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THE CHOSEN

I recently came across a wonderful program called “The Chosen.” It is the first ever multi-season series about the life of Christ. It is extremely well acted. I love how they bring the Gospel to life with all of the detail and richness that it deserves. The characters are real, honest portrayals of people.

Jesus especially comes across as someone you would want to know and be friends with. There’s warmth, humor and compassion to him. And the community of men and women who Jesus first calls to follow him are also wonderfully portrayed. They remind me of big family dinners with all of my brothers and sisters-in-law. They joke and they argue with one another as they struggle to comprehend the new life that Jesus is calling them to share with him.

I have found my own prayer life greatly nourished by the episodes. For me, it has been like an Ignatian exercise of praying with the Gospel using all of one’s imagination and senses. I binge-watched season 1 in just a few days. And I joined over a million people on Easter Sunday who watched the season 2 premiere live.

You can watch all of season 1 for free on Vivid Angel. You can also watch season 1 and season 2 by downloading the free “The Chosen” App onto your devices. The entire series is free. Remarkably, “The Chosen” is the largest crowd-funded media project in history! Over 75,000 people made contributions totaling over \$10 million dollars in record time to fund season 1. Season 2 is just



now being released as they finish final production work. In all, there will be seven seasons.

I encourage you to give “The Chosen” a watch. It is especially appropriate for families to watch together. I think children and young adults will really be drawn to these characters and it will help them understand the Gospels in a fresh new way.

We live in remarkable times with all of our technology and social media advances. This is definitely the best use of those resources that I have come across in a long time. I pray that it will help millions of people to rediscover who Jesus is, to fall in love with him, and to share the Gospel and the Christian faith in new ways.

God Bless,

Fr. Francis



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY April 11, 2021

First Reading Acts 4:32–35

Responsorial Psalms 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

Second Reading 1 John 5:1–6

Gospel John 20:19–31

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

1ST: Acts 4:32–35 2ND: 1 Jn 5:1–6 GOSPEL: Jn 20:19–31

Happy Easter! It was so great to celebrate Passion Sunday, the Triduum and Easter with all of you in person. What a contrast from last year. Celebrating those liturgies in person brought home to me the realization, from this Sunday's 1st Reading from the Book of Acts, that we truly are a "community of believers." And from our 2nd Reading from the First Letter of John that all of us are "children of God."

Our Gospel reading from this Sunday is a familiar one involving Didymus, or Doubting Thomas. I think that Thomas gets a bad rap. All of the other disciples were present when Jesus first appeared to them, so they had no reason to doubt that he had risen from the dead because they saw it with their own eyes. Because Thomas wasn't present, it is entirely understandable that he would not immediately have believed such an extraordinary event. In fact, if Peter, Andrew, James, John or any of the other

disciples had not been present at Jesus's first appearance after his resurrection, we might be referring to them as Doubting Peter, Doubting Andrew, Doubting James or Doubting John. We can identify with Thomas, however, as none of us (I presume) has seen the risen Lord with our own eyes. It is our faith without seeing that is so extraordinary and makes us truly a community of believers and children of God. As Thomas overcame his doubt with his own eyes, we overcome our doubts entirely through the wonderful Easter joy that we feel in our hearts. Let us continue to carry that Easter joy of our faith throughout these 50 days of Easter and beyond.

— Deacon Pat Casey



GROWING IN FAITH

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CATHOLICS!

Amanda Zale, who was baptized Lutheran as a baby, was fully initiated into the Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil last weekend. Amanda made a Profession of Faith and received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Courtney Shields was Baptized, Confirmed and received Holy Eucharist at the Vigil. Welcome to our family, Courtney and Amanda!



*Amanda's
Holy Eucharist*



*Courtney's
Confirmation*



CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES!

Join us for a Marriage Course through Alpha, Thursdays beginning May 6th, 8:00–9:30 pm on Zoom

Whether you have been married for less than a year or more than 50 years, we invite you to join us for 7 evening sessions. This course will help couples invest in their relationship and build a stronger marriage. Put the kids to bed, open a bottle of wine, put out some cheese and crackers and sign on for a course you will be happy you invested in. It's free, so the only investment is your time! Invite your other couple friends. Many couples are already committed, so join us by signing up on our website asap.



MASS INTENTIONS

Fr. Francis is praying his daily Mass for us and these intentions this week:

- MONDAY** Parishioners of St. Josaphat
- TUESDAY** Living and Deceased Mothers and Fathers
- WEDNESDAY** † Purgatorial Society
- FRIDAY** † Genevieve Slobodzian
- SATURDAY** † Lillian Sobus & Family
- SUNDAY** 8 am: Parishioners of St. Josaphat
10 am: † John Charles Dingens

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

Courtney Shields, Amanda Zale

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Andrew Emerson, Mary Louise Koehl, Roseann Mazzanti, Margie Perzynski

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Teach our kids about Jesus in **Vacation Bible School!** VBS is running over Zoom again this June. Email maryjane@stjosaphatparish.org to get the Zoom link for our first meeting this Wednesday.

Become a greeter or cleaner!

In-person Mass is not possible without this ministry. Help others feel welcome and safe in church. Sign up on the parish website >

How Can I Help?

THIS WEEK

Mon.	4/12	8:00 am	School Mass (<i>closed to the public</i>)
		6:00 pm	Baptismal Prep* (<i>Zoom</i>)
		7:00 pm	Parish Pastoral Council (<i>Zoom</i>)
Tues.	4/13	8:00 am	School Mass (<i>closed to the public</i>)
		10:00 am	Faith Sharing: Breaking Open the Word (<i>Zoom</i>)
		6:00 pm	Religious Education (<i>Google Classroom</i>)
		7:00 pm	Holy Hour of Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation* (<i>Church</i>)
Wed.	4/14	8:00 am	School Mass, Watch Live on Facebook
		10:00 am	Vacation Bible School Committee (<i>Zoom</i>)
		7:00 pm	Faith Sharing: The Book of Matthew (<i>Zoom</i>)
Fri.	4/16	8:00 am	Mass* (<i>Church</i>)
Sat.	4/17	10:00 am	First Reconciliation (<i>closed to the public</i>)
		5:00 pm	Mass* (<i>Church</i>)
Sun.	4/18	8:00 am	Mass* (<i>Church</i>)
		10:00 am	Mass* (<i>Church</i>) or Watch Live on Facebook

*Reservations required

Pre Cana is offered online by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

LOOKING FOR A PARISH?

We warmly welcome new parishioners. If you are new to the neighborhood and have not yet registered, please register through our website at www.stjosaphatparish.org.



We're most in need of bottled water and men's white t-shirts.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT MASS RESERVATIONS

Love thy neighbor! When you cancel your Mass reservation at the last minute, a fellow parishioner is missing out on that spot! Please think before you reserve a seat.

SUNDAY OFFERING

In order to give you a better understanding of our financials, we are now publishing year-to-date (vs. weekly) Sunday Giving numbers.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 THROUGH END OF FEBRUARY 2021

Budget.....	\$434,831
Actuals.....	\$467,435
Difference.....	\$32,604

DIRECTORY

PARISH STAFF

Phone.....	773.327.8955
Pastor	Rev. Francis Bitterman
	frfrancis@stjosaphatparish.org
Pastoral Associate/	
Dir. Evangelization....	Mrs. Mary Jane Sullivan
	maryjane@stjosaphatparish.org
Deacon	Dcn. Pat Casey
	312.316.7515, pcasey@sidley.com

More on our website: Welcome > Directory

8:00 AM MASS IS BACK

Our Sunday 8:00 am Mass has returned! Reservation links for our weekend Masses are posted on our website every Friday at Noon.

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