

Dear Padre,

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina Kowalska a saint of the Church on April 30, 2000, and in a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that “throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that [we] will experience in the years to come.”

Saint Faustina was born in 1905 and spent most of her life in Poland, in the Congregation of the Virgin Mary of Mercy. She experienced an extraordinary union with God. She received exceptional graces, revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, the ability to read souls, and the gift of prophecy.

One of the images that was revealed to Faustina was that of the merciful Jesus, touching his Sacred Heart, from which beams of red and white light came forth. This image and her devotion to the divine mercies gathered thousands of supporters throughout the world. We still see the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in many of our churches today. In some churches, we might see the newer image, inspired by the saint. Saint Faustina Kowalska died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three, leaving an impressive mystical legacy. She is a disciple of God’s divine mercy for the twenty-first century. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 8 <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	April 9 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15	April 10 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21	April 11 <i>St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr</i> Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36	April 12 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15	April 13 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 6:1-7 Jn 6:16-21	April 14 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer. There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord’s mercy.

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (B)

Acts 4:32-35 / 1 John 5:1-6 / John 20:19-31



The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Will is a widower, now in his eighties. He calls every once in a while, partly to talk but really wanting to know how he can convince his grown children and grandchildren to come back to church. He tells me they’re good people, but he would like them to have faith. It’s been a mainstay in his life, he tells me, something that has gotten him through many difficulties. He loves his family but says their life would be so much richer if they had an active faith life. I try to tell Will he can’t argue them into faith. At most he can share with them how faith has been a blessing in his life, hoping that it might then spark an interest in them.

The disciples in the Gospel story about “Doubting Thomas” experienced Will’s dilemma. They were unable to convince Thomas that the Lord had risen. He insisted that he would only believe when he could put his fingers and hands into Jesus’ wounds, which of course is just what happens the next time they are gathered. For Thomas, words were not enough; he needed the experience.

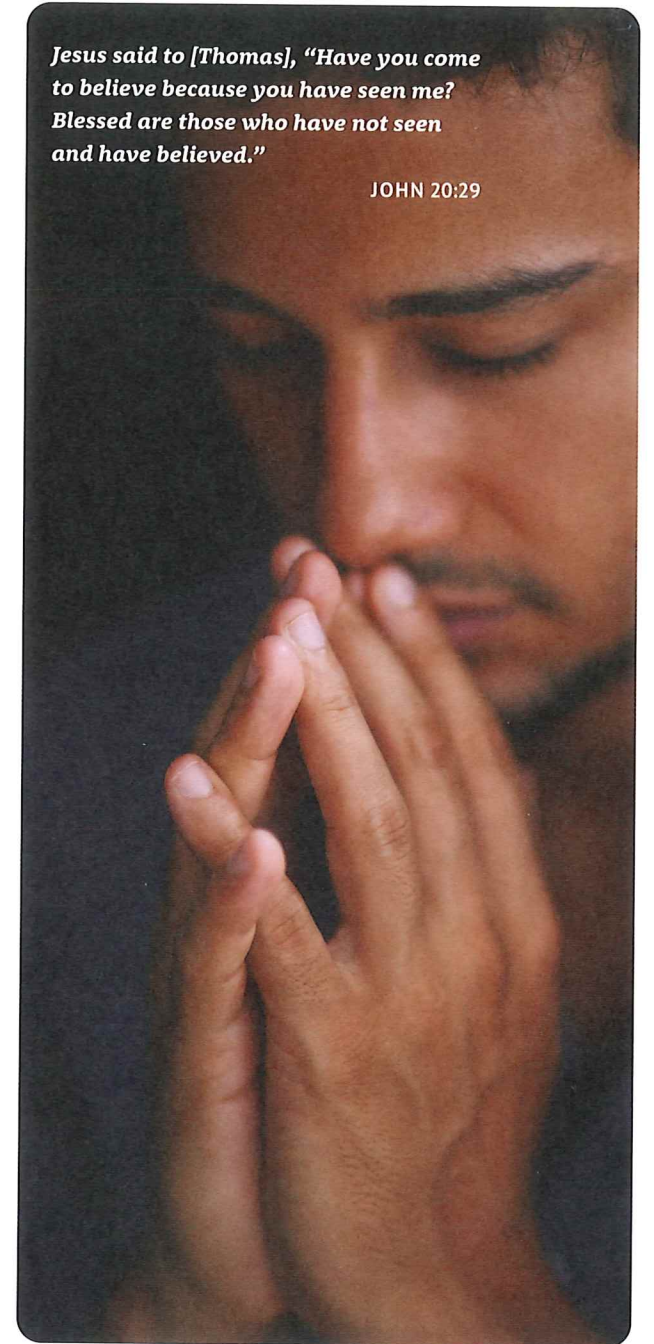
Sometimes that’s true for us. We’ve heard the truth, but we haven’t experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe, especially those we dearly love. ●

Reflect

Have you ever surrendered to faith even when you were filled with doubt?

Jesus said to [Thomas], “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

JOHN 20:29





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APRIL 7, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER -DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting." (PS118:2)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat.	Apr. 6	4:00 pm	2nd Sunday of Easter	Danny Batt Family
Sun.	Apr. 7	9:00 am	2nd Sunday of Easter	+ Johnnie Perez
Mon.	Apr. 8	5:30 pm	Annunciation of the Lord	+ Gary Sack
Tues.	Apr. 9	9:30 am		+ David Hoang
<i>(Tuesday Mass at the High Plains Retirement Village)</i>				
Thurs.	Apr. 11	12:15 pm	St. Stanislaus	Thanksgiving
Fri.	Apr. 12	7:30 pm		+ David Hoang
Sat.	Apr. 13	4:00 pm	3rd Sunday of Easter	For rain
Sun.	Apr. 14	9:00 am	3rd Sunday of Easter	+ Tom Edwards

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee 355-6388
 Lisa Gannett, DRE 355-6611
 Gwen Waechter, Parish C. Chair 272-1030
 Tressa Powers, Finance C. Chair 355-6206
 Altar S. President, Nanette Rice 355-7676
 Tom Bachman, Grand Knight 640-8259
 Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek 355-1696
 & Nanette Rice 355-7676
 Vocation Committee, Nanette & Sandra

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

2nd Sunday of Easter
 4/6/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.
Servers: Jason Velasco, Jonathan & Nathan Gannett
Reader: Karen Burden
EO.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter
4/7/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Cade Berning, Jace Berning, Haley Berning
Reader: Alvin Gergkamp
E.O. HC: Del & Julia Kaps

3rd Sunday of Easter
 4/13/2024 - Saturday, 8: 00 p.m.
Servers: Ryann & Brecken Bamberger, Rowen Simon
Reader: Tom Bachman
E.O.HC: Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden
4/14/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Haley & Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow
Reader: Bob Woodrow
E.O. HC: Toby & Jessica Luhman-Fuller

COLLECTION FOR MARCH 31, 2024

Envelopes: \$545.00
 Loose: \$635.00
 Online Giving: \$583.80
 Total: \$1,763.80
 Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17
 Income over/under - 2.63

My friends, we may say with relative ease, "I believe in God" --- but underneath those simple words is something more profound, more personal, more demanding. You see, our faith invites us to take the next step, to expand what it means to believe. And we do that by not just "believing" in our God, but by also embracing and accepting a much deeper kind of commitment. For when we say that we believe we are also saying . . .and I love the God I believe in. And that's something different altogether.

"For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments." (1 John 5:1-6)

That's when our belief in God leads to challenges.
 That's when our belief in God leads to serious responsibilities.
 That's when our belief in God leads to action on our part --- our response to a God who has shown us how much he loves us, and how merciful he is to us, and how generous he is with us, and how understanding and compassionate he is with us.

Fr. Peter



2024 EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



ALVIN BERGKAMP

**BERGKAMP FAMILY
SCHRUFER FAMILY
VITTATAW FAMILY**

STEVE AND DEBRA BERNING

**BERNING FAMILY
EDMOND AND EVELYN BERNING
MCKINNEY FAMILY
KENT AND SCOTT MCKINNEY**

TIM AND DELORES EDWARDS

**ELIZABETH EDWARDS
CYNTHIA EDWARD GUNTER
THOMAS KENNEDY EDWARDS
AND FAMILY MEMBERS**

DALE AND LISA GANNETT

LINDA NOE

CARL AND SANDRA HILGER

**URIE FAMILY
HILGER FAMILY**

ARTHUR AND LINDA KIRSCHENMANN

DON KIRSCHENMANN

STEVE AND MARGE LANE

LANE AND GEUBELLE FAMILIES

JOHNNY AND KAY MASON

**COLE, MASON, AND ELLIOTT
FAMILIES**

CAROLYN ROBERTSON

**EDDIE CATLIN
BILL AND JUNE TERWORT
MELVIN AND RUBY CATLIN**

BILL AND JANET ROONEY

**ED AND THELMA DARNELL
BOB ROONEY
MARY HOODENPYLE**

**MIKE AND MARY JANE SKIPTON
MICHAEL, ASHLEY, AUBREY, AND
BRAXTON SKIPTON**

**JOSHUA SKIPTON
JESSE AND CAROL SKIPTON
ALFONSO SANDOVAL**

P.J. AND JANEY SULLIVAN

**WAECHTER AND SULLIVAN
FAMILIES**

Our sincerest thanks to those who donated to make our church so beautiful this time of the year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/MEETINGS

April	7	Parish Breakfast	9:00 am Mass
		Mercy C. & Eucharistic Adoration	2-3pm
	16-18	Clergy Assembly w/ Bishop	Spiritual Life Center
	20	First Communion	4:00 pm
	30	Confirmation Mass	6:00 pm

BUDGET SHOP We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, April 6 and Tuesday, March 9. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY This Sunday, April 7 is the Divine Mercy. We will have a Eucharistic Adoration and Divine Mercy Chaplet from 2 pm to 3 pm.

PRAYER AND ACTION We are happy to announce to you that this year—the first time in our parish we will host “Prayer and Action” June 16-21. High School and their parents are invited to a summer mission trip. Prayer and Action offers a rich experience of the Christian lifestyle where a relationship with God overflows as service to others. A team of stellar college students will be leading the program, selecting the projects-painting houses, cleaning yards, etc.-and sharing the Gospel throughout. If you would like to them to do the above projects the “Work Order Request Form” is available at the entrance of the church.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION APRIL 7, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...” - Acts 4:32

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren’t really owners of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

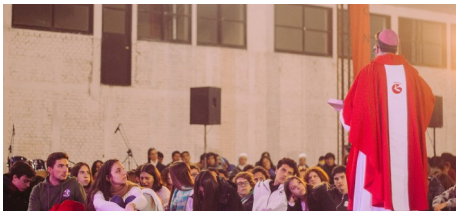
“La comunidad de los creyentes tenía un solo corazón y una sola alma. Nadie consideraba sus bienes como propios, sino que todo era común entre ellos...” -Hechos 4:32 Todo lo que somos y lo que tenemos es un don de Dios! Piense sobre su familia, sus amigos, su vida, sus talentos y su dinero - ¡todos son dones de Dios! Realmente no somos dueños de nada, somos simplemente “administradores” de los dones con los que Dios nos ha bendecido. Somos llamados a ser agradecidos y generosos con todos nuestros dones para beneficio de los demás.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (adapted from an Anglican Prayer) Almighty and ever-living God, you strengthened your apostle Thomas with sure and certain faith in your Son's resurrection. Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK In what way do I notice the gift of God’s mercy today? To whom do I need to extend mercy?

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, PART 24: The Homily



The Mass

After hearing God's Word to us in the Scriptures and especially the life and words of Jesus in the Gospel, next comes an opportunity to reflect more deeply on those words in the **homily**. As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, after the Gospel, we move into the "Second Half" of the Liturgy of the Word, which "consists of the homily, the Profession of Faith and the Prayers

of the Faithful. These three 'moments' in the liturgy act as a bridge between the Liturgies of the Word and Eucharist" (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 9).

The Root of the Term

What is the homily exactly? "*Homily*" comes from a Greek word that means "explanation." The purpose of the "homily is to break open the Scriptures and lead us in a deeper understanding of the mysteries we celebrate" (*A Study of the Mass*, p. 9). From the glossary of our *Catechism*, the homily is "preaching by an ordained minister to explain the Scriptures proclaimed in the liturgy and to exhort the people to accept them as the Word of God" (*CCC*, p. 882). According to the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, "a homily is a more or less brief, instructive discourse on a passage of Scripture wherein the spiritual lesson of the Scriptural text is made clear... It is generally to be instructive, informal, and intelligent" (p. 271). Some might say that is a tall order!

Who can give the homily? As the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states, "The Homily should ordinarily be given by the Priest Celebrant himself or be entrusted by him to a concelebrating Priest, or from time to time and, if appropriate, to the Deacon, but never to a lay person. In particular cases and for a just cause, the Homily may even be given by a Bishop or a Priest who is present at the celebration but cannot concelebrate" (*GIRM*, 66). The reason that only a Bishop, priest, or deacon gives the homily in the liturgy is directly tied to the proclamation of the Gospel. One of the gifts a man receives at ordination is a particular grace for the special purpose of preaching and teaching the Gospel. Although the wording is slightly different now, I recall very clearly the part of the diaconate ordination rite where the Bishop handed me the Book of the Gospels and said, "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." Every now and then when preparing the homily, I will think of these words which remind me that I have been chosen for this ministry. I will read through the Scriptures and recall for myself that Jesus has asked me to share these truths with God's people, hopefully to help them understand more fully, grow in faith, and live more consistently in his love.

A Link Between the Liturgies

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* teaches, "The Homily is part of the Liturgy...for it is necessary for the nurturing of the Christian life. It should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture or of another text from the [prayers of the Mass] and should take into account both the mystery being celebrated and the particular needs of the listeners" (*GIRM*, 65). So, while the homily may most commonly be about the readings used in the Mass, it would be appropriate for the preacher to also reflect on one of the prayers of the Mass. I somewhat regularly will refer to phrases in the Prefaces before the Eucharistic Prayer, especially on special Feast Days when those prayers are specific to the celebration.

Do we always have the homily? As the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* says, there should be a homily at every Sunday and Holy Day Mass when there is a congregation. It is recommended on other days, especially on the weekdays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season, as well as on other "festive days and occasions" when more people are joining for the celebration (*GIRM*, 66). Next time, we will look more into the homily and how it helps serve as a link between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

For Reflection:

1. Pray with this guidance to Timothy about preaching: "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching" (*2 Timothy 4:1-2*). Consider how the homilies you experience function to fulfill this instruction.
2. Reflect on significant homilies in your life history. Are there any memorable occasions when the message of a homily affected you? Give thanks to God for the impact of this preaching. (Fr. Luke Spanagel)

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Wide-eyed wonder

Mary is the mother of the church and the model of all Christians. At the message of an angel, she believed beyond all reason and offered her life in service of God's plan. Her response, "let it be," is the answer of every disciple who trusts in God's word to make all things new. In the season of Lent, God invites us to believe that we, too, are called to that service.

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA ANUNCIACIÓN DEL SEÑOR (8 ABRIL)

Las mejores palabras

María es la madre de la iglesia y el modelo de todos los cristianos. En el mensaje de un ángel, ella creyó más allá de toda razón y ofreció su vida en servicio al plan de Dios. Su respuesta, "efectúese", es la respuesta de cada discípulo que confía en la Palabra de Dios para hacer nuevas las cosas. En la temporada de Cuaresma, Dios nos invita a creer que nosotros, también, somos llamados a ese servicio.