

HOMILY 2ND SUNDAY EASTER
April 12, 2026

**THERE WAS A MAN
A LONELY MAN
WHO LOST HIS LOVE
THROUGH HIS INDIFFERENCE
A HEART THAT CARED
THAT WENT UNSHARED
UNTIL IT DIED
WITHIN HIS SILENCE
AND SOLITAIRE'S THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN
AND EVERY ROAD THAT TAKES HIM
'TAKES HIM DOWN
WHILE LIFE GOES ON AROUND HIM EVERYWHERE
HE'S PLAYING SOLITAIRE**

We are relational by our very nature. If you play too much Solitaire, you are going to have a very difficult life.

In the Gospel reading today we encounter “Doubting Thomas.” I think he gets a bad rap. All of the disciples were doubting at first. I like to call him “Courageous Thomas.” He was not a witness to the earlier appearance of Jesus because he was out checking what was happening rather than being locked in the upper room in fear. But he did not continue to play Solitaire. He came back to his community for their support. That is how the first disciples were able to bolster their faith and leave the upper room and continue the ministry of Jesus Christ and spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. In his post resurrection appearances he did not appear to people when they were alone. Jesus knew that they would need the support of other disciples so he made sure that they had other believers so they could support one another. The only person that he appeared to when they were alone was Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morning and Jesus immediately sent her to the disciples, and that is where she went.

Life is hard at times. When we go through difficult times where we may be questioning our faith it is really important that we come to Mass to encounter Jesus and other believers. It can help us get through those difficult times. Sometimes after the death of a spouse the

remaining spouse has a difficult time coming to Mass because they always came with their spouse and it seems difficult. If it is just too hard, you can stay away for a short time, but do not let it go on for too long. People have told me that they do not want to come to Mass because they cry and they do not want to let anyone see them cry. Crying is ok, and knowing the people of St. Edith the way I do, no one is going to think badly of you. They are way more likely to ask you if there is anything they can do to help you. People also stop coming when they go through a divorce. A divorce is probably one of the worst things that anyone will ever go through in life. Keep coming to church.

When we are lonely, sad, depressed or anxious, we sometimes want to play Solitaire. We need to turn to the people who love us. And that is how we develop close relationships with others, by turning to each other when we feel vulnerable. Unfortunately, what we are doing more and more is turning to our phones when we are lonely, sad, depressed or anxious. Your phone will distract you but your phone will not help you. Our 20 something's are catching on to that. The New York Times had an article last Sunday that reported what they are doing about it. We may not be able to do without cell phones completely, but more and more young people are getting dumb phones. Remember the old flip phones. There are also blocker apps that you can put on you traditional cell phone that limit access. They are also getting "light phones" that have things like cameras and music players but limited internet access. Some are just deleting their social media apps. Studies are showing that when they make these changes they report improvements in psychological wellbeing. Many of those who make these changes do not go back. Know that if you are turning to your phone when you are lonely, sad, or depressed it may not seem like it, but you are playing Solitaire and you really do not want to do that. Turn to Jesus. Turn to church. Turn to those who love you. Nurture those close relationships. That will help.