

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 17-18, 2021**

Third Sunday of Easter

**Gospel**Lk 24:35-48  
  
The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,  
and how Jesus was made known to them  
in the breaking of the bread.  
  
While they were still speaking about this,  
he stood in their midst and said to them,  
“Peace be with you.”  
But they were startled and terrified  
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.  
Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled?  
And why do questions arise in your hearts?  
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.  
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones  
as you can see I have.”  
And as he said this,  
he showed them his hands and his feet.  
While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,  
he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”  
They gave him a piece of baked fish;

He took it and ate it in front of them.  
  
He said to them,  
“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,  
that everything written about me in the law of Moses  
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”  
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.  
And he said to them,  
“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer  
and rise from the dead on the third day  
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,  
would be preached in his name  
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
You are witnesses of these things.”

**Homily helper / connection to stewardship / giving / charity / almsgiving**

* Skin in the game
  + It’s a common phrase that means you’re invested, because you have something to lose
  + We hear it, perhaps, about business ventures or maybe a new strategy at a school or parish.
  + It’s a good thing, because it means that someone in leadership, someone who is asking someone else to do something risky or hard, is facing consequences, too.
  + It can build a sense of trust if we know someone asking us to do something has some “skin in the game.”
* Today, Jesus reminds us that He is invested in us
  + “Look at my hands and my feet.” He suffered on the Cross for us.
  + But it also goes beyond that. Jesus, the Risen Lord, eats fish, reminding us that, through the Incarnation, He is devoted to our humanity.
  + What Jesus asks of us is more trustworthy, in a way, because we know how close He is to us.
  + And God’s love is demonstrated all the more by His willingness to take on our flesh, and to become vulnerable
* It’s good for us to have skin in the game, too, in imitation of Jesus.
  + To be vulnerable in our relationships, our charitable works.
  + Being invested prevents us from hiding behind a distant posture of calculation, of using others around us instead of entering into a real relationship, as Christ does.
* The Annual Diocesan Appeal is a clear, concrete way to show participation in the diocese
  + To affirm with our actions that, “yes, I belong to this parish community, I am invested in it, and I am willing to demonstrate that by sharing some of the treasures God has given me.”

**Intercession**

For our Annual Diocesan Appeal, that inspired and aided by Christ, we might be willing to demonstrate our love through this parish community by giving generously.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

What do we know about the Risen Lord Jesus? Well, we know he can walk through walls, can disappear and reappear in an instant, and can appear in a dazzling light to disguise his appearance. Here, in the wake of the Resurrection, Jesus is reminding us that He is God, and that He has won the victory over death.

And yet, Jesus also chooses to remind His Apostles, and us today, that He is also fully human: He not only eats fish, but he interrupts a post-Resurrection moment of catechesis to ask for it! In doing so, and also showing the wounds of His crucifixion, Jesus is reminding us how close He is to us and our humanity. Because when you love something, you don’t hold back; you draw close and are willing to be bold, to have some “skin in the game.”

We have an opportunity to follow Christ’s lead in our own parish community, by supporting the Annual Diocesan Appeal. We may belong to this parish, but are we really invested? Supporting the parish financially is a great way to put our love into action, to allow it to take flesh, as God did among us through His Incarnation. Let’s ask God for the clarity to see how He wants us to “incarnate” our love for this parish.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Today, Jesus reminds us that love is an investment; it draws close through concrete action, and doesn’t hold back. The ongoing Annual Diocesan Appeal is one way that we can “incarnate” our own love for this parish community. Please consider giving generously.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Image of Jesus showing wounds. “Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.” (Luke 24:39)

Copy: Jesus reminds us that love is an investment. Put your own love into action by supporting the Annual Diocesan Appeal!