

Daily Homily
Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
Memorial
Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday
29 July 2021
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

This day used to be solely dedicated to St. Martha, however, on January 26 of this year, the Holy Father, Pope Francis decreed that on this day we should also add the rest of Martha's household to this feast... so we honor on this day the whole household from the town of Bethany, we remember today not only Martha, but her sister, Mary, and her brother, Lazarus.

Who are they?

Martha, after just experiencing the heartache and the heartbreak of her brother Lazarus dying, is the first person to look Jesus in the face and surrender to him the belief that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

Martha is also that woman in scriptures, whose praises are sung, because she calls her sister, Mary, out and tells her to help with the work in hosting Jesus at their home.

Mary, was the listener, felt content just to be in Jesus' presence. She seemed to forget about eating and dinner and simply wanted to listen and take in whatever Jesus had to say. That was more important than the needs of her stomach at the time. Even at her brother, Lazarus's tomb, she is more in the backrow, then up in front. Simply listening and taking in the scene.

Lazarus was dead. Jesus called him out of the tomb. So Lazarus did what he was commanded. Many came to believe in Jesus as God, seeing such an experience. It also made Jesus' enemies dig their heels in deep into jealousy and judgement.

The Church calls the three of them "the Household of Bethany" (the town in which they lived). What a household! All made more real and more alive by the presence of Jesus in their lives. May we continue to invite and welcome and host Jesus into the homes in which we belong... Just as our God continues to host us here in this church... giving us everything, even His Body and Blood for us to eat, His real presence for us to simply be.