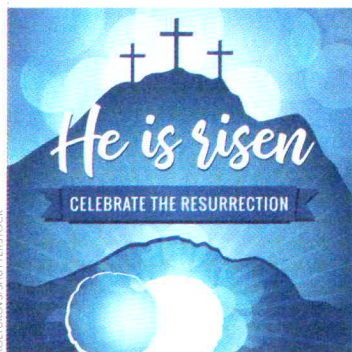


Dear Padre,

A friend of mine always makes such a big deal of the time after Easter. What is this Easter season all about?

These days and weeks after Easter are indeed significant. We Christians are an Easter people. The resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith. Without the belief that Christ conquered death and our hope that we will share in that same victory over the grave, our faith is pointless. We celebrate with great fanfare that we are a redeemed people in Jesus Christ.



Every year our forty-day Lenten preparation of fasting and penance leads us to the feasting and joy of the fifty days of Easter. This unbelievable news that the risen Christ is in our midst draws us into a festival that cannot be contained in a single day. “The fifty days from Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one ‘great Sunday’” (*The Roman Missal*, “Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and Calendar,” 22).

Part of the challenge of Easter is learning again how to celebrate a fifty-day feast. Most Catholics do not think of Easter as an extended feast. We tend to see Easter, the ascension, and Pentecost as three separate, independent feast days, each with its own themes. The truth of the matter is that they are all part and parcel of the other, intertwined and borne of the same glorious fact of Christ’s resurrection. This is a perfect time to remind ourselves of that joyous and significant connection.

—Fr. Joseph Ring
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

WORD FROM Pope Francis



To us also, on this Sunday, which St. John Paul II wished to dedicate to divine mercy, the Lord shows us, through the Gospel, his wounds. They are wounds of mercy.... Jesus invites us to behold these wounds, to touch them as Thomas did, to heal our lack of belief. Above all, he invites us to enter into the mystery of these wounds, which is the mystery of his merciful love.

—HOMILY, APRIL 12, 2015

Calendar

Monday
APRIL 20
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:23–31
Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday
APRIL 21
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:32–37
Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday
APRIL 22
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:17–26
Jn 3:16–21

Thursday
APRIL 23
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:27–33
Jn 3:31–36

Friday
APRIL 24
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:34–42
Jn 6:1–15

Saturday
APRIL 25
St. Mark,
Evangelist
1 Pt 5:5b–14
Mk 16:15–20

Sunday
APRIL 26
Third Sunday
of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22–33
1 Pt 1:17–21
Lk 24:13–35



April 19, 2020
Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy) (A)
Acts 2:42–47
1 Pt 1:3–9
Jn 20:19–31

I Doubt It

Skepticism is a characteristic of a critical mind. Some claims are just too fantastic to trust: no salve can relieve you of all pain; no investment is certain to double your money; no politician can keep all promises; no one comes back from the dead. Who of us can fault Thomas for his initial skepticism?

Thomas has been known through history as “the doubter.” However, he might be considered the patron saint of all of us. Because of his absence when Jesus stood in the midst of the community, Thomas was expected to believe on the word of others. Like Thomas, we are torn between believing because of an experience of Jesus, and believing on the word of others. We all would prefer a direct, profound experience. However, that’s not what we’re offered.

But within the community we can indirectly experience Jesus—his goodness, his unselfish service to others, his desire to bring people together in peace and harmony. The first reading provides a glimpse of such a believing community devoted to “the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Like our patron Thomas, we might be skeptical at first, but it is within a family or community of kindness and generosity that we can have our own experience of the risen Jesus.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Family Reflection

- ★ Where in your family do you experience devotion to others, forgiveness, and courage? Where do you bring these attitudes?
- ★ How might you strengthen the bonds of your community so that others can recognize the presence of the risen Jesus?



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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SUNDAY, April 19, 2020 - DIVINE MERCY

Even though all public celebrations of the Holy Mass are cancelled until further notice, daily Masses are still offered by Fr. Peter. When you watch the livestreamed Mass, please remember to pray for the following Intentions. Let's joyfully celebrate the most important mystery of our faith: the Suffering, Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. ALLELUIA—HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA

Sunday, April 19	Marilyn Wheat, Paul Temaat,
Monday, April 20	Pastor's Intention
Tuesday, April 21	Stan Rice
Wednesday, April 22	St. Raphael's Women & Men
Thursday, April 23	Victor Cahoj
Friday, April 24	Mary Perez
Saturday, April 25	For the People, Clarence Knoll & Steven Burgardt
Sunday, April 26	Thomas Kenedy Edwards, Pedro H. Asebedo

CONFESSIONS: Confessions will be heard on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm; and again on Sunday morning from 8:00 am to 8:45 am; or call for an appointment.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: If you would like to obtain a plenary indulgence this Sunday, be in any church or chapel or even a home, in a spirit that completely detached from the affection of a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy. Or, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in our church (opens 7am-7pm) recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. "Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!") A plenary indulgence, however, can be offered for oneself, or for souls suffering in purgatory. An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain defined conditions through the Church's help.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our prayers and sympathy to Tonya & Chris Pollart for the loss of Tonya's mother, Carol Joan Paxman. May the Risen Lord embrace Carol in the Kingdom of Heaven & May the tender mercy of Almighty God continue to be with family during this very difficult time. May she Rest In Peace.

RUMMAGE SALE: We will be having it again this summer (not date has been set), but if you have items you would like to donate we will gladly accept them anytime. You may call any of the following people to bring items to the hall. Tressa Powers 355-6206; Jana Jenkinson 290-5201; Carolyn Robertson 290-5569; Jane Sullivan 355-7341, or Gwen Waechter 355-7203.

COLLECTION for April 12: Envelopes: \$1,140; Online Giving: \$1,482.47; Total \$2,622.47; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,989.55. Income over/under (632.92) Maintenance Fund: \$269.30

Thank you so much to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

VOCATION VIEW: Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we are sent to share the peace of Christ. Do you believe in Jesus' call to you? Act on it! (John 20:19-31). If you think God is calling you to be a priest, contact Fr. Juan Salas at 620-227-1533 or vocations@dediocese.org.

STEWARDSHIP VIEW: The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke the bread that they recognized Him. Simple acts of loving kindness still reveal the presence of God in our midst.

WORD OF LIFE: "From your first moments of existence, you had all the DNA that would determine your sex, facial features, physique, and the color of your skin, hair, and eyes. At 24 days, your heart began beating. By 8 weeks, all your organs were present, and your unique fingerprints were forming. Ultrasounds show that by 18 weeks, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Another Look at Abortion"

LIVESTREAMED MASS WITH OUR BISHOP: Bishop John celebrates mass (Monday-Friday at 8 am and Sunday at 9am). Go to www.dediocese.org click on the Facebook icon on the Facebook icon (you don't have to be on Facebook) in the upper right hand corner.

FORMED AVAILABLE IN OUR PARISH We have 30 day free trial to see whether it will be beneficial to our parish. If you like it, please let me know. **FORMED. Org** is an online resource with a lot of different Catholic program, movies, books, and talks, designed to be accessible anywhere at anytime (on smartphones, tablets, and computers). This tool is open to All Parishioners in the Three Parishes. All you have to do is sign up and you will be equipped to learn, experience, or even teach your Catholic faiths in ways like never before.

How to sign-up: 1. Go to www.Formed.org 2. Click Sign Up 3. Select "I Belong to a Parish or Organization" 4. Find **St. Anthony** by parish name, address, or zip code 5. Enter your email - and you're in! (You will be asked to Create a New Account. Type in our account name, St. Anthony. Type in your name and your email address. Finally, check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

SUNDAY MEDITATION (John 20:19-31) *Jesus came . . . and stood in their midst. (John 20:26)* Jesus had appeared to the disciples on Easter Sunday. So why did he come a week later to the exact same place? Perhaps it was because this time Thomas was there, and Jesus wanted to convince this doubt-ridden disciple that he had truly risen from the dead.

Jesus could have stayed away, but he didn't want to leave Thomas in that state. So he invited Thomas to touch his wounds and see that it was really him. And that act of compassion and patience—that act of *mercy*—led Thomas to proclaim, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Eventually, that mercy would lead Thomas to travel far and wide proclaiming the gospel and, in the end, give his life for his Lord.

Thomas' story shows us that God's mercy involves more than just the forgiveness of our sins, great as that is. It also involves his compassion for our weakness and his patience with our slow progress. It's a wide mercy that frees us from our doubts, fears, and guilt as well as our sin. Like Thomas, it allows us to experience Jesus' divine life more fully so that we can follow him wherever he leads us.

In the end, God's mercy cannot be separated from his love. He is love and he is mercy—that is his very nature. Every day Jesus comes and stands in our midst, desiring to show us that he is our Lord and God. Every day he wants to take away our doubts and fears and forgive our every sin. Every day he wants to open us to more of his life and blessings.

Don't ever underestimate the power of divine mercy! As you continue to read from the Book of Acts this Easter season, know that every miracle the apostles did, every word they spoke, was grounded in the mercy they had first received—and continued receiving to the end of their lives. God's mercy is the foundation of your life too, a mercy that is new every morning, a mercy that will never, ever end (Lamentations 3:22-23)! *"Jesus, I trust in you!" WordAmong*