



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024



and that repentance, for
the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached

in his name

to all the nations

LUKE 24:47



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Mission Statement

“Good Shepherd Parish, under the guidance of the true Shepherd Jesus Christ, is a Catholic faith based community seeking to proclaim and live the gospel message. Recognizing our diversity, we strive to bring together a church family, welcoming all people as we grow together in faith, hope and love.”

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SERVED BY

Rev. Valentine Ugwuanya Pastor
Denise Perry Secretary

For more information on our parish please go to:
Goodshepherdnj.com
Or email us at
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Third Sunday of Easter, The Pastor's Reflection. April 14, 2024.

The Third Sunday of Easter for Year B takes us out of the Gospel of John and into the Gospel of Luke for one of the resurrection appearances of Christ during this Easter season. Although we're in Year B, a lot of the readings are not going to be from Mark. So, this Sunday we're reading from the Gospel of Luke and we're reading the episode that follows the famous account of Jesus appearing to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We're in Luke 24:35-48 and this is the Lord appearing to apostles who were terrified and trying to prove to them that he's actually risen from the dead and that he is not a ghost. Thus, that's the story.

On the third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to his disciples following his Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel.

During this post-Resurrection appearances of our Lord, there are reports that our Lord Jesus consistently greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. This is not like ordinary greetings, even though it may sound familiar greeting Shalom! The greeting is special to the disciples. It is a greeting of reassurance. The disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now afraid of the Jewish authorities and fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness, the power of the key has given to the Apostles. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

Even though the disciples a couple of time have heard Jesus' greeting of peace, the disciples are still startled, afraid and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience his resurrected body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the disciples cannot forget his suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement. They were afraid to ask him, who he is, because they knew that He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

As further proof of his identity and of his resurrected body, Jesus eats with his disciples. The disciples have known Jesus and recognized Him best through the meals – the breaking of bread and fish that he has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with his disciples after his Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, he recalls the Last Supper.

Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after his Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist.

Thus, on this third Sunday of Easter, I think it's actually significant that the Church is bringing before us the reminder both of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus that we celebrated at Easter during the Triduum, but also the implications of that sacrifice — namely, that we have to walk in the way that He walked and we have to keep the commandments of God.

Good Shepherd Parish Schedule for Mass & Worship (schedules are subject to change)

Saturday (anticipated) 5:30pm
Holy Day TBD.

Sundays —9:00am, 11:00am
Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:45-5:15pm

National Holidays —9:00am
Adoration Mo-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm

Collection Report		April 7, 2024
Weekly Target		\$6,500.00
Collection (Offering+ Fuel & Energy)		\$ 2,506.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$ 3,994.00
Fiscal Year to Date		
Budget:		\$346,811.00
Actual:		\$71,255.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$275,556.00
Rolling 4 Week Averages		
Average Collection:		\$2,910.00
Average Surplus (Deficit)		\$3,590.00

Minister Assignments April 20 - April 21, 2024

Saturday Sunday	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
04/20 5:30pm	Denise Perry	Nellie Bate Barbara Banks	Fr. Val
04/21 9:00am	Barbara Chikeze	Mina Yago Augustine Boakye Stanislaus Egeolu- Obimezie	Fr. Val
04/21 11:00am	Chima Ogbo	Luer Drews Janet Drews Jerome Hule	Fr. Val

GSP EVENT CALENDER	
Sunday April 14	
Third Sunday of Easter	
Monday April 15	
Tuesday April 16	
Wednesday April 17	
Thursday April 18	
Friday April 19	
Saturday April 20	

Good Shepherd Parish Information

RECTORY HOURS: Monday Thru Wednesday 10:00AM-2:00PM; Thursday / Friday 9:00AM-12:00PM

Parish Registration Forms can be found at the back of the church or call the rectory at (973) 375-8568

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturday 4:45-5:15 pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM In order to have your child baptized at Good Shepherd, the parents must be registered and active members of our parish. Godparents or sponsors must meet qualifications as to have received both sacraments of Communion and Confirmation, attend Mass regularly and been a registered parishioner at a Catholic Church For more information please call the Rectory at (973) 375-8568

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY Couples who are planning a wedding should call the parish office to meet the priest, to choose the date of the wedding and before any other arrangements are made call (973)375-8568

PASTORAL OF THE SICK Notify a priest of all who are hospitalized, home-bound, or Emergencies call (973)375-8568

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS, RCIA. Adults interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church and Catholics in need of Sacraments, Confirmation or Eucharist; inquire at the Rectory. To register please call the rectory at(973-375-8568

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Sunday of October-April from 10:00-11:00 am in the Church building. For more information please call the Rectory at (973-375-8568

POPE BENEDICT XVI

REGINA CAELI

St Peter's Square, Third Sunday of Easter, 6 April 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters, The Gospel of this Sunday - the Third of Easter - is the famous account of the disciples of Emmaus (see Lk 24: 13-35). It tells the tale of two followers of Christ who, on the day after the Sabbath or the third day after his death, were leaving Jerusalem sad and dejected, bound for a village that was not far off called, precisely, Emmaus. They were joined on their way by the Risen Jesus but did not recognize him. Realizing that they were downhearted, he explained, drawing on the Scriptures, that the Messiah had to suffer and die in order to enter into his glory. Then entering the house with them, he sat down to eat, blessed the bread and broke it; and at that instant they recognized him but he vanished from their sight, leaving them marveling before that broken bread, a new sign of his presence. And they both immediately headed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples of the event.

The locality of Emmaus has not been identified with certainty. There are various hypotheses and this one is not without an evocativeness of its own for it allows us to think that Emmaus actually represents every place: the road that leads there is the road every Christian, every person, takes. The Risen Jesus makes himself our travelling companion as we go on our way, to rekindle the warmth of faith and hope in our hearts and to break the bread of eternal life. In the disciples' conversation with the unknown wayfarer the words the evangelist Luke puts in the mouth of one of them are striking: "We had hoped..." (Lk 24: 21). This verb in the past tense tells all: we believed, we followed, we hoped..., but now everything is over. Even Jesus of Nazareth, who had shown himself in his words and actions to be a powerful prophet, has failed, and we are left disappointed.

This drama of the disciples of Emmaus appears like a reflection of the situation of many Christians of our time: it seems that the hope of faith has failed. Faith itself enters a crisis because of negative experiences that make us feel abandoned and betrayed even by the Lord. But this road to Emmaus on which we walk can become the way of a purification and maturation of our belief in God. Also, today we can enter into dialogue with Jesus, listening to his Word. Today too he breaks bread for us and gives himself as our Bread. And so, the meeting with the Risen Christ that is possible even today gives us a deeper and more authentic faith tempered, so to speak, by the fire of the Paschal Event; a faith that is robust because it is nourished not by human ideas but by the Word of God and by his Real Presence in the Eucharist.

This marvelous Gospel text already contains the structure of Holy Mass: in the first part, listening to the Word through the Sacred Scriptures; in the second part, the Eucharistic liturgy and communion with Christ present in the Sacrament of his Body and his Blood. In nourishing herself at this two-fold table, the Church is constantly built up and renewed from day to day in faith, hope and charity. Through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, let us pray that in reliving the experience of the disciples of Emmaus every Christian and every community may rediscover the grace of the transforming encounter with the Risen Lord.