LIVING FAITH
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY
John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

People call this story the story of "Doubting Thomas," but it's really a story about Jesus. In His first appearance after His Resurrection, Jesus shows ALL of the disciples the wounds in his hands and his side, and they recognize that this is, indeed, the Lord. Jesus offers the same opportunity to Thomas. Jesus recognized what Thomas needed, what all of them needed, was to see His wounds and so recognize that this was really Him.

Jesus offers His modern-day disciples the same opportunity to see His wounds, touch them, and recognize Him in and through these wounds. In the wounded who walk among us, in the broken and wounded people we meet every day, Jesus is present. In ourselves, when we are wounded, hurting and broken, Jesus is present. The Resurrected Jesus still bore the wounds of His Crucifixion. You and I don't have to be perfect to reveal the glory of God. If Jesus did it in his woundedness, so can we. Jesus works through us, no matter how wounded we are. It's His love, His mercy, His compassion that pass through us, it's not our own.

Doubting Thomas

pinterest.com

A family activity for this week: Personally and collevtive reflect on times in your life when you really felt God's presence close to you. Name and share!

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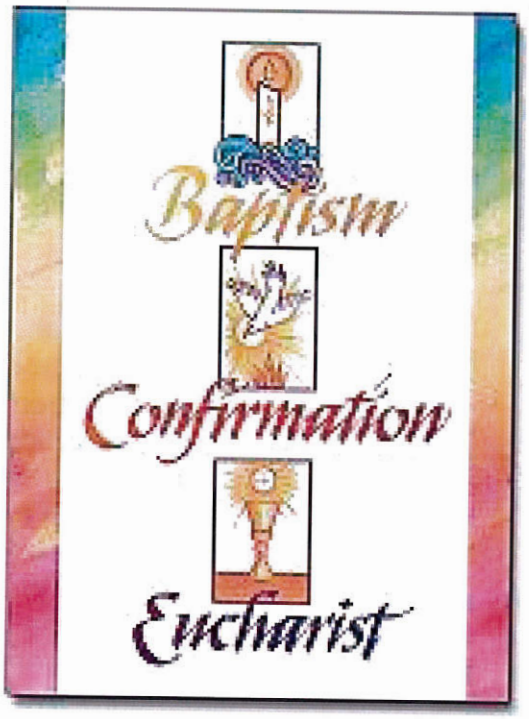
THE CHURCH TEACHES
SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

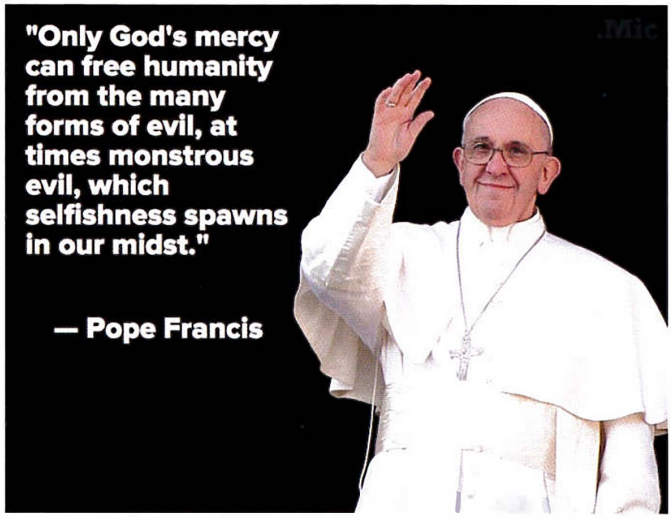


Baptism is one of the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church; frequently called the "first sacrament" as it is the gateway to the rest of the Sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of the mystical body of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in the mission of proclaiming the Good News: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word. (CCC: 1213)"

Confirmation is the completion of Baptism, by the full gift of the Holy Spirit. It is administered by laying-on of hands and anointing with chrism accompanied by prayer. The chrism is blessed by the bishop at the annual Mass of Chrism. The bishop is the ordinary minister of the sacrament.

Theologically, it is the gift of the Holy Spirit given in all its fullness at Confirmation that best prepares one to receive Eucharist, and thus to be most fully joined to the Body of Christ.

Eucharist is the culmination of a person's Christian initiation, the Sacrament in which we are fully incorporated into Christ, and are nourished and strengthened by Him and continually sent out on mission to the world.



Where can I find good information on the Holocaust?

You might be interested in exploring the Shoah Foundation, which was established by Steven Spielberg. Housed at the University of Southern California, the foundation has worked since 1994 to create a Visual History Archive. This archive currently has more than 54,000 video testimonies of survivors of genocide. They average a little over two hours each in length. The interviews were conducted in 62 countries and 41 languages. The vast majority of the testimonies contain a complete personal history of life before, during, and after the interviewee's firsthand experience with genocide.

The Visual History Archive is digitized, fully searchable via indexed keywords, and hyperlinked to the minute. Most of the material relates to the Holocaust, and includes testimony from survivors, rescuers and aid personnel, not only Jewish, but also from the other ethnic and religious groups targeted by the Nazi regime. The archive also contains interviews with survivors of other genocides since the Holocaust, including Rwanda.

To find out more:

https://sfi.usc.edu/about

APRIL 23-24
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL
YOM HaSHOAH
"NEVER AGAIN"

Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs on the 27th of Nisan (this year, 2017, this is from sundown on April 23 to sundown on April 24). Shoah, which **means "sacrifice by fire,"** or utter destruction, in Hebrew, refers to the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during World War II. Holocaust Memorial Day remembers the lives and heroism of the people who were lost, and offers and opportunity to thank those many good people who made sacrifices to shelter, protect and save their sisters and brothers who were in peril.

Today, we often hear the phrase "never again." What does this mean? This is a call to remember the tragedies of war in the past, and the Holocaust in particular, and to commit ourselves to doing everything in our power to ensure that this will not happen again.