

***This Week's Message*****Emmaus and Us**

We should put ourselves in the shoes of the disciples in today's Gospel. Downcast and confused they're making their way down the road, unable to understand all the things that have occurred.

They know what they've seen—a prophet mighty in word and deed. They know what they were hoping for—that He would be the redeemer of Israel. But they don't know what to make of His violent death at the hands of their rulers.

They can't even recognize Jesus as He draws near to walk with them. He seems like just another foreigner visiting Jerusalem for the Passover.

Note that Jesus doesn't disclose His identity until they describe how they found His tomb empty but "Him they did not see." That's how it is with us, too. Unless He revealed himself we would see only an empty tomb and a meaningless death.

How does Jesus make himself known at Emmaus?



First, He interprets "all the Scriptures" as referring to Him. In today's First Reading and Epistle, Peter also opens the Scriptures to proclaim the meaning of Christ's death according to the Father's "set plan"—foreknown before

the foundation of the world.

Jesus is described as a new Moses and a new Passover lamb. He is the One of whom David sang in today's Psalm—whose soul was not abandoned to corruption but was shown the path of life.

After opening the Scriptures, Jesus at table took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples—exactly what He did at the Last Supper (see Luke 22:14-20).

In every Eucharist, we reenact that Easter Sunday at Emmaus. Jesus reveals himself to us in our journey. He speaks to our hearts in the Scriptures. Then at the table of the altar, in the person of the priest, He breaks the bread.

The disciples begged him, "Stay with us." So He does. Though He has vanished from our sight, in the Eucharist—as at Emmaus—we know Him in the breaking of the bread.

**"Stay is a charming word in a friend's vocabulary."**

— **Louisa May Alcott**

***Interested in the Catholic Faith?***

Contact Dr. John McKinney (336-886-3086 or Docluv2run@hotmail.com) for information on RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

***Announcements***

1. Retreat, Confession, and Practice for First Communicants will be on Saturday, April 29 at 9:00am, and all students with their parents must be present, on time for the practice.
2. First Communion will be given to the children on Sunday, May 7 at 9:30am Mass and 12:30pm Mass. The May Crowning will take place before 9:30am Mass on Sunday, May the 7th. We need a few volunteers to decorate the altars on Saturday, May 6th at 10:30am. If anyone would like to donate flowers for that day celebration, you may bring the flowers before 10:30am.
3. All Catholic young men ages 15-19 are invited to take part in Quo Vadis Days Camp which is to be held from June 12-16, 2017 at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont. The purpose of the Camp is to help you to know Jesus more deeply and help you to discern your vocation in life. Those who are interested please attend, and for further information please read the bulletin.
4. This weekend we will have a second collection for the International / National Combined Collection which supports the Catholic Relief Services, Collection for the Holy Land, Collection for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence), Catholic University of America, and the Catholic Communications Campaign. Please be generous in your support.
5. May 5th is First Friday. We will have Holy Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction after 7:00pm mass.
6. Father Pragasam give thanks to all of our Parishioners for their prayers and support for his speedy recovery.
7. Father Pragasam and All the Chairs of the Councils express their appreciation to every worker, and laborers in a special occasion of the May 1<sup>st</sup> and they offer prayers to St. Joseph who is the Patron of all workers.

***Mass Intentions***

04/29	Saturday	5:00pm	Joseph & Chaleen Battaglia - 50th Anniv For the People
04/30	Sunday	9:30am 12:30pm 3:00pm	(Spanish) For the people For the People
05/01	Monday	No Mass	
05/02	Tuesday	7:00am	John McKinney, Sr.+ req. by Dr. John McKinney For the People
05/03	Wednesday	6:45pm	Bill Winfield + req. by Dr. John McKinney For the People
05/04	Thursday	7:00am	
05/05	Friday	7:00pm	For the People
05/06	Saturday	5:00pm	For the People

**May 2—St. Athanasius** - "Father of Orthodoxy" Athanasius lived for a time under a death sentence by the state; he was exiled five times by four emperors; he stood trial for alleged crimes, such as murder, theft, adultery, and sorcery; he was hunted down as a fugitive. In one such instance, in the year 361, the troops of the emperor were seeking to arrest Athanasius. One night, they came upon him without recognizing him. "Have you seen Athanasius?" they demanded. "Yes, I have!" Athanasius excitedly answered. "Is he far away?" they asked. Athanasius responded, "Yes, he is very close. Hurry! Keep going." And keep going they did. Meanwhile, Athanasius went back into hiding upon them.

We must walk by faith and not by sight, must believe and love what we have not seen (2 Cor 5:7). Yet the invisible realities are made present for us through the devotions the Apostles handed on.

***Parish News******Sacramental Schedule***

First Eucharist—May 7th (2 masses)  
Confirmation—May 24th at 7:00pm

***May Crowning***

Sunday, May 7th before the 9:30am Mass

***First Friday Devotions***

Join us in honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus this Friday, May 5th at 7:00pm for Mass, Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

***In Our Prayers***

Lord, hold our troops, and all those far from home, in your loving hands. And for: Gladys Ozor, Hector Sanchez, Maria Selam, Dulce Moreno, Charles Keefe, Fern Trottier, Jose Guzman, James & Willy Lilly, Felicia Murphy, Linda Styron, Marianne Smith, Dan Lynk, Therese Frentz-Rice, Fr. Martin Carter, Charles Ramsey, Jorge Lagueruel.

***Wednesday Evening Novena******Our Lady of Perpetual Help***

Each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm, Followed by Mass at 6:45. Join us to pray for the needs of our hurting world.

***Scripture Readings This Week***

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35  
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Jn 6:22-29 Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26--2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Mt 13:54-58  
Tuesday: Acts 7:51--8:1a/Jn 6:30-35  
Wednesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a/Jn 14:6-14  
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  
Next Sun: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10  
Monday, May 1, St. Joseph the Worker: Joseph is the patron of the universal Church, fathers, the dying, social justice, and more.

***Second Collection this Weekend***

The International/National Combined Collection benefits 1) Catholic Relief Services 2) Collection for the Holy Land 3) Collection for the Works of the Holy Father 4) Catholic University of America and 5) Catholic Communications Campaign. Thank you for your generosity!

***Stewardship Thought***

Do we ever take the initiative in giving our time, talent and treasure, or do we always wait to be asked?

Thank you and thank you for your generous pledges towards DSA! **Our assessment is \$13,197.** The pledges paid \$4,936., total balance to be paid \$8261. Number of donors 40. Please continue to pledge for DSA. Use the pledge envelopes and drop it in the collection or return it to the church office or visit charlottediocese.org/dsa to make a gift online. Thank you!

Remember! The DSA funds the annual budgets of our diocesan ministries. These are the ministries that provide for the educational, vocational, multicultural, housing, and Catholic Charities outreach to the people of our diocese. *Thank you so much for all of your efforts to promote and support the DSA in your parish. Thousands of people will be helped as a result of your work.*

***Parish & Community News******Attention: All Catholic Young Men 15-19***

You are invited to attend the fifth annual Quo Vadis Days camp to spend time with other young men your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having fun. QVD is led by priests and seminarians of the diocese and is supported by the diocesan Office of Vocations. Quo Vadis Days will be held from **June 12-16, 2017** at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont. The cost of the camp is \$150. Please note the change in age participation this year. If interested, visit our website: [www.charlottediocese.org/vocations/quo-vadis-days](http://www.charlottediocese.org/vocations/quo-vadis-days) or contact Fr. Jason Barone at [jkbarone@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jkbarone@charlottediocese.org).

***Worldwide Marriage Encounter***

"You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." Enliven and find more joy in your marriage by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are June 23-25, in Chapel Hill, NC and July 7-9, in Greenville, SC. Early sign-up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://NCMarriageDiscovery.org> or contact us at [applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org](mailto:applications@NCMarriageDiscovery.org) or 704-315-2144.

***2017 Catholic Voice North Carolina***

Let your Catholic voice be heard. Join Catholic Voice North Carolina at [CatholicVoicenc.org](http://CatholicVoicenc.org). Receive email alerts from the Bishops and react to legislation that impacts the Catholic faith. Catholic Voice NC is the nonpartisan public policy voice of the two Catholic dioceses of North Carolina.

***Diocesan Support Appeal***

The DSA funds over 50 different programs and ministries throughout western North Carolina—Important works that no individual parish can do on its own. If you have already contributed toward our parish DSA goal of \$13,197.00, thank you very much! If you have not, you can still donate by completing a pledge envelope, drop it in the collection, return it to the church office or visit [charlottediocese.org/dsa](http://charlottediocese.org/dsa) to make a gift online. Thank you!

***Help for Your Marriage***

The word Retrouvaille™ (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i.) is a French word meaning rediscovery. The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the program.

Whether you have been struggling for a short time or a very long time, there is help for you. Find out more: [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org)

***The First Saturday Pro-Life Rosary***

Please note, on Saturday, May 6th, 2017, our Rosary will **return to our original location of 901 North Main St. and Sunset Dr. at 9:00 am** due to the re-opening of North Main St. Parking is available on site in the bank parking lot. Please come and help us pray for the end of abortion. Contacts: Jim Hoyng (336-882-9593) or Paul Klosterman (336-848-6835).