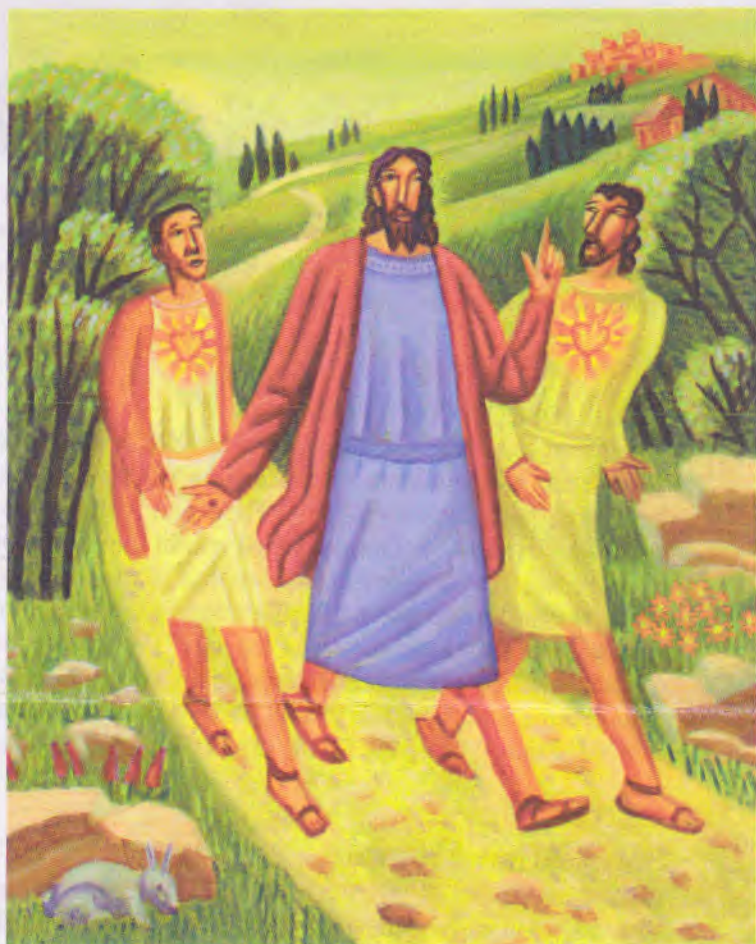


SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)



Prayer for Community

Father of all,
on this octave of the Resurrection of
your Son,
bless each Christian family
and community
with concern for the common good.
Like our early Christian ancestors,
let awe come upon everyone,
let us devote ourselves to the
Apostles' teaching,
to fellowship, prayer, and the breaking
of bread.
Stir our hearts with generosity
to share what we have with others
and to praise you gladly.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 27, 2014
Seeing is Believing

Today's Readings: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24 (1); 1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31. "Seeing is believing" could have been Thomas's motto, but Jesus's response is "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." We have not seen Jesus with our own eyes, but our faith leads us to see him in our hearts and in our sisters and brothers. This same faith led the early Christian community to care for one another with great zeal, as the first reading describes. Thomas really did not "get it" when the Apostles told him that Jesus had risen from the dead. At times, we don't "get it" either. We have a hard time believing, yet we can take hope in Christ's gracious, patient response to Thomas. Christ offers what we need to believe in him; he is the way, the truth, and the life on our path toward salvation.

Each week in the liturgy, we hail Jesus as "the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Through the forgiveness of sins, the Church witnesses to, and extends, the very identity and mission of Jesus. The task of the Church, and our task by virtue of our Baptism, is to extend to all life through faith in the name of Jesus the Messiah.

Do you know someone struggling with doubt? Seek this person out; share and show your faith to one another. Let your mission be to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Pay attention to those in doubt and fear, in darkness and despair, so they may begin moving toward a new life in the Spirit. Give thanks for the bread that comes down from heaven, and that gives life to the world. Blessed are those who have not seen, but believe!



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 28

Saint Peter Chanel

Peter Chanel joined the Society of Mary (Marists), and became a missionary to Oceania. He mastered the language of the people, and many were baptized and instructed in the faith, but when the chieftain's son asked for Baptism, in 1841, Chanel was clubbed to death. In today's reading from Acts of the Apostles, the Apostles, filled with the Spirit, went out and became missionaries to the Gentiles. Filled with zeal, they "spoke the word of God with boldness." In what ways do you boldly proclaim the Word of God? Today's Readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–7a, 7b–9 (see 11d); John 3:1–8.

Tuesday, April 29

Saint Catherine of Siena

Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles speaks of the early Christian community being of "one heart and soul." The community cared for all, and no one was in need. Catherine of Siena, declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970, was also a spiritual writer and mystic. Catherine was on fire with the love of God and neighbor, and worked to establish peace and concord between cities, fought for the rights and freedom of the pope, and promoted renewal of religious life. Today's Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5 (1a); John 3:7b–15.

Wednesday, April 30

Saint Pius V

Pius V pursued reforms in the liturgy and called the Council of Trent. The Church and the world at this time were undergoing great turmoil. The Apostles in today's reading from Acts are also undergoing turmoil. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have been preaching boldly about Christ, and the high priest and the Sadducees respond by putting them in prison. But in the middle of the night, an angel leads them out so that they can continue preaching in the

Temple the next day. The Apostles are exhilarated by their mission and by the Spirit, who works with them. What is your mission at this moment? Today's Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (7a); John 3:16–21.

Thursday, May 1

Saint Joseph the Worker

This memorial was created by Pope Pius XII in 1955. The Church has a long history of concern for workers' rights, beginning with the encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, *Rerum novarum* (On the New Things), which upheld the dignity of laborers and their freedom to form unions. It also affirmed the right to private property. Like the words of today's psalm refrain, "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" (Psalm 34), the Church stands as a beacon and advocate for workers' rights, labor unions, and economic justice. Today's Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20 (7a); John 3:31–36.

Friday, May 2

Saint Athanasius

Athanasius (296–373) was the most famous defender of the Incarnation in early theological debates. In today's Gospel, Jesus withdraws to a mountain to be alone in prayer to his Father. Where do you go for your "mountain experience?" Today's Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14 (see 4abc); John 6:1–15.

Saturday, May 3

Saints Philip and James

We know little about the Apostle James, but Philip is mentioned several times in Scripture. Like many of the disciples, he questioned Jesus, showing his humanity, doubts, and fears. Jesus responded to Philip by saying, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." When we doubt the presence of Jesus in our lives, let us turn to the Father, who shows us the way to the Son. Today's Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1–8; Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5 (5); John 14:6–14.



© Liturgy Training Publications. 1-800-933-1800. Written by Michael R. Prendergast. Illustrated by Jim Janknegt. Scripture quotations are from *The New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition*, copyright © 1993 and 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. The English translation of the Psalm Response from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL). All rights reserved. All rights reserved. Permission to publish granted by the Archdiocese of Chicago, on October 24, 2013.

Keeping the Seasons

Reproducibles for Lent-Triduum-Easter 2014