share
the Good News
and fill us with the joy of your Risen Son.
Implant within our hearts
a deep sense of courage and keen
sense of faith

so that until the end of time your chosen
people will praise your name
and rejoice in the presence of Christ.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Peace of Christ



Today's Readings: Acts 5:12–16; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19; John 20:19–31. Two words from the Gospel that stand out are *peace* and *fear*. Imagine what it must have been like for Jesus' followers after his Death and Resurrection. Filled with fear, they locked themselves in a room. Think of a time when you've been so afraid that you needed to hide yourself or your ideas. Consider those who suffer physical or mental abuse, those who are persecuted for their religious convictions, or those who fear speaking truth when faced with death. Feeling afraid can entrap and confuse us.

In Death, Jesus triumphs over sin and death and unlocks the doors to new life. He ushers in a peace that surpasses all understanding, a peace that helps us endure suffering, a

peace that empowers us to forgive, and a peace that demands justice. Think about the past few days. What in your life has been unlocked because of Christ's Death and Resurrection? What still needs to be unlocked and consumed by the peace of Christ? Filled with the Holy Spirit, Christ sends us to be his presence in the world, a presence that speaks peace in the midst of violence, war, and much more. We must say "Peace be with you" to all we encounter so as to restore relationships and help others know the amazing gift of the Resurrection. How does your faith community or family live peace? Consider how you might share the gift of Christ's peace this week at a homeless shelter, a nursing home, or a shelter for survivors of abuse.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 4, 2016

Solemnity of the Annunciation

Today's Psalm refrain, "Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will," challenges us to reflect on when we have opened ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit. Like Mary who said yes and was completely vulnerable before God, we too are asked to completely give of ourselves and bear witness to Christ. As you reflect on the Gospel, think of when you have said no or been too afraid to respond to God's invitation to love and preach the Good News. Take a moment today to pray the Rosary or sing the Hail Mary. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Community

Today's passage from Acts paints an ideal picture of community life in the early Church. Reading this gives me hope and a desire to strive for a more profound experience of community life. The tenets presented here are important. How can we live these ideals in our families, in our parishes, and in the Church? It's not easy to be of one heart and mind. Is there a food pantry to which you can bring nonperishable items or a shelter to which you can bring children's books? *Today's Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

God's Love

It is truly amazing to think about how much God loves us. Jesus came to show us God's mercy and love. Through his Paschal Mystery we are saved. Once we were a people of darkness, but in Baptism, we were united to Christ and imbued with the Holy Spirit. Like the Apostles, we must boldly share the Gospel, no matter the risk. Find a quiet place to contemplate God's love for you. If you feel restless, breathe deeply and let God know you are waiting and ready to be

loved. *Today's Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

Thursday, April 7, 2016

St. John Baptist de la Salle

As members of the Body of Christ, it is our responsibility to care for the poor and marginalized. The Gospel is not vague. It challenges us to take up our cross and do as Christ did and respond to the cry of the poor. Like St. John Baptist de la Salle, let us bless the Lord's name and seek to do work with the poor and marginalized. *Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, April 8, 2016

Thanks

Chapter 6 of John's Gospel illuminates for us Jesus, the Bread of Life. In today's passage, Jesus feeds five thousand. Unlike Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John's account has Jesus giving thanks. Jesus is the source of all nourishment; every time we gather at Mass, we celebrate this amazing gift and receive the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation. At the evening meal, invite everyone to offer thanks for the gifts of the day or week. *Today's Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

Saturday, April 9, 2016

Neglected

The First Reading begins with an argument between the Hellenists, those who spoke Greek, and the Hebrews, because the Hellenists' widows were being neglected. Seven men were chosen to assist with the ministry, and traditionally, this is the start of the diaconate. What we know is that the Church was growing and there was a need to reach out to everyone, Greek and non-Greek. This also would allow the Good News to spread more widely. Could your family make dinner for residents at a shelter and dine with them? Try to draw the residents of the shelter out and listen to their stories. *Today's Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*



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Keeping the Seasons
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