

For The Bulletin Of  
April 19, 2020



## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

*From Father Robert*

On this Second Sunday of Easter the church gives us the only gospel reading that corresponds to the week after Easter, namely the story of “Doubting Thomas” (although he is never called that in the story). On the evening of Easter Sunday, Jesus makes His appearance to the disciples, though Thomas is absent. It is only one week later when Jesus appears again. During this intervening week, we might wonder what the other disciples said to Thomas, and we might wonder what the other disciples said to Thomas, and we might wonder at Thomas’s obstinacy in the face of their witness. Not only had Thomas experienced Jesus throughout His earthly ministry, but Thomas had the eyewitness testimony of His fellow disciples, his friends. Still, his lack of belief persisted. Only a personal experience of the Risen Christ would melt away his doubt and unbelief. Such is a model of how

individuals come to faith. Sometimes like Thomas, despite all the evidence, testimony, and enthusiasm of believers, faith will never take root unless one personally encounters the Risen Christ. Still Jesus utters a beatitude that is meant for us, the reader: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

The gospel passage, and gospel itself, ends with an eloquent note from the author (though a later author added chapter 21), stating explicitly the aim of the work: “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.” With such an obvious conclusion, it does seem odd to find another chapter that begins with the disciples fishing. But as stated above, chapter 21 was written and added by a later author, as even the notes in the New American Bible indicate. The conclusion of today’s story is a straightforward admission of the point of the gospel: belief in Jesus and life in His name. Twenty centuries later, and with our own reading of these very same words, it’s safe the evangelist succeeded in his aim.

Finally, Jesus says at last twice that HE brings peace. Such repetition is deliberate. The resurrection of Jesus gives us, His followers, peace. We are no longer subject to the buffeting winds of turmoil, drama, challenge, or turbulence. We may rest assured in the peace of Christ, knowing that there is life eternal. God is faithful. Violence, lawlessness, and collusion will not last. Instead, peace, love, friendship, and self-gift are eternal. The resurrection of Jesus and His lasting presence among His disciples are all the proof we need. Once we experience Him for ourselves, there is no longer room for doubt.



### ***Living The Paschal Mystery***

After Jesus' death, the disciples were bewildered. Even Mary of Magdala, the first to find the empty tomb, did not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Peter, too, upon seeing the empty tomb did not believe. As we heard in last week's gospel, only the unnamed Beloved Disciple believed without seeing. And in today's reading we hear how later that same evening on Easter, the remaining disciple (except Thomas) also came to believe upon seeing Jesus. Thomas stands in for all the second, third, and subsequent generations of Christians who know that Jesus suffered and died on a cross but did not experience the Risen Christ in the way that the first disciples did. Even Thomas himself only believes upon seeing Jesus, which is when Jesus utters the beatitude meant for us.

We experience the suffering and death of Jesus when we encounter those tragedies in our own lives. We experience the resurrection of Jesus, too, when we are open to those encounters. Jesus, the Source of Life, continues to give life to His followers. On this Second Sunday of Easter, let us be aware of the occasions we have to experience not only the suffering and death of Jesus, but most especially His life and exaltation. In that way we live the paschal mystery more fully.

Today's scriptures once again give us the opportunity for further private reflection and meditation

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear of an ideal Christian community in which communal life is lived to the fullest. Where has division crept into your family or in other communities of which you are a part?

Three times the psalmist calls for different groups to proclaim "God's mercy endures forever." On this Second Sunday of Easter, how are you called to be a beacon of God's love and mercy for others?

In the First Letter from St. Peter, the apostle writes that at times the believer "may have to suffer through various trials" like "gold tested by fire." When has your faith been tested?

Thomas believes in the resurrection only after seeing the Risen Christ. Jesus tells him, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." What are the events or experiences in your life that have brought you to belief?





### *Easter Thank You*

On behalf of Moses and myself, I want to thank all those who remembered us at Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter with your cards, personal notes, texts, emails, phone calls, and gifts. In a time of pandemic, we both continue to experience such amazing thoughtfulness and generosity from you and we are deeply grateful and appreciative. WE are blessed to be able to serve you as your brothers and shepherds and we truly receive more than we give.

I am also grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity to the parish, all those who continue to send in their tithes and offerings with such faithfulness. Your love and commitment to the parish and our faith community are nothing short of inspiring. As this is a difficult and challenging time for you as families, so it is for us as a parish family. We are working with the Diocese to address the financial situation of our parish and they are working with each parish in the Diocese of Oakland to offer assistance and help during such a financially challenging time. I will continue to keep you updated as all of this evolves. But in the meantime,

please know how grateful we are for your continued generosity.

I also want to thank the small band of volunteers, numbering less than 10, who worked with me last Saturday to create such a simple, beautiful, but elegant environment for our Easter Morning Eucharist. How blessed we are that even in the midst of sheltering in place and the pandemic, we can still do what we can to glorify God for raising Jesus from the dead and to create an environment that so wonderfully enhances our prayer and worship, even by live stream.

Thank you, also, to all those who made financial contributions to provide for this year's Easter environment. We weren't able to do what was originally planned, but I do hope that you were pleased with our efforts.

Another important "Thank You" goes to Don Pearson, our Director of Music and Organist, for coming to play our magnificent instrument for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning. It added greatly to our worship, especially for Easter Morning, although we certainly missed our Choir and Cantors and the entire assembly singing together. George Frederick Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" could not have been a more fitting and thrilling Postlude for our Liturgy.

I also want to thank all those who joined us through the live stream and I apologize once again for the fuzzy picture and the sound going in and out. We are working on this and hopefully we will have it corrected so that the quality of the live stream is perfect each time. Thank you for bearing with us as we work this out. Technology!!!

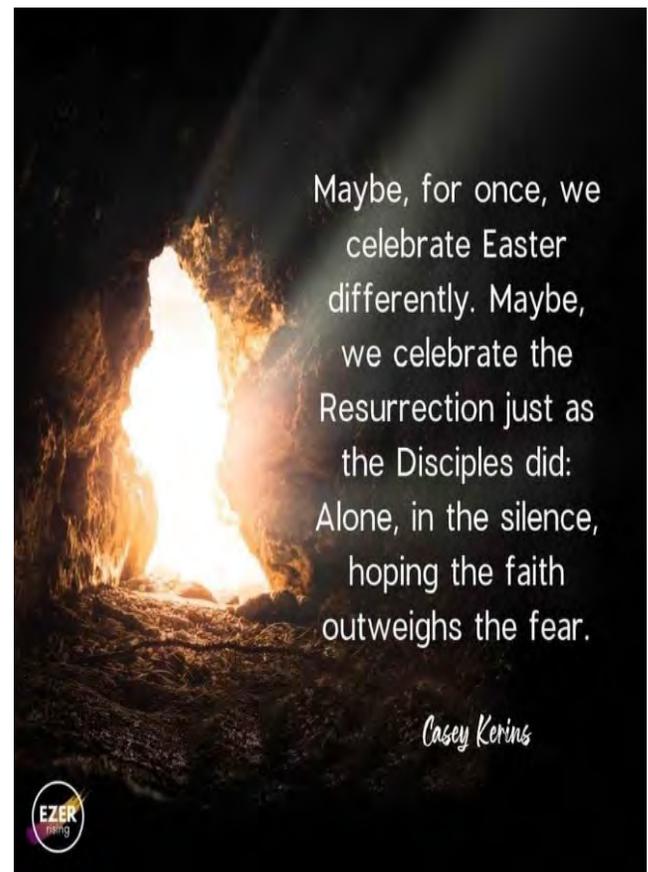


**Deputy Jeremy Ladue of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office was involved in a fatal collision early Monday morning when his patrol car was struck by another vehicle.**

The crash caused the death of Deputy Jeremy Ladue as well as the other motorist, whose name has not yet been released. Ladue had been serving with Charleston County Sheriff's Office since February 2019.

This incident remains under investigation by the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

I share with you today that very early this past Monday morning in South Carolina, Jeremy LaDue, the son of our parishioners Don and Gina LaDue, was tragically killed in an automobile accident. Jeremy was only 29 years old. He was a Sheriff's Deputy and was on duty at the time of his death. Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to Don, Gina and their family. His body is being flown back to California for funeral services and Committal at Holy Cross Cemetery here in Antioch. Jeremy is being remembered in this morning's Eucharist and I invite you to join with me in praying for him, for his parents and the LaDue Family.



Maybe, for once, we  
celebrate Easter  
differently. Maybe,  
we celebrate the  
Resurrection just as  
the Disciples did:  
Alone, in the silence,  
hoping the faith  
outweighs the fear.

*Casey Kerins*



*From Father Tom Bonacci, CP*

**FEAR NOT  
A THOUGHT FOR THE  
PASSOVER / EASTER  
SEASONS**

April 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

Almost every religious Tradition testifies to visitations and visions of those who have died. In fact, even people who have no religious attachments have testified to the presence of those who have "passed away." There may be psychological explanations for these experiences.

Nonetheless, the impact of these visions and feelings significantly alter how one understands life and death. Many people may even be afraid to speak about their experiences for fear of what others might think. Every day someone remembers something a deceased person said or did and, in that remembrance, may even feel the presence of the one remembered. Our understanding and appreciation of life and death is dynamic. Poets, artists, musicians have longed sensed there is more to life than we might think. If only we could transcend our fears and explore the deep recesses of the human experience, we might see beyond the limits of our everyday obligations and responsibilities.

Today many of us are living in fear. Fear of becoming

sick, fear of dying, fear of losing a friend or a family member to a strange virus that has gripped the World with terror. We are mesmerized and grateful for all the women and men who conquer their fears and attend to the needs of others. We are quite aware of the nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals who risk their lives each and every day. We are becoming more and more aware of the truck drivers, the transit workers, and grocery clerks, to mention a few, who rank among those we cannot live without. We now live in a World where a pizza delivery person puts their health, if not their life, on the line for the sake of others. No amount of monetary compensation could express our gratitude. It is people such as these who have risen above their fears to be of service to others. More than anything else, they give us the gift of courage revealing to us what it truly means to be human and humane.

We could say, in the spirit of the Passover / Easter Seasons, these are the people who have risen to the occasion exemplifying for us what it means to be a people set free from fear. Yes, it is true, we can feel fear and transcend it at the same time. Freedom from fear empowers us to serve others with generosity of heart.

Our World will never be the same when the pandemic passes. Never again will we order a pizza, pick up groceries, ride in a train, get a haircut, or eat in a

diner, without gratitude for all those who conquered their fears with dedication and service to others. We hope and pray that we will have been so inspired by those who gave of themselves that we might give of ourselves without fear or hesitation.

## *Justice Corner by Carolyn Krantz, Pastoral Associate*

One week after the crucifixion, the disciples are locked in the upper room, full of fear and shattered by the loss of their leader. Their world had come apart. Together they were lost and grieving. Then Jesus comes and says, "Peace." This is an inner peace that is beyond the chaos. This is the peace that is only available when we are united with Him in prayer.

Our world, too, has been shattered and forever changed. There are feelings of fear and loss. Like the disciples, we are descended into darkness of soul, but there is power in the heart of pain. When one wrestles with the dark angel, one encounters the broken heartedness of the world. Being at one with this brokenness is exactly what Jesus taught us on the cross.

Jesus looks at Thomas whom we call "doubting" and asks him to put his finger into his hands and side. He invites Thomas to enter into the marks of His suffering. This is the invitation of our time, to enter into suffering humanity in prayer and in hope. The creed says Jesus "descended into hell." We descend into the hell of not enough masks, not enough tests, hospitals overwhelmed and people sick and dying. We enter into the fractured meaning of the world of the past. People have lost their jobs and our economy is flattened. Like those in the upper room, we are all in this together and that is the point of enlightenment. This is the suffering community of human beings. By entering into this suffering together, we can find hope. Those in the upper room felt their world had come apart as we do with so many changes. Such pain cannot be absorbed by an individual alone but must be faced as a community. What is it we hear over and over? "We are all in this together!"

Jesus tells us what to do: "Put your hand into my side and be not unbelieving, but believe." Believe He can give you peace. Believe He can calm your fears. Descend into hell and come up risen to a new world whose meaning is not about bank accounts or political differences, a world that displaces the ordinary we have known. Think of the ways that things will be different. Education and work will be done more from home. "Tele-medicine" will replace trips to the doctor. Shopping malls will be a thing of the past. Computers will be our right-hand assistant. We are only beginning to understand this new world we have yet to imagine. In this newness, together, we will find the peace of Christ.

This is a time of great loneliness. Streets are deserted and businesses closed. We miss the hugs and handshakes. We miss the familiarity of life as it was. We miss visiting with relatives and friends. This change is uprooting. It is hard to live with the questions, but it is what we must do-live on into the questions. Jesus stands with us living through the unknowns. He showed us the way, "Put your hand into My side."

John O'Donohue, the Irish poet, wrote, "Allow your loneliness time to be dissolved in the shell of dross that had closed around you; choose in this severe silence to hear the one true voice." ...Cradle yourself like a child learning to trust what emerges."

Our life continues. The trees and flowers promise us springtime. We are being challenged to put our hands into His side and be not unbelievers, but believers. "Peace," He says. "As the Father sent me, I now send you." Be a shining light of courage for your neighbors in this time of darkness. Learn to trust what will emerge. Then Christ will have risen again to give us life in His name.

*Parish Perspective— By Peter DeGInnocenti...Pastoral Associate*

## *An Amazing Lot*

As you might know, it is difficult to write about parish events when we are so isolated. There is no doubt that the parish still exists. It is just difficult or impossible at times to see it as we always have in the past.

There is a brighter side to our shelter-in-place society. We have dwelt upon the actions and cooperation of the people of this great nation as a whole. We Americans are an amazing lot. We have great pride in our freedoms and hold it jealously close to our hearts. We have defended it through many wars and conflicts of various scopes and intensities. When there is a clear and present danger, we have always found the strength to put aside our differences and come together to fight a common enemy. Our enemy is a virus we cannot see. Our enemy is a fear that we cannot completely ignore. Our enemy is the desire to ignore what is happening all around us and the world and return to the communities we love in contact with one another. But we shall use our freedom to willingly stay apart from the things we love to do and people we love to be with. Not because we are forced to do so by recommendation or dictatorial law or officials, but by the love that we have for the preservation of the health of others.

There are those who defy all the commonsense actions that a pandemic suggest we take. They are few in comparison to us. Yet their voice needs to be heard just as ours. They tell the story of our time, of different outlooks and attitudes. We are still a free people lest any governing body think otherwise. We Americans have always found the courage for self-sacrifice when the time comes. We sacrifice a great deal by our own free will now. So it has been that we have always come “home” to freedom, waiting for us and never taken away.

Our love of freedom is matched only by our love for God and therefore by our love for our brothers and sisters around the world. We have love

for those we cannot see and those we don't even know by sight or name. By what we do, as individuals here locally, we do for the welfare of those who are most vulnerable. The aged, the compromised, the uninformed or misinformed depend on us whether they or we know it or not. Our actions and the actions we could do but choose not to do for the safety of those who may be put at greater risk can make the difference between life and death. As Christians we have chosen life for ourselves. As Christians we do what will mean life for others at risk.

# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Breath of Life

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
as you once breathed life into the first  
human being,  
so now the Risen Christ  
breathes your living Spirit into us.  
May this Spirit animate every part  
of our lives.  
May we listen and look for the Spirit,  
and follow where the Spirit leads.

If our faith is shaken,  
if our joy wavers,  
if we long for signs and wonders,  
breathe your Spirit into us anew  
so that we will persevere in discipleship  
and inspire others to follow where  
the Spirit leads.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Moving Forward



*Today's Readings: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31.* Today's readings are permeated with joy. The disciples rejoice when Jesus appears, the early Church exults in her new life in the Spirit, and St. Peter writes of the “indescribable and glorious joy” that comes from knowing how deeply God loves us.

The readings also contain contradictions. The disciples believe in the Risen Lord because he appears to them, and in Acts we hear that the Apostles worked miracles, yet people are blessed for believing without seeing. The passage from Acts also portrays the Church as living in harmony, but other passages reveal that the Church faced internal conflicts and divisions.

St. Peter tells us that we rejoice in our salvation but will sometimes suffer because of our faith. Enduring persecution for the sake of Christ is difficult, but what about other forms of suffering? It's often difficult to integrate our experiences of pain and sorrow into our life of discipleship.

The readings celebrate the joy that arises from faith, but they remind us that faith must be strengthened. We need time in prayer for our encounter with the Risen Lord. We need time with the Scriptures, with the testimony of others who knew Jesus but who also struggled. We need a community to form and support us. Our faith will sometimes waver, but these people and practices will help us enter into the eternal joy of God's Kingdom.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 20 Reborn in the Spirit

Nicodemus doesn't understand that Jesus is bringing about the Kingdom of God. In response, Jesus speaks about the Spirit. Those who are "born from above," who receive the Spirit, become part of God's Kingdom. When the Apostles were reborn in the Spirit, they went forth to bring others into God's Kingdom. At Baptism and Confirmation, we celebrate God's gift of the Spirit, but how much do we let the Spirit work within us? Pray for the courage to live as someone who is reborn in the Spirit. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–7a, 7b–9; John 3:1–8.*

### Tuesday, April 21 What We Possess

Nicodemus is a leader among his people, but Jesus has far greater authority because he has come from heaven. Jesus has shared his authority with the Apostles. In Acts, we hear how converts entrust their wealth to the Apostles for distribution among the community. By giving up their wealth, people show that they have submitted themselves to Christ and his Church. They are no longer attached to material things. How attached are you to the things you own? How much would you put at the feet of the Apostles? *Today's Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

### Wednesday, April 22 Faith to Share

The Acts of the Apostles reminds us that our Christian faith is not something to be kept private. We are instead to be like the Apostles and share the good news that God loves the world so much he became human. When the Apostles are imprisoned for sharing this good news, God sends an angel to free them. God goes to remarkable lengths to help us share his love with others. How can you help someone encounter God's love today? *Today's Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

### Thursday, April 23 Brave Witness

Jesus, the one "from above" who has received everything from his Father, speaks on God's behalf and freely shares the Spirit with those who believe. Having received the Spirit, Jesus' followers continue to teach and heal in his name, despite being imprisoned, interrogated, and ordered to stop. Without their brave witness, we would never have heard the Gospel. Pray for those who risk their lives for Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

### Friday, April 24 Thy Will Be Done

Despite not having nearly enough food for the crowd, Jesus feeds everyone, and has baskets left over. It is God's will that people be fed, that they be nourished. In Acts, a Jewish leader intervenes on behalf of the Apostles, pointing out that if they are doing God's will, their work will succeed. What work are we trying to do? Does God support us, or are we acting for ourselves alone? *Today's Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

### Saturday, April 25 St. Mark the Evangelist

St. Mark responded to the Lord's command to "proclaim the gospel" by writing down the story of Jesus. In Mark's Gospel account, the danger of the cross looms early in Jesus' ministry. Mark seems to have composed his work for Christians who were persecuted because of their faith in Christ. Like St. Peter in his letter, Mark encourages those who suffer to remain "steadfast in faith." Although we are in a season of rejoicing, we remember that being an Easter people means we must also be people of the cross. Read some or all of Mark's account of the Gospel today. *Today's Readings: 1 Peter 5:5b–14; Psalm 89:2–3, 6–7, 16–17; Mark 16:15–20.*

