

**May 1, 2022**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
*Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32, 40b-41*  
*Revelation 5:11-14*  
*John 21:1-19*

Revelation,  
the Book of Simple Complexity that Brings Hope.

During the Easter Season, which lasts until Pentecost Sunday (June 5), the Church leads us through a great selection of The Book of Revelation. Now many people will look at Revelation and shy away from it. Others will take it and turn it into some fantastic pseudo source of future telling, which it is not, raising fear among people.

The work's symbolic language can be intimidating because it is hard to understand in our own context. Indeed, that was the intent of the author for some who might read it originally. It was meant to cloak its message from the nemesis of the faithful people of God. Yet, for the faithful it was understood.

The message of Revelation for the faithful people of God was, in its original time of composition, quite simple. In the difficult times of persecution, they found themselves, the inspired author was telling the people, "Hang in there. I know the going is tough, but it will turn out alright."

Now does that reduce some of your fear of the book? It is that simple.

Apocalyptic Literature was a style very much used from the years 200 B.C. to 100 A.D. It was meant to uncover or reveal divine mysteries. The scholar Jean-Louis D'Aragnon, S.J. (in the J.B.C.) points out the Book of Revelation used much by way of symbols from the Old Testament prophetic tradition. For example, a woman represents a people or a city; horns represent dynastic power; eyes mean knowledge and wings mean mobility. Also, trumpets sound the divine voice, and a sword indicated the Word of God. In the world of glory, we find people in white robes and white overall speaks to the joy of victory. The sea is the source of death and insecurity and black is death. The color purple, however, signifies kingship and luxury.

Numbers are important too. 7 stands for fullness and perfection; 12 for the tribes of Israel and that through God the people reach perfection. Now, the number 4 means universality of the visible world. The nasty emperor who was causing all the trouble for the

Christians was referred to with the number 666. It did not stand for the devil *per se*.

As said earlier, these symbols speak to the ineffable mystery that can never be adequately defined because the truths are transcendent. In the book the truth is made known by the Holy Spirit to John by visions. Very often the aid of an angel is needed to help John understand the visions by way of explanation.

All of this is to explain to the faithful the trials they are experiencing. Through it all they must keep the faith and walk the right path. If they do, they will come to the same Glory Christ came to by his obedience to the Father. God wins out over the evil that is known as Satan. Christ is the lamb who has redeemed his people and will lead them to the final victory. God will not forget His faithful people. What is more, faithful people who have gone before the living already enjoy happiness and peace. All such people will find themselves in the peace of the New Jerusalem.

John's message is clear that to speak of the emperor (666) in any way as a god is to deny that one is Christian. Moreover, Christians are to give witness to *Christ*. This message is very contemporary as we even hear our new Pope, Francis speak to this.

We Christians are not to remain silent. In fact, we Christians are to help each other to be more articulate believers and speak up and teach and lead others to salvation. We are not to be pessimistic. Rather, we, while not of the world are in the world. We should always work to change things for the better in Christ.

So, this is the "simple complexity" of Revelation. Look for these elements over the weeks of Easter Season. Do not be made fearful but be made hopeful.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**  
**Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30**  
**Join in Scripture Sharing**  
**Thursday at 7:00pm.**

**Scripture Sharing begins again on Thursday**  
**May 5, 2022 at 7pm.**

## STEWARDSHIP

### Time, Talent, Tithing

It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.

Attendance last week: 254  
Tithes Collected: \$4,246.00  
Online Giving: \$672.00  
Total: \$4,918.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for  
Catholic Home Missions: \$696.00

Attendance 4/24/22 (Easter): 471  
Tithes Collected: \$12,903.00  
Online Giving: \$1,022.00  
Total: \$13,925.00

Good Friday (Shrines in  
the Holy Land): \$800.00

Thank You!

## STEWARDSHIP

### Your Will

Please remember Blessed Sacrament Parish in your will. Consider this parish as one of your heirs. Help it to remain in service for the next generation to come. Thank you.

## COMMUNITY

### Mother's Day Next Sunday

Remember to print the name of your mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, wife, etc., on the sheet that is in the foyer. Father Bob will remember them all in his prayers and in a novena of Masses.

### World Day of Prayer for Vocations Next Sunday

Next week we also pray for people to respond to the call of God to enter into the priesthood and religious life.

During this week mention to your own children that such a vocation in life is "O.K." with you as their parent. It is a life dedicated to bringing God's love to all.

### "Operation Utilities Bag"

Remember, keep filling your Zip Lock Bag with Currency. The little money you save here and there each day truly adds up for the many people the Saint Vincent de Paul Society serves every week.

see it in operation someday. It is a marvel how it all works.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 30

4:00 p.m. † Andres Martorell by Wife  
† Rev. Benjamin M. Horton, SSJ  
by Daniel Murphy

Sunday, May 1

9:00 a.m. † Jean Yves Dartois & Alette  
Berthier by Catherine & Donald  
Dunn  
10:45 a.m. † Peggy Dimovski by Brother  
Eve, Calob, Jacob Brommer by  
Aunt Anita

Monday, May 2

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, May 3

8:00 a.m. † Rev. Charles H. McTague by  
Daniel Murphy

Wednesday, May 4

8:00 a.m. † Mirella Giacalone by  
Ambassador Juan Manuel Pons

Thursday, May 5

8:00 a.m. † Jorge David Martinez-Esteve by  
Juan Pons

Friday, May 6

8:00 a.m. † Alberto DeSolo by Juan Pons

Saturday, May 7

4:00 p.m. Mother's Day Novena

Sunday, May 8

9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Novena

10:45 a.m. Mother's Day Novena

One major project they perform each Friday, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm is the Food Distribution. Stop by and