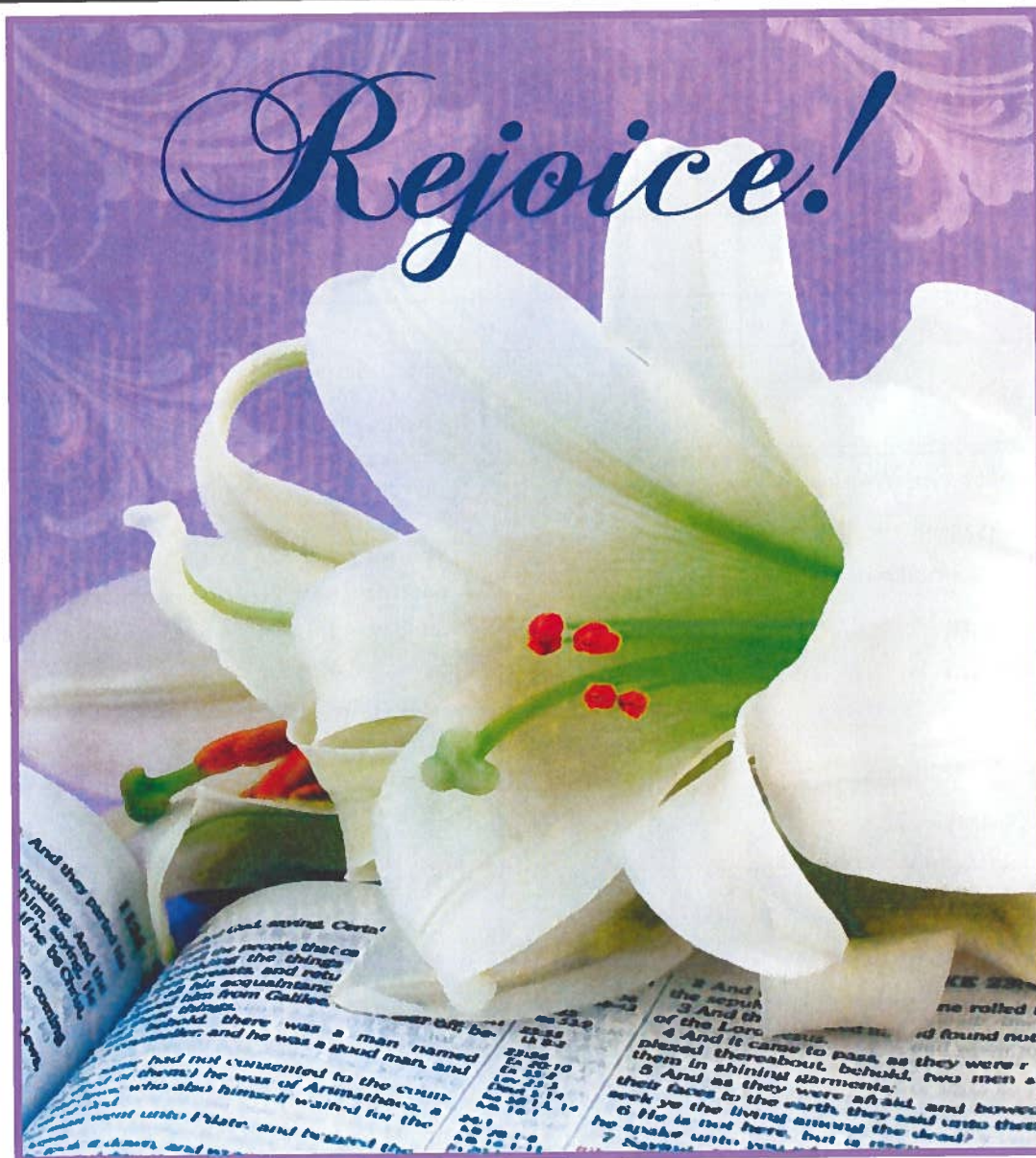


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
 St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
 St. James the Apostle, Irwin
 Sacred Heart, Goodrich

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD APRIL 20, 2025



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "The greatest of all is Easter Day, the day of the Lord's Resurrection, because today assurance was given to us to obtain eternal and immortal life in soul and body.

— Saint Vincent Ferrer

Sunday of Divine Mercy

April 26-27m 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, April 26 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 27 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 27 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 27 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Neitzke Deacon Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Dave Emling Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman	James Mallaney Dennis Pankey	Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Jeff Martin Bob Buente	Youth Mass
Lector	Hillary Webb	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Carrie Abrassart	Youth Mass
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—The Peerboltes	Youth Mass

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 21 (SMM)

8:00 am +Nina Smolkovich (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)

Tuesday, April 22 (SH)

8:00 am No Mass

Wednesday, April 23 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) No Mass

Friday, April 25 (SMM)

8:00 am +Jim Webber (Jackie Eberle)

Saturday, April 26 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Brian Buckley (Steve/Donna Jacob)

+Tom Buckley (Martha Schneider)

Sunday, April 27

7:30 am (SH) +Inez Crawford (Joshua/Hillary Houberg)

+Aaron Mills (Ron/Cindy Gagnon)

9:00am (SJ) +Leola Ader (Kim Astroth)

+Louise Devine (Rita Thiesen)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Thursday, April 24—SH Spring Luncheon

Saturday, April 26—First Communion at SMM

Sunday, April 27—Youth Mass at SMM

Saturday, May 3—First Communion

Sunday, May 4—Youth Mass, May Crowning & Last Class at St. James

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook [triparishcatholiccommunities](https://www.facebook.com/triparishcatholiccommunities)

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreeffarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Question of the Week

How do I see my life and my world differently with eyes of faith?

Collections Weekend of April 13-13, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$ 2115

St. James—\$ 1939

Sacred Heart—\$933

Thank you for your generosity!



Reflections

Constancy

There is a story about a gentle monk who was well known for his prayer life. A youngster came to him and asked how he had reached the point where prayer was constant.

“Looking back,” said the monk, “it seems that the prayer has always been deep in my heart. Once it was like an underground spring covered over with a stone. Then one day Jesus came along and removed the stone. The spring has been bubbling ever since.”

Gospel Shorts

Living in the Power of the Resurrection

Easter reminds us that our God is a big God — He is the Almighty! He is the one who raised Jesus from the dead and brought Love back to life. In his love and with his power, he is here for you and for me now. Just as he was there with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus long ago, God is present with us today. And God’s great desire is that our eyes be opened so we, too, may recognize his presence, see him for who he is, and live each day in fellowship with him.

The days after Easter are about living in the power of the resurrection; the days after Easter are about being alert to the presence of God trying to break through; and the days after Easter are about giving yourself over to the presence of God, walking and talking with God, and sharing life with the Savior who was once a stranger but is now a friend.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

⇒ Thank you so very much for all the help and support of our Night in Italy. The evening was a great success thanks to all who cooked, served, donated, cleaned up, worked, brought desserts or lasagna, made sangria, and came to enjoy our delicious meal. The profits will be used for donations to several charities.



St. James

⇒

Sacred Heart-

⇒ A reminder that our CCW is having their Spring Luncheon at 11am Thursday, April 24 at St. James Parish Hall in Irwin. We will be getting together Monday, April 21 at 4pm at Sacred Heart hall to transfer everything we need for the luncheon. If you would like to help we could use you. If you still have baskets or door prizes, the hall will be open on the 21st from 1-4pm. Please have a list of the items in the basket included with it. Signup in the entrance of the church to volunteer to help. Thank you.

All Parishes—

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

⇒ **The Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute will be held at Maternity BVM on Wednesday, June 5, 2025. Registration will begin at 5:00 pm followed by mass and dinner. For more information or to sign up for this event, please contact your CCW President.**

A Stewardship Moment Weekend of April 19-20, 2025

The Resurrection of the Lord

Alive in Christ! That’s what we are. Among the many readings of Easter, Saint Paul reflects on this “newness of life” in his letter to the Romans. The Christian life is a resurrected life. It is new life, one of truth, inner joy and genuine fulfillment. God has transformed our lives for all eternity, and that transformation is what it means to be a Christian. Do you know the resurrected life? Have you genuinely experienced it? Good stewards have; and in their commitment to the Lord, they know what it means to be alive in Christ. It is time to rejoice. He is risen! Alleluia!

JESUS
CHRIST
LIVES





Obscure saint of the week: St. Agnes of Montepulciano (April 20) was born wealthy. A pious child, at age six she began nagging her parents to join a convent. She was admitted to the convent at Montepulciano, Italy at age nine. When her spiritual director was appointed abbess at Procena, she took Agnes with her. Agnes's reputation for holiness attracted other sisters. She became the abbess at age fifteen after receiving special permission from Pope Nicholas IV. Agnes insisted on greater austerities in the abbey; she lived off bread and water, slept on the ground, and used a stone for a pillow. In 1298 she returned to Montepulciano to work in a new Dominican convent. She was named the prioress of the house the last seventeen years of her life. Agnes made a pilgrimage to Rome.

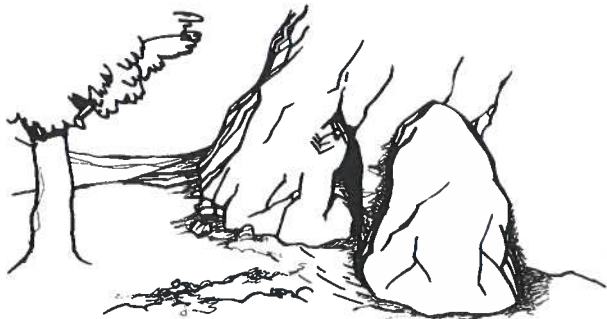


Other obscure saint of the week: St. Anicetus (April 20) was the son of John. Little is known of his life before his election as 11th Pope. He met with Saint Polycarp of Smyrna and allowed Eastern Christians to celebrate Easter on the 14th day of Nisan, regardless of whether it fell on Sunday. Anicetus took a firm stand against Gnosticism. He decreed that Church men should not have long hair; this was in keeping with 1st Corinthians 11:14 and helped mark the clergy as different from the laity

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him."

Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the scripture that he had to rise from the dead (from John 20).



This man God raised on the third day...
ACTS 10:40

St. Joseph Parish in Bradley Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration
St. Joseph Parish invites all faithful to join in a special celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 27, 2025. Observed on the Sunday after Easter, this feast highlights God's infinite mercy and the extraordinary graces He offers to all who trust in Him.

Established by St. John Paul II in response to the revelations given to St. Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy Sunday provides an opportunity for the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence by:

- Receiving Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday weekend
- Going to Confession (within about 20 days)
- Praying for the intentions of the Holy Father
- Striving for detachment from sin

This year's observance at St. Joseph Parish is particularly significant as our church has been designated a Jubilee Church in the Diocese of Joliet, offering an additional opportunity to receive the abundant graces of the Jubilee Year.

Event Schedule:

1:30 PM – Reconciliation (continues throughout the event)

2:00 PM – Prayer Service

Holy Hour with Adoration & Divine Mercy Chaplet

This is a powerful opportunity to seek God's mercy, deepen your faith, and experience the grace of the Jubilee Year. All are welcome!



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Monday, April 28, 2025
St. Lawrence Church
135 E. Rice Road in South Wilmington
4-5:30pm
(Or until food runs out)
RAIN OR SHINE!

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Who is the patron saint of First Communicants? Blessed Imelda Lambertini had one lifelong desire: to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

Little Imelda was just five years old when, one day in 1327, she went to her parents and expressed her greatest desire: to receive her First Holy Communion immediately.

You can imagine the joy and surprise Imelda's parents felt upon hearing such a request from so young a child. But Imelda had to wait. At that time, laity received communion only on special occasions, and children made their First Communion after their twelfth year.

For the next few years, Imelda spent most of her time contemplating Jesus in the Eucharist and the ecstasy of one day receiving Him into her soul. Periodically, she asked again to make her First Communion. Even though the answer was always the same, she never stopped asking.

When Imelda was nine, she was permitted to enter the Dominican order as a postulant. Her thoughts and prayers still centered on Jesus' presence in the Eucharist.

Two years later, on the Feast of the Ascension, she made her request again. The answer came back the same: "No, Imelda, not yet. Soon, but not yet."

After Mass, all the sisters left the chapel. Soon they found that Imelda was not with them and hurried back to find her. There she was kneeling before the tabernacle and gazing with sparkling eyes upon a Eucharistic host miraculously suspended above her. Seeing this, the priest gave her her First Holy Communion.

Imelda received Jesus with keen joy and adoration. Her communion with Him was so complete that He called her soul to be in heaven with Him immediately.

Do you know someone receiving their First Communion? Now is the best time to get a gift for your own first communicant's special day!

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Sponsored by
Sacred Heart Parish C.C.W.
at St. James Church Hall
4372 Main St., Irwin, IL

Spring Luncheon

With

Bunco & Cards

Cash & Basket Raffles, 50/50
Door Prizes

Thurs. April 24th 11:00 a.m.

Delicious Lunch Buffet
Ticket \$10.00 at the door
Call Terri for more info. 815 514-8171

Glazin' the Trail to Support Catholic Charities in Kankakee County

Support Catholic Charities in Kankakee County and enjoy a morning of fun, nature, and donuts at the 3rd annual Glazin' the Trail 5K/2K!



17

Saturday, May 31, 2025



9:00 AM Start



Kankakee Community Col-

This family-friendly event is open to all ages and fitness levels—walk, run, or stroll with friends, family, and even your dog! This untimed run/walk is all about fun and supporting Catholic Charities' vital programs and services in Kankakee County.

Come out, eat donuts, and make a difference!

To register, visit <https://raceroster.com/events/2025/103540/glazin'-the-trail>

Want to learn more? Call 815-724-1160 or email dschultz@cc

**NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE 2025
ST. KATHERINE DREXEL ROUTE**

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage 2025 St. Katherine Drexel Route will begin in Indianapolis and will make its first stop in the Diocese of Joliet. Below is the schedule of parish and school prayer stops on Sunday May 18 and Monday May 19. Your presence at one or more of these places for Eucharistic Adoration and/or Mass will be a sign of your relationship with Jesus present in the Eucharist. Our Diocese has been given the privilege of being part of this most holy time of public adoration of the Eucharist, plan now for your participation in this National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. Pope Francis has granted a Plenary Indulgence to any one who participates in any part of this Pilgrimage. For more information on each parish, visit eucharisticpilgrimage.org.

SUNDAY MAY 18

- 2:00 pm National Eucharistic Pilgrimage arrives at St. Mary Church, Paxton, where Bishop Hicks will receive the National Pilgrimage Monstrance and a Holy Hour of Adoration will be celebrated
- 3:30 pm Leave St. Mary Church and travel by car to Immaculate Conception Church, Gilman
- 4:00 pm Arrive at Immaculate Conception Church, Gilman and celebrate a Holy Hour of Adoration
- 5:30 pm Leave Immaculate Conception Church and travel by car to St. John Paul II Church, Kankakee
- 6:30 pm Arrive at St. John Paul II Church, Kankakee to celebrate a Eucharistic Procession, a Holy Hour of Adoration and Nocturnal Adoration until 7:00 am

MONDAY MAY 19

- 7:30 am At St. John Paul II Church, Kankakee celebration of the Votive Mass of the Most Holy Eucharist; Celebrant will be Bishop Spies (Mass will be livestreamed on Parish's Youtube channel)
- 8:30 am Leave St. John Paul II Church and travel by car to Bishop McNamara School, Kankakee
- 9:15 am Arrive at Bishop McNamara School to celebrate a Eucharistic Procession led by Bishop Spies, and a Holy Hour of Adoration (Livestreamed at bishopmac.tv)
- 10:30 am Leave Bishop McNamara School and travel by car to Immaculate Conception Church, Morris
- 11:30 am Arrive at Immaculate Conception Church, Morris to celebrate a Eucharistic Procession led by Bishop Hicks and a Holy Hour of Adoration (Livestreamed on Parish's Facebook)
- 1:15 pm Leave Immaculate Conception Church and travel by car to St. Patrick Church, Seneca, IL where the National Eucharistic Monstrance will be transferred by Bishop Hicks to Bishop Tytko, Bishop of the Diocese of Peoria.

Questions Catholics Ask

How can I live a holy life?

The pursuit of holiness isn't an item guaranteed in the Constitution. But it is a quest worthy of our lives. What is holiness? Nothing less than the essence of God. The prophet Isaiah is the first to encounter God as the "Holy One," which enables him to recognize his own unworthiness in God's presence. The call "to be holy, as God is holy" issued in the Book of Leviticus means drawing even closer than Isaiah did, to unite with God utterly—to be as God is.

Intimidated? It's a pretty challenging path. Yet it's in keeping with everything else we seek as believers: wisdom, justice, peace, goodness, love. These are all aspects of God in which we are invited to take part. Why does

God want us to share in the divine life? Because that's who we really are and were created to be. Remember: We were first made in the image of God and later went astray; our quest for holiness is just a U-turn back to our original likeness.

So how do we get there from here? In the Old Testament, when called to be a holy nation, Israel is given the Law of Moses to assist in this new vocation. The law is understood not as simply a list of things to do or avoid doing but a lamp to illuminate God's will. If our goal is to be like God, knowing God's ways is essential.

Jesus provides his followers with a more compact instruction: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Love will teach us everything we need to know about being like God, for as Saint John says, "God is love." Saint Paul also gives us a helpful rearview mirror in which to check our attempts at loving by telling us what love looks like in 1 Corinthians: "Love is patient, love is kind."

Many of us don't see ourselves donning a halo anytime soon. Even the canonized saints ("saint" comes from sanctus, Latin for "sacred" or "holy") didn't start out holy-card ready. But we don't have to worry about that. The way to holiness is the work of love. —By Alice Camille

Scripture

Exodus 19:6; Leviticus 19:2; Isaiah 6:1-7; Luke 10:27; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 1 John 4:16



What is holiness? Nothing less than the essence of God.



April 20, 2025

The Resurrection of the Lord

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Col 3:1-4 | Jn 20:1-9

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

After years (and, for many of us, decades) of celebrating Easter, we may not be sensitive to the sheer peculiarity of the Resurrection accounts. But a close reading of today's Gospel prompts us to ask: If most of us were dreaming up the greatest event in history, wouldn't we have made it more exciting? A little fanfare would have gotten the message out to the world and nipped future skepticism in the bud. Yet this is not what God did. The account of Jesus' resurrection has no fanfare; in fact, it is not an account of a resurrection at all. It is a story of an empty tomb discovered by a woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons (cf. Lk 8:2), and two fishermen. Awestruck by the simplicity of these circumstances, we are inspired to adore the profound humility of God who invites – but never forces – us to respond to him in faith.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Although we cannot know exactly why God chose to arrange the events this way, today's second reading offers a hint: "For you have died," writes St. Paul, "and your life is hidden with Christ in God." This world which we consider home, and everything that comes to mind when we say "my life" – these are only shadows of the life that is found in Christ alone. Like the disciples in the Gospel, we are meant to gaze past the outward appearances of our mundane and sometimes pain-filled lives and, with the eyes of faith, place our hope in the true *life* that comes from God. But how often we forget! How often we live as if this world were all there was, without hope for eternal life! We are not alone in forgetting God's promises; Mary Magdalene and the disciples do not seem to expect Jesus' resurrection – even though he had repeatedly predicted it. At the tomb, they sought a dead body; but Jesus wished to offer them *his life*. We, likewise, must desire and seek his life by laying aside everything that does not lead us to him.

REJOICE

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Although we don't place our hope in this life, marking the Church's feasts in our homes and families can inspire us to seek "what is above" by giving us a foretaste of the joys of heaven. Today through next Sunday, as we celebrate the "Easter Octave," every day is Easter Day! Use simple reminders – decorations, an extra treat, an additional time of prayer – to rejoice each day of the Octave.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION at the Mass during

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 1 Cor 5:7b-8a

℟. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord.

℟. Alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel John 20:1-9; L42ABC

On the first day of the week,

Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early
in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the
tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus
loved, and told them,
“They have taken the Lord from the
tomb,
and we don’t know where they put him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went out and
came to the tomb.

They both ran, but the other disciple ran
faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths
there, but did not go in.

Continued in Appendix A, pp. 293,

or

Luke 24:1-12; L41C in Appendix A, p. 294,

or, at an afternoon or evening Mass

Luke 24:13-35; L46 in Appendix A, p. 294.

See Appendix A, p. 295, for the other readings.

Reflecting on the Gospel

Everything depends on Easter morning. Is the tomb empty or is it not? As Christians, we believe that on this holiest of days, Jesus Christ, Son of God, rose to new life. We often take this truth for granted, but it was not a guarantee for the apostles that Sunday morning. The news of the empty tomb would change their lives such that they could not do other than share the good news of Christ.

Mary Magdalene takes center stage in the gospel reading today, as “Apostle to the Apostles,” the one with the privilege of sharing the resurrection with the disciples. Mary has been around since the beginning. Since Jesus released her from seven demons (see Luke 8:2), she followed him all the way to his end. Visiting the tomb before dawn, she finds the stone rolled away. She does not yet know what she has seen, but she knows she has seen something. Even someone as faithful as Mary could not yet know that he had risen from the dead. How could she not assume that someone had taken his body? Seeing this, she runs back to Simon Peter with the news. Returning to the tomb, they find Jesus’s burial garments neatly folded up, a clear sign that this was not just some chance robbery. However, they still have not pieced together the truth revealed in the Scriptures, even though the disciple “believed.”

Although Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene a few short verses later, she does not recognize him at first, mistaking him for the gardener. Recognizing God in our midst can be a challenge. Even when we trust in God’s promises, our hope can be obscured by suffering, by selfishness, by anger, or by fear. God’s action can surprise or startle us, just as the apostles were shocked when they received unexpected news on Easter. *That* God does is easier to see than *why* God does. Emerging from the dourness of Lent and the desolation of Good Friday, can we begin to recognize God present in our midst? Can we accept the invitation of Jesus to live in the joy of the resurrection?

If we accept this offer, if we believe that Jesus rose from the dead, then, as Saint Paul says, “Woe to me if I do not preach [the gospel!]” (1 Cor 9:16). Like Mary Magdalene, like Peter and the beloved disciple, when we encounter the risen Jesus, we are called to proclaim the gospel, the good news. The resurrection of Christ at Easter is a message that must be broadcast through all space and time. Easter is the final triumph of life over death, of love over evil, of God’s kingdom over tyranny and oppression. That is good news the world needs to hear. Do we live as if Christ has truly risen from the dead? Are we willing to share this good news with others, like Peter does in our first reading? Like Paul does in his letters? God has already won our salvation, our freedom in Christ Jesus our Lord. What else is there for us to do than to share this gospel with all we encounter?

Preparing to Proclaim

Key words and phrases: “[H]e saw and believed.”

To the point: So much of our Easter gospels will be about seeing. In this gospel, they only see hints of Jesus’s restored life; they do not yet encounter the risen Christ. Throughout the Easter season, Christ will reveal more and more, letting them see the truth of the resurrection and then preparing them for his ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. All this seeing is important because these followers are to turn into witnesses, people who have seen something and testify to it so that others can benefit.