



**HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH**

National Catholic Church

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**APRIL 7, 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional Rite.



**ENTRANCE HYMN**

(Psalm 40:2-4)

V. I waited, waited for the Lord, who bent down and heard my cry and, drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp, set my feet upon rock and steadied my steps. Alleluia.

R. And put a new song in my mouth, a hymn from our God. Many shall look on in awe and they shall trust in the Lord. Alleluia.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**THE GLORIA**

Glory to God in the Highest,  
And peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God, and Father

We worship You; we give You thanks

We praise you for Your glory

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father

Lord God, Lamb of God

You take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

You are seated at the right hand of the Father

Receive our prayer

For you alone are the Holy One

You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

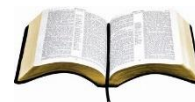
**OPENING PRAYER**

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Almighty God, our Father, You have raised Christ, Your Son, Who conquered death and opened for us the way to eternal life, let our celebration today raise us up and renew our lives by the risen Christ Who is among us. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R. Amen.



**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (Acts 4:32-35)**

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

C: The Word of the Lord

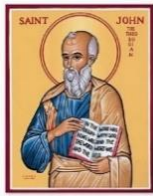
R: Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL**

(Psalm 116:15-16)

V. Too costly in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His faithful. Alleluia.

R. Lord, I am Your servant, Your servant, the child of Your maidservant: You have loosed my bonds. Alleluia



**A READING FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LETTER OF SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE (1 John 5:1-6)**

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

C. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

**ALLELUIA**  
(Psalm 30:2,4)

C. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. I praise You, Lord, for You raised me up and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. Lord, You brought me up from Sheol; You kept me from going down to the pit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN**  
(John 20:19-31)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear

of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Now a week later His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in His name.

C. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED**

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth

Of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

The only Son of God,

Eternally begotten of the Father.

God from God, Light from Light, True God

from true God, begotten not made

Of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made

For us and for our salvation.

He came down from heaven:

By the power of the Holy Spirit

He was born of the Virgin Mary

**AND BECAME MAN.**

For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again

In fulfillment of the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and

Is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

To judge the living and the dead

And His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The Lord and Giver of Life

Who proceeds from the Father,

With the Father and the Son

He is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in One, Holy, Catholic

and Apostolic Church

I acknowledge one baptism

for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead

And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



**OFFERATORY VERSE**

(Psalm 12b-13)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

V. O God, I will present my thank offerings to You.

For You have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of Life. Alleluia.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord, our God, accept the offerings of Your rejoicing Church which You have enlivened this day; and grant us the gift of perpetual gladness, for You have given us cause for great joy. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

This prayer is offered for all those who will not be able to receive the Holy Eucharist sacramentally at this time. May we pray together for the Co-Union we share with our Lord:

**Let us Pray:** Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

**COMMUNION VERSE**

(Ezekiel 37:13)

V. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O My people! Alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Lord, Jesus Christ, to You belong the keys of life and death by the will of the Father.

Preserve us through these Holy Mysteries that our redemption may be assured and our doubts relieved. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



**THOMAS, APOSTLE OF JESUS**

Thomas, also known as Didymus or “twin” is mentioned as one of the Apostles of Jesus and found in the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18, and Luke 6:15. Thomas is also mentioned in Acts 1:13 as one of the Apostles of Jesus, who gathered to name a replacement for Judas Iscariot, one of the original twelve, who was lost.

Outside of the listing of the twelve Apostles, there are only three stories that Thomas is mentioned of directly in the New Testament, all found in the Gospel of John.

The first is found in John 11:16. where Jesus, upon learning of the death of Lazarus, decides to travel to the Bethany, where Lazarus is entombed. Jesus had already stated to His Apostles of His own Passion and death and His Apostles were aware of the threat that Jesus posed with the Jewish elders of the Sanhedrin,

who wanted to put Jesus to death. “[Now] Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

The second mention of Thomas is found in John 14: 5-6 where Jesus, at the Last Supper, speaks of His going away: “[Now] Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me.”

The third reference of Thomas is found in today’s Gospel of the story of the “doubting Thomas.”

Tradition holds that following the Pentecost, Thomas traveled to Parthia (modern day Iran) and then to India to preach the “Good News” of Jesus. It is believed that St. Thomas suffered martyrdom by a spear while He prayed in Mylapore, India. His relics were later transferred to Ortona, Italy.

St. Thomas is venerated in the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, and many Protestant Churches. He is venerated on July 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Syro-Malabar, the Syriac Catholic, and the Syriac Orthodox Church, on December 21<sup>st</sup> in the traditional calendars of the Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches, and on October 26<sup>th</sup> by the Coptic Orthodox Church.



## **THE NAG HAMADDI COLLECTION THE GOSPEL OF SAINT THOMAS**

In 1945, a collection of 13 papyrus codices of early gnostic writings were found in an Egyptian desert, outside the town of Nag Hammadi. Among these writings were the “Gospel of St. Thomas,” a non-canonical book containing 114 sayings that were attributed to the resurrected Jesus. It is traditionally ascribed to St. Thomas the Apostle.

“Gnosticism,” which appeared in the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century was defined as “heretical” by the Early Church, and a movement considered as “un-orthodox” to the accepted teachings of Jesus, although some of the sayings in this writing run parallel to the core of Jesus’ teachings. The accepted

27 books of the New Testament, were canonized at the council of Hippo in year 393 AD and later affirmed at the councils of Carthage in 397 and 419 AD.

The primary view of this gospel writing is that salvation comes through self-knowledge and that baptism brings about the birth and the return of a new man that existed before the fall of Adam and Eve and their expulsion from the garden of Eden.

### **REFLECTIONS ON TODAY’S GOSPEL**

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” - John 20:19

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Following the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus, the Apostles hid themselves away, out of fear. They locked the doors and barred the windows. I am sure that they heard every sound, waiting for that one knock that would bring about their own arrest and even suffer crucifixion, by the Romans, as their Lord did on that first Good Friday. But that evening, following the Resurrection, our Lord appeared to them. For whatever reason, Thomas was not present.

“Peace be with you” was how Jesus greeted them. “Peace.” His greeting was intended to first calm their fears; and later intended to give them confidence and courage in place of the terror that they had dread and must have felt. The words were to be for them calming words were to transform them from extreme fear to great rejoicing in seeing their “Risen Lord.”

Again, Jesus said to them “Peace be with you” It was His assurance to them that He was indeed with them.”

Jesus, would greet them again, with Thomas present, one week later, with the same message “Peace be with you.” Peace/

In Luke 19:41-44, we read the following: “As He [Jesus] approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, “If you had only known on this day what would bring you **peace**—but now it is hidden from your eyes.”

Jesus, called the “Prince of Peace,” wept over Jerusalem, the “City of Peace,” for He foresaw the destruction of Jerusalem, by the Romans. In 63 AD,

the Roman general Pompey captured Jerusalem while Nero was emperor of Rome and in 70 AD, around the time of the Jewish Passover, the emperor Titus brought about the siege of Jerusalem and the eventual destruction of the Jewish Temple. I am sure that today, our Lord weeps over the chaos and the violence that is seen in our world and in the lives of the “innocents.” At this Easter time, I believe that our Lord comes to those who turn to God in prayer, seeking strength and guidance through His presence during these difficult times. As Christ comes among us, He comes not only with a message of peace but also a mission. “As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.” He has called upon us, to go forth, as His disciples, to bring forth His peace and love but also service to others in need. We are reminded of the Parable of Judgement as found in Matthew 25:31-46 that “As often as you have done it to the least of the brethren, you have done it to me.” Maybe this is the “oneness” that He prays for all of us to have.

We learn from catechetical instruction, that there exists in Christianity a spiritual marriage, a bond between Christ, as the bridegroom, and His Church, as His bride. We also learn that we, as members of His Church, are His Body. We find this concept in St. Paul’s first Letter to the Corinthians 12:13: “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of the one Spirit.”

The truth is that Christ needs us and is dependent upon us, for we are called upon to be His hands, His feet, His voice, and His heart. We, in turn, need to seek Christ, as our Bread of Life, for as we call upon Him, in prayer, He gives us spiritual strength, sustenance and guidance. Jesus has given us a message “to go forth” and share this message of hope, compassion, mercy, love, and peace. To carry out His mission, He gave His Church, not only the wisdom, but the power of the Holy Spirit. Did He not breathe on His disciples that evening and say: “Receive the Holy Spirit?” Did not He also say: “Come to me all you who labor and are heavily laden and I will give you rest?” My brothers and sisters, Jesus offers us today a peace in times of personal trial, personal troubles, chaos, and confusion. It is found whenever we bring Him into our hearts and witness Him to others.

Peace is the most powerful word that recalls how the Lord comes to each of us this Easter season. Amid all the problems we have today in our world, His peace is not found outside of ourselves or in our society, but rather begins within ourselves. It is in the quietness of our own “upper room,” where we shut off the confusion and chaos of the outside world, where we can begin to perceive the peace which Jesus brings to us. When we truly come to believe, like Thomas came to believe, that the Lord is alive in our lives, then we can begin to understand His peace and find that solace, strength and assurance. This statement of faith is confirmed in the words of the first Letter of Peter 1:8-9: “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and although you do not now see Him you believe in Him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith, you obtain the very salvation of your souls.”

### **THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

I have always been interested in the roots of Christianity as displayed by the events that took place following the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, the “Christos,” in Greek, the “Messiah,” in the OT prophecies, and who would become the Anointed One of God. We really do not have a lot of sources that tells us of the “genesis” of the Christian community of the church, but one of the main sources comes from the NT, in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, attributed and written by St. Luke, a companion of St. Paul.

We do know that following the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, where 120 men and women were gathered in Jerusalem, Christianity evolved and began to spread throughout the known world by the ministries of the Apostles and St. Paul, known as the “Apostle to the Gentiles.”

The following are some references found in the Acts of the Apostles that took place among the believers in the first Christian community.

1. **They devoted themselves to the teachings of the Apostles.** Prior to the first Gospel account of the life of Jesus believed to have written by St. Mark circa 55-70 AD, the Apostles were the teachers of the “Good News” of Jesus. It is also believed that the

main source of the Gospels came from what is known as the “Q” source; a collection of sayings of Jesus, attributed to St. Matthew, one of His first chosen. These sayings were later to be found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and later in Luke also known as the “synoptic gospels,” because of the commonality of stories shared.

2. **They lived a communal life.** Basically, the early Christians lived either with others or near each other. A modern-day example of this would be the concept of the Jewish “kibbutz,” where people of a common faith are drawn together and live in the spirit of “togetherness” for the common good.
3. **They broke bread and prayed.** The essence of the early Christian faith centers around the events that took place at the Last Supper, where Jesus was to give a new meaning to the bread and wine, the basic elements of the *Jewish Passover*. *St. Paul was to write 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*: “For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”
4. **All who believed were together and had all things in common;** they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one’s need. It could be said that the early Christian church found elements similar to a “utopic or socialist society.” “Socialism” has been defined as “a political or economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole.” Whereas capitalism is based on a society that is owned by private

individuals, basically “every man for himself,” early Christianity was a religious society built on the teachings of Jesus, where all had similar interests and concern for others as Jesus lived and taught, where all gave of their possessions to be shared with others, according to individual needs. This concept is also found in the life of a Church family.



## OUR PARISH CALENDAR

### DAILY HOLY MASS

8:45 am Morning Devotions

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

### THIS WEEK’S MASS SCHEDULE

(April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 13<sup>th</sup>)

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Mon. 4/8    | <b>Solemnity – Annunciation of the BVM</b><br>Dionysius of Corinth, Bishop & Writer<br>Walter of Pontoise, Abbot<br>Perpetuus of Tours, Bishop |
| Tue. 4/9    | <b>Mass of Thanksgiving.</b><br>Mary of Cleopas, NT, Matron<br>Hugh of Rouen, Bishop<br>Waudru, Widow  |
| Wed. 4/10   | <b>Mass for Health &amp; Healing</b><br>Bademus, Abbot & Martyr<br>Macarius of Ghent, Bishop & Confessor<br>Martyrs of Carthage, Martyrs       |
| Thurs. 4/11 | <b>Mass to the Holy Saints of God</b><br>Leo the Great, Bishop & Doctor<br>Issace of Spoleto, Abbot & Confessor<br>Barsanuphius, Monk          |
| Fri. 4/12   | <b>Mass to the Most Holy Angels of God</b><br>Julius of Rome, Bishop<br>Zeno of Verona, Bishop & Writer<br>Sabas the Goth, Martyr              |
| Sat. 4/13   | <b>Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus</b><br>Martius, Abbot<br>Hermenegild, Martyr<br>Capus, Bishop; Papylus, Doctor &<br>Agathonice, Martyr       |

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional rite.

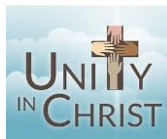


## **EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE PNCC**

### **ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION**

**“Your lamp is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.” - Psalm 119:105**

During the month of April 2024, the Eastern Diocesan Mission, and Evangelism Commission of the PNCC, has called upon its members and others to offer these two following prayers on Wednesdays at noon:



### **A PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

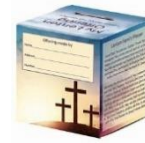
**O Lord Jesus Christ**, before Your passion and death You prayed to Your Father for the Apostles “so that they may be one, even as We are one...so that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.” Reveal to the members of Your Church the peace, love and unity that comes through living in accordance with Your Word. Good Shepherd, lead us and make us one flock, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*(from the PNCC Book of Devotions)*



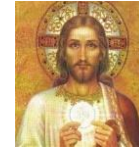
### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**OUR FATHER** who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.



## **LENTEEN COLLECTION BOXES**

I wish to thank all who contributed to our parish outreach programs through our Lenten Collection Boxes. A report will be provided shortly on the monies collected.



## **ONE BREAD, ONE BODY**

### **Daily Devotions**

New copies of the Easter daily devotional booklet, “One Bread, One Body” are now available, free of charge, and found in the vestibule of our Church. These booklets provide daily devotions, which are in accord with the daily readings as found in the “Common Lectionary” of the Christian Church.



## **Our Food Ministry: “Feeding the Hungry”**

**” For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”**

- Matthew 25:35-36

I want to thank all who have and continue to donate non-perishable food items as well as monetary donations to aid our food ministry. We continue to ask for assistance with all non-perishable food items, as well as monetary donations. May God bless all our endeavors. The date of our next grocery ministry will be on Saturday, **April 19th** from 10:00 am while supplies last. We are currently reviewing our food ministry program and how we can best serve those truly in need of food and assistance.

**Please note:** We currently have zucchini free of charge, for the taking and still have bolognaise sauce as well as cabbage and potato/cheese pierogi for sale.