VOLUME #4 ISSUE 2 **DIVINE MERCY** April 11, 2021

## What do the Saints Say?

### John 20: 19-25

An Excerpt from *The Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*

As he did in regard to Mary Magdalene, John provides insight into the spiritual disposition of Jesus' disciples as they are gathered in Jerusalem. Mary came to Jesus' tomb "while it was still dark." The disciples are similarly gathered in the evening darkness, signifying the absence of Christ the light and their own hopelessness. Moreover, the disciples are filled with fear of the Jewish authorities who pushed for Jesus' execution, and thus the doors were locked. During the Farewell Discourse, Jesus told his disciples that they would "weep and mourn" and be "in anguish" when he left them. He also reassured them, "I will come back to you" and "you will see me." Now Jesus fulfills this promise: he came and stood in their midst. And he speaks the words of shalom, the eschatological reconciliation between God and his people: Peace be with you. Before he departed, Jesus told his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." The risen Jesus now gives the disciples the gift of his peace, which drives away their fear, for he incorporates them into communion with the Father. Through his cross and resurrection, Christ has "conquered the world" and its ruler, and he has made his disciples "children of God." There is, then, no reason for his disciples to fear. The presence of the wounds of crucifixion on the risen Jesus' body is significant. They indicate that the body resurrected to glory is the same one that died on the cross. Resurrection is not the return of a human being to ordinary mortal life but total transformation into a glorified mode of existence. As St. Paul wrote, the natural body is transfigured by the Holy Spirit into a glorified, "spiritual body." The wounds on Jesus' resurrected body reveal that he is forever fixed in the act of love in which he died. The love and sacrifice that he offered on the cross are forever present before the Father as "expiation for our sins, and . . . for those of the whole world." Jesus' wounds also signify that the victory of the resurrection comes only through the cross. Similarly, the Lamb in the book of Revelation bears the wound of his slaughter by which he accomplished the work of redemption. In this way, St. Thomas Aquinas, drawing on the Venerable Bede, can speak of the wounds on Jesus' resurrected body as "trophies" of his victory. After the temple incident, the Jews asked Jesus to "show" them a sign to legitimate his words and deeds. Jesus responded with a statement about raising up the temple of his body. Now, when Jesus shows the disciples his risen body with its wounds, he provides the sign that legitimates his words and deeds: his resurrection. The disciples were in a state of grief, hopelessness, and fear, but they now rejoiced when they saw the Lord. We again recall Jesus' words during the Farewell Discourse: "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you." The risen Jesus fills his disciples with the eschatological gifts of peace and joy, which proceed from sharing in the divine communion. These same gifts Paul counts among the fruits of the Spirit, and in this scene, Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit upon his disciples. After repeating his words of Peace, Jesus draws the disciples into his own mission: As the Father has sent me, so I send you. The Gospel has frequently spoken of Jesus as the envoy of the Father, sent to reveal him and accomplish his saving work. Now the risen Jesus commissions the disciples as his envoys and sends them into the world. The fellowship of Jesus' disciples, the Church, is an extension of the work of the Father and the Son in the world. In order to be an extension of Jesus' work, the disciples need to be united to him, as branches to the vine, and receive his divine assistance and power. Accordingly, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." This scene is John's presentation of the reality of Pentecost: the risen Jesus sending the Holy Spirit upon his disciples. As Raymond Brown observes, the Holy Spirit "consecrates" the disciples for their mission, as Jesus himself was "consecrated and sent into the world" by the Father. Through the Spirit, the disciples are united to the risen Jesus and receive a share in his own life, and thus in the divine communion. The indwelling Holy Spirit is a sign of their having a share in God's eschatological salvation, for the Spirit makes the disciples a "new creation." The Greek verb for "breathed" recalls Gen 2:7 and Ezek 37:9, which speak of God breathing life into his creatures at the first creation and in the eschatological new creation. The risen Jesus connects the Holy Spirit with Church's power to forgive sins: Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained. Jesus was first hailed in the Gospel as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." He declared that his saving work liberates humanity from slavery to the power of sin. By incorporating the disciples into his own mission, Jesus also gives them the authority to take away people's sins, that is, to administer God's mercy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. As discussed previously, the passive voice ("forgiven," "retained") suggests that here God is acting through his Church. Thus the forgiveness administered by the Church on earth stands in heaven. Thomas, however, was not with them when Jesus came. Like Mary Magdalene, the disciples have encountered the risen Jesus, have been brought to the fullness of Easter faith, and now announce to Thomas, We have seen the Lord. But Thomas is unwilling to believe their testimony. If he is to believe, he requires tangible proof, the mark of the nails in his hands and the wound in his side, which he can physically sense.

## Schedule of Events:

**Monday, April 12th**

6:30 a.m. Confessions
7:00 a.m. Mass

**Tuesday, April 13th**

6:30 a.m. Confessions
7:00 a.m. Mass

**Wednesday, April 14th**

6:30 a.m. Confessions
7:00 a.m. Mass
6:30 p.m. youth core meeting

**Thursday, April 15th**

6:30 a.m. Confessions
7:00 a.m. Mass

**Friday, April 16th**

NO MASS

**Saturday, April 17th**

3:00 p.m. Confessions
4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

**Sunday, April 18th**

7:30 a.m. Confessions
8:00 a.m. Mass
9:30 a.m. Confessions
10:00 a.m. Mass
6:30 p.m. Mass
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Meeting (following Mass)

## MASS INTENTIONS

**For the Week of April 12th – April 18th**

**7:00 A.M. - Monday, April 12th**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Horace Pellegrin*

**7:00 A.M. - Tuesday, April 13th**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Sam Olivier, Waldron Lapeyrouse*

**7:00 A.M. - Wednesday, April 14th**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann*

**7:00 A.M. –Thursday, April 15th**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Holy Souls in Purgatory,*

**4:00 P.M. Saturday, April 17th**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Loyd Savin, Allen,*
*Dolores Viteaux, Patrick McGaw, Wilbert, Elsie & Linda Ann Hebert, Salome H. & Matthew S. Matherne,*
*Samuel Dominc Hebert, Peter W. Hebert, Wayne G. Cancienne, Michael L. McGee, Faith B. LeBoeuf,*
*Edward & Bertha Boudreaux, Cynthia Charpentier, Jerry & Mat Arceneaux*
*Keri Lynn Niette, Eric, Joel, & Frank Rogers, Wilbert Dupre Sr,*
*Leward Boquet, Clarice, Allen, & John Bascle, Peter & Daisy Babin family, Lester & Alicia Babin family,*
*Gordon & Merlin Seuzeneau, Herbert & Marion Porche family, Steve Porche, Clara & Lawlis Barrios,*
*Neva Morris, Mia Bourg Jerry & Mat Arceneaux, Payola Lyons, Sue Kraus, Shane Foret*

**8:00 A.M. – Sunday, April 18th**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Cindy Rodrigue Broussard., Loyd Savin, Brad M. Falgout*
*Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery, Veronica Trahan, Terry Lirette, Amelie Thibodeaux,*

*Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr., Ann Hebert, AJ Theriot,*
*Hannah Authement, Sterling Sr & Mary E. Authement, Randy & Mark Naquin, Sterling Authement Jr.,*
*Eugene & Leona Theriot Sr, Israel & Mae Authement, Marion & Irma Bascle, Norman & Eunice Falgout,*
*Dean & Dot Bascle, David & Iris Bascle,Allen Theriot, Tessa Dupre, Craig Dupre, Butch LeCompte,*
*Eugene Theriot Jr., Earline Theriot, David Percle, Francis & Iris Theriot, Patricia Grabert, Becky Gautreaux,*
*Phillip Theriot, David Massey Sr.,Jenna Theriot, Norman Falgout Jr., Larry Falgout, Robbie,*
*Evelyn & Chris Boudreaux, James Bergeron, Tel Meeker, Meva Blanchard, Margie & Elton Thibodaux,*
*Paul Jackson, Angela Authement, Brent Giordano, Pamela Falgout, Terry & Lois Chaisson,*
*Wiley & Irene Portier, Kevin Kilstofte, Chad Ellender, Dolores Ventura, Gene Ventura, Dawn Lirette,*
*Luke Authement, Mary Eve & Vayne Bascle, Gail Fabre, Lionel Bascle family, Arthe Breaux family,*
*Aubrey Lee Boquet, Arthur Fabre, M/M Ivby Petit, M/M Remey Bonnette, Arnold Authement*
*Vin & Joyce LeBlanc & family, Gilbert & Rita Bergeron & family,*
*Cecile Fabre, Roland & Jeanette Belanger, H.L. Hawthorne,*

**10:00 A.M. – Sunday, April 18th**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Wallace Ellender Jr., Maxine Christoffersen, Sam Lirette*
*Living & Deceased members of the Naquin, Lajaunie, LeBoeuf and Lapeyrouse families*
*Davis Dardar, Edith Bergeron Plaisance*
*Herbert, Celina, Joyce, Deborah & Ronald Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont*
*Timothy Pellegrin, Steven & Bertha Mae Pellegrin*

**6:30 P.M.- Sunday, April 18th**

**All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:**

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Clinton & Wilma Picou,*
*Scott & Donaldson family, Norris & Diana Bourg, Picou & Rogers family,*

## Memorials for the week of April 12, 2021

The Sanctuary Light burns this week in memory of *Muriel H. Fabre* requested by Kirby Fabre.

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**April 3 & 4:** Envelopes: $ + Loose: $ + $ 1906.32(online giving)

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Church Cleaning:** **Week of April 12-** Charlene A., Lyndell G., Shirley M., Janet T., Una H., Jeannie U.
**Week of April 19-** Irma Authement

| MASSES | COMMENTATOR / LECTOR |
|---|---|
| **April 17 & 18** | |
| **SATURDAY** | |
| **4:00P.M.** | **Brian M., Randolph B.** |
| **SUNDAY** | |
| **8:00A.M** | **Jesse N., Nick P.** |
| **10:00A.M.** | **Johnnie O., Connie D.** |
| **6:30 P.M.** | **Lisa R., Amanda R** |
| **April 24 & 25** | |
| **SATURDAY** | |
| **4:00P.M.** | **Cindy S., Randolph B.** |
| **SUNDAY** | |
| **8:00A.M** | **David B., Christine R.** |
| **10:00A.M.** | **Lisa L., David L.** |
| **6:30 P.M.** | **Hayes B.** |