

## Second Sunday of Easter –April 24, 2022

Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 118; Revelation 1:9-13,17-19; John 20:19-31

To accept the message of Jesus is no easy matter. The gospel's challenges are unrelenting for the believer and seemingly ridiculous for the nonbeliever. Today's readings suggest how our faith response can counteract our fear and hesitancy to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Luke, the author of the Acts of the Apostles, provides a summary of the Christian faith. Luke's portrait is idyllic, yet it clearly shows a faith community growing in the face of formidable obstacles.

The Book of Revelation, source of the second reading, stems from a persecution in Asia Minor. Christians, toward the end of the first century, feared the consequences of refusing to worship the emperor. Revelation's message is that Jesus' Resurrection has destroyed death, fear is useless, and faith is victory.

The gospel passage also focuses on the very real human experience of fear. The disciples seek the security of secret rooms and locked doors. Only the presence of Jesus is able to calm their anxieties and enable Thomas to profess: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). We are all strengthened by his proclamation!

Twentieth-century believers do not rest their faith against the signs and wonders found in the Acts of the Apostles, nor are we tested by persecution. Yet we do know fear. Each of us has our personal secret room and locked doors. We may be afraid of challenges. We may not want to look to the faith needs of others. We may not want to be labeled as overly pious. All of us are at least distant relatives of Thomas; we are victims of fear.

The doubting Thomas within us must be touched. We are asked to respond to the wounds within ourselves and others. Even in our weakness, we are urged to breathe forth the Spirit so that the wounds may be healed and our fears overcome. Faith will free us!

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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## Second Sunday of Easter, April 24, 2022

Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 118; Revelation 1:9-13,17-19; John 20:19-31

**Standing in Our Midst.** Sometimes we just want proof. The words and witness of others is not always enough. Even when we do not ask for Jesus to come, he comes to us, just as he did to the disciples in the upper room. He is with us still, with us now, extending mercy and peace.

- ◆ What signs do I see of Christ being present, being with us being with me?
- ◆ How can I extend Christ's Easter greeting of peace to others?
- ◆ How will I be an ambassador of mercy? What work will I do this week?

## Third Sunday of Easter, May 1, 2022

Acts 5:27-32,40-41; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19



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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,  
Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

### **ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH**

2020 State Rte. 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Parish Council Chair: Becky Bowers

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am

Weekdays –Fri 6:00 pm

### **Believing**

Thomas had not seen the risen Christ, and so he refused to believe that Jesus had really risen. Jesus does not rebuke him, but he does point out that “blest are they who have not seen and have believed.”

One reason why we are so far from the Kingdom is that we refuse to believe what we have not seen. We have not experienced a world without war, so we refuse to believe that peace is possible. We have always had poor among us, so we refuse to believe that poverty can be eliminated. We see only our own economic system and we refuse to believe that anything else will work.

The saying of Jesus echoes through the centuries: “blest are they who have not seen and have believed.” Blest are those prophetic voices raised in anticipation of a new day, a new world of justice and peace. They “no longer look for Jesus among the dead,” but find him instead in life and in the fullness of life. They base their lives on their total faith that we “have become a new creation.”

*Will the world ever succeed in changing that selfish and bellicose mentality which, up to now, has been interwoven in so much of its history? It is hard to foresee; but it is easy to affirm that it is toward that new history, a peaceful, truly human history, as promised by God to men of good will, that we must resolutely march.*

Pope Paul VI, Address to the United Nations (1965) Para. 22

--Gerald Darring from SLU Sunday Site

# Vol. 23 # 17, Second Sunday of Easter

## Schedule of Masses

Sun Apr 24 Home Mission Appeal Collection  
8:00 am Mass Gloria Arado  
Harry & Xennia Gruszczyk

Fri Apr 22 6:00 pm Mass

Sun May 1 8:00 Mass Billie Anderson  
1<sup>st</sup> Communion

## Liturgical Ministers

| Apr 24 | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>EM</u>     | <u>Servers</u> | <u>Ushers</u>           |
|--------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|
|        | J Nelson      | L Coleman      | V Anderson    | Vol            | *M McMahan, D Zmuda Jr. |
|        |               |                | <u>Cantor</u> | Z Garrett      |                         |

  

| May 1 | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>EM</u>     | <u>Servers</u>       | <u>Ushers</u>      |
|-------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|       | M Miller      | X Gruszczyk    | P Widowski    | M Palmer, M Bergmann | * M Slife, R Weeks |
|       |               |                | <u>Cantor</u> | J Starrett           |                    |

Birthdays  
Apr 24 Dale Bishop  
Apr 28 Xennia Gruszczyk  
Apr 29 John Zawacki

## FLOWER MEMORIAL UPDATE:

The David Zmuda, Jr. Family was left off the Flower Memorial donation list posted on Easter Sunday. We apologize. Thank you to all who donated Easter lilies. Also thank you to Madonna Slife and Marsha Nelson for changing our church banners, etc from Lent to Easter Season.

## CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL APRIL 24

What Is a Home Mission Diocese? Home mission dioceses are those Catholic dioceses in the United States, its territories, and former territories that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. Basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and laypeople. Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered home missions.

## ST. PAUL CCW MEMBERS (ALL LADIES OF OUR CHURCH) WILL BE HOSTING THE FIRST COMMUNION BREAKFAST ON MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AFTER MASS.

Please sign up on bulletin board or contact Pam (217-714-4568) if you can provide food or help in kitchen/serving that day.

PLEASE CONTINUE THE CELEBRATION OF MACIE’S, RUBY’S, NOLAN’S AND CARTER’S FIRST COMMUNION BY JOINING US FOR BREAKFAST IN THE PARISH HALL AFTER THE MAY 1ST MASS. All parishioners, families and guests of the First Communicants are invited.

## MAY CROWNING WILL BE MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>.

SPECIAL COLLECTION MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> TO THANK FR. SAL FROM KINGS HOUSE BELLEVILLE. Fr. Sal provided Our three Parishes With A recent March Three Day Mission For Lent. We Want to Show Our Gratitude. Please Be Generous.

## WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS IS MAY 8.

Please join our diocese and country in praying for more vocations.

## VOCATION CORNER April 24:

Today’s Gospel is the familiar story of Thomas’ declaration of unbelief in the Resurrection until “I put my finger in the nail marks”. These kinds of thoughts often attack the minds of those discerning a religious vocation. They are seeking that “definite” sign that the path they

## STEWARDSHIP OFFERING April 17, 2022

Envelope (31) \$2105  
Loose \$95.00  
Good Friday (13) \$444..00

Masses (\$60)  
Donations \$355.00  
**Total: \$3059**  
Building & Maint. (1) \$20.00

## THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

Sun Apr 24 Catholic Home Mission Appeal  
8:00 am Mass Gloria Arado  
Gruszczyk

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

Fri Apr 29 6:00 pm Mass

Sun May 1 8:00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Communion  
9:00 am Parish Social and Reception for  
Families of 1<sup>st</sup> Communicants

are pursuing is the right one. The Lord doesn't always afford that. Let us pray, often and loudly, for these discerners that they "hear the call" of the Lord and continue to respond to it.