

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.
A GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE
SHEEP.

—JOHN 10:11

April 25, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Easter
nool.us | (303) 469-5171



A LETTER FROM OUR PRIESTS

An Excerpt by Fr. Accu on the Acts of the Apostles

On the other hand, he was a direct eyewitness of some facts reported in the second part of Acts. In this second part, there are times when he uses the pronoun we: we went there, we did this, etc. These sections are called the “we” sections.

It is very likely that St. Luke wasn't even a Jew. We don't know exactly where he was born. Some traditions say Antioch, in Syria, others say Troas, near modern-day Istanbul, Turkey. His mother language was Greek. All the books of the New Testament are originally written in Greek, but besides Luke, none of the other authors spoke Greek as their first language. Therefore his Gospel and Acts are the two books that are most beautifully written.

When St. Luke was young, he might even have been a slave, during which time he learned skills that later became helpful for his profession as a physician. Medicine and science back then were very different from what they are today, but somehow his profession gave St. Luke a sort of a scientific and analytic mind. This was very useful when he decided to write his books because he wanted to get a lot of documentation from other written sources and eyewitnesses. This is why his books are accurate, even by modern standards.

As a physician, Luke loved the human body. Jews were not allowed to represent people or animals in any form of visual art. This was not a problem for him, and it seems that as a hobby he loved to paint portraits. The tradition says that he painted some images of Our Lady, St. Peter and St. Paul. This would make him the first iconographer in the history of the Church, besides being the first historian of the Church. Icons are particular holy images usually painted on wood, according to some strict rules. They are typical in the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Church.

We are not sure how St. Luke died. He might have been killed as a martyr, but it is as likely that he died of natural causes. He died when he was pretty old, at 84, in Greece, even though there are different opinions about the exact location. Today his body in Padua, Italy, but there are a few relics in other cities as well. St. Luke's feast day is October 18.

Since the third Gospel and Acts are written by the same person, we could expect them to have many common aspects. We can already see this from the very beginning of the two books. Here are the two introductory texts:

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received. (Lk 1:1-4) 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. (Acts 1:1-2)

Both books are dedicated to the same person: Theophilus. It is a Greek name that means God's friend. We don't know anything else about him. We don't even know if he really existed. St. Luke may have dedicated his books to anyone who loves God. This means to anyone who wanted to read them to know more about Jesus and his Church. This would include us too.

The content of these two books is different, because the Gospel is about the life of Jesus, while Acts of the Apostles is about the early life of the Church. But even so, the similarities are quite amazing. The life of Jesus and the life of the Apostles seem to be quite parallel. In his public life, Jesus used to perform miracles, to speak, and to travel. We see these same elements in the life of the Apostles and the other Christians in Acts. Let's consider, for instance, St. Peter and St. Paul, the two main characters of Acts.

St. Peter healed a paralytic, St. Paul brought a dead child back to life. Peter gave a long speech at Pentecost, St. Paul another one in front of the Areopagus. Peter went to Samaria and Paul all over across the Mediterranean Sea.

This brings us to the most important aspect that Luke's Gospel and Acts have in common: the purpose. St. Luke wanted to show the first Christian communities that Jesus, who did all the things St. Luke described in the Gospel, was doing the very same things through his followers, as we can read in Acts. St. Luke wanted to say that Christ is still alive, present and at work in the Church. This is the most important message of Acts of the Apostles. For these reasons and more, these two books have always been considered as one work. It is like one single book in two volumes.



Fr. Accursio Ciaccio



Dear Parishioners,

In this time of the year, between Easter and Pentecost, the Church proposes a lot of readings from the Acts of the Apostles at daily and Sunday Masses. For this reason I would like to offer a page from my notebook as a little introduction to the Acts and St. Luke.

Have a great week,
Fr. Accu

Fr. Accursio

The Presence

Acts of the Apostles is the most important historical source to learn about the beginning of the Church. This book was written by St. Luke, the same author as the Gospel of St. Luke. What do we know about him?

St. Luke wasn't one of the Apostles, and he never met Jesus in person. He was a second-generation Christian, which means that he met people who had met Jesus. Everything he wrote in his Gospels is secondhand information.

DAILY READINGS

DAY	1ST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Sat 4/24	ACTS 9:31-42		JN 6:60-69
Sun 4/25	ACTS 4:8-12	1 JN 3:1-2	JN 10:11-18
Mon 4/26	ACTS 11:1-18		JN 10:1-10
Tues 4/27	ACTS 11:19-26		JN 10:22-30
Wed 4/28	ACTS 12:24—13:5a		JN 12:44-50
Thurs 4/29	ACTS 13:13-25		JN 13:16-20
Fri 4/30	ACTS 13:26-33		JN 14:1-6
Sat 5/1	ACTS 13:44-52		JN 14:7-14
Sun 5/2	ACTS 9:26-31	1 JN 3:18-24	JN 15:1-8

PARISH TIMES

Mass Times

Monday - Friday
7:00am | 9:30am

Saturday
9:30am | 4:00pm
5:00pm

Sunday
8:00am | 11:30am
9:30am | 5:00pm

Confession

Thursday
5:00-6:00pm

Saturday
8:00-9:30am
3:00-4:30pm

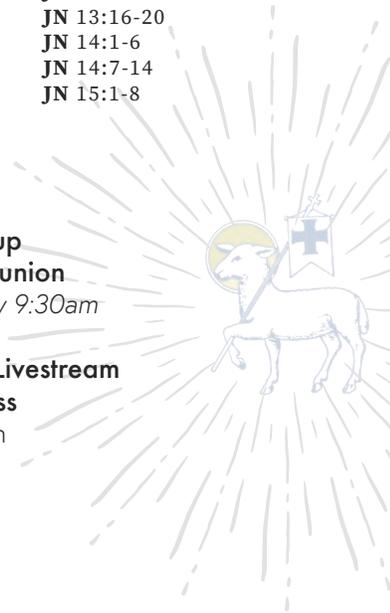
Sunday
During Mass
when possible

Drive-up Communion

Sunday 9:30am

Daily Livestream of Mass

9:30am



PARISH OFFICE

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Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00am-9:00pm

Saturday
8:00am-5:00pm

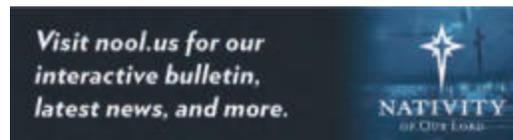
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School: (303) 466-4177

BULLETIN INFO

For all bulletin submissions,
please email us at:

BULLETIN@NOOL.US

The submission deadline is
every Tuesday at noon. Be
on the lookout for early
holiday submission times.



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SAINT OF THE WEEK



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
Thursday, April 29

ARCHBISHOP'S PRAYER

Leader: For the Archdiocese of Denver, that through the fatherly intercession of St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church, the Holy Spirit will stir into flame our local Church; boldly focused on mission and committed to announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Together we pray.

All: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the Earth.

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

RACHAEL CULHANE

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 24

9:30 Mary Danchez,
Birthday Blessings
by Marita

4:00 † Eleanor Kling
by Maryann Barry

5:00 † Bernadine Forsyth
by Maryann Barry

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 Anniversary Blessings
for Ed & Vickie Villegas

9:30 People of the Parish
11:30 † James Martin
by The Martin Family

(Sunday continued)

5:00 † Julia Kriete
by Catholic Workers
Soup Kitchen

Monday, April 26

7:00 † Dr. George
Pritchard

9:30 † Alex Le
by Thanh Trinh

Tuesday, April 27

7:00 † George Sawyer

9:30 Delores Davis
by Maryann Barry

Wednesday, April 28

7:00 † Dave Naiberg
by Paul & Nicki
Battista

9:30 † Harold Coltrain
by Roberta Hebert

Thursday, April 29

7:00 Marge Spinar
by Maryann Barry

9:30 † Jack Gallagher
by Roz Gallagher
and Family

Friday, April 30

7:00 David Barry Jr.
by Maryann Barry

9:30 † Gloria Wall
by Bette Dean

Saturday, May 1

9:30 † Frank Passard
by Bernie and Kathy

4:00 Cheryl Ice
by Lindsay Smith

5:00 † Frank Passard
by The Ondish Family

Sunday, May 2

8:00 † Lori Lang
by Bernie and Kathleen

9:30 People of the Parish
11:30 † Mike Heins
by Stella Franzen

5:00 -

PARISH CALENDAR

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00am Mass
9:30am Drive-Up Mass
11:30am Mass
5:00pm Mass
6:00pm HS Youth Group

Monday, April 26

7:00am Mass
9:30am Livestream Mass
10:00am SVdP
2:00pm Apologetics
6:30pm SVdP
7:00pm Boulder CL
7:30pm St. Joe's Men's Group

Please see the website, nool.us,
for updated parish schedule
due to changes in COVID-19
procedures.

Tuesday, April 27

7:00am Mass
9:30am Livestream Mass
10:00am SVdP
1:00pm Bible Study
4:30pm RE
6:30pm RCIA
6:30pm RE
7:00pm Venturers

Wednesday, April 28

5:30am St. Joe's Men's Group
7:00am Mass
8:00am ENDOW
9:30am Livestream Mass
10:00am SVdP
4:00pm RE
6:00pm Adult Confirmation
7:00pm St. Joseph
7:15pm Scouts

Thursday, April 29

7:00am Mass
9:30am ENDOW
9:30am Livestream Mass
10:00am SVdP
5:00pm Confession
5:30pm K. of Columbus
6:30pm Home School Live
7:00pm Sojourners
7:00pm CL

Friday, April 30

7:00am Mass
7:30am Men of Emmaus
9:00am ENDOW
9:30am Livestream Mass
10:00am SVdP
6:00pm Cub Scouts

Sign up on Flocknote for
up-to-date information
delivered directly into your
inbox at:
app.flocknote.com/nool

Saturday, May 1

7:45am Cenacle Prayer Group
8:00am Confessions
8:50am Pro-Life Rosary
9:00am CL
9:30am Livestream Mass
11:00am Baptisms
3:00pm Confessions
4:00pm Mass
5:00pm Mass

If you're going to the hospital
and need a visit from a priest
or deacon, please call the front
desk at: 303-469-5171

If you have any prayer requests,
please contact Joanne Farver at
303-466-8859 or at
joannefarver@comcast.net.

Prayers for the sick and for the deceased:

We pray for all who are sick, and
for our deceased relatives and
friends that they may speedily
attain the blessedness of heaven
and rejoice in the eternal treasure
of God's glory and love.

We're back!

June 27 - July 2

Totus Tuus summer 2021



A Week of Encounter

TOTUS TUUS inspires our youth at Nativity each summer with a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for daily conversion and an openness to their vocation by constantly challenging them to give themselves entirely to Christ through Mary and by continually strengthening their prayer lives in imitation of Her.

Grade School

Junior & High School

The grade school program is designed for children going into first through sixth grades in the upcoming school year. The program runs during the day, Monday-Friday.

The junior high youth (rising 7th-8th grade) and high school youth (rising 9th-12th grade) groups meet Sunday-Thursdays in the evenings in their age groups.



Registration Opens Monday, May 3



NATIVITY NIGHT
THURSDAY, MAY 6

4:00-7:00PM
Adoration & Confession

4:45-7:00PM
Dinner served in Cabrini Hall

4:15PM *Rosary*

5:00PM *Music*

6:00PM *Vespers*

6:55PM *Benediction*

JUST SHOW UP—NO SIGNUP REQUIRED!

NATIVITY NIGHTS 2021

NEED NATIVITY NIGHT HOST

The Faith Alive Team is looking for a ministry or group to help host Nativity Night on the evening of May 6. If your group is interested in hosting the evening, helping serve food and pray the rosary, contact Mark Thomason at m.thomason@nool.us.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are in need of volunteers to take donations from Nativity to the Samaritan House in Denver on a regular basis. If you would be interested in helping, please contact the front desk at 303-469-5171.

COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED

Mondays | Morning Shift or Afternoon Shift

Our accounting department is in need of men and women to volunteer their time to count the collections. We meet on Mondays to count during two shifts in the morning or afternoon. If you are interested in volunteering in this way, please reach out by email or phone to Suzie Sloan, s.sloan@nool.us, 303-469-5171 ext. 140.

COFFEE AND DONUTS

We will be re-introducing coffee and donuts following the 7:30am and 9:30am Sunday Masses beginning this weekend! We are looking for volunteers to help us serve donuts—no experience necessary. If you are interested, please contact Merrillyn at m.sikora@nool.us.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS



Diocese of Santa Rosa
Catholic Restorative Justice | Sunday, April 25



“Home Missions” is the name for dioceses and parishes in the United States, including its territories and former territories, which cannot provide basic pastoral services to Catholics without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass and sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters and lay people. The Diocese of Santa Rosa is one of these home missions. Their Catholic Restorative Justice Ministries program (www.restorejusticesantarosa.org) works to fulfill the bishops’ vision through a variety of activities that include support for inmates reentering society, as well as pastoral ministries for crime victims and their families, justice system personnel, and inmates. When you participate in the appeal, you join in the Church’s healing mission of mercy to all.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Sunday, April 25 | 58th Anniversary



The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. The Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.



THE HOPE CORNER: A MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

By Becky Kusick, MA, LPC

You may have heard that America and the world are in a mental health crisis due to the pandemic. A recent poll reports stress has significantly increased across all generations including the Greatest Generation, Silent Generation, Baby boomers, Gen Z, Millennials and Gen X. I'm almost certain that future research will also include Generation Alpha (anyone born 2010 and later). Research also shows an increase in anxiety, depression and substance abuse from 20% to 48%. Talking about any problem in mental health also leads us to talk about solutions! The following resources can assist with solutions to provide hope and help.

National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI)—Colorado: Peer-to-Peer Support Group: weekly group led by peers with mental health conditions in recovery. New group begins March 22. Group meets every Monday from 6pm-8pm on Zoom for 8 weeks. Register by email to kristin@namicolorado.org or 303-321-3104.

National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI)—Boulder County Family Support Group for family members, caregivers & support people of those with a mental health condition. Meets every Wednesday, 7pm-8:15pm on Zoom. Register at info@namibouldercounty.org. Additional days/times from Mon-Fri of Family Support Groups are also available virtually. Register at <https://namicolorado.org/support-education/virtual-family-support-groups/>.

PsychHub The largest online platform for mental health education with learning hubs, videos and podcasts. Some of the free videos include coping skills, mental health topics, caregiving, resiliency skills, stress management skills, mindfulness, improving mental health, helping children and parenting topics <https://psychhub.com/videos/> and <https://psychhub.com/podcasts/>

National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI)—Colorado Support group for Parents and Caregivers of Children and Adolescents Support Group, please email outreach@namiadco.org

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance Provides support and education for people living with mood disorders. www.dbsalliance.org

Wellness & Coping Skills, Parenting and Caregiver Information webinars, education information and mental health screening tools at <https://mhanational.org/covid19##WebinarsLiveEventsWorkshops>

Crisis Lines:

Metro Crisis Service 888-885-1222

Emergency Psychiatric Service 303-447-1665

Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), Text HELLO to 7417, www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/

Veterans Helpline 1-800-273-TALK

National Crisis Text Line, text "home" to 741741

Substance Abuse and Addiction Hotline 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

The Hope Corner is a free mental health ministry committed to instilling hope and reducing stigma. Please contact The Hope Corner with any questions or comments. If you or a family member are in need of a referral, information or community-based resources, contact: Becky Kusick, MA, LPC at, hopecornerministry@gmail.com or 303-907-6499. If you are having a mental health crisis, please call Colorado Crisis Services at 844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Are you, or someone you know, going through a difficult time? Our Stephen Ministers have been trained to follow Jesus' model as a listener, spending a great deal of time learning and practicing these skills because of their importance as a caregiving tool. These, along with other essential caregiver skills, are why Nativity's Stephen Ministry is able to offer you a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen with compassion and provide nonjudgmental care and encouragement during your time of need. Your Stephen Ministers are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have!

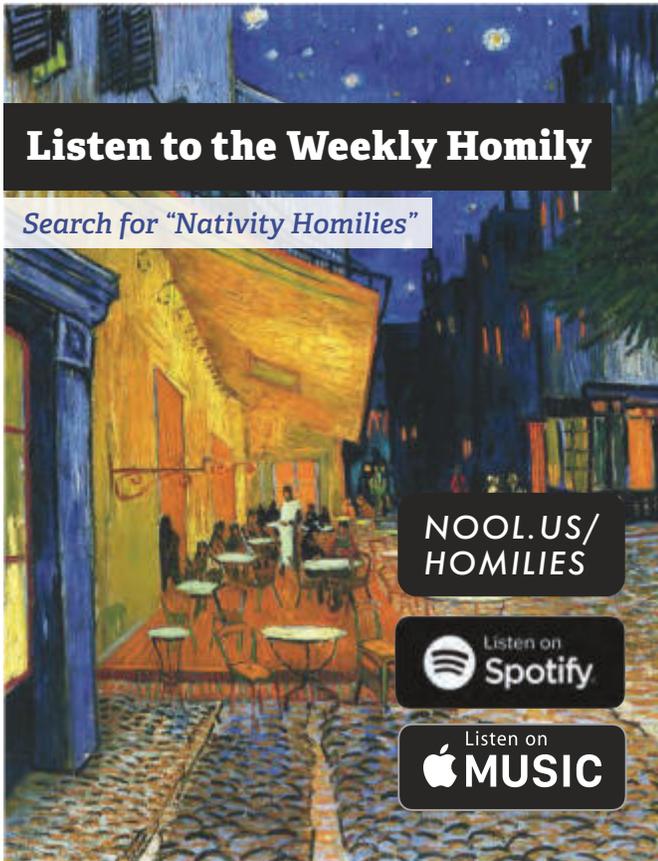
Please contact Stephen Ministry via our confidential email, stephenministry@nool.us or leave a message on our confidential helpline, 303-469-5171 ext. 113.

NEW MASS TIMES

SATURDAYS
9:30am Livestream
4:00pm Sign-up
5:00pm **Masks Required for the Duration of Mass**

SUNDAYS
8:00am **Masks Required for the Duration of Mass**
9:30am Sign-up, Livestream + Drive-up
11:30am* **Outdoor, weather permitting**
5:00pm

New Mass Times, running through Pentecost, May 23!



Listen to the Weekly Homily

Search for "Nativity Homilies"

NOOL.US/
HOMILIES



Offer a Mass for Someone You Love

Visit or call the Front Desk to reserve a Mass!

303-469-5171

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

How Old are you Spiritually?

"Like the newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation." (1 Peter 2:2)

When you look at a person, you can usually estimate their biological age. However, you cannot look at a person and determine their spiritual age. A Christian grows in the love of Jesus. When a Christian learns from both the head and the heart, the Word, and the Spirit, then the Christian has balanced growth. Proper spiritual nutrition is also necessary for Christian growth. Has our relationship with God matured past the acquaintance phase to a friend?

There is no truer indicator of spiritual maturity than your prayer life. We are compelled to pray by the continued and powerful working of God's spirit in his heart. The best way to show Christian maturity is to pray for another person. Are we still battling the same temptations and losing or are we growing stronger in living with the Spirit?

The St. Vincent de Paul Society knows the spiritually mature person is constantly aware of the needs of the poor. They understand that for a society to be healthy, it must care for the weakest among us. We do not do good works to get God's approval. We do good works because God has approved us. The SVdP Society here at Nativity is always looking for new members to join us as we are reaching out to the poor. Whether you have one hour or more there is a need for your skills. Please consider this ministry when deciding on where you would like to assist at the church.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Jesus is the good shepherd and laid down his life for us that we may have new life. Give your marriage new life by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend.

Upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends:
Space is limited, so reserve your weekend early.

2021 Virtual:
June 11-13

Durango or Dillon: September 17-19, 2021
Colorado Springs: November 5-7, 2021

For questions, or to find out more about a Virtual Encounter Weekend, feel free to contact:
Brenda & Gary Granger: 720-213-8833

For more information about World Wide Marriage Encounter, please visit www.wwme.org. Follow us on Instagram! @wwmeColorado





IN THE CLASSROOM



EIGHTH GRADE RETREAT



The eighth grade class had their annual retreat last Friday in Denver. Mass at the Cathedral, games with Mr. Calvino and reflections led by Fr. Accu made for a memorable day. We ask that you continue to pray for our eighth graders as they finish out their time at Nativity in these last few weeks of the spring!

FREE DRESS FOR UGANDA

Thank you to our school community for their generous support of the free dress day yesterday for Nativity High School, our sister school in Kibengo, Uganda. The nearly \$1000 collected sponsors two full scholarships for students who otherwise would not receive an education in Uganda.



EASTER EGG HUNT

The preschool and first grade students were welcomed back from Easter break last week with an Easter egg hunt put on by Student Council.



BASEBALL

Baseball is back! Congrats to the boys' baseball team who played their first game last week, defeating Our Lady of Lourdes and Highlight Catholic Ministries, 10-0.





*Christian Life:
Regina Caeli
18 April 2021*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

On this Third Sunday of Easter, we return to Jerusalem, in the Cenacle, as guided by the two disciples of Emmaus, who had listened with great emotion to Jesus' words along the way and then had recognized him "in the breaking of the bread" (Lk 24:35). Now, in the Cenacle, the Risen Christ presents himself in the midst of the group of disciples and greets: "Peace to you!" (v. 36). But they are frightened and believe "that they saw a spirit" (v. 37), as the Gospel says. Then Jesus shows them the wounds in his body and says: "See my hands and my feet" – the wounds – "that it is I myself; handle me" (v. 39). And to convince them, he asks for food and eats it before their astonished eyes (cf. vv. 41-42).

There is a detail here, in this description. The Gospel says that the Apostles "they still disbelieved for joy". The joy they had was such that they could not believe that this was true. And a second detail: they were bewildered, astonished; astonished because the encounter with God always leads you to astonishment: it goes beyond enthusiasm, beyond joy; it is another experience. And they were joyful, but a joy that made them think: no, this cannot be true!... It is the astonishment of God's presence. Do not forget this frame of mind, which is so beautiful.

Three very concrete verbs characterize this Gospel passage. In a certain sense, they reflect our individual and community life: to look, to touch and to eat. Three actions that can give joy from a true encounter with the living Jesus.

To look. "See my hands and my feet", Jesus says. To look is not only to see, it is more; it also involves intention, will. For this reason, it is one of the verbs of love. A mother and father look at their child; lovers gaze at each other; a good doctor looks at the patient carefully.... Looking is a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others. To look. Do I see or look at Jesus?

The second verb is to touch. By inviting the disciples to touch him, to verify that he is not a ghost – touch me! – Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with Him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain "at a distance". Christianity does not exist at a distance; Christianity does not exist only at the level of looking. Love requires looking and it also requires closeness; it requires contact, the sharing of life. The Good Samaritan did not limit himself to looking at that man whom he found half dead along the road: he stopped, he bent down, he treated his wounds, he touched him, he loaded him on his mount and took him to the inn. And it is the same with Jesus himself: loving him means entering into a communion of life, a communion with Him.

And thus, we come to the third verb, to eat, which clearly expresses our humanity in its most natural poverty, that is, our need to nourish ourselves in order to live. But eating, when we do so together, among family or friends, also becomes an expression of love, an expression of communion, of celebration.... How often the Gospels present Jesus to us who experiences this convivial dimension! Even as the Risen One, with his disciples. To the point that the Eucharistic Banquet has become the emblematic sign of the Christian community. Eating together the Body of Christ: this is the core of Christian life.



POPE FRANCIS

Brothers and sisters, this Gospel passage tells us that Jesus is not a "ghost", but a living Person; that when Jesus draws near to us he fills us with joy, to the point of disbelief, and he leaves us bewildered, with that astonishment that only God's presence gives, because Jesus is a living Person.

Being Christian is not first of all a doctrine or a moral ideal; it is a living relationship with Him, with the Risen Lord: we look at him, we touch him, we are nourished by Him and, transformed by his Love, we look at, touch and nourish others as brothers and sisters. May the Virgin Mary help us to live this experience of grace.

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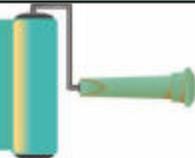
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