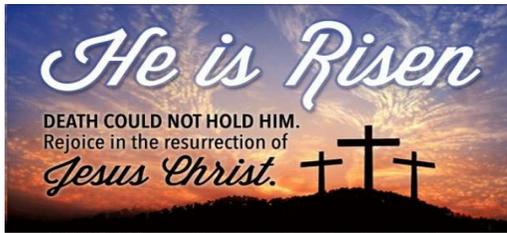


Fr. Simon Sez

Holy Week & Easter Thank You! I thank all of you for helping with the Holy Week and Easter liturgies in



both parishes, and everyone who came to participate to make it a truly blessed week with wonderful celebrations! I thank you for your cards, gifts, and Easter well wishes!



Divine Mercy Sunday Thanks: I thank those of you who were able to come to help celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, holy hours, and confessions. We had the best turnout I have ever had for Divine Mercy weekend confessions, about 1.5 hours constant stream in total. The last time penitents went to confession was from one-half day to 50 years! It was so wonderful to see God's Mercy at work when you took advantage of

this one weekend to go to confession and receive Holy Communion a removal of all sin and all punishment due to sin, "a second baptism" only available this one weekend per year. I look forward to celebrating it next year with you!

Pray for Ordinations!: Our diocese ordination to the priesthood is May 27 at 11:00 am. Join us via livestream to watch three men be ordained by Bishop Donald DeGroot. You can find the link to the livestream at www.sfcatholic.org.

Blessing & Conferral of the Brown Scapular: Traditionally, priests have enrolled First Communicants in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. I do this after the Final Blessing of the First Communion Mass. You can search information online about this Catholic sacramental. Nobody has to wear one, but if they so choose later in life and in order to benefit from the private revelation promises, they have to have been enrolled.

“BISHOP’S CHARITY FISHING TOURNAMENTS”

3 OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE		
VIRTUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT JUNE 4 THRU JUNE 13 ANY PUBLIC BODY OF WATER IN SOUTH DAKOTA	MONDAY BIG STONE CITY JUNE 6 LAKE SIDE PARK	MONDAY PIERRE JUNE 13 OAHE DOWNSTREAM RECREATIONAL AREA

Don't fish? Join us for Mass celebrated by Bishop DeGroot), social hour and prime rib dinner following the above mentioned tournaments. Call us at 605-988-3765 or go to <https://ccfesd.org/events>.

Fire of Love: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Easter



Acts 5:27–32, 40–41
Psalm 30:2, 4–6, 11–13
Revelation 5:11–14
John 21:1–19

There are two places in Scripture where the curious detail of a “charcoal fire” is mentioned.

One is in today's Gospel, where the Apostles return from fishing to find bread and fish warming on the fire.

The other is in the scene in the High Priest's courtyard on Holy Thursday, where Peter and some guards and slaves warm themselves while Jesus is being interrogated inside (see John 18:18).

At the first fire, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, as Jesus had predicted (see John 13:38; 18:15-18, 25-27).

Today's charcoal fire becomes the scene of Peter's repentance, as three times Jesus asks him to make a profession of love. Jesus' thrice repeated command “feed My sheep” shows that Peter is being appointed as the shepherd of the Lord's entire flock, the head of His Church (see also Luke 22:32).

Jesus' question: “Do you love me more than these?” is a pointed reminder of Peter's pledge to lay down his life for Jesus, even if the other Apostles might weaken (see John 13:37; Matthew 26:33; Luke 22:33).

Jesus then explains just what Peter's love and leadership will require, foretelling Peter's death by crucifixion (“you will stretch out your hands”).

Before His own death, Jesus had warned the Apostles that they would be hated as He was hated, that they would suffer as He suffered (see Matthew 10:16-19,22; John 15:18-20; 16:2).

We see the beginnings of that persecution in today's First Reading. Flogged as Jesus was, the Apostles nonetheless leave “rejoicing that they have been found worthy to suffer.”

Their joy is based on their faith that God will change their “mourning into dancing,” as we sing in today's Psalm. By their sufferings, they know, they will be counted worthy to stand in heaven before “the Lamb that was slain,” a scene glimpsed in today's Second Reading (see also Revelation 6:9-11).

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