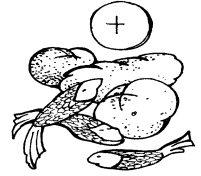


THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 22, 2007

“WORTHY IS THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN TO RECEIVE POWER AND RICHES,
WISDOM AND STRENGTH, HONOR AND GLORY AND BLESSING.”

— Revelation 5:12



REDEMPTION

Do you remember Peter on the night Jesus was arrested? He claimed he had never heard of Jesus. Today we are called to join Peter in testifying to the name of Jesus as he does in the first reading, and in proclaiming our love for him as Peter does in the Gospel passage. The powerful imagery of John’s vision in the second reading from the book of Revelation shows us the company we keep when we have faith in the name of Jesus. We join all living creatures, “countless in number” from “heaven, earth, under the earth, in the sea; everything in the universe” (Revelation 5:11, 13). The dignity and majesty described in each reading are in stark contrast to the dark and pitiful image of Peter and the other Apostles at the time of Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion. What a relief that we can all be redeemed so completely!

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ATTENTION LECTORS, SERVERS, AND MINISTERS

Please call in your non-availability dates for the months of May and June by tomorrow, April 23rd. Please e-mail your dates to csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or call 562.491.1217 and leave a message.

PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER

Provides quality care and safe living environment for homeless pregnant women. **562.431.5025**

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Members of this committee are invited to come to the Rectory on Monday evening, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. for our planning meeting. Dave Kennedy will give a short presentation on the Archdiocesan Synod. We hope all members can attend.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The *Senior Center* at 1150 E. 4th Street, Long Beach, has a cozy little room full of books and magazines for you to take advantage of? By signing up for a Senior Center Library Card, you can check out hardback books, rent videos, listen to books on tape and trade paperback books. Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. 562.570.3500.

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED

Please join us on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the church to pray the Rosary.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

One of the more notable activities of the Lord’s public life was healing the sick. Healing was one of the explicit ministries entrusted to the 72 disciples when they went on mission. Communal services that celebrate God’s healing mercy experienced through the sacrament of anointing the sick call to mind, for both the sick and the well, the healing power of God’s love and the challenge for each of us to be instruments of healing in the midst of so much suffering in our fragile world.

We hope that all who suffer serious illness, those who are elderly, and anyone about to have surgery will come to receive the Anointing of the Sick **next Saturday, April 29 at the 5:30 p.m. Mass.** Please arrive by 5:15 and sit in the pews reserved for you near the front of the church.

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

One of the great concerns of people everywhere is the preservation of the beauty and viability of planet earth which God created. JOYCE COTTAGE, co-founder of *PARTNERSHIPS*, an organization dedicated to building mutually beneficial relationships locally and globally, will give a **presentation on Sunday morning, May 6th following the 10:30 a.m. Mass** in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall. Through discussion and interactive participating, Joyce will focus on God’s call to us to care for creation and how we as Catholics are invited to be good stewards of what God has given to us. Practical suggestions for living this out will be included.

REFLECTIONS....

This week try to take time to sit and read next Sunday’s Gospel. Afterwards, reflect on the following questions:

Have I ever felt like a “wandering sheep?” When have I tried to help a “wandering sheep” come back to the Good Shepherd? What happened?

— FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~APRIL 29 —

FIRST READING: Acts 13:14, 43-52

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

GOSPEL: John 10:27-30

PARISH MOBILE LIBRARY

Pick up a book to enrich your spiritual life before or after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass. Ten minutes of spiritual reading per day can really ‘make your day.’