ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH

2530 Garner Rd, Ray City Ga 31645

Phone (229)455-5554 church@anthonyofpaduaga.org



Deacon Ray Brown Deacon Steven Mancuso

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES No classes until further notice

Daily Mass Monday-Thursday 9:30AM

Confessions by appointment

UNLOCK THE DOORS

When we put the Gospel in its context, John 20 starts with the empty tomb and the appearance to Mary Magdalene. Still, the disciples were scared and confused. They gathered together to regroup. They locked the door for fear of the Jews, whom they had just experienced as an angry mob, whom they had just seen crucify their friend Jesus. These disciples were afraid of the Jews, but they may also have been feeling guilty and confused for running away from Jesus at the cross, for hiding, for trying to protect themselves.

Now the risen Jesus comes to them saying, "Peace be with you," showing them his wounds, and greeting them again. Jesus is modeling something very powerful here. Most of us hate to be vulnerable. We try to hide our wounds and scars. We try to protect ourselves and show everybody that we have it together. In order to be healed, to receive the Spirit, to move on in our lives, we need to unlock our internal doors. We need to let Jesus into our house, into our hearts, and into those darkened corners of ourselves. It might be frightening. It might mean going to the sacrament of reconciliation or speaking with a spiritual director or even with a therapist.

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

We often worry about how others will respond if we are less than perfect. Jesus knew the disciples were flawed humans. He did not get angry or give them a guilt trip. He said, "Peace be with you." He was gentle. Jesus gave them the gift of new life through a simple gesture. He breathed the Spirit into them. This is reminiscent of Genesis, when God breathed life into Adam, and Ezekiel, when God breathed life back into the dry bones. Jesus concluded with, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." So not only did Jesus entrust them with this role, this power, he first showed them how it is done. How do we in turn breathe life into our families and friends? Our coworkers? The stranger we meet?

Today's Readings: Acts 2:1–11 Ps 104: 1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13; Jn 20:19–23 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

> Please continue to support our Parish, sending your donation by mail, drop at the Church office or Online. Thank you for your support.

Adoration of the **Blessed Sacrament**

WEDNESDAY **ADORATION 10AM TO 12PM**

ATTENTION PARENTS

Children under 12 years must be accompanied by an adult to use the restroom The safety of your child is very important to us





May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

SAINT CHARLES LWANGA AND HIS COMPANIONS (martyred 1886-87)

<u>June 3</u>

"Master of Pages," reputedly the handsomest man in all Uganda, Charles Lwanga, lay catechist, courageously led about forty teenaged boys, Catholics and Anglicans, on a forty-mile forced march to martyrdom for their common Christian faith. Teaching each other the hymns of their different churches, they strengthened one another for the ordeal ahead. King Mwanga, himself barely twenty, had ordered them executed for being "those who pray." But these royal pages were the king's male harem, who, now Christians, refused what pious accounts demurely describe as his "unreasonable demands." Some were clubbed to death, most burned alive; the youngest, thirteen-year old Saint Kizito, whom Charles had often shielded from the King's lust; the most tragic, Saint Mbaga, whose father was his executioner! In 1964, Paul VI canonized the young Catholics and praised their Anglican companions, recalling the heroism of early Christianity's African martyrs, which we modern Christians of far less faith never expected to see repeated. Forty years after the pope's words, what does our faith cost us? Heroism aside, how generous is our response?

