

## **Sunday Readings Reflections of 4/3/2016**

### **Reading 1 Acts 5:12-16**

During the Easter season, the first reading each Sunday is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. This book of the New Testament is like no other. It gives us a beautiful description of the early Church community as it grew. Filled with the Spirit of the risen Christ, the disciples brought the healing love of Jesus to those in need. In doing this, they carried on his mission.

### **Reading 2 Revelations 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19**

Today's reading sounds a little different, doesn't it? It is filled with special symbols that were used to bring hope to the early Christians during a time of persecution. When we hear the words of the reading, we are filled with the hope of Easter, too. Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid." Christ has conquered death. He is truly "the one who lives" forever.

### **Gospel John 20:19-31**

John's account of that first Easter night is filled with drama. Jesus appears through locked doors and gives his disciples his peace. He gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit and communicates God's power of forgiveness. Thomas, who misses out on this experience of Jesus, refuses to believe unless he can touch Jesus' wounds. A week later he has a chance to do just that! Thomas exclaims, "My Lord and my God!" And Jesus tells us how "blest" are we who have believed in his resurrection without having seen his risen body.