

Living the Gospel



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 **ShareLife**

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, presents the preaching of St. Peter on the day of Pentecost. Even though Christ was risen, and He had appeared to them, the apostles were frightened to witness the victory of Christ over death. It is only after they received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost that they came out into the streets and started proclaiming to everybody that Christ is risen. It was not out of their efforts, but it was a gift given to them from above. The Holy Spirit accompanied them even though they were facing many struggles. This episode should fill us with hope and strength because even though we are all weak in front of difficulties, the Holy Spirit comes to our help to sustain us and to guide us. Let us always remember that He is by our side to help us. The Second Reading, from the First Letter of St. Peter, continues with the teaching given to those who had just been baptised at Easter. He mentions that Christ had saved them and redeemed them through the precious gift of the Blood of Christ. They were called to remember always that the salvation in which they share was a gift given to them, fruit of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. This short passage is full of hope because we are sharing in the life of the Risen Christ. It is an amazing gift that comes from the mercy of Christ and is not something that we have acquired through very strenuous labour. The Gospel, from St. Luke, gives us the account of the two disciples of Emmaus who encountered the Risen Christ. These disciples were very disappointed and sad, and they were going out of Jerusalem. In that very tough situation, Christ came and walked with them and asked them why they were so hopeless. They responded that all their hopes were set in Christ and now He is dead and gone. Christ announced to them that He is risen according to what was foretold in the Scriptures. This was not enough, and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread. They were now full of joy, and they came back to Jerusalem to be again with the community. Even though it is Easter and Christ is Risen, when we face difficulties and struggles, we feel sad, and we feel that Christ cannot help us. It seems that the problems are stronger than us and we feel overwhelmed. If we experience these situations, Christ comes with mercy to show us that He is Risen and that He has overcome all our struggles and problems. We can recognize Him especially in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Let us ask the Lord to open our hearts and eyes that we can recognize in our daily lives that He is truly risen!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis Homily for the Third Sunday of Easter (April 26, 2020)

Today's Gospel, set on the day of the Passover, tells the story of the two disciples of Emmaus (cf. Luke 24: 13-35). It's a story that starts and ends on the move. There is, in fact the outbound journey of the disciples who, sad about the end of the story of Jesus, leave Jerusalem and return home, to Emmaus, walking for about eleven kilometres. It is a journey that takes place during the day, with much of it downhill. And there is the return journey: another eleven kilometres, but made at nightfall, with part of the way uphill after the fatigue of the outward journey and all day. Two trips: one easy during the day and the other tiring at night. Yet the first takes place in sadness, the second in joy. In the first there is the Lord who walks by their side, but they do not recognize him; in the second they no longer see him, but they feel him near them. In the first they are despondent and hopeless; in the second they run to bring the good news of the encounter with the Risen Lord to others.

The two different paths of those early disciples tell us, the disciples of Jesus today, that in life we have two opposite directions in front of us: there is the path of those who, like those two at the beginning, allow themselves to be paralyzed by the disappointments of life and go ahead sadly; and there is the path of those who do not put themselves and their problems first, but Jesus who visits us, and the brothers who await his visit, that is, the brothers and sisters who wait for us to take care of them. Here is the turning point: to stop orbiting around one's self, the disappointments of the past, unrealized ideals, so many bad things that have happened in one's life. So many times we are led to orbit around ourselves. Leave that and move forward looking at the greatest and truest reality of life: Jesus is alive, Jesus loves me. This is the greatest reality. And I can do something for others. It's a beautiful reality, positive, sunny, beautiful!

The U-turn is this: to move from thoughts about myself to the reality of my God; pass – with another pun – from "ifs" to "yes". From "if" to "yes." What does it mean? "If he had freed us, if God had listened to me, if life had gone the way I wanted, if I had this and that..." in a tone of complaint. This "if" does not help, it is not fruitful, it does not help us or others. Here our ifs are similar to those of the two disciples. But they pass to yes: "yes, the Lord is alive, he walks with us. Yes, now, not tomorrow, we are on our way to announce it." "Yes, I can do this so that people are happier, because people will get better, to help so many people. Yes, yes, I can." From if to yes, from complaint to joy and peace, because when we complain, we are not joyful; we are in a grey area, that grey air of sadness. And that doesn't even help us grow well. From if to yes, from complaint to the joy of service.

This change of pace, from self to God, from if to yes, how did that happen with the disciples? Meeting Jesus: the two of Emmaus first open their hearts to him; then they listen to him explain the scriptures; so they invite him home. These are three steps that we too can take in our homes: first, open our heart to Jesus, entrust him with the burdens, the hardships, the disappointments of life, entrust him with the "ifs"; and then, second step, listen to Jesus, take the Gospel in hand, read this passage today, chapter twenty-four of Luke's Gospel; thirdly, pray to Jesus, in the same words as those disciples: "Lord, stay with us" (v. 29). Lord, stay with me. Lord, stay with all of us, because we need you to find our way. And without you there is night.

Dear brothers and sisters, we are always on our way in life. And we become what we're going towards. Let us choose God's way, not that of the self; the way of yes, not the way of the if. We will find that there is no unexpected events, there is no uphill path, there is no night that cannot be faced with Jesus. May Our Lady Mother of the journey, who, by receiving the Word, has made her entire life a "yes" to God, show us the way.



A ShareLife Campaign Update

Next week, we will be holding the second collection in our parish's ShareLife campaign. We ask for your kind generosity and support once again. Thus far we have raised \$32,951.55 toward our goal of \$148,700. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate. Thank you for "living the Gospel" through our parish ShareLife campaign.

APRIL 23, 2023



St. John the Evangelist's Social Committee invites you to **Family and Food Fun Day!** **Saturday, June 10th, 2023** **From 11:30-3:00 p.m.**

Join us on the church grounds for tons of fun and games for the whole family! Come and share in culinary delights from around the world. BYOLC: Bring your own lawn chair!

Manresa Day of Reflection and Spiritual Renewal for 55+ on Thursday, May 25th

Facilitator: Father Michael Coutts, S.J.

Theme: The Exodus and I.

Purification, Illumination, Union.

The Exodus Experience formed the Israelites into what 1 Peter 2 calls "A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart." God did that over a period of 40 years. It seems God has done the same for us during the short Covid span. God did this through a process of purification, illumination, union. please read Exodus, Chapters 1-5.

Cost. \$55.00 per person, including lunch

We will hold registration on two weekends - April 29/30 and May 6/7 after all Masses, or by calling parish office or Catherine Ingram (905 665-0933)

Payment upon registration.

Friday Apr 28 – 8:20am

+Irma James

req. by Iris & Frank McNulty

Sat Apr 22 – 5:00pm

+Deceased Mbrs. Broderick, Harrington & MacLellan Families

req. by Joe & Joy

Join us at Totus Tuus Summer Camp!

DAY CAMP (for students entering grade 1-6 in September) - \$80/child for the week

Monday, July 10th to Friday, July 14th, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

EVENING PROGRAM (for students entering grade 7-12 in September) - \$40/child for the week

Sunday, July 9th to Thursday, July 13th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

The deadline to register for the camp is June 30th, 2023.

Parishioners are invited to volunteer! We need student volunteers (age 13-18) and adult volunteers (18+) to help the children and youth stay safe, have fun and grow in their faith.

The deadline to apply to volunteer is June 1st, 2023.

For more information about volunteering or to register, please email Cassandra at cass.sullivan@archtoronto.org or contact the parish office.



Masses For The Week

Sat Apr 22 – 5:00pm

+Andrew Marioselva

req. by Christine & Children

Mon Apr 24 – 8:20am

+Hannah, Susan & Sam Doran

req. by Alice Deehan

Tues Apr 25 – 8:20am

+Leonard Barton

req. by Chloe Skinner

TIME CHANGE Wed Apr 26 – 8:20am

+Edith & Frank Power

req. by Clare Dashney

Intention for Melanie Giroux

req. by Shirley & Denise Washburn

In Thanksgiving to Parishioners

req. by Patrick & Barbara Treacy

Int. for Felicio & Barbara Rodrigues on their 60th Anniversary

req. by Jacqueline Chaves

Intention for Fr. Pat Currie

req. by Mary Mullen

Thursday Apr 27 – 8:20am

+Tereso & Crispina Abaloyan

req. by Nicholas & Emie Vallesterio



Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
St. John the Evangelist Conference

BUNDLE WEEKEND

May 13-14, 2023

A truck will be parked in St. John Parish parking lot over the weekend May 13/14 accepting gently used/new clothing, coats, linens, towels, bedding, textiles, drapery, shoes/boots.

We CANNOT accept furniture, appliances, mattresses, used baby equipment, furniture, books, dishes, construction material or video tapes.

Please bring your items to the truck after mass Saturday at 5pm, Sunday 9am or 11am or 2:00 pm in Spanish.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Thursday May 11, 2023

Holy Family & St. John the Evangelist Parishes are organizing a bus from Whitby to Ottawa.

Tickets \$30/adult, \$10/child

St. Mary of the People CWL Spring Fling Card Party

Monday May 15, 7pm

at St. Mary of the People Parish Hall

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