



THIRD SUNDAY OF Easter

APRIL 18, 2021

St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503
www.stjohnsaltoona.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com; allinall214@gmail.com
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfofocus.net
Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - inaugh@aol.com
Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net
Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - dj219@msn.com
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary - stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net
Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - mark.krepich@gmail.com
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Apr. 24 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham,
NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 25 - 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 25 - 11:00 AM - Gary Johnson, James Krug

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Apr. 24 - 4:00 PM - Keaton Swope, NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 25 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Amber Yasolsky
Sun. Apr. 25 - 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, NOT FILLED

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Apr. 24 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker
Sun. Apr. 25 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Apr. 25 - 11:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark, Bob Olson,
Barbara Bundy

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Apr. 24 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet, Carolyn English,
Larry VanSickel, NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 25 - 8:00 AM - Ed Stoltz, Mary Truesdale,
Charlie Moore, Mike O'Neill
Sun. Apr. 25 - 11:00 AM - Mary Grace Horton, Wendy
Campbell, Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. Apr. 24 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Sun. Apr. 25 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Apr. 25 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Apr. 24 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Mary Haenig
Sun. Apr. 25 - 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Apr. 25 - 11:00 AM - Judy Sneath, NOT FILLED

When the two disciples returned from Emmaus,
they recounted what had
taken place on the way.

Luke 24:35

Year of
ST. JOSEPH



A Few Words from the Pastor:

AN INVITATION GIVEN TO OUR CONFIRMANDI: We salute the Confirmation Class of 2021, and invite them to expand their ministry in the parish, particularly regarding the liturgy. Perhaps they have been a server in the past, and now wish to continue that. They are urged to consider proclaiming the sacred Scripture as a lector on Sunday mornings. I am inviting each of them to make a personal appointment to meet with me and discuss their journey and direction going forward, now that they have received this incredibly powerful sacrament. As a parish family, we pray fervently that they will respond to the abundant graces given at Confirmation.

FIRST COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY: We look forward to welcoming these 2nd graders to receive their First Holy Communion at the 11:00 mass next Sunday:

*Evelyn Bunk, Mia Hoyne, Faith Langenbacher,
Levi Marchi, Sophia Nguyen, Liam Schurr.*

We are grateful to their parents and teachers who have prepared them for this most sacred moment in their young lives.

A CARAVAN TO LONGWOOD GARDENS: After a very long year of Covid 19, and with this delicious springtime weather, we are considering a day trip to Longwood Gardens on April 29. We will go by car, and those willing to drive are asked to contact the parish office. All participating will need to be fully vaccinated. We will be departing at 7:30 AM and returning by 11 PM. Because reservations are needed at the gardens, please let us know of your interest at your earliest convenience. Because we will not be hiring a bus, we will have the flexibility of postponing the trip if the weather is particularly nasty. You can learn more about what is on display at this time of year by accessing Longwood Gardens on the Internet.

DAILY MEDITATIONS: I continue to provide daily meditations on Facebook and our website. This week the focus will be on the Eucharist, as John's discourse on "the Bread of Life" is presented in the daily Gospel readings. You're welcome to join us!

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION: The Stations of the Resurrection, also known by the Latin name *Via Lucis*, are a form of Christian devotion, which encourage meditation upon the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. They include some of the Resurrection appearances and other episodes recorded in the New Testament. While not as common as the Stations of the Cross, praying these stations can certainly enrich your Easter Season. Copies of the *Via Lucis*, the "way of light", have been ordered, but they can be also be found online at these links:

<https://columban.org/sites/default/files/pdf/CF-StationsOfTheResurrection.pdf> ,

https://www.stgregoryspreston.org.uk/_webedit/uploaded-files/All%20Files/Stations%20of%20the%20Resurrection.pdf

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA: The national convention of the Catholic Daughters of America is being held in Altoona this weekend. We are honored to have hosted their opening Mass on Friday evening, and on Sunday we are hosting their concluding Mass, which includes the installation of new officers. Father Joseph Kovachik, pastor of St. Matthew parish in Tyrone and Saint Joseph parish in Bellwood, as well as the national chaplain for the CDA, will be presiding, along with other concelebrating priests. It is quite an honor for our local chapters of CDA to be hosting this national convention. We wish them the best in expanding their membership and strengthening their presence in Catholic parishes across the country.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: As we prepare to initiate CGS here at St. John's in the fall, we are making available further information for those families who have children ages 3 – 6. If you have children of that age, please take the time to learn more about this important step we are making in providing spiritual formation for your children. Materials are available in the Gathering Space, and more can be learned by accessing the CGS website. Those who are grandparents may wish to be further involved in the creation of our Atrium and in the ongoing faith formation of their little ones!



RECEIVE UP TO DATE INFORMATION FROM ST. JOHN'S WITH FLOCKNOTE: To join, text SJC1 to 84576. Then after it responds, make sure you click that link and complete the process. If you can't complete this on your cell phone, please go to stjohnsaltoona.flocknote.com to register online.

April Prayer Intention of Pope Francis *Fundamental rights*

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

April 18 - First Communion Retreat

April 18 - Last Class (Lessons will be emailed Monday & Tuesday, April 19/20.

Sunday, April 25 - 11:00 AM - First Communion Mass

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: (Luke 24: 35-48) The apostles were afraid of Jesus until He ate with them and they touched Him. In your family the ordinary acts of eating together, touching, embracing not only confirm our love for each other, but also celebrate God's presence in your family. These 'ordinary' moments contain the 'Extraordinary.' *Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.*

VIRTUS AWARENESS ARTICLE: Each month, the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese provides one educational article provided by VIRTUS® covering topics of interest to create awareness on trending topics. April's featured article is: 'Gratitude from an Active Catholic and a Survivor' by Michael Hoffman. This article is posted on the kiosk in the Gathering Space and attached to our online April 18 bulletin.

ONLINE GIVING UPGRADE: Our Online Giving is getting an upgrade to a newer, easier-to-use platform! If you currently give online, you will soon be receiving an email with instructions on how to log into the new system. Best of all, your existing payment and donation information will be migrated over so you will not have to set up your gifts again! Keep an eye on your email for more information coming very soon.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

April 4, 2021

Envelopes	\$ 3,603.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 544.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 3.00
Catholic Education	\$ 60.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$ 70.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 50.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 595.00
Good Friday	\$ 407.00
Easter Offering	\$ 4,283.00
Food Bank Collection	\$ 165.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$ 9,780.00</i>
Online Giving	\$ 3,620.00
Total Offertory	\$ 13,400.00

Restore*Repair*Rejoice

Payments/Donations	\$172,974
Pledge Payment Committed	\$13,020
Total Pledges/Donations	\$185,994

2021 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - \$42,813.

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your statement.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at ginny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

**Aiden • Cari Ann • Amy B. • Scott Brenneman
Dan Burley • Robert Cole • Michelle Cooney
Mary Lee Madigan-Davis • Jim DeStefano
Michael DeStefano • Gary Ellis • Bernadine Farrell
Kathy Felty • Leann Frazier • Ken Hartman
Randy Horton • Alexandra Hudson • Tim Jimenez
Amy Langenbacher Lisa • Sherri Maffettone
Susie Miller • Karrie McCall • Sylvia Louise Mills
Barbara Moore • Ailani Myers • Patricia Olson
Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher • Ron Peschock • Connie R
Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker • Vicki Riley
Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph • Bruce Shank
Anne Showalter • Tim Temofonte • Bill Teufel
Kathy Wagner • Lois Werfel • Len Whitten
Milan & Family**

HOME WITH THE LORD

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

Joseph Gallagher

May he rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

LETTER FROM HAITI:

Dear Mary Lee and Sister Parish Family,
A cordial greeting to you and everyone in the parish of Saint John the Evangelist. I wish you a happy, peaceful and blessed Easter! May God be with you, your family on this day and forever.

I would like, on behalf of my parishioners, to take advantage of this blessed opportunity to renew to each of you our sincere gratitude for all your supports. We will never forget all the efforts and sacrifices you make to help us in building the Kingdom of God in this poor community in Marmont. We sincerely thank you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that my Bishop, Monsignor Jean Desinord, move me to another parish. I will leave the parish of Saints Peter and Paul to go to my new parish on May 10th. The priest who will replace me is Father Raphael Bernardin Desras. He will contact you soon.

I would like to thank you very much for collaborating with me during the years spent in the parish of Saints Peter and Paul of Marmont. I leave with heart full of gratitude for Mary Lee, Monsignor Michael and for each faithful of the parish of Saint John the Evangelist parish. You will be always in my thoughts and my humble prayers. Please pray for my new mission. Please visit me when you visit Haiti.

With warmest thanks,

Fr. Banive Peralte

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH LOCAL PILGRIMAGES: Here ye! Here Ye! Hear Ye! All pilgrims of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown! You are invited for a special day of prayer on May 1 at *Saint Joseph the Worker Church*, 628 West 1st Street, Williamsburg, PA 16693

Schedule for the Day: 9:00 AM Morning Prayer; 9:30 AM – Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary; 11:30 AM Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary; 1:30 PM – Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary; 3:30 PM – Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary; 4:00 PM Confessions; 5:00 PM Vigil Mass of the 5th Sunday of Easter. *Please stay for as long as you are able to.* Administrator: Deacon Kevin Nester, knester@dioceseaj.org.

Also, the *Saint Joseph Mission Church, Hart's Sleeping Place, Carrolltown*, a historic Church, blessed by Servant of God, Demetrius Gallitzin himself on October 10, 1830, will be opening once a month for visitation and self-guided tours beginning May 1, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Schedule: The Church will be open from Noon – 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 1, then on these Sundays: May 2, June 6th, July 4 and September 5. A special outdoor Mass with Bishop Mark as Main Celebrant, will be held on Sunday August 1 at 4:00 PM. The Church will be open from Noon - 3:30 PM, with Confessions from 1:00 – 3:00 PM Curator: Marian Farabaugh: stjosephmissionchurch1830@gmail.com.

SAINT JOHN PAUL II AND THE CHURCH'S DEVOTION TO ST. JOSEPH: *"After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety. Then he went down with them to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.' (Lk 2:46-49)*

Saint John Paul II speaks of the Church's devotion to St. Joseph: "This patronage must be invoked as ever necessary for the Church, not only as a defense against all dangers, but also, and indeed primarily, as an impetus for her renewed commitment to *evangelization* in the world and to *re-evangelization* in those lands and nations where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and are now put to a hard test."

"Besides trusting in Joseph's sure protection, the Church also trusts in his noble example, which transcends all individual states of life and serves as a model for the entire Christian community, whatever the condition and duties of each of its members may be." *Homily of St. John Paul II, Solemnity of St. Joseph, 19, March 1998.* 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.



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Third Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021

You alone, O LORD,
bring security to my dwelling.

— Psalm 4:9

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, April 18 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM - Mass *People of the Parish*
11:00 AM - Mass for *Andrew Dancha* requested by Frank & Nancy Mincin
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

Monday, April 19 – Easter Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Jude Wargo* requested by The Wargo Family

Tuesday, April 20 – Easter Weekday

8:30 AM - Morning Prayer and Communion Service

Wednesday, April 21 – Easter Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions
6:00 PM - Mass for *Roberta & Sidney Garrett & Donald Watkins* requested by Richard & Joyce Lowe

Thursday, April 22 – Easter Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by Nancy, John & Roseanne Musser

Friday, April 23 – Easter Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Carol Adams* requested by Bernadine Farrell & Family

Saturday, April 24 - Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Easter

3:00 PM - Confessions
4:00 PM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by John Prosperi

Sunday, April 25 – 4th Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM - Mass *People of the Parish*
11:00 AM - Mass for *Joseph Saad* requested by Carol & Morley Cohn
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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, 7b, 8a, 17,
21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; 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 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29;
1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

When the two disciples returned from Emmaus,
they recounted what had
taken place on the way.

Luke 24:35



THIRD SUNDAY OF Easter

APRIL 18, 2021

NEW LIFE

Peter saw Jesus after the Resurrection. He listened as Jesus told the disciples all that had been written about him in the scriptures, all that he had said and done when he was ministering among them. Peter heard how Jesus had fulfilled all in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms. Jesus, the Messiah, had come to be among them to bring them peace, to offer forgiveness of their sins. Peter shared this Good News with the crowds who gathered to hear him tell the sacred story, the story of God's love, poured out in Jesus the Christ and offered to the whole world. All who hear and believe are offered new life, life in which God's love is perfected in them. Are you listening? Are you ready to share in this abundant new life?

NOT WHAT WAS EXPECTED

Have you ever waited for something for so long you began to think it might never happen? Your graduation day, or the day of your marriage, or the birth of a child, perhaps. The Israelites had waited for centuries for the coming of the Messiah. Yet when Jesus, the long-awaited Anointed One came, many failed to believe in him. He wasn't what they expected. The Messiah was supposed to be a strong, powerful commander of armies, not humble, compassionate, and suffering. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and explained all that he had said in his time with them, opening their minds to what had been written in the scriptures so that they could accept his suffering and death and rejoice in his resurrection.

GOD'S LOVE IN FLESH AND BONE

While the disciples had come to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, his crucifixion and death had left them fearful and confounded. The news of the empty tomb and his appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus added to their confusion. It seems that at first, Jesus' presence with them did not alleviate their uncertainty. In fact, they were "startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost" (Luke 24:37). Jesus saw that they needed physical proof that it was he who stood among them. They needed to see the nail marks in his hands and feet, to see God's love in flesh and bone, in one who ate among them. Only when their fear and confusion had been quelled could they hear the story, the sacred story of how the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead. Only when they were filled with the peace of Christ would they be ready to witness, to share the sacred story with others. We, too, are invited to hear the sacred story and to perceive God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 3:13–15, 17–19

Psalm 4:2, 4, 7–8, 9

1 John 2:1–5a

Luke 24:35–48



Gratitude from an Active Catholic and a Survivor

By Michael Hoffman

Editor's Note:

The VIRTUS Programs recognizes the great importance of listening to survivors of sexual abuse. Because people who have been abused have courageously come forward to share their stories, we now have a better understanding of how to help prevent sexual abuse from occurring as well as how to address it appropriately. We offer our sincere appreciation for all survivors who have come forward to share their stories and recognize their role in helping to foster healing and prevention in our church. This article was written by a survivor about his own experience and how caring adults can work together to prevent abuse.

Article:

My name is Michael Hoffman. I am a survivor of childhood sexual abuse by a member of the clergy. I am 55 years old and I remain an active Catholic, despite the abuse I endured when I was a young boy. My wife and I are active within our parish. We raised our children Catholic and we sent our kids to Catholic schools.

Given the sexual abuse imposed upon me from the ages of 12-16 years old by a Catholic priest at the time, it is possible you may not understand my decisions. Typically, it is easier for many people to understand or expect a clergy abuse survivor to walk away from the Church. My efforts to find healing and hope from underneath devastating pain and sadness involves many people. It is also intertwined with the same Church who allowed my abuser to remain in ministry at the time.

A brief background:

When I was a young boy, I was sexually abused by my parish priest, who was a dear friend to my parents. He was also held in high regard within our community. Because my parents really trusted him, I didn't think my parents would believe me if I told them what he was doing to my body. I also felt they would think I was a "bad boy" for saying "bad things" about their friend. My abuser told me that what he was doing to my body was a normal way for two people to show love and affection for one another. Against that backdrop, I was unable to process the sexual nature of the relationship, my parent's expectations, or the family and social implications along with my own emotions and safety—an impossible task for any young child. I was 12 years old at the time. My coping mechanism was to keep it all inside.

I kept the secret until 2006, when I told my wife my story of childhood sexual abuse. I consider this moment to be my primary act of recovery. We had been married over 12 years at that time and I had never told her or anyone my story. I didn't want to introduce, verbally, what I viewed as a sick and depraved history into our marriage. Initially, I



thought she would think differently of me, as her husband, as a provider, as a father to our children. Exhausted from the inner struggle, I decided to finally tell her. With tears streaming down my face, hands shaking and heart pounding, I told her.

Yet, Kathy didn't think differently of me. She responded to me with compassion, love, and understanding. To be able to share my story, which I had kept secret for over 30 years, and still feel safe and loved, was such a profound experience. I believe God's grace was among us. Soon after that, I told my parish pastor and with his encouragement and support, I felt comfortable reaching out to the Archdiocese of Chicago, where I began the Independent Review Board process.¹

Sharing my story has gone a long way to bring personal, heartfelt healing to me and my family over time. Healing our church community overall—and remaining focused on protecting all children from any kind of harm—requires all adults to give permission to children to tell a trusted adult if something happens to them, and it is imperative for the adults to actually believe the child. When I was young, I did not have this kind of permission to tell my parents what was happening to me, and I certainly did not trust their response. As an adult, I've since asked my parents if, given how our family was at the time, would they believe me if I told them? With tears in their eyes, they said no, they wouldn't have believed me. They said they just didn't think their friend, especially being a priest, would do such things to their little boy.

My VIRTUS experience:

My wife and I believe strongly in Catholic education, which is why we sent our kids to Catholic schools. Like so many parents, I supported my children and school by volunteering on campus. I served on the school Athletic Board. To be eligible to volunteer, I attended, along with my fellow parishioners, the mandatory training program, which was *Protecting God's Children*. To be truthful, being a childhood sexual abuse survivor, who was groomed by my abuser priest, and who was intimidated and frightened by his elevated stature within the parish community, I initially felt I had so much terrible experience that I could be the one leading the workshop. I was wrong. The workshop was bigger than me and my personal experiences.

I discovered the goal of the workshop is to change the parish culture from silence to open discussion. I totally support this. My abuser had been able to take advantage and hurt me and other children because parents, staff, employees and other fellow priests were unable, or unwilling, to talk about it. Knowing my abuser thrived in the silence, I support an open dialogue that can help protect children from harm. Additionally, anyone who is thinking of abusing a child, to be sure, will have to consider the openness and willingness of our parish community to speak up and take action. Educating all adults

¹ Article 2 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* <https://www.usccb.org/offices/child-and-youth-protection/charter-protection-children-and-young-people>



who have contact with children in the best practices of child safety is paramount to preventing the abuse or neglect of children.

One volunteer, who happened to be a friend of mine, chose not to attend VIRTUS. He said he was unwilling to go and yet, still he expected to be welcome to coach—but, we would not waive our policy's training requirement and did not allow him to coach. It is truly unfortunate that my friend placed his personal pride over the well-being of children. However, I remain grateful that the program lives on in all of us, even without his attendance—for providing the foundation and structure to support an ongoing culture of safe environments for each and every one of us who do embrace the concepts of safe environments.

Healing

Although [1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men](#)² report having been sexually abused as a child, we know many, many victims don't report due to shame or fear, so the actual numbers are far higher. Given the truth of the abuse within our own church, we should be the leaders in hope and healing for all victims/survivors of childhood abuse—no matter who the perpetrator was. Healing came to me when my story was believed by my family, friends and my parish. Listening, hearing and believing when any person trusts you enough to tell you their painful story—that's the start of the healing journey.

The healing journey continues with prayer. At the annual [Child Abuse Prevention Prayer Service](#)³ held within the Archdiocese of Chicago, adults and children alike gather in prayer and song for the dignity, safety, protection and love all children deserve as children of God. The pinwheel is used as a symbol of the innocence, joy, and fun of great childhoods. Parents, teachers, principals, priests and other caring adults pray together, with the children, for continued vigilance against anyone who would harm children.

As an adult survivor of child sexual abuse, part of my mission is to also help other survivors on their healing journey. As a co-founder of [the Healing Voices](#)⁴ online magazine, I encourage anyone who has been abused to check out this resource. Know there is help. There is hope. There is healing.

I want to express deep heartfelt gratitude for the VIRTUS Programs and the daily dedication required from each of us to keep children safe in our Catholic school and parish programs. It is great to see people coming together fostering a culture of speaking up within the Church and in all communities—raising awareness that child abuse affects everyone, allowing permission for children to tell a trusted adult if

² <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/features/sexual-violence/index.html>

³ <https://protect.archchicago.org/healing-garden/pinwheel-prayer-service>

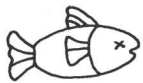
⁴ <https://thehealingvoices.org/>



something happened to them, and educating parents about grooming behaviors. It is real progress from when I was a young boy and I am grateful for that progress. I am blessed to be in a parish community that supports and celebrates a safe environment for children so that no child will have to endure what I experienced.

God's Word for Children

The Gospel today tells about one of the times Jesus appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection. Sharpen your pencil and draw the pictures into the sentences so you can tell the story, too!



When the disciples saw Jesus they thought He was a .

Jesus showed them his and feet.

Jesus wanted them to touch him so they could see he was made of flesh and .

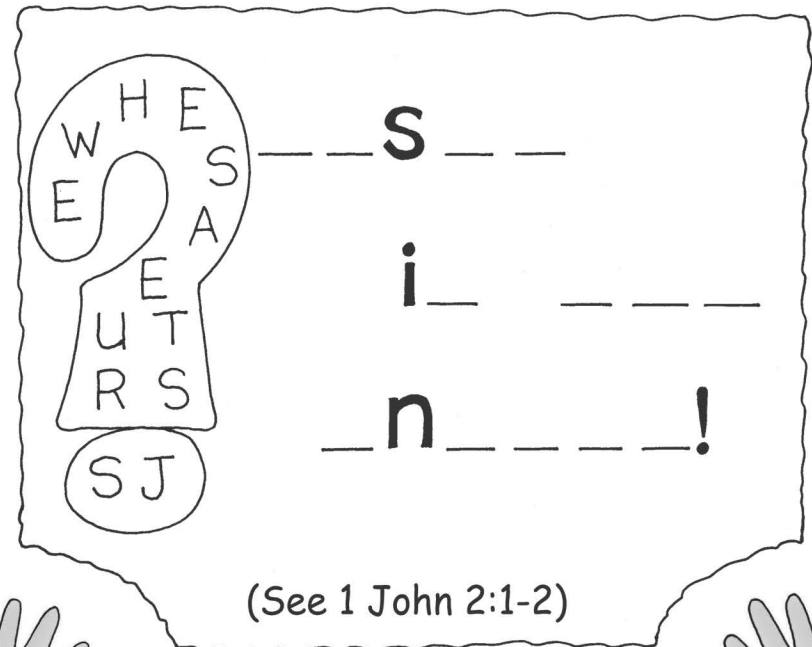
Then the disciples were very happy and gave Jesus a to eat!

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Third Sunday of Easter

We search for lots of answers in our lives, especially to questions like "Who loves me even when I do wrong?" "Who forgives me?" "Who brings my concerns to God?"

Use the letters in the question mark to fill in the blanks so they will spell out something you should always remember.



(See 1 John 2:1-2)



PEACE BE WITH YOU

Jesus spoke these words to his disciples after the Resurrection. Before we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus at Mass the priest says these words to us. Then he invites us to exchange a sign of peace with the people around us. What do you say when you turn to the people around you? Do you say, "Peace be with you," or do you use different words? What do other people say to you? In the sacrament of confirmation, the bishop anoints the candidate with holy oil and then says, "Peace be with you." We believe the Holy Spirit brings peace to us and to the world.

People in countries all around the world long for peace. Make a banner or poster using the word "Peace" as it is spoken and written in many different languages. Some examples are written here. Put your banner or poster in your room or in the window of your house.

Pray for peace every night.

PEACE

Arabic: سلام (salām)

Cherokee: ႠႩႠႩ (dohiyi)

Danish: Fred

German: Friede

Greek: Ειρήνη (irīni)

Spanish: Paz

French: Paix

Irish: Síocháin

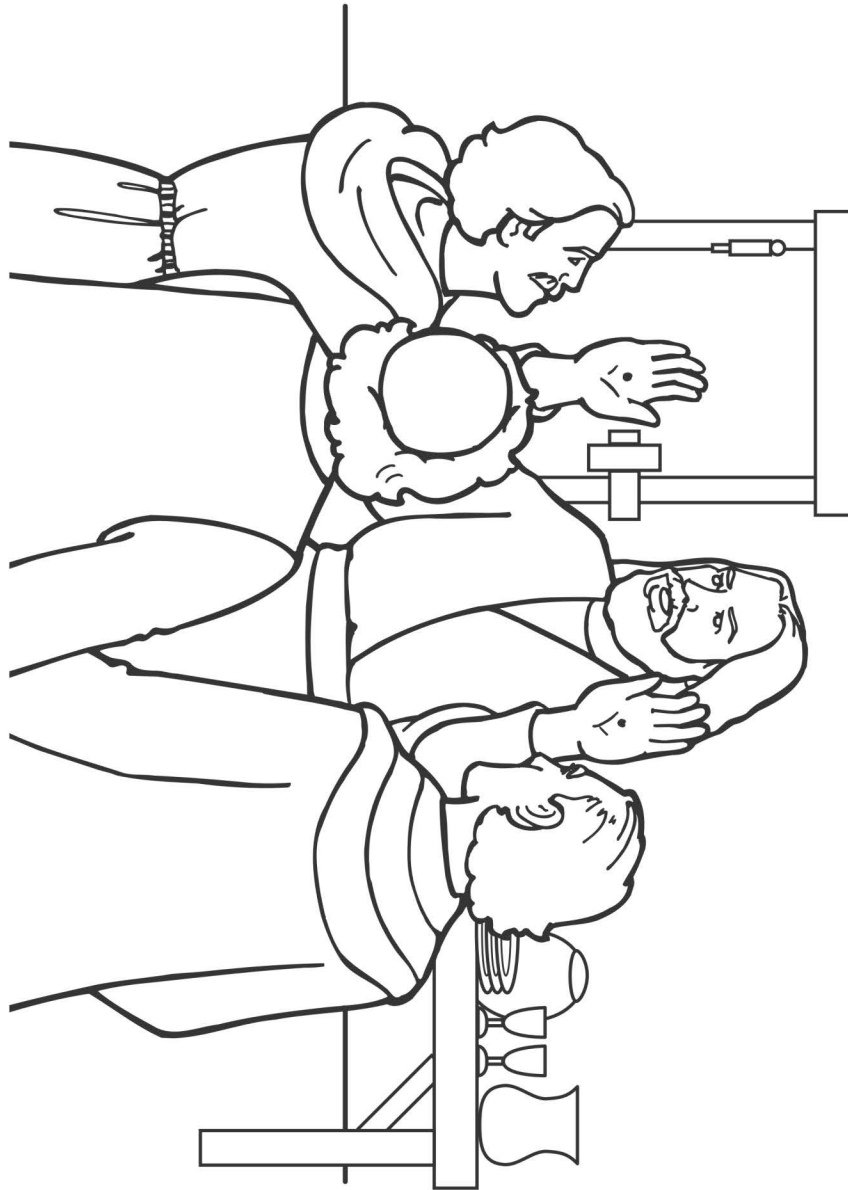
Hebrew: שלום (shalom)

Japanese: 平和 (heiwa)

Polish: Pokój

Russian: Мир (mir)

Italian: Pace



Jesus stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Luke 24 : 36

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