LIVING FAITH
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

Luke 24:13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him… As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

"Stay with us…" How often we think about how easy it must have been for the disciples. They had seen Jesus. They met with him, walked with him, talked with him. But today's Gospel tells a very interesting story. Even after three years of discipleship, being with Jesus day in and day out, the disciples did not recognize him when he appeared to them on the evening of his Resurrection.

Jesus continues to appear to us today, to be present to us on the roads of our lives. What keeps us from recognizing him? Perhaps one of the deepest truths, the one to which we find it really hard to admit, is that we do not see Jesus because *we do not expect to see him!* Jesus is among us, walking right beside us. We find him in the faces of our children and in the words of our elders. He is made known to us in the beauty of the sunrise and in the wild winter storms that buffet our coasts. He is present in the joys of our lives. He is just as truly present in the sorrows and difficulties we face. Jesus is God-with-us, always and everywhere. In a very special way, he is present to us in and through the Sacraments.

Look for Jesus. Seek him. He is there, walking right beside you, though your eyes, like the eyes of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, may be kept from recognizing him.

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The road to Emmaus

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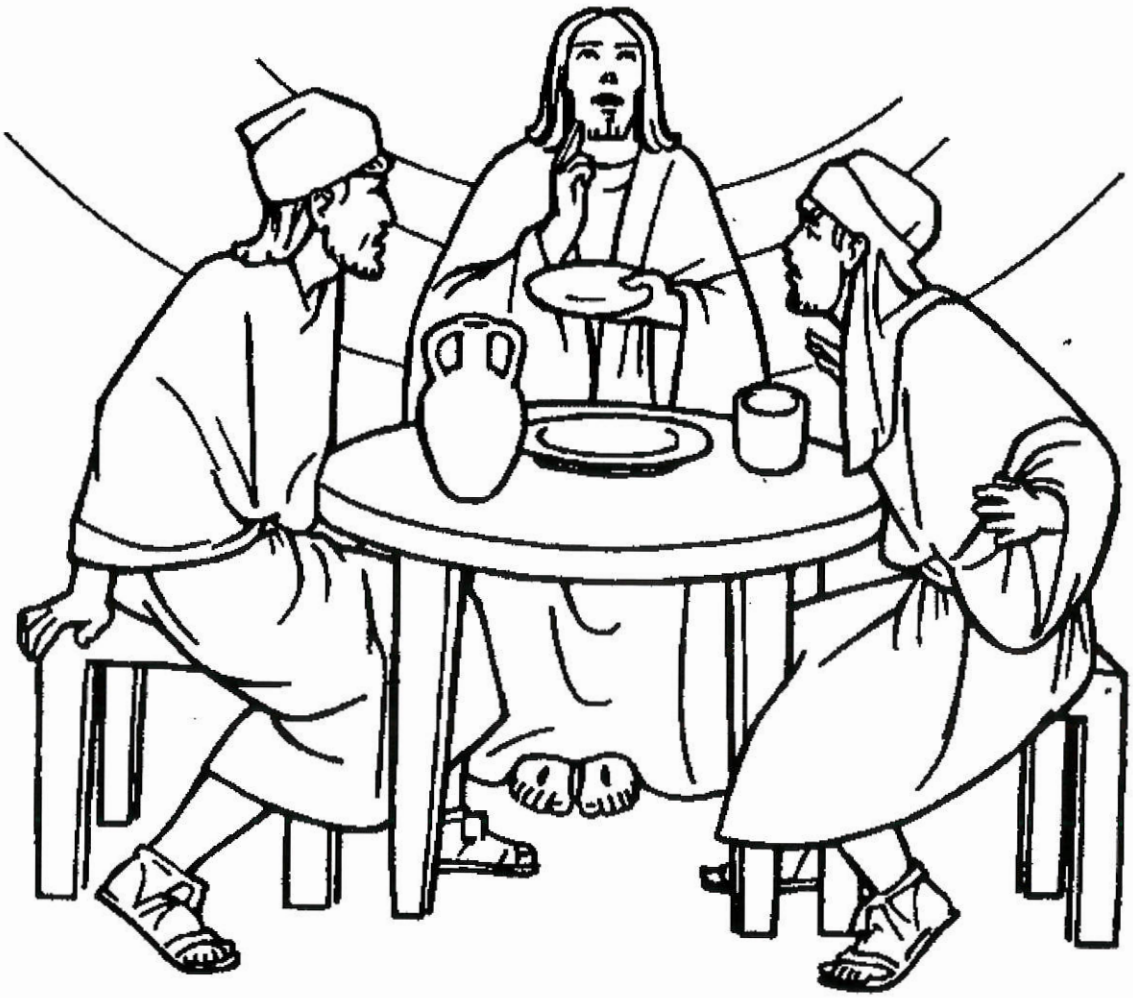
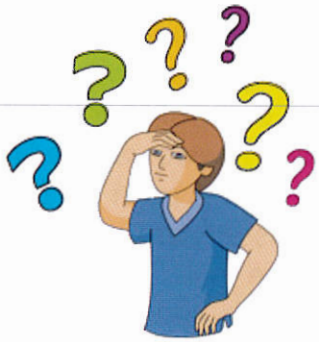
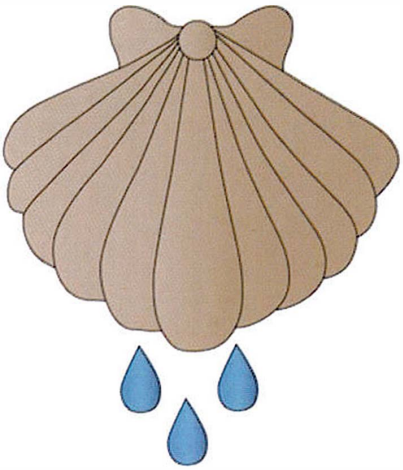


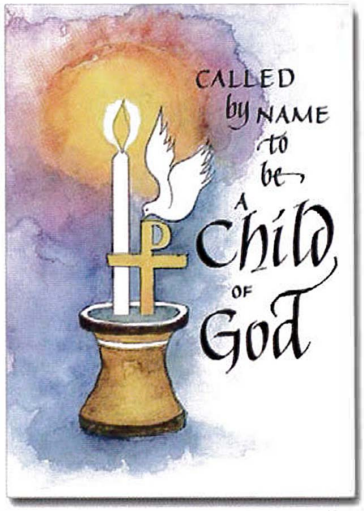
A family activity for this week: Jesus revealed Himself in the breaking of Bread. When we receive Eucharist we are also told to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord. This week, what practical ways can we act and be God's presence to others. Have a conversation about how we can bring's God's love and presence to others through simple ordinary actions in our everyday lives during this week! Share your ideas!



BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments.
(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1213)





Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, as a group of three Sacraments, are called the "Sacraments of Initiation." A Sacrament is a visible sign of God's presence, God's activity in our lives, in the Church and in our world. But it goes beyond that! Sacraments not only show us what God is like and what God wills for us; Sacraments also make that happen!

So, what does Baptism say to us about the God we believe in? Three things jump readily to mind.

1. Baptism (together with Confirmation and Eucharist) tells us that God wants each and every one of us to belong—first of all, to God! Second of all, God wants us to belong to one another, to care for each other and to form a community of faith with other believers. God is a family—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and God gives us the grace, in these Sacraments of Initiation, to form human families that continue to reveal God's love to the world.
2. Baptism also tells us that our purpose in life is to know, love and serve God in all kinds of ways, but especially through one another.
3. The prayers of Baptism tell us something really important about how God looks at us. One of the prayers of Baptism tells us clearly that the love of a mother and father for their child is the clearest picture we have of God's love for us. The prayer goes like this:

   God is the giver of all life, human and divine. … You are the

   first teachers of your child in the ways of faith. May you also

   be the best of teachers, bearing witness to that faith in all you

   say and do.

To find out more about this great gift of God and how you can celebrate it in your life, contact your pastor or other pastoral leader.

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MAY 1
FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

St. Joseph has two feast days on the liturgical calendar. The first is March 19—Joseph, the Husband of Mary. The second is May 1—Joseph, the Worker.

"Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the Living God. He listens in silence. And his heart ceaselessly perseveres in the readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God," St. Pope John Paul II had once said.

There is very little about the life of Joseph in Scripture but still, we know that he was the chaste husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus, a carpenter and a man who was not wealthy. We also know that he came from the royal lineage of King David.

Joseph is the patron of many things, including the universal Church, fathers, the dying and social justice.

Although in Canada we celebrate workers on Labour Day, the first Monday in September, in much of the world, this celebration of workers and of the dignity of labour is marked on May 1 —the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOUR

"Human labour is part of that creation and continues God's creative work. This truth leads us to consider work as both a gift and a duty." (Pope Francis to Steelworkers, March 2014)

Healthy labour fosters human dignity and works respectfully and creatively with the natural world. Labour is also intended to provide an opportunity for people to actively participate in building up the common good for the human family (*Evangelii Gaudium* 192).

"If there is no work, [human] dignity is wounded! Indeed, the unemployed and underemployed risk being relegated to the margins of society, becoming victims of social exclusion." (Pope Francis to Steelworkers, March 2014)