

Homily Summary – 3rd Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Short Overview: We reflect on the disciples' encounter with the Risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus and connect it to our own lives. Just as the disciples failed at first to recognize Jesus walking beside them, we too can become distracted and forget that Christ is with us. The breaking of the bread reveals Jesus to them, pointing directly to the Eucharist, where Christ remains truly present among us. Confession helps us see Jesus more clearly, as we also reflect on the example of Mary's faithful trust, and the importance of praying for vocations to the priesthood.

Main Points

1. Jesus Walks with Us Even When We Do Not Notice

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we often become distracted by daily life at work with family concerns, through stress or distraction with technology. Even then, Jesus is still beside us.

"But their eyes were kept from recognizing him." (Luke 24:16) The Risen Christ is closer than we often realize.

2. Jesus Is Recognized in the Breaking of the Bread

The turning point comes when Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it. This points to the Eucharist.

"Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him." (Luke 24:31)

The Eucharist is not merely symbolic. The Church teaches that Jesus is truly present – Body, blood, soul and divinity.

"In the most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ... is truly, really, and substantially contained." - CCC 1374

Every Holy Communion is an invitation to recognize Jesus again.

3. Confession Helps Restore Spiritual Vision

Sin can cloud our ability to see Jesus.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps remove:

- Guilt
- Distraction
- Spiritual blindness

Confession allows Jesus to heal the heart so we can recognize Him more clearly.

"Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy." - CCC 1422

4. Mary Shows Us How to Stay Close to Jesus

Mary remained close to Jesus:

- At the Annunciation
- At the Cross
- At Pentecost

Even when she did not fully understand, she trusted.

"Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:19) Mary teaches us to:

- Trust
 - Remain faithful
 - Keep our eyes on Christ
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5. Pray for Priests and Vocations

Because the Eucharist comes to us through the priesthood, the faithful are called to pray for more priests.

Without priests:

- There is no Eucharist
- There is no ordinary access to Reconciliation
- Other Sacraments are also unavailable

"The ministerial priesthood is at the service of the common priesthood." - CCC 1547

Reflection Questions

1. Where in my life am I failing to notice Jesus walking beside me?
 2. Do I approach the Eucharist with faith that Jesus is truly present?
 3. Do I regularly pray for priests and vocations?
 4. When was the last time my heart truly "burned within me" in prayer or at Mass?
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Closing Thoughts: The road to Emmaus is not just a past story, it's our story. Each Mass is another Emmaus moment: Jesus walks with us, speaks to us, and reveals Himself in the breaking of the bread. May our eyes be opened this week to recognize the Risen Lord who never stops walking beside us.

Rhyme summary:

On the road to Emmaus, two disciples walked in grief. Jesus walked beside them, yet they could not see relief. He explained the Scriptures, every word with perfect art, still their eyes stayed blinded until He broke the bread apart. We rush through busy days and often fail to recognize, the Risen Christ is with us - right before our very eyes. In the Eucharist He comes, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity true - opening hearts once more, as He gently walks with you. Let Mary teach us trust when the path feels dark and long, and may our hearts burn within as we sing the Easter song.

Some Scriptural reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>