



April 14, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 | 1 Jn 2:1-5a | Lk 24:35-48

## **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It's only been two weeks since Easter, but already the holiday can seem like another item checked off our to-do lists. It's easy to get complacent as we go about our busy lives – marking celebrations, important dates and gatherings on the calendar. Today's readings remind us that the Resurrection is not just a story or a metaphor about something ordinary that happened more than 2,000 years ago. It was so different and so shocking that it trembled the very earth, and nothing has been the same since! Luke describes the confusion the disciples felt when they first saw Jesus in his resurrected body. Here was their Lord and teacher, back from the dead, but not as a ghost or spirit as they might have expected: He was just as real as before. He was eating, speaking, touching, and interacting. And yet he *was* different. He could arrive in a locked room without using the door, pass among people unnoticed (as on the way to Emmaus), and give gifts of wisdom and insight directly to the disciples. Today's Gospel offers Jesus' explanation that these things were done to fulfill the promises God made to the prophets.

## **GO** EVANGELIZE

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

The fulfillment of God's promises in Jesus, and his death and resurrection, was not meant to benefit only a few people. We, as his disciples, must spread the Good News that sin and death don't have the last word. St. Peter gives us an inspiring example today when he speaks to the people. Look at how different he is from the man who denied Jesus three times! He boldly goes into the crowd – the same crowd that condemned Jesus to death – and preaches on what a gift we all have been given by Jesus' sacrifice. Peter knows, and we know, that Jesus' defeat of death means everything. We are freely offered salvation through Christ's saving action. Like the members of that crowd, we're invited to be witnesses to this great act of love, and to re-align our lives with God's will. Like Peter, we can speak the Good News without fear.

**ACCOMPANY** How can we imitate Christ in the way he reached out to his disciples who were wracked with fear and doubt? Perhaps we know somebody who feels trapped by sin, or unworthy of good things, or a constant failure. Let's be honest, sometimes that person is us! We all need encouragement and accompaniment from time to time. Find a way to be that encouragement for someone this week who's having a tough time. You don't have to fix their problems; just listen, let them know you care, and offer a sincere and hopeful encouragement that brighter days lie ahead.

## Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

[www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Charles Lorrain (c.1800-1889), CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

## You Are Witnesses...

Each of us walks through miracles eventually. Maybe we know it at the time and praise God heartily. Or perhaps we only look back later, realize the road's on fire behind us, and shiver. Sooner or later, we all experience the mystery of grace that carries us over obstacles, through dangers, and ferries us to safety. We are witnesses of these things. And even if we're reluctant to "talk religion" to friends, coworkers, and strangers, we'll inhabit hours when it's time to tell what we know about Divine Providence. Be attentive for when your testimony is required. - *Preparetheword.com*

## Pray for Our First Communicants

*Please pray for children who will receive First Communion on April 28 at the 9:00 am Mass.*

Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

May this day be the step toward a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. May their hands, extended in anticipation of your body and blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred Sacrament. Amen.

## Special Collection for Retired Priests

*April 21 - Good Shepherd Sunday*

We reach out to you for your support for our Diocesan Priest Retirement Appeal. The well-being of our retired priests, who have dedicated their lives to serving our community, rests in your hands. Your contribution is a testament to your gratitude for their lifelong commitment. Your gifts provide funding for their medications, nursing care, etc. There are 45 retired priests in the Diocese. In addition, we have 38 priests reaching retirement age (70 years old) in the next 12 years and 8 in just the next three years. Thank you for your support.

## Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

April 19-21, 24 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church  
1385 Michigan Ave, Alviso, CA.

Opening Mass on Friday, April 19 at 7:00 pm.

Closing Mass on Sunday, April 21 at 8:30 am.

## ADA Week 8 Report

Number of pledges: 121

Percent of goal: 114%

Surplus funds now go back to Ascension.

Thank you for your support.



## WEEKLY OFFERING - APRIL 7

-**\$7,670** (baskets: \$4,778; online: \$2,892). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: **\$247,228**. Budget: \$260,000.

-Easter (latest): **\$9,999**.

Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 13	Sat	05 pm	Leonardo Alvarez (L)
Apr 14	Sun	09 am	The Moe Family
		11 am	Remedios Pring Gatip +
		05 pm	Mary Lucas (L)
Apr 16	Tue	08 am	The McKeever Family

## 60 Years & Counting...

You are invited to join us for the **Closing Mass** of Our Parish **60th Jubilee Year** with the **Confirmation Rite** for youths from Ascension, Queen of Apostles, and Saint Joseph of Cupertino parishes on **Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 5:00 pm.**



Bishop Cantú is presiding, with three former pastors and other priests concelebrating.

**Social Hour in Worner Hall with appetizers and beverages** to follow after Mass.

Get your free ticket by May 3rd, the RSVP deadline for our food order with the caterer.

After May 3rd, the cost is \$5 per ticket. This enables us to buy additional food and beverages.

You must present your ticket at the door. If you are later unable to join us, please give your ticket to a parishioner who can attend.

*A Family of Faith since 1964*

## Pastoral Plan Update

*"The 50th Jubilee of the Diocese of San José in 2031 joyfully coincides with the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance and message to St. Juan Diego."*

- Bishop Oscar Cantú

With hearts full of hope and faith, we embark on an exciting journey with our pastoral plan, a roadmap for our shared future. The pastoral plan will not just be a document to be admired on a shelf. It is a living blueprint for action, a promise that we, as a diocese, are fully committed to making real, meaningful changes that will touch every heart in our community. Let us embark on this journey together, guided by the Holy Spirit, towards a future filled with hope and grace.

Scan QR code for details >>>



## "Living Ethically in an Unethical World"

"Our actions and choices dramatically affect our thoughts and feelings. Few things promote good mental health better than a clear conscience and the peace of mind that comes from knowing you have done the right thing."

Meet Thomas G. Plante PhD, ABPP, Professor of Psychology at Santa Clara University and author of "Do the Right Thing" Friday, April 19, at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church (Becket Hall), 1522 McCoy Avenue, San Jose.

Morning refreshments at 9:30 a.m. Presentation at 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$40 per person. Net proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Nativity Schools. Contact [cathydemaria@aol.com](mailto:cathydemaria@aol.com) for more information.

For more information on Thomas Plante, the Nativity Schools or the Ladies of Charity, visit our website: [ladiesofcharitysanjose.org](http://ladiesofcharitysanjose.org).

Or scan the QR code >>>



# ***Breakfast Supreme***

***Sponsored By  
Ascension Men's Club  
and  
Knights of Columbus Council 4981***

***A hearty breakfast experience with family and friends!***



***Church of the Ascension, Worner Hall***

***SUNDAY, April 28, 2024***

***9:30 AM to 1:00 PM***

***Famous Baked French Toast  
Homemade Pancakes  
Sausage, Ham, Bacon  
Scrambled Eggs  
Hash Brown Potatoes  
Fruit Salad, Fruit Juices  
Coffee, Tea, Milk, Hot Chocolate***

***Tickets are available after weekend Masses and at the Church Office***

***Adults \$20***

***Children 7 and Older \$10***

***Donations support the Ascension Men's Club***

***Knights Charitable Works***