

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



In the Breaking of the Bread

Father of all creation,
On the road of our daily life,
whether at home or at work,
may we help our families and others
to know of your love and compassion.
May our hearts burn with the zeal
of those who walked the road with Jesus,
so that when our days come to a close,
our eyes will be opened.
In our common acts of sharing
and feasting,
may we see the risen Lord in one another.
May the peace, love, and blessing
of your Son
rest on the tables where we gather.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, May 4, 2014 What Are You Discussing?



Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2, 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11 (11a); 1 Peter 1:17–21; Luke 24:13–35. In today's Gospel, as the risen Lord Jesus approaches the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, he asks, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" This clever ruse allows him to find out how they are interpreting what has happened and, at the appropriate moment, to "break open" for them the Scriptures that help to explain who he, Jesus, is.

Imagine Jesus slipping into our Bible study groups, our family conversations, our Sunday liturgy. In fact, we know he is present on all of these occasions—especially at the Eucharist. There he is the Word proclaimed and the Word broken open in the homily. And there he is present in the breaking of the bread. May our hearts burn with love each time we come to the Sunday Eucharist and hear the Word of God proclaimed in our midst. This Word of God puts

gladness in our hearts and invites us into a relationship with the Blessed Trinity.

The ultimate purpose of the Eucharist is to build up the Church. As we gather today for Eucharist, communion in Christ and among his very Body, the Church, let us pledge in this Easter Time to put aside all factions and discord that tear down the Body of Christ, rather than build it up. Let us approach the table of the Lord with burning hearts, with love for Christ and his Church.

Find someone with whom you can share your faith as you walk your own journey on the Emmaus road. Share with that person your own joys and sorrows, and be assured that the troubles that you face in daily life will be carried on the shoulders of the paschal lamb who accompanies us on our own faith journey.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 5

Food That Endures

In today's reading from Acts, Stephen, who will become the first Christian martyr, follows Jesus's example through his "great wonders and signs" and through his persuasive preaching. Jesus is the master catechist, and in today's Gospel we hear his warning not to "work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life." Today's Readings: Acts 6:8–15; Psalm 119:23–24, 26–27, 29–30; John 6:22–29.

Tuesday, May 6

Into Your Hand

The words of today's Responsorial Psalm, "Into your hand, I commend my spirit" (Psalm 31), are used in the Church's Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. Do you pray the Liturgy of the Hours? If not, consider learning about it, since it is the official prayer of the Church. Pray these words from today's psalm each night before you retire. Today's Readings: Acts 7:51–8:1a; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; John 6:30–35.

Wednesday, May 7

I AM

Today's readings are filled with beautiful Easter acclamations: praise, glory, Alleluia, and songs of joy. The Church is acknowledging God, who has given the gift of faith, and through all of this, the Church continues her evangelizing ministry. The constant theme running through the Gospel is "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35). This declarative formula and others, such as "I AM" (Exodus 3:14), set up other revelations of the Gospel, such as "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) and "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11). Consider taking these "I am" statements as you give praise and thanks to God. Today's Readings: Acts 8:1b–8; Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 6–7a; John 6:35–40.

Thursday, May 8

Be Baptized

Today, the Apostle Philip baptizes the Ethiopian eunuch, and the man, Scripture says, "went on his way rejoicing." Baptism is the gate to all of the sacraments, and in this holy season, we are still welcoming the neophytes (the newly baptized). We continue to accompany these sisters and brothers along the journey. Consider sitting with them during the Sunday Eucharist and encouraging them in their response, prayer, and participation in the liturgy. This is our duty by virtue of our Baptism. Today's Readings: Acts 8:26–40; Psalm 66:8–9, 16–17, 20; John 6:44–51.

Friday, May 9

Eat My Flesh, Drink My Blood

Jesus, the master catechist, is in Capernaum. He is teaching us about the gift of the Eucharist: "flesh" and "blood" refer to the sacrament, and "abide in me" underscores a personal relationship with Jesus. This is the heart of our Catholic teaching: eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ, and proclaiming the Gospel in the name of the risen Lord. Today's Readings: Acts 9:1–20; Psalm 117:1b, 2; John 6:52–59.

Saturday, May 10

Saint Damien de Veuster

Damien of Molokai is the patron of those suffering from HIV and AIDS and Hansen's Disease. Damien spent the last sixteen years of his life working with those who had contracted Hansen's Disease. In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter cures Aeneas, bedridden with paralysis for eight years, and raises Dorcas up to new life. Through the power of the Word, both Damien and Peter professed that Jesus was "the Holy One of God." Pray for those living with HIV and AIDS, and for their caregivers and family members. 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

Reproducibles for Lent-Triduum-Easter 2014