

Sunday, Apr 18, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Each one teach one

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.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48 (47). "You are witnesses of these things."

Monday, Apr 19, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Seek a way to serve

Saint Timon, whose feast is today, is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (6:5) as one of seven deacons chosen by the apostles to assist in ministering to the community of believers in Jerusalem. As the apostles concentrated on preaching, the deacons assisted in providing for the material needs of the community. This focus on both word and deed, or evangelization and service, continues to be the hallmark of Christian discipleship. As the church teaches in *Lumen Gentium*, "Each one of the faithful must willingly hear the word of God and accept God's Will, and must complete what God has begun by their own actions with the help of God's grace." What will you do to continue the work of love that begins and ends with God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29 (273). "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Tuesday, Apr 20, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Seek the light in learning

On this day in 1303, Sapienza University of Rome was instituted by Pope Boniface VIII. Sapienza, boasting such famous alumni as Maria Montessori and Federico Fellini, is considered the first pontifical university—an institution approved by the Vatican and committed to teaching theology, philosophy, and canon law. Today, all pontifical universities are governed by the document *Veritatis Gaudium*, a 2017 update written by Pope Francis. It begins: "The joy of truth expresses the restlessness of the human heart until it encounters and dwells within God's Light, and shares that Light with all people." How will you share God's light today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274). "The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Wednesday, Apr 21, 2021

MEMORIAL OF ANSELM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Love the questions

How would you define the term *theology*? Google it and you find it described as the critical study of the nature of God or the divine. Saint Anselm (1033-1109) said it another way: "Theology is faith seeking understanding." Every time you try to understand how God allows suffering, or wonder how it is that God loves every human being, or try to understand if God truly hears your prayers, you are doing the work of theology. As a French Benedictine monk

and later archbishop of Canterbury, Anselm was a wise and learned teacher who challenged the secular power of kings. Your life may not seem extraordinary, but the pursuit of knowledge about God belongs to you as well. Don't be afraid of the questions. Ask for grace to allow the questions to help your faith grow.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275). "Everyone who . . . believes in him (the Son) may have eternal life."

Thursday, Apr 22, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Prepare your heart for encounter

Today's first reading about Philip explaining scripture to a receptive Ethiopian is a beautiful example of something that Pope Francis often emphasizes: the need for openness when we encounter another, especially someone different from us. In homilies, speeches, and documents, the Holy Father tells us we are called to encounter Jesus, to allow ourselves to be changed and shaped by that encounter, and to bring the same attitude to our dealings with people. Pray for the grace of openness toward the people you encounter today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51 (276). "The bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

Friday, Apr 23, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Be the change

Prior to his conversion, Saint Paul, who earlier in life was known by his Hebrew name Saul, was most definitely no saint. He not only disliked those who followed Jesus, he attacked them. So what happened? He encountered Jesus the Christ. Jesus did not put Paul through what fiction refers to as a "mind wipe," or erasure of former personality and memory. Jesus called Paul to stop and see clearly the truth of his mindset and actions. And then Paul put in the work. This is something we all have to do—put in the work—especially when our dislike of those who are different leads to harm.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 (277). "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Saturday, Apr 24, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Stay the course

Followers of Jesus have been disputing the meaning of the eucharistic meal and Jesus' instructions to "eat my flesh and drink my blood" ever since the words were first uttered. Many could not look beyond a literal interpretation of the words to see the powerful symbolism of the image of the paschal lamb offered for the sins of the community at Passover. So they simply walked away. Now that the sacrifice has been accomplished and Easter season is well underway, will you turn away as well, or are you with those who stayed with Jesus because, like Peter, you have come to believe that he has the words of eternal life?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 (278). "Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer walked with him."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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