

April 27, 2020 Email to Parishioners

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are all still doing well. Fr. Sebastin and I are praying for you and all our parishioners every day during this pandemic, especially when we offer Mass every day. This week is definitely a little more troubling, due to the fact that many people will have rent to pay on the first. Please keep members of our community who are struggling in your prayers.

Last weekend we heard the story of the disciples on the Road to Emmaus. This story can be found in Luke, chapter 24. These disciples had an encounter with Jesus after the resurrection, but they didn't realize it was him. During this meeting, Jesus opened the scriptures to them. It says that, beginning with Moses and the prophets, he shared with them everything that scripture said about him. They later confess that their hearts were burning within them as they read.

Here is a link to my homily: [https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/stroseparish/episodes/2020-04-26T16\\_38\\_14-07\\_00](https://www.podomatic.com/podcasts/stroseparish/episodes/2020-04-26T16_38_14-07_00)

In it, I talk about how I studied scripture in college, and experienced the same thing that these disciples experienced. My heart was burning within me as I came to understand the scriptures better.

In this time of pandemic, we do not have an opportunity to receive the sacraments like we usually do, but this can still be a moment to grow close to God and I believe it is an opportunity for us to spend time with scripture. If you feel like you are missing Church, reading the Bible in your home might be able to bring you some comfort.

I suggest looking at the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I also suggest maybe reading one of St. Paul's letters, like his letter to the Ephesians, or his letter to the Philippians. Be aware of how you feel as you read, because all of it has value. You might find yourself encouraged or affirmed. You might find yourself a bit convicted or challenged. You might even be confused. All this has meaning.

If you find yourself confused, just start thinking about it and try to make sense. I will tell you, even I get confused when I read the Bible, but I don't give up. I keep thinking, praying, and studying, and some of these moments of confusion have given way to some of my best insights. So don't be turned off if you are confused by something.

We are going to be doing some Bible studies on the internet during this pandemic, and I want to invite you to consider participating. In fact, our first one will begin tonight, Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm on Zoom. We will be looking at the Mass and the Biblical foundations of it. I believe, quite strongly, that the Mass is a very biblical prayer. All of scripture points us to the Mass as the worship God intends for us.

The study is based on a book called *The Lamb's Supper* by Scott Hahn. I want to encourage you to purchase the book, whether or not you want to participate in our study or not. If you are interested, please contact Joe Buttle at [paff@cni.net](mailto:paff@cni.net) for more information.

God Bless and I can't wait to see you all again soon.

Fr. Bryan