



Peace, the Marker of Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Spiritual writers tell us that a sure sign of life lived with faith in God is peace, the inner kind of peace that enables you to rest in it with no worry or anxiety. When the risen Lord appears in the midst of the disciples just back from Emmaus and says to them first off, "Peace be with you," that's the sort of peace he's talking about and wishing for them.

Such peace doesn't seem to be something easy to come by, something that simply plops into the lap of your soul. More than anything it seems to be the fruit of prayerfulness—sometimes praying the rosary or other traditional prayers and sometimes just simply sitting in the quiet, in the midst of love without having to say any words.

There is something about surrendering to God's love

over the course of many lived days that eventually brings us to that sort of trusting peace.

The thing about such peace is that only you know if it's genuine. When you feel peace when life turns topsy-turvy, that's God peace. When life is progressing smoothly, it's not easy to know if that's God's peace or just a life without turbulence. But if you're at peace when everything else around you is not, that's when you know it's the presence of God that has you all wrapped up in worry-free wonder. ●

Reflect

Have you ever felt at peace even when there is conflict or fear?

Jesus asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.

LUKE 24:41-43





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Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm



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Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, April 14th - K thru 6th Grades (Last Class)
Sunday, April 21st - No Classes
Sunday, May 5th - First Communion at HT

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of April 15, 2024

Monday	4/15			† No Mass
Tuesday	4/16	9:00 am	STM	† Special Intention
Wednesday	4/17	5:30 pm	HT	† Alan Hahn
Thursday	4/18	9:00 am	HT	† Michael Campbell
Friday	4/19	9:00 am	STM	† Dato & Marian Olivero

Mass Intentions for the weekend of April 20 - 21, 2024

Saturday	4/20	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Mindy Tabor
Sunday	4/21	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Stanley & Theresa Flaherty
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† For the Parishioners

The Case of "Faith vs. Doubt"

On this third Sunday of Easter, the Church invites us to celebrate the living Christ. Through His death and resurrection, He advocates for us. Ignorance and doubt keep us in fear and darkness, while Christ illumines and strengthens our faith.

One crucial point that all the Sunday readings have in common is the relationship between ignorance and faith. Peter observed the ignorance of the Jewish leaders. Hence, he addressed them: "It was you who accused the Holy One, ... Now brothers, I know that neither you nor your leaders had an idea of what you were doing." They were waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises. However, when He came, they ignorantly rejected Him. Ignorance of God's command and will leaves one with a false impression that he knows the truth.

We should be different because "the time of ignorance is over" (Acts 17, 30-31). It is over through the risen Christ. Therefore, we must continuously seek divine counsel and illumination from Christ, our advocate. John assures us today that: "We have an advocate before the Father who is just, He is the sacrifice that takes our sins away."

In the gospel, Christ continues to strengthen His disciples' faith by illuminating their minds with the scriptures. Even though they heard Him preach and saw His miracles, they were ignorant of what the scriptures said about Him. St. Jerome reminds us that: "Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Ignorance of God's word and commandments is a major stumbling block to faith. Jesus knew this, so, "He opened their minds to scriptures... you see how it was written..." Indeed, our minds need the illumination from the light and glory of the risen Christ.

Today's gospel also reveals something fundamental. Often, we think that only Thomas doubted the resurrection of Christ. However, without contradicting John, Luke takes us further by revealing that Thomas was not alone in this boat. Jesus asked his disciples: "Why are you agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts?"

Of course, Jesus knew that most of His disciples doubted, even though they did not manifest it out publicly. So, He did everything humanly possible to convince them. Christ visited them, ate and drank with them. He even allowed them to touch His wounds. How many of us attend Sunday Masses, and yet, do not believe in the Eucharist? How many are of us do not believe that Jesus is true God and true man? How many still believe that Christ was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit? These are different shades of doubt. We manifest them differently. May the risen Christ illuminate our minds that we may believe in Him. *Alleluia.*

(Excerpted from Fr. Chukwuemeka, C.S.Sp. "frcanicenjoku.com")

Church Announcements

Cheers To Our Confirmands!

Again, Congratulations to all our students who have just been confirmed by Bishop Lou at the cathedral in Peoria this past Sunday April 7th. Parents who would like to have a confirmation certificate for their child, please contact the office.

SP Grand Total

The SP annual fundraising GRAND total is \$22,973.29. Thanks to all who made this happen!

Prayer Remembrance

Please remember in your prayers Dr. Richard Pommier on the one month anniversary of his death on March 8th

LATEST OFFERING'S

APR 7TH WEEKEND

HT - \$651.00

SP - \$641.00

STM - \$789.00



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. APRIL 20TH

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST PATRICK

IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

What is a “covenant,” and how are marriage and covenant related?

“Covenant” is the word the Church employs to define and describe the sacrament of matrimony. It is clearly based on the idea of “covenant” contained in Scripture. In contrast, society uses the related word “contract,” as in the “marriage contract.” However, these two words do not mean the same thing.

The meaning of “contract” is too limited to contain the full commitment of Christian marriage. When you sign a contract, you are legally bound only to its terms. You need not do more or less than what is stipulated in its wording.

Warmth and concern for the well-being of one party for the other are not stipulated in a contract.

A covenant, on the other hand, is different. Although it may contain some aspects of contract, it establishes a personal relationship of closeness, affection, and warmth, and it locks the couple into a mutual commitment to each other’s well-being.

As God freely chose Israel from all the nations possible, so do two people choose each other from all other people. As God declared, “I will take you as my people, and I will be your God” (Exodus 6:7). In the same way, a husband and wife pledge total commitment to each other.

Christian marriage bears the same characteristics of covenant commitment—the personal relationship of caring, loyalty, intimacy, exclusivity, permanency, and, above all, love; hence the use of “covenant” to define Christian marriage. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY

April 15
Easter Weekday
Acts 6:8–15
Jn 6:22–29

TUESDAY

April 16
Easter Weekday
Acts 7:51–8:1a
Jn 6:30–35

WEDNESDAY

April 17
Easter Weekday
Acts 8:1b–8
Jn 6:35–40

THURSDAY

April 18
Easter Weekday
Acts 8:26–40
Jn 6:44–51

FRIDAY

April 19
Easter Weekday
Acts 9:1–20
Jn 6:52–59

SATURDAY

April 20
Easter Weekday
Acts 9:31–42
Jn 6:60–69

SUNDAY

April 21
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8–12
1 Jn 3:1–2
Jn 10:11–18

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

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 us with Jesus experiencing 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.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 18, 2021

