

Readings for the week of April 14, 2024

Sunday:

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/
1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

Monday:

Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/
Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

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

Friday:

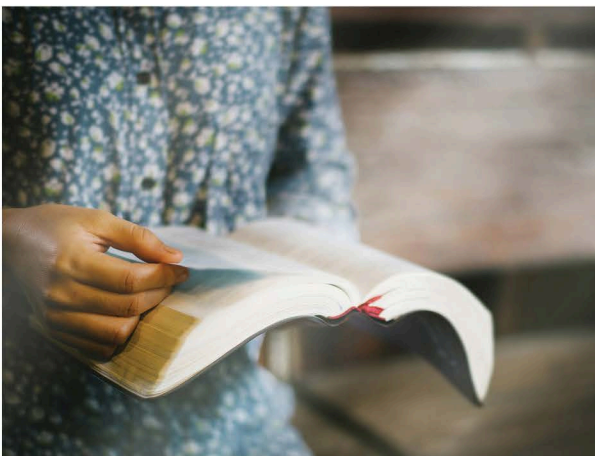
Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59

Saturday:

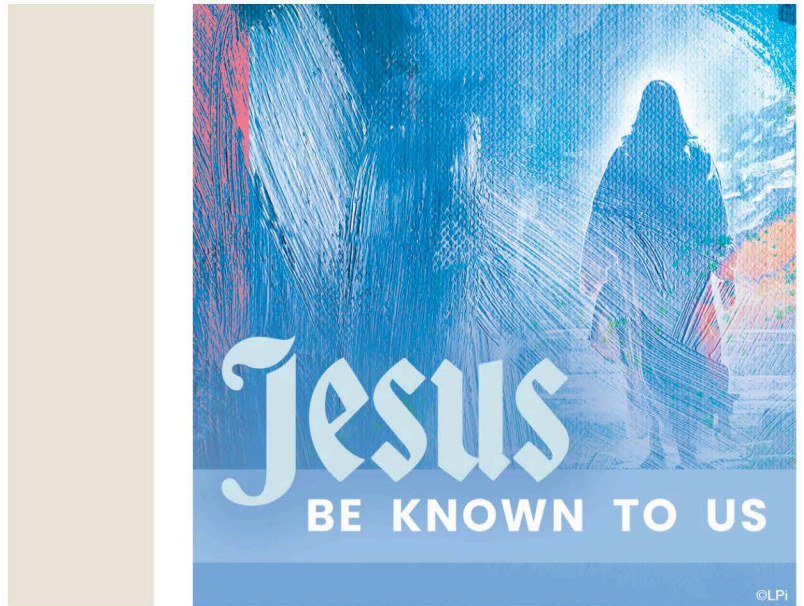
Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/
Jn 6:60-69

Next Sunday:

Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28,
29 (22)/Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was a kid, a friend at my home parish told me, “If you get to Mass by the Gospel reading, it counts!” As a lifelong late-arriver, it’s something I have told myself many times, especially in my earlier years as a Catholic. If the “it counts” is justifiable on a pathetically minimal scale of liturgical legalism, then the Gospel reading today shows how insanely wrong-headed it is, and how helpful it is to re-think the Mass in its light.

The famous “Road to Emmaus” story recounts, on that first Sunday of the Resurrection, the basic two-fold structure of the Mass: *Word*, followed by *Eucharist*. Jesus spends a significant period of time with two dismayed disciples, as he connects a wide swath of the Hebrew scriptures with his own suffering, death, and resurrection. They would later report that this Liturgy of the Word touched their hearts with an inexplicable fire. This Word-induced flame alone is what leads the two disciples to discover Jesus’ presence in the “breaking of the bread.”

With this in mind, how can we possibly think that the Liturgy of the Word is unnecessary or incidental? The two disciples needed the Scriptures explained to them in order to experience Jesus alive in the eucharistic breaking of bread. Sure, we say, but they had the Risen Jesus. But that’s precisely the point: Jesus is risen and accompanies us in both parts of the Mass. Imagine how much our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist would deepen if we (preachers and listeners) took even more seriously that Jesus himself sets our hearts ablaze with his Word so that we know him in the Eucharist. That Word-induced fire counts, too!

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Twist Ending

Any reader of psychological thrillers will come across the “dead main character trope” fairly often. This is the famous Sixth Sense twist ending (I would say “spoiler alert,” but the movie is older than most of the people who work in Youth Ministry at your archdiocese, so you’ve probably seen it by now) where the reader finds that the main character has been dead for all or most of the story.

I’m always a little disappointed when this happens. It delivers shock value, sure, but it also undermines everything that happens in the story. You’ve come on a journey with this character, only to find out that nothing you saw transpire was real in the way you thought it was. You feel a little stupid, because the whole time you only had part of the truth.

I suspect Jesus knows this about us. He knows we don’t like to have the rug pulled out. It’s why he is so up-front about his humanity following the resurrection. See how Jesus, resurrected, shows the disciples his feet, his hands. See how he asks them for food and lets them watch him eat it. See how this creates in them an understanding, a belief.

The humanity of Jesus Christ is absolutely crucial. It’s what bridges the divide between the sons of Eve and the God she defied. Our reconciliation with God cannot happen unless human flesh pays the price that will balance the scales. Human flesh: skin that can tear and bleed, bones that can break, a mouth that can thirst, a stomach that can ache with hunger.

The passion and death of Jesus Christ is not a thriller with a twist ending: *he was a ghost the whole time!* The twist, if anything, is this: he was human the whole time.

“Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.” — Luke 24:39

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

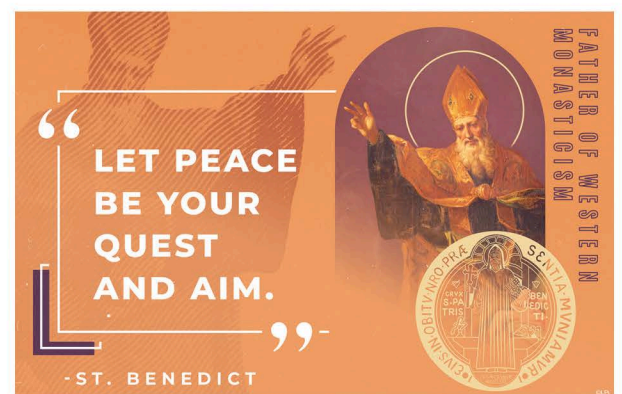
Question:

I’ve heard that we become angels when we die. Is this what the Church teaches?

Answer:

As human beings, we are both spiritual and corporeal. We are body and soul. This makes us unique in all creation. No other physical creature — plant or animal — possesses an immortal soul made in God’s image and likeness. Like the distinction with plants and animals, angels have an entirely different sort of existence. Angels are pure immortal spirit, and they have been so since the moment of their creation. While they may take on an appearance of a body in Biblical history, they are not a body like we are. Angels are neither male nor female, despite the art we often see.

As the result of the Fall, human beings experience death. Our souls are temporarily separated from our bodies. However, we do not become something other than human. Every Sunday in the Creed we profess “I believe in the resurrection of the body.” As Jesus was united with his body on the third day, so too will we be united with our bodies at the end of time.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The author of life you put to death,
but God raised him from the dead; of this
we are witnesses. (Acts 3:15)

Psalm:

Lord, let your face shine on us. (Ps 4)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

He is expiation for our sins,
and not for our sins only but for those of the
whole world. (1 Jn 2:2)

Gospel:

"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day." (Lk 24:46)

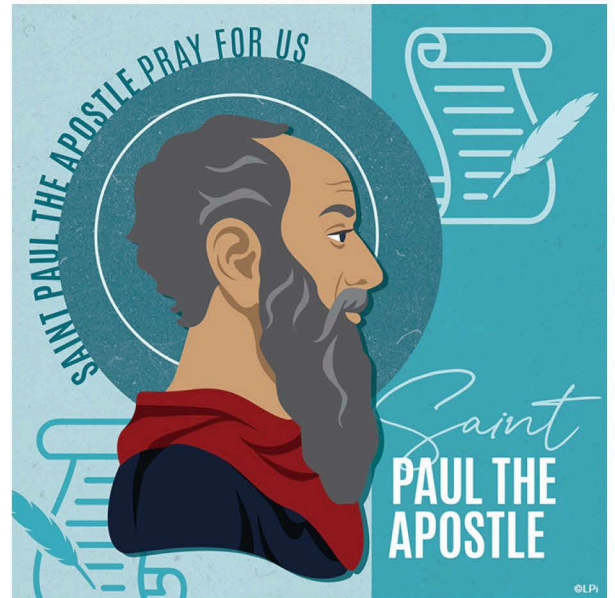
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Sometimes when God appears in our path, we do not recognize him. In these moments, Jesus invites us to reach out and touch him. Remember that Christ is real, Christ is alive, and Christ stands before each one of us — so reach out. Touch him.

Observances for the week of April 14, 2024

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Easter
Monday: Tax Day
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer
for Vocations



Saint of the week

St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, was the most prolific Christian missionary of all time. Due to a miraculous experience that he had on the road to Damascus, he went from persecuting early Christians to traveling all over the region preaching the Gospel of Jesus.

Prayer in Times of Darkness

Dear Jesus,
When I feel troubled, alone,
frightened, be with me. Be a
flicker of flame in this darkness.
Help me to know you in the stark
seasons as I do in times of elation.
You are the light I seek.
Amen.

He said to them,
“These are my words
that I spoke to you
while I was still with
you, that everything
written about me in the
law of Moses and in the
prophets and psalms
must be fulfilled. You
are witnesses of these
things.” - Lk 24:44, 48

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Peter challenges the religious leaders of Jerusalem who put Jesus to death to repent of their sins and be converted. Have you ever seen someone have a conversion to the Faith?

Second Reading:

John tells us that we should turn to Jesus, our Advocate, when we sin and fail to keep his commandments. Can you think of a time when you sought Jesus in a time of need?

Gospel Reading:

The resurrected Jesus taught the disciples how they were witnesses to the Scriptures being fulfilled in his suffering, death, and resurrection and that forgiveness of sins was to be preached in his name. How might you share your faith this week at home or at work?



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If angels could be jealous of men,
they would be so for one
reason: Holy Communion.

- ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

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Let your
face shine
upon us.

PSALM 4

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.”
- Lk 24:45-46

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