



To Believe or Not Believe

On this Second Sunday of Easter, we hear once again the Gospel story of the appearance of Jesus and the absence of Thomas the apostle. Perhaps because of this Gospel passage, Thomas, throughout the centuries, has received what we might call a “bad rap.” Yes, he disbelieves at first; but with Jesus’ appearance his disbelief turns to belief, amazement and faith. It might be good for us to look at the positive side of Thomas’ experience. He, like so many of us in the world today, has a hard time believing what he does not see, feel or experience in a physical way. Belief in Jesus requires a leap of faith, making a conscious decision to believe in the Lord.

Thomas ultimately put his belief in the Lord. Perhaps he felt embarrassed at first. The Lord continues to love him though and called him, as He calls us, to dismiss the lack of faith and embrace Him with our hearts and minds. Easter is all about taking on the new and life-giving Spirit of Jesus. Let us not doubt the Lord’s presence in our lives. If we doubt, and then he makes Himself known to us, think of how embarrassed we would be. We need to know that in His own way, according to His own timetable, the Lord will reveal Himself to us. We can also only imagine that Thomas’ absence was really a part of God’s plan. It is in this story that we learn an important lesson: we are indeed blessed because we must rely on faith (a gift from God) to help us believe what we do not see. In the end, God will reward us.

Let us be a part of that group of people Jesus refers to in the Gospel today: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Father David

Thank You!

I would like to thank all those who helped in any way to make our Holy Week and Easter liturgies prayerful and meaningful. The liturgies were certainly prayerful for me, and I hope they were for you as well. A sincere “Thank You” goes out to all of our liturgical ministers, including the Art and Environment Committee (who decorated the church so beautifully.) Our lectors proclaiming the Scriptures, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion helping distribute the Eucharist, music ministers leading us in song, altar servers and ushers assisting in their special ways all contributed to the beauty of these celebrations. I also thank those twelve parishioners who participated in the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday. Finally, a special “Thank You” goes out to all of you for your generous financial gifts. Your offering makes possible so much of what we do here at St. James the Apostle Parish. May God bless all of you!

Father David