

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

So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

John 20:26-29

April 17th Collection

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for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

April 24, 2022



Bulletin printed in-house at:
**Our Mother of Mercy
Catholic Church**
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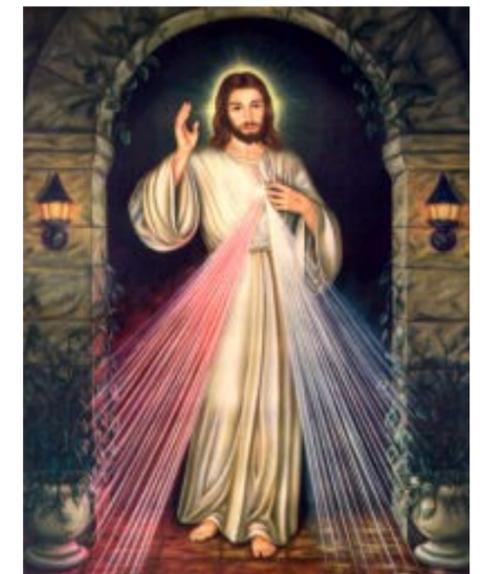
**Easter — April 24th
Second Sunday of Easter
(or Sunday of Divine
Mercy)**

The **Gospel** is John 20:19-31, doubting St. Thomas. It may surprise and amaze us that the Apostles were so reluctant to believe that Christ had risen from the dead, to live forever in glory with his Father in heaven. But we must remember that during their two or three years with him they saw nothing in him but a mere man, one with divine powers, but yet a man; certain prophets of the Old Covenant had some such powers also. Christ had "emptied himself of his divine nature, and he had foretold his resurrection many times. But that he could be really God, as well as man, was something they could not then grasp, and if he was a mere man death had to be the end.

Their slowness of faith had its value for the future Church and for all of us. If they had been expecting the resurrection, and anxiously looking forward to it, people could say that they imagined it, that they persuaded themselves it had happened. Indeed, there have been men proud of their acuteness of judgement, who have said that the story of the resurrection is a story of mass hallucination, although all the evidence proves the opposite. Their conviction that it could not happen, could not be removed from their minds except by impressive evidence that it had. Hallucination is born in a mind already expecting and hoping for the imagined fact.

We can thank the Apostles and especially Thomas, the last to give in, that our faith in the resurrection and divine glorification of Christ is that much the stronger. Our Christianity which would have ended before the first Easter week had passed, if Christ had not risen in glory, spread rapidly to the then known world and is still spreading, because its author was none other than Christ "our Lord and our God." How prophetic were the words of Gamaliel at the meeting of the Sanhedrin which tried to prevent the Apostles from preaching the new Christian faith: "If this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it." (Acts 5: 38-39).

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings, Cycle C* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.



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Please contact Lydia at the Church

Office (817) 335-1695

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:

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

Jesus to Sr. Faustina

On one occasion, I heard these words: "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.

"[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy. Write: before I come as a just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice.

"From all My wounds, like from streams, mercy flows for souls, but the wound in My Heart is the fountain of unfathomable mercy. From this fountain spring all graces for souls. The flames of compassion burn Me. I desire greatly to pour them out upon souls. Speak to the whole world about My mercy."

—Excerpted from *Diary of Sr. M. Faustina Kowalska.*

**With prayers and love,
Fr. Bart, S.V.D**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, April 25

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 26

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 27

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Confessions 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

Thursday, April 28

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Friday, April 29

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon

Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon

Saturday, April 30

Live Stream Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Adoration 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Confessions 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 1

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Weekly Readings

4/25—1 PT 5:5b-14; MK 16:15-20

4/26—ACTS 4:32-37; JN 3:7b-15

4/27—ACTS 5:17-26; JN 3:16-21

4/28—ACTS 5:27-33; JN 3:31-36;

4/29—ACTS 5:34-42; JN 6:1-15

4/30—ACTS 6:1-7; JN 6:16-21

5/1—ACTS 5:27-32, 40b-41;

REV 5:11-14; JN 21:1-19 or

21:1-14

PARISH CORNER

The Seven Spiritual Works Of Mercy

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that **"The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities"** (CCC 2447).

In particular, the "spiritual" works of mercy are based on the life of Jesus and his instructions he gave to his disciples. **The beatitudes are a great example of this type of teaching.**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3-10)

These works of mercy are **directed toward our spiritual well-being** that we may recognize the eternal goal we are called to attain.

The Church lists the spiritual works of mercy as follows:

1. **To instruct the ignorant**
2. **To counsel the doubtful**
3. **To admonish sinners**
4. **To bear wrongs patiently**
5. **To forgive offenses willingly**
6. **To comfort the afflicted**
7. **To pray for the living and the dead**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Survey on Black Catholics in America

A survey by The Pew Research Center released on March 15 follows up on the Center's report in February 2021 titled Faith Among Black Americans.

In this new survey comparing Black, White and Hispanic Catholics a few items are of interest. -While relatively few Black Catholics attend predominantly Black parishes, Black Catholics express some distinctive preferences and expectations about their congregations. For example, they are more likely than White or Hispanic Catholics to say they think it is essential that churches offer a sense of racial affirmation, as well as to say it is essential that churches assist people who need help with bills, housing or food. And Black (40%) and Hispanic Catholics (42%) are more likely than White Catholics (18%) to say it is essential that churches teach practical job and life skills, and that they offer sermons that address political topics such as immigration and race relations.

-In addition, the majority of Black Catholics say that opposing racism is important to how they think about being Christian. About three-quarters of Black Catholics (77%) say opposition to racism is essential to what being Christian means to them. Most Black Catholics also say opposition to sexism (75%) and believing in God (73%) are essential to what being Christian means to them, while much smaller shares say attending religious services regularly (26%), opposing abortion (22%) and avoiding sex before marriage (16%) are essential to their Christian faith.

-The survey finds that 16% of Black Catholics are converts to the faith – people who identify as Catholic now, though they were raised in another religious tradition or as religiously unaffiliated. The share of Black Catholics who are converts to Catholicism is higher than the share of White or Hispanic Catholics who are converts. That said, the share of Black Americans who were raised as Catholics and remain Catholics is lower than the corresponding shares of Hispanic and White Catholics.

To Be Continued....

—Excepted from *In A Word, A Publication of The Society of the Divine Word, Southern Province*

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SEVEN PETITIONS

"Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It is in Heaven"

2826 By prayer we can discern "what is the will of God" and obtain the endurance to do it.¹⁰⁸ Jesus teaches us that one enters the kingdom of heaven not by speaking words, but by doing "the will of my Father in heaven."¹⁰⁹

2827 "If any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him."¹¹⁰ Such is the power of the Church's prayer in the name of her Lord, above all in the Eucharist. Her prayer is also a communion of intercession with the all-holy Mother of God¹¹¹ and all the saints who have been pleasing to the Lord because they willed his will alone:

It would not be inconsistent with the truth to understand the words, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," to mean: "in the Church as in our Lord Jesus Christ himself"; or "in the Bride who has been betrothed, just as in the Bridegroom who has accomplished the will of the Father."¹¹²

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"

2828 "Give us": the trust of children who look to their Father for everything is beautiful. "He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."¹¹³ He gives to all the living "their food in due season."¹¹⁴ Jesus teaches us this petition, because it glorifies our Father by acknowledging how good he is, beyond all goodness.

2829 "Give us" also expresses the covenant. We are his and he is ours, for our sake. But this "us" also recognizes him as the Father of all men and we pray to him for them all, in solidarity with their needs and sufferings.

108 Rom 12:2; Cf. Eph 5:17; Cf. Heb 10:36.

109 Mt 7:21.

110 Jn 9:31; Cf. 1 Jn 5:14.

111 Cf. Lk 1:38, 49.

112 St. Augustine, De serm. Dom. 2, 6, 24; PL 34, 1279.

113 Mt 5:45.

114 PS 104:27.
