

Sacred Heart Parish
Bulletin

Mass: 9:30 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

The **First Reading** taken from the *Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19,* relates the story of Peter and John's meeting with a man crippled from birth who asked them for alms. Peter said he had neither gold nor silver, but he would give him something better and proceeded to heal him.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of John 2:1-5.* In this extract the Apostle is urging his fellow-Christians to avoid sin. If they should sin, they are to admit their fault and seek pardon, which will be given in abundance. He has in mind the Gnostic heretics of the time who did not keep God's commandments and yet held that they were not sinning by violating them. John exhorts Christians not to imitate these heretics.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 24:35-48.* Our Lord's glorious resurrection is the crowning miracle of his sojourn on earth among men. It is the foundation and cornerstone of our Christian religion. His death on Calvary proved that he was really human; his resurrection proved he was also divine. During his public life he had claimed to be God. Had that claim been untrue God the Father could not have raised him from the dead. By his death he made atonement for the sins of the world — "he nailed them to the tree of the cross"; by his resurrection he opened the gates of death for all men and made them heirs to the eternal life.

We need hardly delay to prove the fact of the resurrection of Christ, for without it there would have been no Christianity, no Christian Church. In the story of the appearance which precedes today's Gospel, we are told how two of Christ's disciples were so depressed and disorientated by his death that they were giving up all interest in the dead Master and were returning home at the first opportunity (the Sabbath, Saturday, had intervened and they could not travel on that day). The Apostles were no better since Good Friday. They had remained behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They had no hope left. They too would have left Jerusalem that Sunday were it not for the story brought by Mary Magdalene that Christ's body had been taken from the tomb. When the risen Christ appeared to the ten Apostles (Thomas was absent) they thought he was a ghost, so far were their thoughts from a possible resurrection.

When the truth sank into their minds, however, they became changed men. After Pentecost day they fearlessly proclaimed to the Jews, of whom they had been frightened, that Christ whom those same Jews had crucified, had risen and was now glorified by the Father. Thousands of Jews in Jerusalem had come to believe in Christ, because they were convinced he had risen and was the Messiah and the Son of God, as he claimed to be. The four Evangelists testify to the truth of the resurrection and we have the exceptional witness of St. Paul whose radical change of life can have only one explanation — he saw the risen Christ on the road to Damascus.

Of the fact of the resurrection we can have no doubts; Christianity is inexplicable without it, and Christianity has existed for almost two thousand years. A more important point for consideration today is what this resurrection means to us. "If Christ has not risen," says St. Paul (1 Cor. 15:17), "vain is your faith, for you are still in your sins." But "Christ has risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Our faith then is not in vain, for the founder and foundation of our faith is the Word of God who cannot deceive or be deceived, and his resurrection is the guarantee of our resurrection. He is the "first fruits," the earnest of the full harvest that was to follow after our earthly death. We shall all rise again, in glory if we have been faithful during our time on earth, in a less pleasant state, if we have not followed Christ here below.

Human life has always been the great enigma for philosophers down through the ages. The resurrection of Christ, which causes and guarantees our resurrection, is the one and only explanation of that enigma. If death were the end of man, with all his gifts of intellect and will; if the grave were to enclose forever this noble being whom God has raised above all other earthly creatures and has endowed with super-mundane gifts and aspirations, then indeed man's sojourn on earth would be an inexplicable enigma. But the gifts God gave to man were not simply to help him to make a precarious living and enjoy a fleeting happiness, interspersed with much sadness, for sixty, seventy or even a hundred years. No, they were intended to last for eternity and to reach their real fruition in eternity.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* , Cycle B, by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection

April 7/2024

Envelopes	$275.00
Loose	$5.00
Donation	$300.00
	$580.00

Notices:

1: Last Community Drop-in Breakfast. The last (until the fall) Community Drop-in will be held on Wednesday April 17th. This will be a pancake and sausage breakfast. Time: 9:00 am – 11:30 pm. All are welcome.

2: Food Handler's Certification course for seniors over 55 in the District 10 Volunteer Fire Department area around the end of April 2024. Date and time to be announced later. No charge for this course. Limited seating available. Call Debbie Johnston at 902-304-0558 to confirm your attendance.

3: Beginner Gaelic classes Red Islands firehall 6 weeks, Tuesdays April 16 - May 21 1- 3:30 $30 Register: Cathy at 902-217-2088

4: Chair Yoga: Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, for 8 weeks, beginning April 10 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm, Fee: $25 Instructor: Lynne Doucette
Registering & Payment Options → Register online by visiting http://www.richmondcounty.ca → Register by phoning 902.226.0663 → Pay online via credit card or hybrid card → Pay by cash/cheque/debit at the municipal administration office → Pay via credit card over the phone

5: Scottish Country Dancing:
The Fleur de Lis Seniors Club is hosting an instruction for beginners in Scottish Country Dancing for 4 weeks on Wednesdays. April 10 &17 and May 8 & 15 from 1 - 3 pm at the Louisdale Parish Hall. Diane Landry is the instructor. Come and try this wonderful exercise for mind and body. No charge.

6: Tea and Talk -Sydney Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1:30 -3:30 pm
An invitation to join with other women to share TEA and TALK at Holy Redeemer Convent 24 Neville St. Whitney Pier, just behind the Pier Post Office.
This invitation is open to women of all ages.This is an attempt to provide an opportunity for women to join with others to simply share a cup of tea and to experience the joy of being together. For further information phone 902 270 4840 or 902 539 6331.

7: Augustinian Healing Ministries
There will be a Healing Mass on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 2:00 P.M. (instead of the usual time of 7:00 P.M.), in Our Lady of Grace Monastery Chapel, celebrated by Father Albert Mac Pherson, O.S.A. There will be anointing with blessed oil and prayers for healing of body, mind and spirit.

8: Tentative List of events taking place at the Johnstown Parish Hall

Sunday July 7 - Strawberry Festival - 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sunday July 7 - Guadalupe Mass - 2:00 pm
Sunday August 11 - Cemetery Mass - 9:30 am
Sunday August 11 - Pancake Breakfast - 10:15 am
Friday August 23 - Milling Frolic 7:00 pm - 12:00 am