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Gospel

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Message from the Pastor

Peace to all of you!

This Sunday we celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter. The First Reading, from the Book of the Acts of Apostles, presents how the apostles went about with zeal preaching the Good News despite persecutions. We saw last week how the apostles were afraid and in closed doors, but after they received the power of the Holy Spirit, they were courageous witnesses of the Resurrection of Christ. Even though we all experience disappointment and discouragement, the Spirit of the Risen Christ always comes to encourage us and to give us hope. We need to rely in the power and grace of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The Second Reading, from the Book of Revelation, shows the image of a slaughtered Lamb who is alive and who has conquered death and sin. Jesus is the Lamb of God, who through His Death and Resurrection, has redeemed us and offers us salvation and new life. We all need to praise the Lord for His mercy and for giving us opportunity to share in the mystery of redemption. Let us welcome the redeeming blood of Christ in our lives so that we may find new life in Him. The Gospel, from St. John, gives us the account of the Appearance of the Risen Lord to his disciples at the Sea of Galilee. After the Resurrection, the apostles have gone back to their previous life as if nothing has changed for them. In that situation of discouragement, they encountered the Risen Christ, and they get a great catch of fish. They experience that the Risen Christ can provide and take them out of their hopelessness. Simon Peter is given the charge to shepherd the faithful in Christ's name. Let us all experience the power of the Risen Christ who can bring out life from our fears and discouragements!

I want to thank Cassandra Hamilton for all her magnificent work of teaching the faith to young people and children of our parish. May the Lord accompany her in her pregnancy and in the birth of her baby. Let us also support and pray for Sarah Rodrigues in her role as youth minister.

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis' Angelus on Third Sunday of Easter (May 1, 2022)

The Gospel of today's Liturgy (Jn 21:1-19) recounts the third appearance of the Risen Jesus to the Apostles. It is a meeting that takes place by the Lake of Galilee, and above all involves Simon Peter. It all begins with him saying to the other

disciples: "I am going fishing" (v. 3). There was nothing strange about this, since he was a fisherman, but he had abandoned this work from the time he had left his nets on the shore of that very lake in order to follow Jesus. And now, while the Risen One is waiting, Peter, perhaps a little disheartened, proposes to the others that he return to his former life. And the others accept: "We will go with you". But "that night they caught nothing". (v. 3).

This can happen to us, out of tiredness, disappointment, perhaps out of laziness, to forget the Lord and to neglect the great choices we have made, to content ourselves with something else. For example, not to dedicate time to talking together in the family, preferring personal pastimes; we forget prayer, letting ourselves get wrapped up in our own needs; we neglect charity, with the excuse of daily urgencies. But, in doing so, we find ourselves disappointed: it is that very disappointment that Peter felt, with empty nets, like him. It is a road that takes you backwards, and does not satisfy you.

And what does Jesus do with Peter? He returns again to the shore of the lake where he had chosen him, Andrew, James and John. He does not reproach them – Jesus does not reproach, he touches the heart, always – but calls the disciples tenderly: "Children" (v. 5). Then he invites them, as before, to cast their nets again courageously. And this time the nets are filled to overflowing. Brothers and sisters, when our nets are empty in life, it is not the time to feel sorry for ourselves, to have fun, to return to old pastimes. It is time to begin again with Jesus, it is time to find the courage to begin again, it is time to put out to sea again with him. Always, faced with a disappointment, or a life that has lost its meaning somewhat – "today I feel as if I have gone backwards" – set out again with Jesus, start again, put out into the deep! He is waiting for you. And he is thinking only of you, me, each one of us.

Peter needed that "shock". When he hears John cry: "It is the Lord!" (v. 7), he immediately dives into the water and swims towards Jesus. It is a gesture of love, because love goes beyond usefulness, convenience or duty; love generates wonder, it inspires creative, freely-given zeal. In this way, while John, the youngest, recognizes the Lord, it is Peter, the eldest, who dives towards him. In that dive there is all the new-found enthusiasm of Simon Peter.

Dear brothers and sisters, today the Risen Christ invites us to a new impetus – everyone, each one of us – he invites us to dive into the good without the fear of losing something, without calculating too much, without waiting for others to begin. Why? Do not wait for others, because in order to go out to meet Jesus, we need to be put off balance. We need to be put off balance with courage, restore ourselves, but restore

ourselves unbalanced, taking risks. Let us ask ourselves: am I capable of an outburst of generosity, or do I restrain the impulses of my heart and close myself off in routine, in fear? Jump in, dive in. This is today's word from Jesus.

Then, at the end of this episode, Jesus asks Peter, three times, the question: "Do you love me?" (vv. 15-16). The Risen Lord asks us too today: Do you love me? Because at Easter, Jesus wants our hearts to rise too; because faith is not a question of knowledge, but of love. Do you love me? Jesus asks you, me, us, who have empty nets and are afraid to start out again; who do not have the courage to dive in and have perhaps lost our momentum. Do you love me? Jesus asks. From then on, Peter stopped fishing forever and dedicated himself to the service of God and to his brothers and sisters to the point of giving his life here, where we are now. And what about us, do we want to love Jesus?

May Our Lady, who readily said "yes" to the Lord, help us to rediscover the impulse to do good.

NATIONAL HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK: MAY 4TH-10th

This week recognizes the importance of quality hospice and palliative care in our communities. It celebrates the efforts of caregivers and community agencies in providing vital life giving services while calling for better access to these services for all Canadians. Palliative care aims to improve the quality of life for individuals experiencing life-limiting illnesses by providing comfort and symptom management. The care is provided for an indefinite period of time. Hospice care provides end-of-life care. It provides specific services, supports and care settings based on the individual's needs and plan for end-of-life care.

There will be an hour of prayer on Wednesday, May 7th, 5:30-6:30 in recognition of these two vital services. Come and pray with the parish community for quality hospice palliative care to be made available in our communities. Specific intentions will be offered during the hour.



National March for Life
Join us on Thursday May 8,
2025

The bus will leave from Holy Family Parish parking lot at 6:45am. \$40/person. For more information contact: Gwen 905-259-8504

MAY 4, 2025

PILGRIMAGE TO MARTYRS' SHRINE

Date: Saturday, July 26th
Departure: St. John the Evangelist: 8:30am
Personal reflection time: 10:30-11:30
11:30am – Mass, 12:00-1:00pm Lunch
1:00-2:00: Short presentation and shrine visit
2:00-2:30: Rosary
2:30-3:30: Personal reflection time
3:30-4:00: Stations of the Cross
4:30: Departure
Cost: \$45.00
For further details call: 905-668-3218

Sacrament Celebrations

First Holy Communion
Sunday May 4th 4:00pm St. Luke
Sunday May 25th 4:00pm St. John
Sunday June 1st 4:00pm St. Marguerite/PHCP
Confirmation With Bishop Nguyen
Saturday May 31st 11:00am St. Luke & All Saints
Saturday May 31st 2:00pm St. John, St Marguerite/PHCP

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Marygrove Camp is a residential camp situated on Georgian Bay, near Penetang, Ontario. Open to eligible girls ages 5 – 13, Marygrove provides a week-long camping experience for girls who may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy a camping adventure. Families who are experiencing financial or domestic hardship may contact the Society to determine their eligibility 905-430-6734.

Camp Ozanam is a residential camp situated at a Scouts Canada campsite in Stouffville, Ontario. Open to eligible boys ages 7 – 12, Camp Ozanam provides a week-long camping experience, for boys who may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy a camping adventure. Families who are experiencing financial or domestic hardship may contact the Society to determine their eligibility 905-430-6734.

More information and details available upon request. Proof of a valid Ontario Health Card is essential to register.

Totus Tuus Summer Camp!

DAY CAMP

(students going into grade 1-6 in the fall)

- Monday July 7th to Friday July 11th 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

EVENING PROGRAM

(students going into grade 7-12 in the fall)

- Sunday July 6th to Thursday July 10th 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The deadline to apply to volunteer is May 31st. The deadline to register for the camp is June 16th. For more information, contact sjewhitbyyouth@gmail.com or the parish office.

SENIORS' RETREAT 55+

Thursday May 22, 2025

9:00 – 3:00pm

Father Jim Kelly, SJ. Facilitator

The price includes lunch

\$55/person

Registration: May 3/4, May

10/11

After all Masses or Call Catherine

647-987-5902



Masses For The Week

Sat May 3 - 5:00pm –

Intentions for the Bonello Family & Deceased Members

req. by Rita & Saviour

Mon. May 5 – 8:20 am

+Humberto Schenflede

req. by His Wife & Family

Tues May 6 – 8:20am

A Personal Intention

req. by Nina Veltri

Wed May 7 – 7:00pm

+Maureen LaBarre

req. by the LaBarre Family

+Jim Abdee

req. by Pat McDonald

+Ralph McCloskey & Deceased Family Members

req. by The Family

+Jim Abdee

req. by Jack & Betty McCabe

+Shirley Barrett

req. by Her Family

Thur May 8 – 8:20am

+Len Ladouceur

req. by Tom & Teresa Simmons

Fri May 9 – 8:20am

+Dinie Vander Werf &

+Betsy Van Hezewyk

req. by The Lacy Family

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday May 7, 2025 at 8PM at the Knights Hall at 133 Brock St North and all are welcome. For further information assisting the St John's community and becoming a Knight please contact Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877



St. John the Evangelist's Social Committee invites you to the Annual Taste of the Parish on Saturday, June 7th 2025 from 11am to 3pm. Join us on the Church grounds for fun, food and games for the whole family! Come and share in culinary delights from around the world. Food contributions from your country of origin are welcome. Sign up sheets are available in the foyer after all Masses. **BYOLC – Bring your own lawn chair!**

ShareLife

GOAL \$174,000

As of April 30, 2025

\$58,303.05

ShareLife: Living the Gospel by providing for those in need

On the second ShareLife Sunday, we call upon your compassionate hearts to support your vulnerable brothers and sisters in need. More people than ever are turning to our agencies for help. The kindheartedness of ShareLife supporters like you enables access to essential programs and services, such as the treatment program and transitional housing at St. Michael's Homes. For Jack, your support was transformative. After moving to start a physically demanding job, he suffered a knee injury which ultimately left him unemployed and addicted to pain medication. Thanks to your empathy, Jack had a safe space to overcome his addiction and gained the power to build himself back up. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

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