



*Founded in 1894 our parish is served by the Mercedarian Friars
Father Michael Rock, O. de M., pastor
Father Scottston Brentwood, O. de M., associate pastor*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled ... You are witnesses of these things." - Lk 24:44, 48

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their "aha" moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively, and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.



We need our "aha" moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our "aha" moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, "peace be with you," and we feel secure. It's all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God's goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.



Readings for the Week of April 18, 2021	
Sunday:	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9/ 1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
Monday:	Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/ Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday:	Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday:	Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/ Jn 6:35-40
Thursday:	Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
Friday:	Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 /Jn 6:52-59
Saturday:	Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/ Jn 6:60-69
Next Sunday:	Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18



Sunday, April 18

- 8:00am Chase Hanson
- 9:30am +Edward Joseph Schnorr
- 11:30am +Joan Brunner; and Deceased of the
Martinelli and Brunner Family
- 8:00pm Pro Populo

Monday, April 19

- 8:30am +Deacon Goerge Kletzel
- 11:00 AM +Anna Trambo Funeral

Tuesday, April 20

- 8:30am +Susan Howard

Wednesday, April 21 *St. Anselm*

- 8:30am Patricia Settles
- 11:00 am +Fr. Arcangelo Manzi, O. de M.

Thursday, April 22

- 8:30am The Simon Family

Friday, April 23

- 8:30am +Fr. Pedro Serrano Sierra, O. de M.

Saturday, April 24

- 8:30am Bernadette Forde
- 4:00pm +Edward and Marie Loney

Sunday, April 25

- 8:00am +Grace Rock
- 9:30am Fatima Consecration of Russia
- 11:30am +Marie T. Tramo
- 8:00pm Pro Populo

For those of us who are Catholic, we believe in the power of vocations to help spread the Gospel message. And vocations are an important part of the community. The vocations to priesthood, or the diaconate, or religious life are at the center of our efforts to spread the good news. However, we need to also speak about the vocation of married life as service to the church; and furthermore, the vocation of single life. It is at our baptism that we are given the mandate to spread the Gospel through our vocation in the church.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me" (Rv 3:20).

We hear in Scripture that Jesus stands at the door of our heart and knocks. He only invites and never demands or breaks into our lives without our acceptance. He knocks, we open the door, and the invitation and welcome are complete. Next weekend the Church calls us to pray for Vocations; to do so we need to be aware of our own vocation and ask –am I living my vocation to proclaim the Gospel and inspire others to do so?

LIVE THE LITURGY
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

When the greeting “Peace be with you” is sincerely offered to a person, it can resonate very deep within, bringing comfort and reassurance. When someone possesses the power to bring peace, it brings us to a place of safety and fills us with joy. The resurrected Christ has this power. God can open our minds so that we can more fully understand the meaning of Sacred Scripture and God’s compassionate, loving, tender, and untiring embrace constantly present and offered to people throughout history. Without the anchor of truth that only God can provide, we can easily become startled and terrified at the sight of what life brings us. Being open to God’s offer of peace, we can turn away from old habits and short-sighted vision and experience the gladness and joy of God’s gift. Only then can what is wounded and broken be mended and reconciliation achieved. We are the resurrection witnesses called to proclaim the Good News.



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May 24
10am—3pm

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ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM

Please remember the soul of Anna Trambo
whose funeral is Monday

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Dorothy Hardy, Kurt Mohammed, Patricia Nicholson, Colin Ramberan, Avery Lofton, Eugene Colombaro, Monica Ramberan, Margaret Davis, Kaela Davis, Yosan Gabriel, Daisy Gray, Jenell Sifontis, Cathy Norman, Sabrina Freeman, Leslie Wade, Esmond Family, Aileen Regan, Sarah and Michael Regan, Kelly Regan, Scott Stierheim, Sr. Mary Charles, A.S.S.P., Mecca Taylor, Melissa Becker, Christian Lafty, Lisa Becker, Debbie Everett, Nigel Simon, Donald Graham, Jean Hargraves, Marci Wade, Mary Frances Doran, Maureen Doran Hendrix, Melissa Potts, Cayla Wade, Theresa Gilliam, Suzanne Dupre, Indramattie Somwaru, John Bricker, Alina Simon, Carmelina Desiderio, Graham Family, Chuck Murrin, Samantha Johnson, Holly, Damon, and Stephen Anthony, Charles Epps, Ramona Wade, Charles V. Murrin

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For personal intentions;

For your beloved dead; and/or For the living

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church - \$15.00 per week

CONFESSION & FIRST COMMUNION

Do children need to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before their First Communion?

For centuries the Catholic Church has taught that a person needs to be in a state of grace (free from mortal sins) in order to worthily receive the Eucharist. To that end, Catholics should make an effort to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation any time they recognize the need for the sacrament (and in keeping with the precept of the Church that asks that we celebrate this sacrament at least once each year).

In the case of children preparing for their First Communion, the Code of Canon Law is very clear that they should also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving the Eucharist for the first time: “It is the responsibility, in the first place, of parents and those who take the place of parents as well as of the pastor to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession” (Canon 914). While some might question the significance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation — especially in the case of children who might not fully understand the reality of sin or the meaning of the sacrament itself — a child’s “First Confession” can be a wonderful time for families to reflect together on the quality of their relationships, how they put their faith into practice, and, when it is possible, to celebrate the sacrament as a family. In the end, the celebration of these two sacraments marks important moments in the spiritual journeys of children and we hope their “First Confession” and “First Communion” help instill in them a love of the sacraments of the Church.



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