

Prayer in Preparation for Chapter 2018

Week XXIV Theme: JOY

April 1 - 7, 2018

Grace: to be glad and rejoice intensely

April 1 John 20:1-10 The Empty Tomb

April 2 Ignatius: Spiritual Exercises (218-225) Jesus Appears to His Mother

This contemplation is not found in the Scriptures, but comes from Ignatius' own imagination. Given the central role that Mary played in Jesus' life, Ignatius thinks it only reasonable that the first person to whom Christ appeared was his mother. Imagine the Risen Lord appearing to Mary. Imagine the details of the room where they meet. Imagine the joy that marks their reunion. Imagine the words and embraces they exchange, and see how Christ consoles her.

April 3 John 20:11-18 Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalen

April 4 Luke 24:13-35 The Road to Emmaus

April 5 Luke 24:36-45 Peace Be With You

April 6 John 20:24-31 Jesus Appears to Thomas

April 7 John 21:1-19 Jesus, Peter and the Disciples

CONSOLATION OF MARY WITH CHRIST ARISEN

What they felt then: is it not
before all secrets sweet
and yet still earthly:
as he, a little pale still from the grave,
relieved stepped up to her:
at every point arisen.
O to her first. How were they then
inexpressibly being healed.
Yes, they were healing, that was it. They had no need
firmly to touch each other.
He laid for a second
scarcely his soon to be
eternal hand to her womanly shoulder,
And they began,
still as the trees in Spring,
infinitely together,
this season
of their ultimate communing.

(Rilke's book: *The Life of the Virgin Mary*)