

**APRIL 19, 2020**



**ST. MICHAEL  
CHURCH**

**401 S. Main Street  
Newark, NY 14513**

**315-331-6753**

**[www.stmichaelsnewark.org](http://www.stmichaelsnewark.org)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelnewark>**

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**Maintenance:** Dominic Vitaro, Ext. 111

**Pastoral Council Chair:** Lee Lauster

**Finance Council Chair:** Carmella Owen

**Catholic Charities of Wayne County:** Deacon Peter S. Dohr,  
Executive Director 315-331-4867

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday –Thursday 8:30 am to 12:00 pm  
1 pm to 4:30 pm      CLOSED FRIDAY**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Lisette Bricco [lisette.bricco@dor.org](mailto:lisette.bricco@dor.org)  
*In Newark office every other Monday & Wednesday*

**CELEBRATION of the EUCHARIST  
DAILY MASS**

**Monday 10:00 am at Senior Living Centers**

Consult bulletin for locations

**Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 am (in the chapel)**

**Friday, Liturgy of the Word, with Communion**

Consult bulletin for changes

**WEEKEND MASSES**

**Sunday: 8:15 & 10:30 am**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

**Every Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 pm**

**Sunday, 9:30-10:15 am or by appointment**

**HOLY HOUR**

**Wednesday, 6:00-7:00 pm**



**Blessed are those who have not seen, but yet still believe.**

My Dear People,

The scene from today's Gospel of the Apostle Thomas, doubting the appearance of the risen Jesus, is familiar to us. Thomas wants proof! He, like so many people of our age, use the excuse that if they cannot 'touch' with their own hands the things of God, or God Himself, then they will withhold belief. Since God doesn't meet the criteria they have set for believing, they consider it foolish to put faith in the 'invisible' without proof. First, to be fair, Thomas the Apostle followed Jesus for three years, having left everything for Him, and believed in Him and loved Him. Thomas is not in the same category, properly speaking, as those who excuse themselves from believing on grounds of insufficient evidence. But his episode recounted today, "Unless I see and touch the wounds myself, I will not believe", makes us, as believers, **consider what Faith itself is.** "*Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet still believe.*"

Did Thomas really lack proof? Sure, he wasn't there when Our Lord appeared to the other Apostles. But, does this mean he completely lacked evidence for believing their word about Jesus having risen? Not really. Our Lord had done countless miracles for three years, humanly impossible, as well as predicting time after time that He would rise again after three days. The combination of the *evidently supernatural and divine power* that Christ possessed, witnessed over a long period of time, made the story from the other Apostles about having seen Jesus quite credible. Not only that, but Thomas knew that his fellow disciples were not liars. Both the power of Jesus as well as the trustworthiness of the witnesses made believing in the resurrection appearance very reasonable. Even if Thomas did not see it with his own eyes, he had more than enough proof. For us, this puts the 'reasonableness' of Faith, of believing, in a clearer light. Especially during a moment when, as events in the world disturb and frighten us, certain people can use these difficulties as a weapon to discredit believers or claim that Faith is foolish.

Belief in God, in Jesus Christ, does take courage because we cannot 'see' the realities of our Faith in the way that we see purely human things. This, however, doesn't mean that God isn't giving us quite a bit of help to strengthen our belief, if we would be willing to open our eyes to it. Most of us have felt and known the power of God in our life in a way that is more than imagination or feeling. God has intervened to help us. Sometimes we may have received one of the Sacraments and experienced a powerful, interior change that is undeniable and unexplainable. Like Thomas, when the moments of temptation to doubt come, we need to remember those other times when God made His presence and power known to us.

The root of Faith, in the way that we mean it about God, is that we are putting our trust in the 'truthfulness' of God Himself.

*(continued)* →

## ***ALL MASSES ARE SUSPENDED***

***The priests are saying Mass every day, privately, for the Mass intention.  
They are remembering each and every one of you in their prayers.***



### ***Now Sacrificial Giving is Easier Than Ever***

***Your generosity makes a difference! Online giving helps St. Michael Church to save time and money.  
Recurring donations help us to plan and give us financial predictability.***

#### **4 OPTIONS FOR SACRIFICIAL GIVING**

**#1. Bill Pay is St. Michael's Preferred Method of giving** for electronic contribution from your own checking or savings account. This method is convenient and there is no cost to the parish. Your bank's bill payment service allows you to set up single or recurring payments directly from your account. **Use the following information:** Payee: St. Michael Church Mailing Address: St. Michael Church, 401 South Main St., Newark, NY 14513 Note field: specific purpose for the donation. (i.e. Your envelope number or Sunday offering)

**#2. Check or Money Order.** Check or Money Order should be made payable to St. Michael Church and mailed to 401 S. Main St., Newark, NY 14513. Meme Field: note purpose. (i.e. your envelope number or write Sunday offering if you don't know it)

#### **#4. Parish Website.**

1. [stmichaelsnewark.org](http://stmichaelsnewark.org)

2. On-Line Giving is now enabled on our parish website.

#### **Easy Giving OnLine**

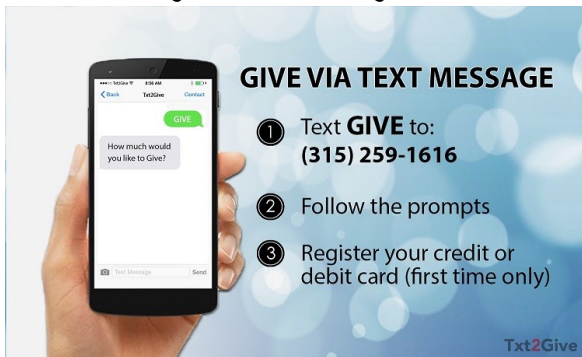


simple. secure. convenient.

CLICK HERE TO ENROLL IN ONLINE GIVING  
OR TO ACCESS ACCOUNT

Look for this logo and click on it to enroll. Then follow the prompts. You will have the option to also set up single or recurring donations until you stop them.

#### **#3. Mobile Giving Via Text Message is Now Available!**



#### **ST. MICHAEL'S FINANCIAL GIVING**

##### **Weekly Offertory**

**APRIL 12 \$6426.00 EASTER \$3940.00  
SOCIAL MINISTRY/POOR FUND \$1102.00**

#### **A statement from the Business Office regarding the Security of Txt2Give Online Giving.**

Our parish is using "Txt2Give" to manage text gifts for donations. Txt2Give's team has extensive experience developing software that handles electronic payments. Bank-level encryption is used when transmitting credit card data to a secure processor, and sensitive credit card information *never* enters Txt2Give. It's transmitted directly from the mobile device to the payment processor. Txt2Give is the same platform used by the Diocese of Rochester for CMA gifts. The Diocese vetted this platform with its legal counsel and auditors for security, PCI compliance\*, and compatibility with its payment processor before implementing and endorsing it for use in the parishes.

If you have questions regarding Txt2Give, please contact our Finance Director, Mary Capone at 585-281-7440.

**\*PCI compliance** standards require merchants and other businesses to handle credit card information in a secure manner that helps reduce the likelihood that cardholders would have sensitive financial account information stolen.

Fr. Walter's letter continued....

We believe because God is trustworthy. If God is God, so to speak, He does not deceive, nor can He be deceived. Since we are human beings, though, we get our knowledge through external things, including people. While God does occasionally intervene in an extraordinary way to some people to cause their belief, for most of us, God uses human instruments to help us know Him. **Thomas the Apostle had heard from the other disciples, who were trustworthy, that they had seen Jesus risen from the dead.** He learned, from credible witnesses whom he knew personally, that Jesus appeared to them. Their story itself was possible because Thomas knew the power of Jesus before He had been crucified. The reality and 'fact' of the Resurrection has been passed down to us through the credible witness of the Apostles and believers to this very day in 2020. Since our Faith rests on this central act, which makes Faith more than belief in a fairytale or myth, the 'credibility' of it is essential. **Just because the Resurrection is extraordinary doesn't mean it is unreasonable to believe.**

Christ is still showing us His power to this very day. That the Catholic Church *still exists after 2,000 years*, teaching the very same thing and celebrating the same Sacraments is itself a miracle. A purely human institution could never do this. Think of the extraordinary holiness of the saints which defies normal human goodness. A Mother Teresa can only be the work of God, yet the Church, even with all the sinful members, still produces these superhuman giants of divine goodness throughout the ages to this very day. Lourdes, France, is renowned for the miracles wrought there which are attested by secular scientists who admit there is no human explanation.

God is still giving us help to believe through things like this and many others. **However, the act of believing, even if it is helped and 'mediated' by human instruments, including the Church herself, is still between every one of us and Jesus Christ.** In the end, after we have 'heard' from other witnesses, or seen extraordinary things intimating divine power, we have to make a choice. Every individual Christian has to go before Christ in the depths of their hearts and say to Jesus: *My Lord and My God*, just like Thomas did. The act of Faith, of believing is personal, because the revelation of God is a personal one.

The events of the world at the moment may well put our Faith to the test, maybe not. Whether the coronavirus does or not, our Faith will be tested. It needs to be so, that we make a choice to believe in what God has promised, not just in general, but for us personally.

Faith is not blind, but it is *obscure*, which comes from the Latin word 'dark', like the Italian word '*scuro*'. Faith sees by *another light*, that of eternity. It is dark because, were we to see it as it is, it would indeed blind us by its brilliance and beauty. We have only the brief moment of our life on earth to give God the proof of our love for Him by Faith. God has given us more than enough 'proof', not just to believe in Him, but to love Him. Believing in His word and promises is, for us, a sign of our love for Him. The light of Faith may be obscure, but it is more powerful than the sun. Every second the sun produces the same energy as a trillion 1 megaton bombs. A little bit of Faith then goes a very long way. A lot of Faith goes longer. This is why heaven is lit by the *Light of the Lamb*, as the book of Revelation says. Let us walk by the Light of this sun, even if the way seems darker than usual. The darker the way, the more *blessed* the belief. My Lord and My God! O night more glorious than the day. O Love, more powerful than death.

Fr Walter

## Se Congregaban para Orar...

¡Comunidad! En este tiempo cuando no podemos reunirnos para orar, tanto más puedo apreciar que en nuestra Iglesia nos reunimos para orar. En la primera lectura de hoy (Hechos 2: 42-47) escuchamos sobre los primeros hermanos que seguían a Jesucristo. Formaron una comunidad en la cual ellos pudieron escuchar las enseñanzas de los apóstoles—lo que los apóstoles habían aprendido de Jesús por las instrucciones de Jesús y por sus acciones y relaciones con otras personas.

Según lo que Lucas escribió en los Hechos de los Apóstoles los miembros vivían en comunión fraterna. A veces es muy difícil vivir fraternamente con otros que no son sus familiares. Cada uno tiene una manera distinta de ver y entender las cosas que pasan y que son realmente las necesidades del grupo. Siendo unidos fraternamente indica que el amor a otra y a Dios nos une. Tal vez uno tiene que morderse la lengua para no decir algo que no sea caritativo.

Para las primeras comunidades la oración fue el pegamento de su unión. Tenían el uso de los salmos, el Padre Nuestro y otras oraciones del Antiguo Testamento que conocían. Pero para estas comunidades lo que tenían que los judíos y los de otras religiones no tenían fue la fracción del pan y la entrega de ese pan a los miembros de la comunidad. Jesús durante la Última Cena con sus apóstoles tomó un pan, y pronunciada la bendición, lo partió y lo dio a sus discípulos diciendo: "Tomen y coman. Este es mi Cuerpo." Este partir del pan y la acción del sacerdote de partir el pan en cada Misa es la fracción del pan. Es durante la fracción del pan que cantamos o rezamos "Cordero de Dios, que quitas el pecado del mundo, ten piedad de nosotros... danos la paz." Recibimos Jesucristo, el cordero sacrificado por nosotros. Los primeros que estaban siguiendo a Jesús en comunidad tenían el beneficio de la presencia sacramental de Cristo como nosotros hoy en día. Ellos y nosotros recibimos a Cristo sacrificado por nosotros.

Según los Hechos de los Apóstoles todos vivían unidos. ¡Qué glorioso sería si eso fuera la realidad hoy! Es cierto que hacemos muchas cosas juntos, pero a veces hay críticas negativas; algunas están en contra de la manera de hacer cosas y que en vez de hablarle directamente a la persona afectada, se habla detrás de la espalda del otro. Otras veces por flojera muchas dejan el trabajo a unos pocos. Unidos debemos estar, ayudando a otros en los proyectos y servir a todos en la comunidad, especialmente a los necesitados. Lucas escribió que pusieron todo en común; así pudieron ayudar a los necesitados.

Felicito a los que han donado al principio de cada mes al fondo de la parroquia que es para los necesitados. Han ayudado a mucha gente.

La gente de la primera comunidad aparentemente tenían alegría y un sencillez de corazón, sintiendo que fue de Dios que habían recibido tanto. Que alabemos a Dios con nuestras vidas y nuestras palabras y cánticos.

Echo de menos estar con ustedes en comunidad cada domingo. Que este tiempo de quedarnos en casa termine pronto para que podamos abrazarnos y vernos cara a cara. *Hermana Kay*



## Did you know that St. Michael Church has a Prayer Network?

If you would like to join others in praying for special intentions that people request, you can be added to our email network or our phone network. Please contact June Sherman, by email at [june.sherman@dor.org](mailto:june.sherman@dor.org), if you would like your name added to either one. In the email to June, please include your phone number, your email address and which network you would like to be added to.

**Stay Strong! Stay Safe! Stay Home!**



**Youth Groups and Sacramental preparation are canceled until further notice.**

## Family Ministry

Many of us can relate to Thomas's response to the news that the disciples had seen Jesus. We want to see for ourselves too, but we grow in faith, trusting the experience and knowledge of others.

Many of us have heard the saying "Seeing is believing." As your family gathers, take some time to consider what that saying means. What are some things we believe because we see them? Is there anything we believe without seeing? Today's Gospel reminds us that faith sometimes asks us to believe things we cannot see with our eyes. Read today's Gospel, John 19:29-31, with your family. Think about Thomas's response to the reports about the risen Lord. Is Thomas's doubt reasonable? How does Jesus respond to Thomas? Jesus grants Thomas the evidence that Thomas needs to believe, but Jesus also affirms the faith of those who will be called upon to believe without first-hand experience. We are among those whom Jesus calls blessed. Discuss with your family the basis of each member's faith in Jesus—the witness of the first disciples, the Gospels, the continuing activity of the Holy Spirit, the community of the Church. Pray together that your faith in Jesus will be strong. Pray an act of faith together.



The Newark Food Cupboard at 301 E. Miller St., Newark, is open Monday-Friday from 10 till noon. They are there to help you if you are in need of food.

**PRAY FOR OUR  
COMMUNITY**

To comply with government health regulations, Bishop Mattano has suspended all public Masses until further notice. The Parish Offices will not be physically accessible. However, our staff is still working, and all messages and emails will be promptly answered. St. Michael's Church in Newark and St. John's Church in Clyde will be open every day to personal prayer. Our parishes' bulletins are still being published and are available online and at the entrance of St. Michael's in Newark, St. John's in Clyde and St. Mary Magdalene's in Wolcott. By appointment, our priests are available for confessions and for pastoral visits in cases of necessity, especially regarding the anointing of the sick and the last sacraments. For more information, please visit any of our parishes' webpages or Facebook pages:

### St. Michael, Newark

Phone: 315-331-6753

Webpage: [www.stmichaelsnewark.org](http://www.stmichaelsnewark.org)

Facebook page: St. Michael Church, Newark NY

### St. Joseph the Worker

Phone: 315-902-4130

Webpage: [www.sainthoetheworker.org](http://www.sainthoetheworker.org)

Facebook page: St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Wayne County, New York

### The Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity

Phone: 315-902-4130

Webpage: [www.ccblessdtrinity.org](http://www.ccblessdtrinity.org)

Facebook page: Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity

If you know anyone or if you are seeking assistance for food, gas or utilities, please call our office number, 315-331-6753 and when prompted dial extension 104. Leave a brief message with your first and last name and phone number-repeat this information twice. Your call will be returned, as voicemails will be checked throughout the day.

**We Are Here For You!**



The return of the Catholic Relief Rice Bowls will be delayed until we are able to return to our normal parish Mass schedule.

Pope Francis has approved the proposal that the **Collection for the Holy Land**, taken on Good Friday, for the year 2020, take place on Sunday, September 13, 2020, near the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. If you have already sent your envelope in, thank you. We will add it to the collection on Sunday, September, 13th.



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***To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven***

***"... a time to be born..."***

***"...a time to love..."***

***"... a time to be healed..."***

Please pray for the sick of our Parish.

*Steven Sapp, Leigh Ann Henry, Nate Barnes, Claire Childs, Kim Zielinski, Michael Kowaleski, Gretchen Switzer Bouwens, Mary Santoro, Cathy Wilhelm, David Murphy, Darlene Fletcher, Marie Wemesfelder, ET Trunick, Donald Pieters, Marcia Palermo, Jean Condit, Jerry Sielawa, Georgette Eagley, Mary Gilligan, Fran DeVelder, Mary Talbo, Ann Straight, Ivana Ernst, Jared & Jacob Gajan, Gloria Viola, Betty Howlett, Michael George & Pearl Johnson*

And please pray for our Parish friends. *Scott Weber, Richard Schweitz, Jr., Michael DePauw, Bonnie Crane, Tracy Diaz-Cruz, Barb Gallant, Ann Maliborski, Sherry Caughell, Tom DeYoung & Michael Bauer, Jr*

***"... a time to die..."***

*Harvey Decker*

***"... and a time for peace."***

In our world and for all people, military and civilian, who are in the midst of war. ***Ecclesiastes 3:11***



## CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

I AM *the Vine* you are the BRANCHES

As of 3/23/20 **185** donors have given **\$30,277.00**  
making us short **\$14,574.00** of our goal of **\$44,851.00**.  
***Thank you for your support.***

You can make your CMA gift by text. The Text-To – Give opportunity for the CMA will be open through the end of May. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Text CMA283\* to 585-257-2929
  2. Follow the prompts.
  3. Click link to a simple form to complete basic information and provide credit/debit card Information to make the gift.
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