



The two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

LUKE 24:35



Three Basic Rules

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Emmaus story is about two disciples walking seven miles from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus and their encounter with Jesus, whom they did not recognize. The story is rich in both symbolism and meaning. In a nutshell, it teaches us three basic rules for the formation of Christian community: *Welcome the stranger. Break open the word. Celebrate the Eucharist.* When we are faithful to these practices, we are faithful to the promise of the kingdom in our midst. If we choose to ignore these basic rules, we should not be surprised that we seem to be struggling.

Three out of three rules set the baseline. We cannot congratulate ourselves if we follow one or two of them

well enough and ignore the third. We cannot pick and choose. It is the Lord who sets the parameters; our mission is only to respond positively in faith to what he directs us to do.

How are we doing? An honest appraisal probably suggests that improvement is needed. Each of our local communities, and indeed even the wider Church, sometimes struggles to form an Emmaus community of faith. We know we can do better. The good news is that we are not uninformed, and we know where we need to place the most effort. The Holy Spirit of God will show us how we need to apply this renewed effort. ●

Reflect

Where does my family and parish need improvement to form a genuinely faithful Emmaus community?

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office
212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

CCD Classes

Sunday, April 19th — K-5th Grade (Last Class) mock confession

Sunday, April 26th— No Class

Sunday, May 3rd First Communion Mass at HT Site



St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of April 20, 2026

Monday	04/20			† No Mass
Tuesday	04/21	9:00 am	STM Site	† No Mass
Wednesday	04/22	5:30 pm	HT Site	† No Mass
Thursday	04/23	9:00 am	HT Site	† No Mass
Friday	04/24	9:00 am	STM Site	† No Mass

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of April 25– 26, 2026

Saturday	04/25	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Phil Maggio
Sunday	04/26	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

Our Own Emmaus Journey

Like many of us today, the disciples on the road to Emmaus were at a loss and in despair over a world seemingly gone mad, seeing the foundational principles of the world around them being shaken and living in fear for their lives. The horror and shock of the Crucifixion had overwhelmed all hope and threatened the teachings of love and compassion Jesus had sought to instill. Do the horrors of today's world events overwhelm your sense of hope? Do the teachings of love and compassion seem pointless in the face of terrorist atrocities, global warming, racial hatred, refugee crises, and so many other evils? Wherever you are at this moment, you are on that road to Emmaus.



Something happens on this road.

Christ joins the disciples, walks beside them, breaks bread with them, and opens their hearts with His Word in a way that is so overwhelming, the world is no longer mad to them. Note the world situation has not changed at all, but the hearts of the disciples have. For any Christian, for anyone who professes belief in the Resurrection and the teachings of Jesus, our hearts must be overwhelmed by this same interaction with God on our own roads to Emmaus. Christ walks beside us today. Christ breaks bread with us today. Christ opens our hearts with His Word today in exactly the same way He did on that road to Emmaus 2,000 years ago. His teachings are the same: Love God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Love your neighbor, and pray for your enemies. Forgive all. Welcome the stranger. Care for the sick. Visit the imprisoned. Provide for the least among us. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

This encounter on the road so turned the hearts of the disciples that they literally turned around and ran back into the fray, back into Jerusalem, back into the world. So must we allow our encounter with Christ in others, in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the Word to turn around our hearts today. We must allow ourselves to be so overwhelmed by the revelation of a God of love that no fear, no evil, no suffering, and no hatred can leave us in despair.

(Excerpted from:ignatianspirituality)

Church Announcements

Cheers To Our Confirmands:

Congratulations to all our students who will be confirmed by Bishop Louis Tylka at the cathedral in Peoria this Sunday April 19th. They are:

Teagan Bazydlo	Drake Olson
Sophya Fonderoli	Brynley Pyszka
Myah Guisti	Lucy Reeder
Nolan Mzoughi	Mia Walker
Grady Olsen	Henry Wick
Rosalie Wick	

Heartfelt Appreciation:

Members of our Holy Trinity Site like to express their sincere appreciation to her family for donating a new toilet to the Church's restroom, and also fixed one of the rectory's leaky toilets. May the Lord repay her and her family a hundred fold.

Latest Offering's

April 12th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,137.00

Office Announcements

Fr. Thaddeus will be on vacation starting April 20th-April 28th 2026. The Parish office will continue to be open. There will be no weekday Masses or Saturday confession during his absence. Fr. Vien Do will be celebrating Masses on the weekend of April 25th & 26th, please help make Fr. Vien Do feel welcome.

Next Confessions

No Confessions on

Sat. April 25th

Dear Padre,

Why are there different stories about Jesus' resurrection?

As a whole, the New Testament is a testimonial to the resurrection. About twenty years after Jesus' death, St. Paul offers the earliest written reference to the resurrection. (See 1 Thessalonians 1:10.) All four gospels tell the story of Jesus, who was crucified, rose from the dead, and appeared to his disciples. However, the evangelists incorporated elements that were handed on orally, and they presented them in their own style to address the particular needs and cultural backgrounds of their readers. Each author attempted to express the inexpressible resurrection within the limits of language, and they selectively highlighted or omitted material for theological purposes. If minor details vary among the writers—such as the number of women or angels at Christ's tomb—these variations are consistent with the nature of eyewitness accounts and recorded events as they are remembered. Divergent accounts are not false accounts. Despite discrepancies, the objective of the authors remained uncompromised: the identity of the historical Jesus of Nazareth is now the risen Lord of All. (See Acts 10:34–43.) Moreover, the authors wanted to convey this fundamental truth: Jesus Christ's defeat of death by his resurrection is central to our Christian hope and is the assurance of our own resurrection! Guided by the Holy Spirit, the gospels' resurrection accounts have inspired believers for 2,000 years—for "if Christ has not been raised, then...empty, too, your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14). ●



VLADIS CHIRNI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Mark, Evangelist	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:8–15 Jn 6:22–29	Acts 7:51–8:1a Jn 6:30–35	Acts 8:1b–8 Jn 6:35–40	Acts 8:26–40 Jn 6:44–51	Acts 9:1–20 Jn 6:52–59	1 Pt 5:5b–14 Mk 16:15–20	Acts 2:14a, 36–41 1 Pt 2:20b–25 Jn 10:1–10



ALESSIA PREDOMINICO / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

The Church is brokenhearted at the cry of pain rising from places devastated by war.... We must never get used to war!... For this reason, in the name of human dignity and international law, I reiterate to those in positions of responsibility the frequent warning of...Pope Pius XII:
"Nothing is lost with peace. Everything may be lost with war."

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 18, 2025