

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and
place.

May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

[Jesus] said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit."

John 20:19-22

April 4th Collection

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Thank you so much
for your generosity and support



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

April 11, 2021



Bulletin printed in-house at:
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Easter — April 11th

Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday

The Holy Gospel that the Liturgy presents to us on this second Sunday of Easter, is one of the most well known, discussed, and appreciated—the meeting of the Risen Lord with St Thomas. The Fathers of the Church have given us numerous insights into this Gospel text. Likewise, it is has proven the inspiration to the numerous artists who have physically represented the events of this Gospel in order to give us a clear idea of what happened, 'eight days after' the first apparition of the Risen One, to the disciples congregated in the cenacle.

Jesus' response to Thomas, after he recognized Him as 'My Lord and my God', has a mysterious fascination that must relate not so much to the disciples—those who 'have seen'—but rather to those, like us, who were added to their number afterwards. 'You have come to believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.' (Jn 20:29)

The attention that these words evoke seems yet more paradoxical if we remember that the Lord had proposed, to the same author of the Gospel, what can be justly referred to as the Christian method, 'come and see' (Jn 1:39). How can we possibly reconcile these two phrases by Jesus that form the ideal setting for the whole of the fourth Gospel? Perhaps, in the end, the Lord decided to change His method? What do the words 'have not seen' really mean?

The timely recollection of the 'eight days after,' which is the Sunday after the Resurrection, permits us to tie our reflection to one of the most significant Eucharistic hymns composed by another Thomas, St Thomas Aquinas. In the *Adore*

Te Devote, which refers to the Eucharist, we read: 'Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgement of you. But hearing suffices firmly to believe'. Combining these words with today's Gospel we can justly affirm that the experience 'to see' was not denied to us, but it is in contrast with the Apostle Thomas' physical experience, who was able to put his own finger into the holes in Christ's hands and side, whilst we can only comprehend it in the faith which is guarded and transmitted by the Church, our Mother and Teacher.

That which we 'have not seen' is therefore the glorious Body of the Risen One. However, today we have the ability to 'listen' to the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church and so we can 'see' the real Body of Christ which is the Eucharist. We can 'see' His Mystical Body which is the Church. We can 'see' Him in our lives and in the lives of our many brothers who, after meeting the Lord in a real but mysterious way, are united to Him in His Spirit!

Like Thomas, Christ calls us to fill the holes left by the instruments of the passion in His Body with our own hands so that our lives and the verbal witness that we give proclaim His Resurrection. Our senses could betray us, but we know that we have met the Risen One and we have recognized Him!

The certain hope that Peter, who betrayed the Lord three times for fear of death, proclaims to us with the words, 'rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy' (1 Peter 1:8), become fully comprehensible because blessed are they that 'have not seen' the Risen Lord, but seeing the joy of His disciples 'have believed' in Him!

From the Congregation for the Clergy

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In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time. ✝

Rev. Jerome Gaston LeDoux

February 26, 1930—January 7, 2019

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Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7:00 a.m.

Saturday — 8:00 a.m.

Saturday — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

Confessions:

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. — 6:50 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. — noon

Saturday 4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER**My sisters and brothers:****Corporal Works of Mercy**

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the **teachings of Jesus** and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs" (USCCA). They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

Feed the Hungry—There are many people in this world who go without food. When so much of our food goes to waste, consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources.

Give Drink to the Thirsty—Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource.

Shelter the Homeless—There are many circumstances that could lead to someone becoming a person without a home. Christ encourages us to go out and meet those without homes, affirming their worth and helping them seek a resolution to the challenges they face.

Visit the Sick—Those who are sick are often forgotten or avoided. In spite of their illness, these individuals still have much to offer to those who take the time to visit and comfort them.

Visit the Prisoners—People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ.

Bury the Dead—Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

Give Alms to the Poor—Donate money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need. Do research and find organizations that put people in need first, rather than profit.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, April 12**Live Stream Mass: 7 a.m.**

Tuesday, April 13**Live Stream Mass: 7 a.m.**

Wednesday, April 14**Live Stream Mass: 7 a.m.****Adoration 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.****Confessions 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.**

Thursday, April 15**Live Stream Mass: 7 a.m.**

Friday, April 16**Live Stream Mass: 7 a.m.****Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon****Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon**

Saturday, April 17**Live Stream Mass: 8 a.m.****Adoration 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.****Confessions 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.****Mass: 5 p.m.**

Sunday, April 18**Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.**

Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.**Vocation View**

Despite our lack of faith, Christ still calls and gives the strength to respond. Bring your questions to Him, that He might answer your doubts with His gentle, but persistent love.

Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org

Weekly Readings

4/12—ACTS 4:23-31; JN 3:1-8

4/13—ACTS 4:32-37; JN 3:7b-15

4/14—ACTS 5:17-26; JN 3:16-21

4/15—ACTS 5:27-33; JN 3:31-36

4/16—ACTS 5:34-42; JN 6:1-15

4/17—ACTS 6:1-7; JN 6:16-21

4/18—ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19;

1 JN 2:1-5a; LK 24:35-48

PARISH CORNER**Saint Faustina Kowalska**

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations — or messages — from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina's *Diary* sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her *Diary*, the Pope called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."

Today, we continue to rely on St. Faustina as a constant reminder of the message to trust in Jesus' endless mercy, and to live life mercifully toward others. We also turn to her in prayer and request her intercession to our merciful Savior on our behalf. At the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, we include the following in our 3 o'clock prayers:

Saint Faustina,

you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to who you will, and when you will." Relying on this, we ask your intercession for the graces we need, especially for the intentions just mentioned. Help us, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of our lives. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following is taken from **The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion** booklet. It was written by world-renowned Divine Mercy expert Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, with Vinny Flynn and Robert A. Stackpole. The booklet condenses the main elements of the **Diary of St. Faustina** into an easy-to-read format. It has become known throughout the world simply as the "Devotion Booklet."

In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for special prayer and meditation on His Passion each afternoon at the three o'clock hour, the hour that recalls His death on the Cross.

At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy. ... In this hour I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion (*Diary*, 1320).

As often as you hear the clock strike the third hour, immerse yourself completely in My mercy, adoring and glorifying it; invoke its omnipotence for the whole world, and particularly for poor sinners; for at that moment mercy was opened wide for every soul. In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was the hour of grace for the whole world - mercy triumphed over justice. ...

My daughter, try your best to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour, provided that your duties permit it; and if you are not able to make the Stations of the Cross, then at least step into the chapel for a moment and adore, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, My Heart, which is full of mercy; and should you be unable to step into chapel, immerse yourself in prayer there where you happen to be, if only for a very brief instant (1572).

Give me an army saying the rosary and I will conquer the world."

-Pope Pius IX

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE****V. PRAYER OF PRAISE**

2643 The Eucharist contains and expresses all forms of prayer: it is "the pure offering" of the whole Body of Christ to the glory of God's name¹³¹ and, according to the traditions of East and West, it is the "sacrifice of praise."

IN BRIEF

2644 The Holy Spirit who teaches the Church and recalls to her all that Jesus said also instructs her in the life of prayer, inspiring new expressions of the same basic forms of prayer: blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise.

2645 Because God blesses the human heart, it can in return bless him who is the source of every blessing.

2646 Forgiveness, the quest for the Kingdom, and every true need are objects of the prayer of petition.

2647 Prayer of intercession consists in asking on behalf of another. It knows no boundaries and extends to one's enemies.

2648 Every joy and suffering, every event and need can become the matter for thanksgiving which, sharing in that of Christ, should fill one's whole life: "Give thanks in all circumstances" (*1 Thess* 5:18).

2649 Prayer of praise is entirely disinterested and rises to God, lauds him, and gives him glory for his own sake, quite beyond what he has done, but simply because HE IS.

131 Cf. *Mal* 1:11.

"Divine Mercy, I choose you. Thank you for choosing me.

Jesus, I trust in you."

-Saint Faustina