



## St. Vincent de Paul Parish

6001 NORTH UNIVERSITY STREET • PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61614

RECTORY 309-691-3602  
REC. FAX 309-691-3687  
SCHOOL 309-691-5012  
SCHOOL FAX 309-683-1036

April 26, 2020

Dear Faithful Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul,

As we begin this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter we rejoice in all the blessings God has bestowed upon us during these times. We see new life as the trees are budding and the flowers blooming. These are beautiful signs of hope. As people of faith, we know that the Resurrection is the true sign of hope for us. We are called to keep our eyes fixed on things above than the things of the earth.

The Road to Emmaus, in our Gospel today, opens our eyes to the reality of the gift of our liturgy. As the disciples are fleeing Jerusalem out of fear of the events that are occurring there, they encounter Jesus on the way. At first He is not recognized by them as he begins to open up the Scriptures for them. This relates to our Mass readings and homily (Liturgy of the Word). When they arrive in Emmaus they ask Jesus to “stay with us”. Jesus remains with them and when they were at table with Him they recognize Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread (Liturgy of Eucharist). The Emmaus story teaches us the lovely gift we have in our Mass.

The two disciples response after their hearts were open can help us reflect where we are spiritually. They said, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” The Lord speaks to us each day in our prayers and Sacred Scripture can help to console us. Throughout Scriptures both in the Old and New Testament we hear, “Do not be afraid”. Make Sacred Scripture part of your daily prayer and be fed by His Divine and consoling words. After recognizing Jesus in the Eucharist that did not stay in Emmaus (It was night and miles away). They got up immediately and went back to Jerusalem to proclaim Jesus is Risen and that they recognize Him in the Breaking of the Bread.

The Emmaus story helps us to recommit ourselves to the gift of the Mass and the importance of the Word and Eucharist. Last week I had a pastor’s challenge. I hope you have been able to watch the videos by Scott Hahn on [The Eucharist in the Scriptures](#). These videos will open your eyes and hearts to a deeper love for the Eucharist. It is my hope that like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our eyes will be opened in the breaking of the bread.

This Friday is May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Let us all pray through the intercession of St. Joseph to protect our church, families, and the unemployed. Know that you are in my prayers.

God bless,  
Fr. Willard