



They set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread. - Lk 24:33-35

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter/April 26, 2020**

**SUNDAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading:**

"God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses. Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father." (Acts 2:32-33a)

**Psalm:**

Lord, you will show us the path of life. (Ps 16) or Alleluia.

**Second Reading:**

He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you. (1 Pt 1:20)

**Gospel:**

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" (Lk 24:34)

**WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**

**Readings for the week of April 26, 2020**

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59  
St. Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf.17b]/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69

Next Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

*Staying Connected*

Phone messages and emails are being checked on a regular basis. Please call or email St. John's if you have any questions or concerns.

Offertory Envelopes or donation can be mailed to the Church office .

Check our website for links to Fr. George's online Masses and other related information.

If you are not online and would like to receive a bulletin or know someone that would please contact the office.

Faith Formation Resources for Families

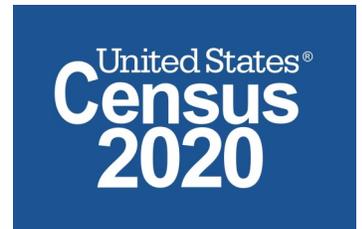
Are you looking for some ways to **encourage your family's spirituality**? Check out "Ten Family Ways for Quarantine Days" from *Catechist Magazine*. Suggestions include researching a saint and learning more about Mary.

~Do you have any "**images of hope**" that you'd be willing to share with others? Last week, we created a graphic for posting on social media that featured faith-filled images from CCNCC parishioners during this difficult time. If you would like to submit a photo, email

faithformationatstjohns@yahoo.com

Have You Completed the 2020 Census?

With many of us now being at home for an extended period of time, it might be the perfect opportunity to fill out the **2020 U.S. Census**. You can respond online by visiting [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) or call (844) 330-2020. If you'd like to check out the Census response



rate for your area compared to county, state, and country response rates, [click here](#). The U.S. Census counts every living person in the United States and five territories. The count is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and provides critical data for offering daily services, products, support, and funding for our communities. If you need help with the Census, visit the [Help & FAQs page](#).

Did you know that St. John's offer the option for online giving? This feature enables you to easily make donation payments, and pledges to our parish-especially now during this time of social distancing, when buildings are closed. Online giving has numerous advantages:

- No need to bother with checks or cash
- Web-based access 24/7
- Easily schedule recurring donations to coincide with your pay period
- Credit card option, which enables you to take advantage of rewards such as air miles or cash bonuses
- No need to share bank account information because it's entered directly into the Online Giving secure site
- Ability to give if you're unable to attend Mass
- Contribution amount is easily adjusted as needed
- Option to remain anonymous

To access St. John's online banking or to find out more, please visit the following link via our parish website:

<https://www.osvhub.com/stjohnsvalatie/funds>

Thank you for your continued support of our parish's many ministries! God bless you!

**Pastor's Blog**

**"Beloved:**

***If you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct ..."***  
**-1 Peter 1:17-18a**

We don't know much about the community to whom Peter was writing in his first letter, but it has been described as a Gentile Christian community that was experiencing alienation from each other and had lost hope in the future. In some ways, we can identify with that situation -- but it is important to realize that the hope generated by our faith transforms us even if we have moments of doubt and experience the darkness before the dawn.

When I first read our second reading this weekend, I took the first half of the first sentence shared to heart. There have been times during the past month that I have felt like my thoughts and actions were futile. In those moments, I have been reminded to pray through the example and encouragement of parish families who are also relying on prayer to get them through this. I imagine our Father reaching out to us as Peter does with the comfort of the greeting, "Beloved." It has reminded me that we are in God's hands. We have been ransomed by Christ's suffering to understand that the sojourn we are on pales in comparison to the new life before us.

The story of the disciples on the "Road to Emmaus" helps us identify with our experience. Although we painfully recognize there will be quite a while before we can come together in the Breaking of the Bread, we recognize the role that our faith has in supporting each other on the journey. Looking at the Gospel this week, I realize that I had forgotten something interesting. The companions on the journey to Emmaus were leaving Jerusalem in part because they had seemingly given up. The hope they describe is in the past, even as they discuss that there have been sightings after the painful ordeals of the past three days. Had they truly believed, would they have stayed? What obligations forced them home?

Like all of us, the two companions cajole each other in conversation and debate as they try to grapple with what is happening. They do not recognize Jesus but invite him to be part of their continued journey filled with emotion and questioning. Jesus allows them to tell the story in their own words, through their own perspective. This dialogue opens them up to possibilities -- and in an act of kindness, they invite their new companion into their home.

The word "companion" comes from the Latin *com* ("with") and *panis* ("bread, food"). It is in the breaking of the bread that they ultimately see Jesus for who he is, and their faith is fully restored. Their new faith springs them into evangelization, and they return to Jerusalem to share the good news. Our companions on our journey fill us with new hope, even when we are separated from each other and from the Eucharist. How I yearn to return to the sacramental table and break Bread with you! Still, we journey together. May this sojourn be brief, but may its effects transform us and unite us more closely to each other and to our companion, Jesus Christ.

We are all on our own journey to Emmaus, but we are also on our return trip to be one with each other. Whenever Scripture leaves out a name in a powerful story, it is often a way of inviting us to see each other in that figure. I hope and pray that for those of us who do not have a significant other, that we remember we have several prayer partners and fellow travelers to escort us on the way. We magnify God's glory when we do this. Never forget you are the glory of God.

I often think of Cleopas and the companion as husband and wife, but none of us are restricted to that image. It would have been likely stated if that were the case. I always thought of Cleopas as a man, but that isn't necessarily in stone either. I discovered something interesting. Cleopas is actually short for Cleo, meaning *Glory, patra* (father). Cleopatra was often a name given to princesses because they were the "Glory of the Father." Whether you are male or female, you are the Glory of God! *-Fr. George*



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Please keep in your prayers the sick and homebound of our parish and those who care for them:**

Anonymous, Paul Amyot, Oksana Bajko, Joan Bellanger, Michael Birmingham, Sylvia Boulger, John Brady, Charlotte Chase, Eleanor Chase, Major Jeffrey Chase, Susan E. Cotsonas, Michael Doyle, Beth Drzymala, Sammy Evans, Gianni Farinacci, Concetta Florientino, Michelle Foutch, Donald Gaylord, Mary Ann Goodine, Lesha Hardgraves, Robert Havelka, Mary Hayes, Ed Helfer, William Hernandez, David Jaffarian, Craig Kingslely, Doug LaBudde, Jack Law Jr., Pinky Laviano, Kristen Law, Kevin M. Lynch, William Lindberg, Dominick Lizzi, Cindy Mahony, Erica Matthies, Kevin McCann, Gary McDonald, Edin Mercado, Marianne Martinez, Judy Martino, Kaylee Rose Meyer, , Luba Mykityw, Amelia Nabozny, Richard Norton, David Nichlos, Rita Paladino, Tommy Palmer, Elise Panico, Bonnie Pelizza, David Picchione, Pam Polashenski, Helen Rayve, Claire Renn, Tim Renn,, William Robinson, Lisa Rossello, Dawn Ruchel, Rita Ryan, Alice Salvatore, Eileen Scott, Maddi Sidarous, Ralph Sitzer, Special Intentions, Bonnie Sperl, Sean Spicer, Kevin Sutton, Jeanette Tator, Joan Torcello, Nancy Troutman, Matthew West, Edward Wheeler, Dan Wiltse, Marybeth Wiltse, Gary Wickes, Chrissy Wills, Carol Wisenhunt, Veronica Wistar, Robert Woodward, Erica Wordon

*Please contact the Parish Office (758-9401) when it is appropriate to remove a name from this list.*

**St. John's Mass Intentions**

During this time when all Masses in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany have been cancelled until further notice, please know that our Pastor, Rev. George Fleming, is holding everyone in prayer and will continue to celebrate daily liturgies in private, paying special attention to the Mass intentions of the day. All Mass intentions will be rescheduled.

34 SUNDAY OF EASTER

