



HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Small Christian Communities Gatherings in Grace

*1st Sunday of Lent
March 9, 2025*

through

*Pentecost
June 8, 2025*

*“For where
two or three
have gathered
together
in my name,
I am there
in their midst”*

(Matthew 18:20)

Father Terry Keehan, Pastor
Holy Family Catholic Community
2515 West Palatine Road
Inverness, IL 60067
847.359.0042
www.holyfamilyparish.org

COVENANT PRAYER

*Loving God, we are thankful for this Small Christian Community, Gathered in Grace,
to hear your Word and share Your Good News
for the salvation of the world.*

*We believe Jesus is present and continues
to break open the Word and speak to our hearts
as once He did for His disciples.*

*Open our minds, our hearts and our lips
so that what we hear we will understand,
what we understand we will share.*

*Remind us of the needs of our community, our church
and our world as we strive to know your Word.*

*Give us the strength to be present to one another
and while in this community may we always
be respectful of each other and honor a spirit
of confidentiality and trust.*

*Temper our differences with love and understanding,
and call us all to mutual respect and compassion.*

*May this community and the covenant we share,
be a reflection of the covenant you made with our ancestors,
a bond that is only strengthened and deepened each time
we gather to know, love and serve You.*

*When our time of prayer and reflection is complete,
may your Spirit be with us as we,
together with our larger community of faith,
live the Word in our world.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

GRACE MOMENTS

Share your experience of one of the following Adventures in Grace spiritual exercises since you last met:

1. Grace is God's Presence and Gift of Self. When, where, and/or how did I experience Grace?
2. Baptism is being drenched in the mysterious Love of God. How did I experience myself as baptized?
3. What gift was I able to affirm, call forth, give thanks for?
4. How did I mediate the Grace of Mercy to someone or in some situation.
5. How was I fed/nourished spiritually?

LECTIO DIVINA (Sacred Reading)

Settle into silence for a moment. Remember that God is always present. Allow silence to take root for several long moments.

Someone volunteers to read the First Reading. Invite the group to open their hearts to the passage, be curious, and listen as if they are hearing it for the first time. Listen for a word, phrase, thought, or image that speaks to them today. The text is then read slowly and meditatively. After a moment of silence, continue with the discussion questions for the reading.

Repeat this format for the Second Reading.

Repeat this format for the Gospel, but after the reading and moment of silence, invite group members to speak their word, phrase, thought, or image aloud with no elaboration or discussion. They may also "pass." When all who wish to speak have done so, silently meditate on what has been shared for a few moments, then continue with the discussion questions for the Gospel.

At the end of the discussion, invite everyone to offer prayers of petition. Conclude with:

"For these prayers that we speak, and for those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray together in the words that Jesus taught us, 'Our Father, ...' Amen."

Small Christian Community Guide

The First Sunday of Lent through Pentecost Sunday

1 st Sunday of Lent. 5 March 9, 2025	Divine Mercy Sunday 20 April 27, 2025
2 nd Sunday of Lent 7 March 16, 2025	3 rd Sunday of Easter. 22 May 4, 2025
3 rd Sunday of Lent 9 March 23, 2025	4 th Sunday of Easter 25 May 11, 2025
4 th Sunday of Lent. 11 March 30, 2025	5 th Sunday of Easter 27 May 18, 2025
5 th Sunday of Lent 13 April 6, 2025	6 th Sunday of Easter. 29 May 25, 2025
Palm Sunday. 15 April 13, 2025	Ascension of the Lord 31 June 1, 2025
Easter Sunday. 18 April 20, 2025	Pentecost Sunday. 33 June 8, 2025

First Sunday of Lent March 9, 2025

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people, saying:

“The priest shall receive the basket from you and shall set it in front of the altar of the LORD, your God. Then you shall declare before the Lord, your God,

‘My father was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. But there he became a nation great, strong, and numerous.

When the Egyptians maltreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor upon us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and he heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

He brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; and bringing us into this country, he gave us this land flowing with milk and honey.

Therefore, I have now brought you the firstfruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.’

And having set them before the LORD, your God, you shall bow down in his presence.”

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

What does Scripture say?

The word is near you,

in your mouth and in your heart

—that is, the word of faith that we preach—, for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

For the Scripture says,

No one who believes in him will be put to shame.

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;

the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him.

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

Jesus answered him,

"It is written, *One does not live on bread alone.*"

Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant.

The devil said to him,

"I shall give to you all this power and glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me."

Jesus said to him in reply,

"It is written

*You shall worship the Lord, your God,
and him alone shall you serve.*"

Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him,

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you, and:

*With their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.*"

Jesus said to him in reply,

"It also says,

You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In this first week of Lent, we reflect on how God sustains us during times of great testing.

- Recall a challenging time in your life when you recognized God's love and mercy. What were the circumstances?
- Are there times that you feel closer to God than others?

SECOND READING

In the reading, Paul states that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- What does it mean to you to "be saved?"

GOSPEL

The devil told Jesus that all power and glory have been handed over to him.

- How do you see the devil at work in today's world?
- What are some of the examples of God at work combatting evil today?
- What special activities are you embracing as we move into the Lenten season?

2nd Sunday of Lent March 16, 2025

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord God took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.”

Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him,

“I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.”

“O Lord GOD,” he asked,

“how am I to know that I shall possess it?”

He answered him,

“Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up.

Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them.

As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces.

It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates.”

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Their end is destruction.

Their God is their stomach;

their glory is in their “shame.”

Their minds are occupied with earthly things.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28b-36

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus,

“Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Abram has deep faith, trusting God’s promise, that his descendents will be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

- How did you develop the faith you have today?
- Where do you see God in the world around us?

SECOND READING

In this reading Paul suggests that we should imitate Christ.

- What, to you, are the behaviors of someone who imitates Christ?

GOSPEL

Jesus took Peter, John, and James to the mountaintop to pray.

- What strength do you find in group prayer?

Throughout the Gospel, Peter, James, and John accompanied Jesus to significant events as part of his inner circle.

- How does the inner circle of your SCC help you in your faith journey?
- What strength have you received from your personal inner circle?

3rd Sunday of Lent March 23, 2025

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "Come no nearer!

Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.

I am the God of your fathers," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the LORD said, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering.

Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Moses said to God, "But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

God replied, "I am who am." Then he added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you."

God spoke further to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the Israelites:

The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.

"This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations."

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert.

These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did.

Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come.

Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

Jesus said to them in reply,

“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them— do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable:

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’

He said to him in reply,

‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

God appeared to Moses during his daily tasks.

- When has God entered your life when you were not expecting it?
- Although not as flashy as being called by a burning bush, what is your response to daily encounters with God?

SECOND READING

- What actions do you take to ensure that you are “standing secure” in the eyes of God?

GOSPEL

The second part of the Gospel discusses the person tending the fig tree that will not bear fruit.

- What steps are you taking to cultivate the ground to bear fruit in the future, both personally and within your community?
- Who in your life supported and cultivated the ground around you to become the person you are today?

4th Sunday of Lent March 30, 2025

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

A reading from the Book of Joshua

The LORD said to Joshua,
“Today I have removed the reproach of
Egypt from you.”

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal
on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the
Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of
the month.

On the day after the Passover, they ate of the
produce of the land in the form of
unleavened cakes and parched grain.

On that same day after the Passover,
on which they ate of the produce of the land,
the manna ceased.

No longer was there manna for the Israelites,
who that year ate of the yield of the land of
Canaan.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.

And all this is from God, who has reconciled
us to himself through Christ and given us the
ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was
reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
not counting their trespasses against them
and entrusting to us the message of
reconciliation.

So we are ambassadors for Christ,
as if God were appealing through us.
We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God. For our sake he made
him to be sin who did not know sin,
so that we might become the righteousness of
God in him.

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing
near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and
scribes began to complain, saying, “This man
welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So to them Jesus addressed this parable:

“A man had two sons, and the younger son
said to his father, ‘Father give me the share
of your estate that should come to me.’

So the father divided the property between
them. After a few days, the younger son
collected all his belongings and set off to a
distant country where he squandered his
inheritance on a life of dissipation.

When he had freely spent everything,
a severe famine struck that country, and he
found himself in dire need. So he hired
himself out to one of the local citizens who
sent him to his farm to tend the swine.

And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on
which the swine fed, but nobody gave him
any.

Coming to his senses he thought,
‘How many of my father’s hired workers
have more than enough food to eat,
but here am I, dying from hunger.

I shall get up and go to my father and I shall
say to him, “Father, I have sinned against
heaven and against you. I no longer deserve
to be called your son; treat me as you would
treat one of your hired workers.”

So he got up and went back to his father.
While he was still a long way off, his father
caught sight of him, and was filled with
compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him
and kissed him. His son said to him,
‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and
against you; I no longer deserve to be called
your son.’

But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly
bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In the reading, the Israelites resumed celebrating Passover as they settled into the land.

- How do your holiday meals and traditions reflect your ancestral roots?
- What traditions do you hold most dear?

SECOND READING

Paul emphasizes the importance of reconciliation to renew our relationship with God.

- What is your view of, and participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- Recall a time you experienced a unique sense of grace from the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

GOSPEL

- As you look back in your life, do you discover yourself in all three persons of this parable? The younger son, the older son, the father? Explain.
- Have you ever experienced a broken relationship that was fully restored? What role did you play?

ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.'

Then the celebration began.

Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing.

He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends.

But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'

He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.

But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

5th Sunday of Lent April 6, 2025

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43: 16-21

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD,
 who opens a way in the sea
 and a path in the mighty waters,
 who leads out chariots and horsemen,
 a powerful army,
 till they lie prostrate together, never to rise,
 snuffed out and quenched like a
 wick.
 Remember not the events of the past,
 the things of long ago consider not;
 see, I am doing something new!
 Now it springs forth, do you not
 perceive it?
 In the desert I make a way,
 in the wasteland, rivers.
 Wild beasts honor me,
 jackals and ostriches,
 for I put water in the desert
 and rivers in the wasteland
 for my chosen people to drink,
 the people whom I formed for myself,
 that they might announce my praise.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:8-14

**A reading from the Letter of Paul to the
Philippians.**

Brothers and sisters:
 I consider everything as a loss because of the
 supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my
 Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of
 all things and I consider them so much
 rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found
 in him, not having any righteousness of my
 own based on the law but that which comes
 through faith in Christ, the righteousness
 from God, depending on faith to know him
 and the power of his resurrection and the
 sharing of his sufferings by being conformed
 to his death, if somehow I may attain the
 resurrection from the dead.

It is not that I have already taken hold of it
 or have already attained perfect maturity,
 but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may
 possess it, since I have indeed been taken
 possession of by Christ Jesus.
 Brothers and sisters, I for my part
 do not consider myself to have taken
 possession.
 Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind
 but straining forward to what lies ahead,
 I continue my pursuit toward the goal,
 the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ
 Jesus.

GOSPEL

John 8:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle.

They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women.

So what do you say?”

They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger.

But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them,

“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders.

So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they?

Has no one condemned you?”

She replied, “No one, sir.”

Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In this reading, God brings the people back to life when it seemed as if there was no hope.

- How have you experienced this kind of enlivening presence of God in your life?
- When has hope sustained you when things have seemed hopeless?

SECOND READING

Paul preaches that those who have been baptized have reached the grace of new life with God.

- Our sacramental Baptism was an important moment, but since as Christians we are continually renewing our baptismal vows, think of a recent time when you have felt a renewal of your faith. How did you feel? How did it affect your life?

GOSPEL

The Gospel passage continues the theme of resurrection and points us forward to Easter and the resurrection of Christ. But we might not notice that the story of Lazarus is a story about community.

- How have you been supported by your community during a time of grief or distress?
- How has prayer played a role in that support?

Palm Sunday April 13, 2025

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue, that I might know how
to speak to the weary a word that will rouse
them. Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled, have not turned
back. I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield from buffets and
spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of
God, did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form
of a slave, coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance, he humbled
himself, becoming obedient to the point of
death, even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is
above every name, that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend, of those in heaven
and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is
Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL

Luke 23:1-49

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The elders of the people, chief priests and
scribes, arose and brought Jesus before
Pilate. They brought charges against him,
saying, "We found this man misleading our
people; he opposes the payment of taxes to
Caesar and maintains that he is the Christ, a
king."

Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the
Jews?"

He said to him in reply, "You say so."

Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the
crowds, "I find this man not guilty."

But they were adamant and said,
"He is inciting the people with his teaching
throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he
began even to here."

On hearing this Pilate asked if the man was a
Galilean; and upon learning that he was
under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to
Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time.
Herod was very glad to see Jesus;
he had been wanting to see him for a long
time, for he had heard about him
and had been hoping to see him perform
some sign. He questioned him at length,
but he gave him no answer.

The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile,
stood by accusing him harshly.

Herod and his soldiers treated him
contemptuously and mocked him, and after
clothing him in resplendent garb, he sent him
back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became
friends that very day, even though they had
been enemies formerly.

Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the
rulers, and the people and said to them, "You
brought this man to me and accused him of
inciting the people to revolt.

I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him, nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by him. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him."

But all together they shouted out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us."

— Now Barabbas had been imprisoned for a rebellion that had taken place in the city and for murder. —

Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus, but they continued their shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Pilate addressed them a third time, "What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him."

With loud shouts, however, they persisted in calling for his crucifixion, and their voices prevailed.

The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted. So he released the man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder, for whom they asked, and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished.

As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him.

Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!

and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed.

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

They divided his garments by casting lots.

The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him.

As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."

Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation?"

And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

Palm Sunday • April 13, 2025

The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said, "This man was innocent beyond doubt."

When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their breasts; but all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

This reading is one of the suffering servant or disciple speeches. The disciple's actions sound a lot like the non-violent resistance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- How has this type of justice worked in your life?
- Where have you witnessed it working?

SECOND READING

In this passage, Jesus, the incarnate revelation of God, divests himself of his divine power and privilege and announces his alliance with the least among us.

- Have you ever given up something important on behalf of others? What did you give up? Did it strengthen your faith?

GOSPEL

This long reading asks us to enter into the Passion of our Lord. You may be familiar with this account of the criminal crucified alongside Jesus, but what strikes you as new or different as you read it this time?

- Put yourself in the place of both criminals. Can you find compassion for both men and their situation? How do the responses of both men represent our own faith journey?

Easter Sunday April 20, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter proceeded to speak and said:
 “You know what has happened all over
 Judea, beginning in Galilee after the
 baptism that John preached,
 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
 with the Holy Spirit and power.
 He went about doing good and healing all
 those oppressed by the devil, for God was
 with him. We are witnesses of all that he
 did both in the country of the Jews and in
 Jerusalem.
 They put him to death by hanging him on
 a tree. This man God raised on the third
 day and granted that he be visible,
 not to all the people, but to us, the
 witnesses chosen by God in advance,
 who ate and drank with him after he rose
 from the dead.
 He commissioned us to preach to the
 people and testify that he is the one
 appointed by God as judge of the living
 and the dead. To him all the prophets bear
 witness, that everyone who believes in
 him will receive forgiveness of sins
 through his name.”

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:
 If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is
 above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of
 God.
 Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.
 For you have died, and your life is hidden with
 Christ in God. When Christ your life appears,
 then you too will appear with him in glory.

GOSPEL

John 20:1-9

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Peter is a witness to all the good things that Jesus did for so many. He testifies to who Jesus was and the power of his actions.

- When have you done the same?
- Testimony is not always about speaking, but about doing acts of love and kindness. When have you testified-in word or deed- to all that God has done for you?

SECOND READING

Colossians is a good reminder that the life we are living is not the sum total of who we are. Our cares and worries and our triumphs are part of our life here on earth, but we have another life “hidden” in Christ.

- What does that mean to you?

GOSPEL

The empty tomb is such a powerful symbol of the resurrection, but it is also a testament to the power of faith.

- How does the symbol of the empty tomb speak to your life journey right now?
- Can you think of a time when you did not see, but understood? Or perhaps took something on faith?

Divine Mercy Sunday April 27, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles.

They were all together in Solomon's portico.

None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them.

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus.

I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see."

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest.

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever.

I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them.

Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

The followers of Jesus experience many signs and wonders because they are transformed by their experience of the risen Christ.

- What "signs and wonders" have you experienced in your own life?
- How have the eyes of faith helped you to see them?

SECOND READING

Apocalyptic literature like the Book of Revelation is always about hope of the eternal promise of God's covenant.

- What is it that you most hope for from your life with God?

GOSPEL

The apostle Thomas gets a bad rap when we call him "doubting Thomas." What if we called him "honest Thomas" instead? Honest because he does not fake his faith. He asked questions.

- How has doubt made you a better follower of Jesus?
- When has it taken a little more time for you to understand your faith?

3rd Sunday of Easter May 4, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the captain and the court officers had brought the apostles in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, the high priest questioned them, "We gave you strict orders, did we not, to stop teaching in that name? Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man's blood upon us."

But Peter and the apostles said in reply, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Sanhedrin ordered the apostles to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them. So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

SECOND READING

Revelation 5:11-14

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John, looked and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing."

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out:

"To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever."

The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

GOSPEL

John 21-1-19

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

At that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord.

Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." Jesus said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

The apostles realize that being a Christian is risky business. It requires a standing up for what is right and being on the side of the oppressed. The apostles refused to be silenced.

- When have you spoken out on behalf of someone or something that was important to you?
- What does your faith call you to do for justice?

SECOND READING

The hymns in Revelation are meant to be sung. All of creation sings the Lamb's "new song." Music is an important part of liturgy, and we have a vibrant music ministry at Holy Family.

- How does music help your worship experience?
- Do you have a favorite song? What makes it special to you?

GOSPEL

Following the call of Jesus means putting our nets back into the sea even though we are tired and have not had success. Try to hear this familiar text as if you are hearing it for the first time. Allow the Holy Spirit room to work in your heart.

- What is the text speaking to you at this time in your life?
- How can you bring it into your life this week?

4th Sunday of Easter May 11, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. On the sabbath they entered the synagogue and took their seats. Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God.

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, *I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.*”

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region.

The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the elders said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“For this reason they stand before God’s throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.

They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

GOSPEL

John 10:27-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

“My sheep hear my voice;
I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they shall never
perish.

No one can take them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is
greater than all, and no one can take them
out of the Father’s hand.

The Father and I are one.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In this reading, the influential synagogue leaders became “filled with jealousy” and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said.

- Pick one of many parallel situations happening in the world today. How do you respond as a person of faith?

Many of the Jewish leaders rejected Paul and Barnabas’ message, so they turned their attention to the Gentiles in an effort of inclusion.

- How can we as a church community expand our efforts of inclusion?

SECOND READING

The reading discusses the shepherd leading followers to “springs of life-giving water.”

- What does that mean to you?

GOSPEL

Today’s readings from Revelation and John reference the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep.

- In this context, how would you describe the role of a shepherd?
- What are the behaviors and responsibilities of the sheep?
- How is this reflected in our relationship with God?

5th Sunday of Easter May 18, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 14:21-27

A reading from Acts of the Apostles.

After Paul and Barnabas had proclaimed the good news to that city and made a considerable number of disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.

They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying, “It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.”

They appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith.

Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now accomplished. And when they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-5a

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Then I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.”

The One who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.”

GOSPEL

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

When Judas had left them, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and God will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little while longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Paul talks about the need “to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”

- What does this mean to you?
- What are examples of hardships that one would endure to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

Paul and Barnabas focused on strengthening, encouraging, and building up the communities that they helped create.

- What can we do collectively to continue to build our Holy Family community post-COVID.

SECOND READING

John states that “God’s dwelling is with the human race.”

- How do you see God in other people?
- Discuss a recent example of when you felt that you saw God in another person?

GOSPEL

- What does it look like to love one another as God loves you?
- Who in your life has exemplified this kind of love?

6th Sunday of Easter May 25, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Some who had come down from Judea were instructing the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the Mosaic practice, you cannot be saved.”

Because there arose no little dissension and debate by Paul and Barnabas with them, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and some of the others should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question.

The apostles and elders, in agreement with the whole church, decided to choose representatives and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. The ones chosen were Judas, who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers. This is the letter delivered by them:

“The apostles and the elders, your brothers, to the brothers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia of Gentile origin: greetings. Since we have heard that some of our number who went out without any mandate from us have upset you with their teachings and disturbed your peace of mind, we have with one accord decided to choose representatives and to send them to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So we are sending Judas and Silas who will also convey this same message by word of mouth:

‘It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities, namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meats of strangled animals, and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. Farewell.’”

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

The angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites.

There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west.

The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw no temple in the city for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.

GOSPEL

John 14:23-29

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In the reading, Jesus’ followers grapple with what it means to honor laws and customary practices.

- What laws or practices have changed within the Catholic Church during your lifetime?
- What are your thoughts about the recent revival of the desire to bring back certain traditional Church practices?

SECOND READING

John describes a “new Jerusalem” in which there is no longer need of a religious structure to mediate between humans and the Divine.

- What does this vision mean to you?
- Where do you find God outside of church?

GOSPEL

Jesus states, “Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”

- What role does God play in helping you through the challenging times in your life?

Our readings invite us to ponder the role of religious commandments or laws.

- What guidelines or “laws” do you follow that have helped you move from self-absorption to a more expansive, outward orientation?

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord June 1, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.

They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might:

which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come.

And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:46-53

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

And behold I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them.

As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- What does it mean to be “baptized in the Holy Spirit?”
- Do you relate more to Christ being “far above us” or “deep within us?” Describe an experience of knowing that Christ is deep within you.

SECOND READING

- When has the “eye of your heart been enlightened” through a faith experience, bringing you hope?

GOSPEL

- Is there a time in your life when you felt the connection between heaven and earth in some way? Share your story.
- What can you do to be more joyful in your interactions with family, friends, co-workers? What stands in the way of expressing great joy?

Pentecost Sunday June 8, 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

SECOND READING

Romans 8:8-17

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

GOSPEL

John 14:15-16, 23b-26

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always.

"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.

"I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In the reading, people from all known nations of the world were speaking in tongues, but each person heard them in their own language.

- What is the symbolism of this act?
- How would our world be different today if everyone spoke the same language?

SECOND READING

- What does it mean to have the "Spirit of God dwell in you?" How would this be reflected?

GOSPEL

The process of letting go to live into the new is Pentecost. You are already a new creation.

- What do you need to let go of or embrace to live fully in the fact that you are a beloved child of God?

Jesus told his disciples that God will send the Holy Spirit to teach them everything and remind them of all that he told them.

- How is the Spirit alive in your life?
- Now that Lent and Easter have concluded, where are you spiritually as you proceed with the rest of the liturgical year?