

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



Presence

Good and gracious God,
in Baptism you call us out of darkness into
the light of life.

Open our eyes to see your Son
and fill us with zeal so that, like Peter,
who jumped into the sea to greet Christ,
we may delight in your friendship.

May the abundant love you share with
each of us overflow,
and lead us to care for all your children.
Grant that our Eucharistic sharing
unite us in one heart and mind
so that we can faithfully and joyfully
proclaim the Good News of salvation to
the ends of the earth.

And may your Holy Spirit
lead us always to accept your invitation
to feast at your table.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 10, 2016 Pilgrims Bearing Witness

Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13; Revelation 5:11–14; John 21:1–19. Where have you seen the Risen Christ? The disciples encountered him again in Galilee while they were fishing. This story seems to have two parts. First, Jesus calls the disciples “children” and invites them to recast their nets to catch some fish. It seems that Jesus is reminding them that, though they are “fishers of people,” they still have a lot to learn.

Isn't this true for us too? Each year we cycle through the Scriptures as pilgrims on a journey to share at the feast of life. During this pilgrimage, we encounter Christ and are confronted with sin. This deepens our communion with the living God and opens our hearts to know the path of disci-

pleship. This, in turn, propels us to share the Good News.

The second scene recalls Peter's denial of Jesus. Three times Peter denied Jesus, and here, three times Peter confesses his love for Christ. This powerful image teaches us that no matter how badly we turn from Jesus, we are still loved. What does your love of the Lord look like? Sharing the Good News of the Resurrection isn't easy for any of us. Like the early disciples, we too will be faced with ridicule and persecution, and yet, we must bear witness to the truth. That's one reason we gather at Eucharist. There, we are strengthened in our faith so that we can go forth and witness the Paschal Mystery. Draw a timeline that shows your journey of faith and witness.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 11, 2016

St. Stanislaus

What do Sts. Stephen and Stanislaus have in common with Jesus? Each condemned corruption by political and religious leaders. Stephen and Stanislaus followed Jesus' example. When you encounter the living God, you must authentically proclaim God's justice and mercy. We need to pray for those who "work for the food that perishes" and we need to be mindful of our actions so that we follow Jesus, the Bread of Life. Take time to read a bit more about Stephen and Stanislaus. *Today's Readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.*

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Source of Life

Stephen did not waver in sharing the Good News, and such steadfastness led to his death. We learn in the Gospel that Jesus is the source of life. When we are obedient to his will, we will have life and never thirst. Too often, we find ourselves unsatisfied and seeking fulfillment when all we need to do is turn to the Lord. Who is the Stephen in your life? In the coming weeks, consider setting aside time to bake some bread, bless it at dinner, and discuss Jesus, our sustenance. *Today's Readings: Acts 7:51–8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 7 and 8a, 17 and 21ab; John 6:30–35.*

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Persecution

Even in the midst of persecution, Jesus' disciples continue sharing the Gospel. Our world is filled with religious persecution from all directions. Much violence and war has been suffered because of the egos of individuals who hold differing creeds. Today pray for all those who suffer because of their religious beliefs and practices; let each of us remain faithful to the proclamation of the Gospel, even when it's difficult. *Today's Readings: Acts 8:1b–8; Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 6–7a; John 6:35–40.*

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Catechesis

How did you come to know Christ? Was it through a parent, friend, or teacher? Jesus, the Bread of Heaven, says whoever believes will have eternal life. Today's story of Philip and the eunuch depicts how an encounter with the Risen Lord shapes belief. As Philip breaks open the Word, the eunuch is moved by the Spirit and requests to be baptized. We should follow Philip's example and share the Good News so that others may be nourished by Jesus. As part of sharing Easter joy, perhaps you would like to write a thank-you note to your parish catechists. *Today's Readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.*

Friday, April 15, 2016

Eucharist

We have been reading through chapter 6 of John's account of the Gospel for several days. We have learned Jesus is the one who gives us bread; he is the Bread of Revelation. John portrays a Eucharistic Jesus. Every time we gather at Mass, we receive the Flesh and Blood of Christ in the sacrament. The Eucharist not only confirms our faith but challenges us to ongoing conversion. At the end of the liturgy, we are sent out to "tell the Good News." How have you become Eucharist for the world? *Today's Readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1bc, 2; John 6:52–59.*

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Go Out

In the Gospel, Peter asks Jesus, "To whom can we go?" Not all the disciples believed that Jesus was God's chosen one, but those who were convinced knew that Jesus brought life. After the Resurrection, we find Peter doing the Lord's works and proclaiming God's healing so that others may come to believe. He and the others went out sharing the Good News. What works does the Church do today to help others believe in Christ? Spend time praying for all those who do not believe in Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 9:31–42; Psalm 116:12–13, 14–15, 16–17; John 6:60–69.*



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Keeping the Seasons

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