...As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

Lk 24:13-35

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Please continue to pray over your participation in the Annual Appeal, which is in progress. We do need, and hope for, the participation of each household, to make this a parish-wide success.

Our required tax is: $99,663.00. As of this date, we have received: $ 33,799.00 (Thank you!)

If you did not receive a donor brochure or would like another, these are available in the vestibule or call the office and we will gladly send you another.
**Third Sunday of Easter**

The Gospel tells us today, *While he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him.* Immediately, the despair of the two disciples turned to joy; their despondency turned to elation and they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples of their encounter with the risen Lord.

It is likely we can identify with these two disciples who were on the road to Emmaus. We have all experienced times of despair and disappointment. We’ve had dreams dashed and felt overwhelming losses. Perhaps these times have weakened our faith or left us questioning God’s plan for us.

Just like the two we hear about today, we need something to bring us out of our gloom at times. We need our outlook lifted and our faith reignited. We need God.

This is what brings us here. We need God, and the Mass gives us what we need. It is not unlike our own “Road to Emmaus.” We enter the doors needing to be fed. In the Liturgy of the Word, God speaks to us. The Scriptures feed us, teaching us God’s ways and his plan for us. We are nourished again in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Today’s Gospel tells us, *He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.* This is repeated at every Mass. It is the perfect sacrifice, the perfect meal, the perfect nourishment for our souls. If we open ourselves to all that it offers, we, too, can feel the complete joy that energized Christ’s disciples to rush out and share the Good News with others.

As we continue our Easter journey, please continue to stay healthy, safe and at home. Blessings to you all! **Father Tony LaTorre**

**LITURGY and LIFE**

- What does Jesus’ Resurrection mean in your life?
- How would another know that your faith is in God?
- When have you been aware of Christ in your midst?

**Living Stewardship Now**

**“Eyes Wide Open”**

Only Saint Luke tells the story of two disciples walking to Emmaus, and it is full of puzzling gaps. While all the other disciples and Jesus’ mother were in Jerusalem trying to understand the amazing fact of the Resurrection, why were these two hurrying out of town? Only one is named—Cleopas. Who was the other? A friend, a brother, a cousin or, perhaps, Cleopas’ wife? The two were going over the terrible events in Jerusalem during the previous days when they were joined by a stranger who asked what they were talking about. He listened intently to their story, and then explained what had happened to Jesus in the larger context of the Jewish scriptures. But these two were too blinded by grief to realize who the stranger was. When they reached the village it was late, so they persuaded him to come into the house, which we may guess was either this couple’s home or a relative’s. The culmination of the story occurs when they sit down for a meal and Jesus breaks bread and gives thanks, at which moment “their eyes were opened” and they knew their guest was the Lord (Luke 24:31). It was not just that they opened their eyes, but they were awakened to a whole new reality. Perhaps that is just the point. God’s grace falls on us in the midst of dinner or as we hurry down the road, trying to get away. God’s grace falls on us smack dab in the everyday, ordinary moments, in the plain and simple struggles to understand, through conversations in the checkout line, at the bedside of a sick relative, during phone calls and driving the car to pick up or deposit the kids.

The Emmaus story says that God is alive, right now, in every moment. Wake up and see! *Make a promise to yourself to notice the goodness and presence of God in the everyday miracles of your life, however small or great.*
My dear parish family,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe, in good health, and enduring these unsettling days of quarantine with faith and hope. This historic COVID pandemic has required us all to make enormous sacrifices to protect the health of our community. I hope you and your family are adjusting to these circumstances and that you are experiencing the comfort of God’s faithful presence every day.

Among the many ways this crisis has had an impact on all of us, the suspension of public Masses is most difficult. I know how much you miss the opportunity to gather together as a parish family for worship, and especially to receive the Eucharist. But we know we will be together again in our beloved Saint Stephen Church, and God will, that day will come soon. In the meantime, we continue to live-stream Sunday Mass at 9:30 on our Facebook page. I hope you are praying a prayer of spiritual communion often, and that you are comforted by the constant presence of our Lord, even when you cannot receive him physically.

Many of you have called or emailed to ask how I’m doing, and said that you miss me. Well, I miss all of you also! I want you to know how grateful I am for your concern. I manage to keep busy. Several hours each morning in the parish office, keeping tabs on the budget, income, responding to mail – all that daily “stuff.” Managed to organize files that I have been wanting to do for several years, basically spring cleaning. After that, keeping the Rectory up-to-date. Not much to do there as I am the only one living there, except for Vito, of course! Always spend free time working on a quilt. Those kind of things make up my day. You also have asked about the well-being of our wonderful parish and school staff. I can assure you we’re all taking every precaution to protect our health, while at the same time, working hard to provide what pastoral care we can during this crisis. Of course, school is closed and will remain closed, but the teachers are working hard teaching via on-line. Mrs. Allen is working each day keeping everything “together.” Carol, our parish manager, is in the office each day keeping track of the parish business, the remainder of the staff is on limited hours these days because of the “temporary” reduction in hours.

It is my concern for our employees that prompts me to write to you. As you know, our operating budget relies on the revenue in our weekly offertory collection. Without that, we are falling short of our budget and this means we are at risk of being unable to pay our staff members. I’m asking everyone to either mail in your contribution for the month/week whenever you prefer. Or, if you prefer, to go our online giving page, Saintstephensf.org and sign up to being regular electronic donors to the parish. Doing this will ensure that we can get through this crisis now, but also will help us have a greater financial stability in the future. I can’t stress enough how important it is that you continue to support our parish if you can.

Of course, many people are being financially affected by the COVID crisis with lost jobs and declining business. We know that may affect your contribution. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please know of my prayers that your situation will soon improve.

Attending to the pastoral needs is a great concern of mine. I know that this crisis is causing fear and anxiety, two things our Lord does not want us to experience. I urge you to go to your Bible and revisit those passages where God reminds us that, even in the midst of fear and turmoil, he is walking with us and holding us close to him.

Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God.

I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. (Is 41:10)

O Most High, when I am afraid, in you I place my trust. Psalm 56:4)

For God did not give us a spirit of fear but rather of power and love and self-control. (1 Tim 1:7)

Finally, I urge you to go online to see the many ways in which priests and others in ministry are trying to support you during this crisis. From live-streamed and taped Masses to virtual Scripture studies, encouraging social media posts to live-streamed rosaries, there are a variety of resources to help you stay connected with Jesus and his Church. You and your family can make this a meaningful time in your spiritual journey as, together, we wait to be reunited as a parish family.

Thank you for your prayers, your faithfulness, and your support. May the Lord bless and keep each of you and your loved ones during this challenging and historic time.

Father Tony LaTorre
What is the Corona/ Covid-19 Virus Really Teaching us?
(I share the answer to that question from Bill Gates, which I found interesting)

I’m a strong believer that there is a spiritual purpose behind everything that happens, whether that is what we perceive as being good or being bad. As I meditate upon this, I want to share with you what I feel the Corona/ Covid-19 virus is really doing to us:

1) It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally, perhaps we should too. If you don’t believe me, just ask Tom Hanks.

2) It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose whole life is spent in oppression.

3) It is reminding us of how precious our health is and how we have moved to neglect it through eating nutrient poor manufactured food and drinking water that is contaminated with chemicals upon chemicals. If we don’t look after our health, we will, of course, get sick.

4) It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy toilet roll.

5) It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, we remember that it’s the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to.

6) It is reminding us of how important our family and home life is, and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our home and to strengthen our family unit.

7) It is reminding us that our true work is not our job, that is what we do, not what we were created to do. *Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another*.

8) It is reminding us to keep our egos in check. It is reminding us that no matter how great we think we are or how great others think we are, a virus can bring our world to a standstill.

9) It is reminding us that the power of freewill is in our hands. We can choose to cooperate and help each other, to share, to give, to help and to support each other or we can choose to be selfish, to hoard, to look after only our self. Indeed, it is difficulties that bring out our true colors.

10) It is reminding us that we can be patient, or we can panic. We can either understand that this type of situation has happened many times before in history and will pass, or we can panic and see it as the end of the world and, consequently, cause ourselves more harm than good.

11) It is reminding us that this can either be an end or a new beginning. This can be a time of reflection and understanding, where we learn from our mistakes, or it can be the start of a cycle which will continue until we finally learn the lesson we are meant to.

12) It is reminding us that this Earth is sick. It is reminding us that we need to look at the rate of deforestation just as urgently as we look at the speed at which toilet rolls are disappearing off of shelves. *We are sick because our home is sick*.

13) It is reminding us that after every difficulty, there is always ease. Life is cyclical, and this is just a phase in this great cycle. We do not need to panic; this too shall pass.

14) Whereas many see the Corona/ Covid-19 virus as a great disaster, I prefer to see it as a great corrector.

It is sent to remind us of the important lessons that we seem to have forgotten and it is up to us if we will learn them or not.

SACRAMENTS
These current weeks following Easter are the weeks we had scheduled the celebration of First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Obviously, they have both been postponed. They both will be rescheduled, probably during the summer, as soon as the “stay-at-home” is lifted. I will keep you posted, well in advance. Fr. Tony
**Mass Intentions**

The following “Private” Masses were offered to fulfill Mass requests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Gifted by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+Joseph &amp; Carmela Greco April 13, 2020 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Barbara Stephens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass April 14, 2020 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Ding &amp; Carol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Ho (B’day) April 16, 2020 8:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>+Jim Hennessy April 15, 2020 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Larry &amp; Peggy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alkan Kyle April 17, 2020 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Papa &amp; Mama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+Denis O’Connor April 18, 2020 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Mary Rose O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony &amp; Teresa April 19, 2020 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Tony &amp; Teresa</td>
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**On the Humorous Side**

**Risen Lord in the train.** On her first train trip, a little girl was put into an upper berth by her mother. The mother then assured her that Jesus would watch over her during the night. As the lights were switched off the girl became alarmed and called out softly: “Mom, are you there?” “Yes dear,” her mother replied. A little later the child called in a louder voice: “Daddy, are you also there?” “Yes”, was the reply. After this had been repeated several times, one of the passengers lost patience and shouted: “We’re all here. Your father, your mother, your brothers and sisters and cousins, your uncles and aunts – all are here. Now go to sleep!” There was silence for a while. Then, in a hushed voice the child asked: “Mom, was that risen Jesus traveling with us?”

**The Risen Lord is watching:** Up at the head table in the cafeteria, one of the nuns had placed a big bowl of bright red, fresh, juicy apples. Beside the bowl, she placed a note which read, “Take only one. Remember, Jesus is watching.” At the other end of the table was a bowl full of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, still warm from the oven. Beside the bowl was a little note scrawled in a child’s handwriting which read, “Take all you want. Jesus is watching the apples!”

**Where is God?** A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble and their parents knew that if any mischief occurred in their neighborhood, their sons were probably involved. The boys’ mother heard that a priest in the downtown parish had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The pastor agreed but asked to see them individually. So, the mother sent her 8-year-old first, in the morning, and fixed the appointment of the older boy with the priest in the afternoon. The priest, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, “Where is God?” The boy’s mouth dropped open and he made no response. So, the priest repeated the question in an even stern tone, “Where is God!?!” Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. So, the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy’s face and bellowed, “WHERE IS GOD!?” The boy screamed and ran directly home and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, “What happened?” The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, “We are in BIG trouble this time, Dave. God is missing - and they think WE did it!”

**Ways and Means to Help and Support Our Church**

As we go our daily life within the state and city-wide mandate of “Stay-at-Home” for the next few weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please remember that we continue to look forward to your regular weekly donations to sustain our church’s basic operation needs.

You may continue to do so through the following:

1) via your weekly envelope which can either be:
   a. Mailed to the Parish Office;
   b. Dropped off at our parish office/mailbox slot.

2) If at this time, you are strictly confined in your home, please consider setting up an online account through the parish website: www.saintstephensf.org by:
   a. Click the $ Giving button
   b. Click on Donation link

   c. Set up your account online

3) If neither of the above works for you, please give us a call at the office, and we will gladly pick up your donation envelope for the parish.

4) For our elderly parishioners who live alone, we also offer our services in making a grocery run for you once a week. Please make a listing of your grocery needs, call us at the office, and we will arrange for our volunteer parishioners to do the errand for you.

For more information, please give us a call at 415-681-2444 between 9am to 5pm Mondays thru Fridays or check our website www.saintstephensf.org
The 2020 Annual Appeal is in progress. It is our hope that each household/parishioner will assist us by sharing their treasure as we move forward to reach our required tax of $99,663.00. Donor brochures were mailed home several weeks ago. If you didn’t receive one or would like another, they are available on the tables in the vestibule. As we all make-up the “Church,” it is important that we come together and work on reaching this goal. Know that no amount is too small and all gifts are received with great thanksgiving. Fr. Tony

Our current “outstanding” balance is: **$65,864.00**.

**PARISH GOAL : $99,663.00**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Amount Received</th>
<th>No. of Households</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$300.00</td>
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<td>$65,864.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$11,176</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$66,164.00</td>
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Anonymous (Various)
M/M Manuel Abad
M/M Dale & Sharon Allen
M/M Michael Alves
Mrs. Dorothy Arata
M/M Roberto Arguello
Mr. Clemence Blondo
M/M John Bruno
Ms. Nancy Buckley
M/M Sherwin Cabatic
M/M Ding Cagalingan Jr
M/M Carlos Cajilig Jr.
M/M Peter Cardozo
M/M Gerald Carillo
Ms. Adelaida Caunan
M/M Douglas Cayabyab
M/M Graziano Cerchai
Piera Cheng Chaz & Arthur Chui
M/M Howard Chen
M/M Marcellus Chow
M/M Ronan Concannon
M/M Arturo Cuevas-Arenas
Helga D'Arcy & Matthew Quane
Mr. Joseph D'Aura
Ms. Debby Diaz
M/M Mark Dickson
Mr. Michael Duffy
Ms. Elena Duggan
M/M David Dulany
M/M Kenneth Fambrini
M/M Gerard Fernandez
M/M Robert Franco
M/M Liam Frost
M/M Joseph Gandolfo
Ms. Elinor Gatto
M/M Ryan Gille
Ms. Avelina A. Gomez
M/M Mark & Stacy Gattas
Mrs. Diane Gragnani
M/M Roberto Guzman
M/M James Hargarten
M/M Sean Harrington
M/M Lawrence Hayes
Mrs. Patricia Hayes
Ms. Joanne Hayes-White
M/M Thomas Hazard
Ms. Joan Holsten
M/M Cris Houghton
M/M Claudio Hrvatin
Ms. Patricia Ignacio
Ms. Cynthia G. Kelly
Mr. Robert Kensic
M/M Douglas Kilroy
Mrs. Beatriz Lacson
Rev. Tony P. LaTorre
M/M Jim Landers
Mr. Paul Laveroni
M/M Daniel Leehane
M/M Michael Levy
Ms. Diane Linehan
M/M James Martin
M/M Lawrence Mazzola
Daniel McGarry &
Courtney Cassinelli
Ms. Gayle Montalbano
M/M Joseph Morello
Mr. Michael O’Connor
Ms. Myrna Orais
Ms. Anne O’Shea
M/M Meyvelyn Patricio
Mr. Robert Reidy
Ms. Jan Reilly
Mr. Domenico Renteria
M/M Cris Rillo
M/M John Ritchie
M/M Rich Rovetti
M/M Daniel M. Salvemini
M/M Emmanuel Santos
Donovan Schneider &
Deborah Lobo
Rev. David Schunk
Mr. Kevin Sequeira
Ms. Lutzie E. Sotto
M/M Matthew Stecher
Ms. Virginia Stefanelli
M/M Peter Stephens
Ms. Wendy Uthman
M/M George Vella
Mrs. Maria Xavier
Ms. Patricia Woytek
M/M Reynaldo Ysip

Thank you!
Jesus meets us on our Emmaus Road. The risen Lord meets us on the road to our Emmaus, both in the ordinary experiences of our lives, and in the places to which we retreat when life is too much for us. We, too, have hopes and dreams about better health, healing, financial security and family relationships. These hopes and dreams often shatter. The story promises us, however, that Jesus will come to us in unfamiliar guises to support and strengthen us when we least expect our risen Lord. Emmaus moments come to us when we meet the risen Christ on our life’s journey through rough times.

The road to Emmaus is a road of companionship. Jesus, now freed from the space-time limits of his earthly life, is present in our midst and wants to be our Friend. The risen Lord desires that we walk with Him and with one another: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Isaiah 43:2-3). He wants to join us in our travels of life: “I am a Companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts” (Psalms 119:63). “Where two or three are gathered in My Name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20).

We meet Jesus daily in our life’s journey. The Church instructs us to hear Jesus on a daily basis through our faithful reading of, and meditation on, the Bible; through our participation in the Eucharistic celebration at which we receive Jesus as our spiritual Food and Drink; through our personal and family prayers; and through our family meals. When we meet our risen Lord through the Word of God, we commune with him. We renew our relationship with Jesus through prayer. All these meetings prepare and enable us to encounter the risen Jesus living in all the people we meet and to do Him humble, loving and selfless service in each of them.

Do our hearts burn when we listen to the Risen Lord in tradition teaches us that the reading of the Scriptures, the study of the Scriptures and the proclamation of the message of the Scriptures are the primary ways in which we meet God. Vatican II (Dei Verbum 21) tells us that Jesus is to be equally venerated in the Eucharist and in the Bible. Therefore, we need to study the Bible, learn the Bible, memorize the Bible and meditate on the word of God. We know that Christ lives in the Bible, and so we need to spend time in the Bible to have a deep, intimate, loving, caring, long-term relationship with Jesus Christ. We know we are to brush our teeth every day. Likewise, we are to read the Bible every day, making it habitual, because people either read the Bible daily or almost never. When we read the Scriptures daily we meet and converse with Jesus Christ! Abraham Lincoln, whom many consider the best President of the United States, said: “The greatest gift that God gave to human beings is the Bible.” Another President of the United States, John Quincy Adams, said that it was a principle of his to read the Bible through each and every year. Yet another great President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, said, “A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.” Goethe, the great German philosopher, said that the beauty of the Bible grows as we grow in our understanding of it.

We need to find Jesus in the Breaking of the Bread. In the Gospel story for today, we learn that we find Christ is in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. When we approach the altar to receive the Sacrament, we see and receive Christ. In John 6, Jesus says, “Whoever eats My Body and drinks My Blood shall live with me eternally.” The Eucharist is true “soul food,” the Bread of life for eternity. It feeds us and fulfills our spiritual needs. It is a pity that often we don’t realize what is happening during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the sacred banquet of all believers. In this meal, we are in communion, not only with Jesus, but also with our family and friends who have preceded us in death. The Eucharist is not simply Bread and Wine for today – it is a banquet for all eternity.

**Additional “thoughts” from Today’s Scripture**

**Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us.**

You can sign up or update your information by completing this form & placing it in the collection basket, by mailing it to the Parish Office, by phone at 681-2444 or online at www.saintstephenssf.org

Name ____________________________________________

Complete Address __________________________________ City/Zip ______________

Phone ______________ Email _________________________

Weekly Sunday envelopes, circle one: Yes No, but commit to participate thru Online Giving

I am interested in assisting with the Parish in an organization or ministry.

the following way(s): Acolyte/Altar Service, Altar Society, Children’s Liturgy of the Word, Greeter/Usher, Hospitality after Mass/Special Events, Holy Communion Ministers to the Homebound, Music/Choir, Lector/Holy Communion Ministers, Parish Front Office Volunteer.