

Imagine meeting a stranger, a fellow traveler, who butts into the conversation you're having with your friend. The two disciples in today's Gospel are heading to Emmaus, seven miles away from Jerusalem, heartbroken and disillusioned. It's the day of Jesus' resurrection, but no one knew it when these two set out on their journey, maybe going home to resume their pre-Jesus lives because it seemed as if everything was over.

In the middle of trying to make sense of the tragedy, some eavesdropping guy asks them about their troubles. After telling their story, the disciples are amazed to find this stranger able to piece together the fragments of the broken image of their master using scripture as the glue. Then it happens—at dinner they recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread, just before he vanishes. With their hearts burning with love and inspiration, they run back to Jerusalem—at night—to tell the others their new story.

THE STRANGER/SHEPHERD

The stranger in this story who turns out to be Jesus is reminiscent of the Gospel images of Jesus as the Good

Shepherd. He seeks out his "lost sheep" who have strayed from the faith community, and the experience of the risen Lord transforms them into perhaps the very first evangelists, sharing their Good News with their friends back in Jerusalem.

Are we transformed by the time we leave Mass? We should be! Our hearts should be burning within us from our experience of Jesus in word and sacrament. Yet how often life breaks our heart and clouds our mind! We stumble toward our own Emmaus, unaware that Jesus is with us. We are privileged to experience Jesus in every Eucharist through the breaking open of scripture and by the breaking of the bread. Like the disciples of the story, that transforming experience can compel us to go forth and tell everyone the Good News.

Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
PERMANENT DEACON:
 Rev. Mr. Leonard "Len" Sanchez

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
 Sunday: 9:30 AM
 Tues, Thurs & Fri: 9:00 AM
 Wednesday: 5:00 PM

Reconciliation:
 Saturday & Sunday: 45
 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:
 Contact the parish office six
 (6) months prior to the
 anticipated date 903-769-3235

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

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 Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765

Church Phone: 903-769-3235

Fr. Mike Snider
Cell Phone: 903-490-3883

www.holyspirthollylake.com
holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Welcome Visitors!

We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home." Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!

Third Sunday of Easter

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Patricia Guy. Jacob Stephens. Randy Burris. Albert Hernandez. Karina Hawkins. Mike Fleming. Frankie Durst. Susie Strickland. Doug Lawson. Dana Moffatt. Emly Walker. Eva Corrigan. Francis Young. Mike Brown. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Ester Coronel. Diane Stanley. Chase Larson. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Rose Kennedy. Judy Fazzio. Marsha & Marty Blahitka. Carolyn Edwards. Joshua Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda Stephens. Wanda Thompson. Kathryn Allen. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month. **We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially: Cameron, grandson of Rocky & Maria Moore.**

Please pray for the men and women active military service

from our parish community: 2LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Airman First Class Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Ensign Gary Buchanan; 2ndLt. Blake Gaughan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). E-3R James Morgan (Son in Law of Kathy & Dale Boman) Paul Moreno USCG (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (brother of Jeff & Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

GOD'S PLAN

Saint Peter speaks to us twice today. In the first reading, we hear an excerpt from his sermon on Pentecost; in the second, part of his first letter. Once a frightened, uneducated fisherman who often said just the wrong thing, now Peter is speaking what he knows to be true. Everything Jesus had said now makes sense. His death and rising were all part of God's plan, and our faith and hope can be centered on God. Today's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus with two of the disciples. Frightened, sad, and confused, the two of them don't recognize Jesus, who tells them what we heard Peter say above: All this had to happen as part of God's plan. In the end, these disciples recognize Jesus as we are to recognize him—in the breaking of the bread.

POPE'S UNIVERSAL INTENTION FOR APRIL

Freedom from Addiction

That those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Fr. Mike's Private Mass—Intentions

Sat 4/25 Abused Children

Sun 4/26 Lexi Bonicard (Carolyn Bonicard)

Tue 4/28 Milton Aucoin+ (Carolyn Bonicard)

Wed 4/29 Parishioners

Thurs 4/30 COVID-19 Sufferers

Fri. 5/01 Carlos Gallardo+ (M/M Ryan)

PARISH SUPPORT

Required Weekly Funds \$ 3,962

Offerings April 19th \$ 4,150

April 26th Second Collection: "Catholic Home Missions".

Due to the suspended public masses amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), collections will be posted on a weekly basis.

Our expenses are continuing while all these decisions with the COVID-19 Virus is impacting significantly our financial situation. Please remember to support our Parish financially by mailing in your contributions. Now, might be the time to set up automatic bill pay with your bank on a weekly/monthly basis.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God has raised the crucified Jesus, who now pours forth the Holy Spirit upon us (Acts 2:14, 22-33).

Psalm — Lord, you will show us the path of life (Psalm 16).

Second Reading — Our faith and hope are in God, who raised Jesus from the dead (1 Peter 1:17-21).

Gospel — Through his words and in the breaking of the bread, the risen Christ made himself known to two disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40

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, or, for the memorial, Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

Dear Parishioners,

Do you know what this Sunday is besides April 26th? It's called "**Blue Sunday**," always the last Sunday in April, the day of pray for abused children. Please pray for these children especially on Sunday, that they will be rescued; placed with caring people; their minds and bodies can heal, and that they can find hope. Following my letter there are several pages of information and prayers.

We unquestionably have the greatest parishioners in the Diocese of Tyler. I sincerely appreciate your efforts in keeping up with your contributions during these difficult days. Word has it that many parishioners are calling to check in with one another, dropping off a home cooked meal on their front porch, making masks, donating food, grocery & prescription drop offs, etc.

Speaking of food donations during these hard times if anyone knows of a family or families having a tough time with food. Please call or email Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or theduckdude@att.net. Provide the name, address, phone # and how many adults & children are living in that home. If you would like to make can or boxed food donations towards our food pantry call or email Bob.

Through the COVID-19, would you like to attend my private Mass during the weekdays Tuesday through Friday at 8:00am? All you have to do is call me by 8:00pm the night before, you would like to attend Mass and let me know the # of people coming with you. I cannot have more than 10 people including myself, remember we have to practice safe distancing in church 6 feet apart from each other.

Confessions, Tues., Apr. 28th; Wed., Apr. 29th; and Thurs., Apr. 30th from 9:00—10:30am. Confessions rain or shine, cold or hot weather. I will be parked in front of the double glass doors that you enter into the Narthex, under the overhang, seated in my front seat of my car. Please drive up and park your vehicle 6 feet from my vehicle and stay in your vehicle. Roll your window down, turn motor off and start your confession. After, your confession, you may drive around to our meditation garden, to say your penance.

I hope these past weeks our resources we share with you have helped. Just remember we cannot gather for our sacred, sacrificial banquet, the Eucharist, we must keep Sunday, the Lord's Day, holy through prayer. You are especially invited to reflect on the daily Mass scriptures (<http://uscgb.org/>), make a spiritual communion (see below), and even consider watching Mass which is available on our **diocesan web site**: <https://www.dioceseoftyler.org/en/> and <https://stphilipinstitute.org/> or **EWTN** Channel on tv. If you have a cell phone you can add the **Laudate** app for daily readings and prayers, etc.

Please call me if you need help or you just need to talk to someone. I'm always available to each and everyone of you.

I will continue to pray for my parishioners, united in God's love.

Rev. Fr. Michael Snider
Cell# 903-490-3883

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. *Amen.*

Or

Oh Jesus, I turn toward the holy tabernacle where You live hidden for love of me. I love you, O my God. I cannot receive you in Holy Communion. Come, nevertheless, and visit me with Your grace. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto Your own. *Amen.*

Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Guidance for Churches Under Stay-at-Home/Shelter-in-Place-Orders
Fr. Mike is expected to fully observe the local orders for Wood County

1. **Chancery and Parish Office closed.** You may call and leave a message on the office # 903-769-3235 and Bridget will be checking messages through out the day and will return your call as soon as possible. Or, call Fr. Mike cell# 903-490-3883 and leave a message. You may also, send an email to Bridget's personal email address Bridgetarich@Live.com
2. **Baptisms** are suspended. Where there is a real danger of death, call Fr. Mike 903-490-3883.
3. **Funerals** are suspended. Call Fr. Mike's cell# 903-490-3883 and he will coordinate with family and funeral directors. Especially, when the family request the rites proper to funerals. Graveside services may be still permitted, depending on our local provisions and provided those who attend observe proper social distancing.
4. **Fr. Mike will continue to celebrate private Mass except on Saturday and Monday.** Along with Mass Fr. will fulfill Mass Intentions.
5. **Confessions are every Tues., Wed., and Thurs., from 9:00—10:30am (see my letter to parishioners for details)**
Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (*cf.* CCC, no. 1452).
6. **Anointing of the Sick** for those in dire need of the sacrament Fr. Mike will performed the sacrament on your front porch of your home. Call him on his cell 903-490-3883.

Update on Measures to Keep the Diocese of Tyler Safe: April 1

On March 17, 2020, I issued a decree suspending the public celebration of Mass and enacting other measures in support of the effort to keep our communities safe and prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease. I also noted that I would provide a brief, general update to the diocese on April 1.

Because we must continue to remain isolated and do our part to slow the spread of this terrible disease, and following the guidelines and orders from our local, state, and national leaders, the measures taken in the March 17 decree remain in effect until further notice.

All of our priests feel a great sorrow that our communities cannot be together for our public worship, especially for the special celebrations of the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection during Holy Week. Yet, we know that on Easter morning, in our homes, we will celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death and that this is our source of joy even now.

Please continue to be comforted knowing that priests here in the diocese are praying for you and celebrating Mass for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Let us remain united in the love of Jesus, praying for the sick, the lonely, and for those who are working to keep our communities safe, particularly the doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

Finally, I once again strongly encourage everyone in the Diocese of Tyler to listen to and follow the directions of our state and local authorities. Our president has told us that tough days are ahead. It is our behaviors that will change the course of this pandemic. Whether you are sick or not, please stay in your homes except for essential needs. In doing this, combined with our prayers, we will be helping to bring this crisis to an end so that we can once again come together.

Bishop Joseph Strickland

Praying For Abused Children Since 1994

BLUE SUNDAY DAY OF PRAYER

Always the Last Sunday in April

The day when churches take time in their service to pray for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them.

We pray because they shouldn't have to pray alone.

Won't you ask your church to join in this life-changing effort?

It's free.
Nothing to join.
Just prayer.

**WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE LITTLE CHILD
LIKE THIS IN MY NAME RECEIVES ME.
MATTHEW 18:5**

Did you know there are over 3 million confirmed cases of child abuse in our nation annually?

Did you know that of the 1640 child deaths from child abuse that most were under the age of 3?

Did you know your church can make a difference?

It can and it starts by praying.

Blue
Sunday

Register your
church at:

WWW.BLUESUNDAY.ORG





Blue Sunday Day of Prayer for Abused Children

Pebble in My Shoe

I have a pebble in my shoe
I don't know why it's there
Every step I take it hurts
It's more than I can bear

It came the day my parents left
I've had it for so long
I must be bad to have such luck
I wish I could be strong

I wonder if my family knows
I'm crippled and in pain
I heard that they're not coming back
I guess I am to blame

I looked for help to heal my pain
that holds me back each day
Many work to keep me safe
But still the pebble stayed

Then one day I prayed to God
Are you real and true?
Can you send someone to help?
I think...
I think...
He sent you

Praying for abused children is like taking pebbles from their shoes. J Magee, founder

Blue Sunday Prayer

Lord, thank you for our children,
For them we kneel and pray.

Help us teach them of
your kindness,
of your mercy and your way.

Help us show them of your love,
your strength and safety, too.

Help us show them who you are.
Help us treat them like you do.



**Let's pray, educate ourselves,
and volunteer for the children
of our nation until black and blue
are just colors in their crayon box.**

Visit www.bluesunday.org for free Prevention and Relief Ideas



Over 1600 children die annually from abuse
Most are under the age of three
Most are victims of neglect
Most are boys
Most deaths are caused by family members
Six million new reports of child abuse occur annually

Two-thirds of those in drug treatment reported being abused as a child
Eighty percent of the prison population were once in foster care
Within one year of aging out of foster care, 66% will be homeless, in jail or dead

How can we do nothing?

Learn the Signs of Child Abuse

For daily tips and latest news follow us on facebook.com/bluesundaykids

Follow us on Twitter at [bluesundaykids](https://twitter.com/bluesundaykids)

Visit us at bluesunday.org

Email us at: info@bluesunday.org

The Child:
Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance

Has not received help for medical problems brought to the parents' attention

Has learning problems that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes

Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen

Lacks adult supervision

Is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn

Comes early, stays late, and does not want to go home

**Call
1-800-4
A CHILD
to report
child abuse**



Thank you for joining over eight million people today who are praying for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them.

Thank you for asking God what you can do to help children in your own community.

Hail Mary...

You've probably heard these words a lot. Maybe you say this prayer. But have you ever wondered why we say it? What about all the songs, statues and feast days dedicated to Mary? Why do we honor Mary so much?

First, think about this. People who do great and heroic things have schools, streets and even cities named after them. Some heroes even have holidays in their honor. Great people can inspire us to do great things too. It's a little like that with Church heroes. Except that when we honor the people who love and follow Jesus, we're not glorifying them, we're giving God the glory. Now, can you think of any saint who loved and followed Jesus more than his own mom?

Who could be more loving, kind and good than the person God himself chose to be the mother of his son?

No one else but Mary.

When we give Mary the honor that's due to her, we give glory to God who created her. And imagine how happy that makes Jesus!



ACROSS

2. Mary's cousin
4. The angel who visited Mary
5. He wanted a sign from Juan Diego
7. Mary and Joseph took Jesus here to worship God
9. String of beads for praying

DOWN

1. Mary's birthday is this month
3. Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus escaped Herod here
6. At the end of her life Mary was taken up to _____
8. Mary asked St. Catherine to create the Miraculous _____
10. The angel called Mary "Favored _____"
11. Mary's answer when God asked her to be Jesus' mom



In Fatima, Portugal, Mary appeared to three kids

named Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco with an important message for the world to turn away from sin and back to Jesus.

Sometimes Mary gives us special reminders too. She appeared to Catherine Labouré, asking her to create a special medal. Nowadays, many people wear the Miraculous Medal to show they belong to God. Another time, Mary offered a small piece of cloth tied to a string, called a **scapular**, which some people wear as a reminder to live as Mary and Jesus lived.



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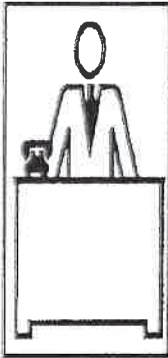
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