

Dear Padre,

I get a lot of questions from Protestant friends about the Catholic “obsession” (as they put it) with Mary. What should I say to them?



A convert to Catholicism tells the story of a dinner he had with a friend who had a very evangelical outlook. As they talked about the new Catholic's decision to convert, the friend asked hesitantly, “What do you think about Mary?” The new Catholic smiled and said, “I think she's wonderful, don't you?” The friend responded with an embarrassed “Yes, but...”

If Catholics and Protestants can begin with this premise—that Mary is wonderful—it might be possible to step back and consider why. Mary is an extraordinary human being who holds a special place in the Christian faith for two reasons: first, it was through her that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ; and second, she was the first to believe in Jesus' mission and ministry.

All Catholic doctrine about Mary refers to two special relationships. She has a special relationship with God because she bore the “God-man” in her womb. She also has a special relationship with us because she was the first Christian.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Calendar

Monday
APRIL 12
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:23–31
Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday
APRIL 13
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:32–37
Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday
APRIL 14
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:17–26
Jn 3:16–21

Thursday
APRIL 15
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:27–33
Jn 3:31–36

Friday
APRIL 16
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:34–42
Jn 6:1–15

Saturday
APRIL 17
Easter Weekday
Acts 6:1–7
Jn 6:16–21

Sunday
APRIL 18
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:13–15, 17–19
1 Jn 2:1–5a
Lk 24:35–48

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

[The disciples] had abandoned the Lord at his passion and felt guilty. But meeting them, Jesus did not give a long sermon. To them, who were wounded within, he shows his own wounds. Thomas can now touch them and know of Jesus' love and how much Jesus had suffered for him, even though he had abandoned him.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020



Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 11, 2021

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

Acts 4:32–35
1 Jn 5:1–6
Jn 20:19–31

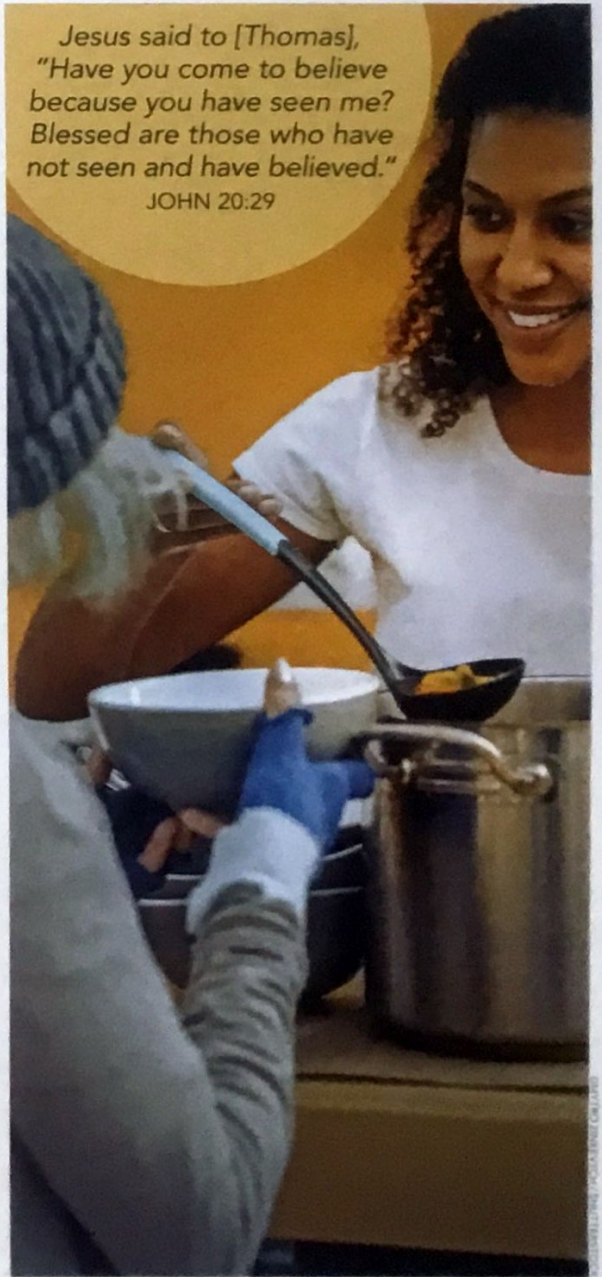
I Want Proof

Who doesn't? It's not simply that we are children of the scientific age in which proof is essential. Concrete evidence gives us a sense of security; it helps us understand how things work. Even in ordinary human relationships, we want proof. A tune from *My Fair Lady* demands: “Don't talk of love...show me.” It's very difficult to live without a certain degree of surety. Consequently, we should not be surprised at Thomas' insistence: “I want proof.”

Thomas is often described as lacking faith. This isn't the full story. The reason the other disciples believed was because they had an experience of the risen Lord. Before that experience they were hiding behind locked doors. Thomas was absent; we are not told why. Whatever the reason, he also wanted an experience of the risen Lord. He was not content to base his believing on their word alone. In a sense, more was being asked of Thomas than the others.

Thomas is the patron of all of us whose faith in the risen Lord is based on the word of others rather than on our own unique revelatory experience. Who of us wouldn't want some mystical experience? We are called to believe without seeing. Yet, this isn't strictly true—we can see evidence of the resurrection. The best proof is evident in the lives of millions of people who commit themselves to God and who strive to live with integrity.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



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

For Reflection

- ★ Who are the people who taught you your faith and who live it themselves? Thank God for them.
- ★ Who looks to you as an example of one who believes that Christ is alive today?



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 Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek 355-1696
 & Nanette Rice 355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Apr. 12 8:00 a.m. Dorothy Hoffman+
Tuesday, Apr. 13 8:00 a.m. Charles & Eileen Hoff+
Thursday, Apr. 15 8:00 a.m. Special Intention
Friday, Apr. 16 12:15 p.m. Charles & Eileen Hoff+
Saturday, Apr. 17 4:00p.m. For the People
Sunday, Mar. 18 9:00 a.m. Ron Gorges +

April 10, 4:00 p.m. Debbie Frederick
 April 11, 9:00 a.m. K of C Members
 April 17, 4:00 p.m. Alvin Bergkamp
 April 18, 9:00 a.m. Fred Jones
 April 24, 4:00 p.m. Tom Bachman
 April 25, 9:00 a.m. Mike Broeckelman
 May 1, 4:00 p.m. Debbie Frederick
 May 2, 9:00 a.m. Karen Burden
 May 8, 4:00 p.m. Julie Kaps
 May 9, 9:00 a.m. Steve Sullivan

Thank you so much for your ministry!

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.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—DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY- APRIL 11, 2021



WAS IT NOT NECESSARY THAT THE CHRIST SHOULD SUFFER THESE THINGS AND ENTER INTO HIS GLORY? LK24

Every year on this, the Second Sunday of Easter we hear the story of Thomas, the one who wasn't present when Jesus appeared to the other disciples, and who had a really difficult time believing what his friends were telling him. And by placing ourselves in the place of Thomas in the story, we can examine our own faith --- how we believe and why we believe and what we believe. There's a lot of good stuff I could say about trust and stepping out into the unknown and the place of healthy doubt in a life of faith. All good stuff --- but all things you've probably heard a hundred times before.

And so, I'd like you to consider yourself in another role today (the role as disciples we are all called to play). You know what (who) that role is. I want you to think about Jesus in this story. And I want you to imagine yourself doing what he did. And what is that? What exactly did he do for Thomas? He helped someone believe who was having trouble doing so. He provided a kind of "evidence" to him, helped him embrace things he was having trouble embracing. Put simply --- he helped bring him to faith, rather than push him away.

What evidence do we give? First, as individuals. That's where we start. But just as importantly (maybe more) as a community. Do the way we live our lives draw people toward a life of faith or make them indifferent to it? Do people look toward us and see people on fire with all that is good --- people who live with a singular purpose, with a singular motive, in union with each other?

Thank God we have the Church to help us with this task, guide us on this journey. And so, today, let's not think about how others aren't reflecting the true spirit of the Gospel message, the true spirit of Jesus. That shouldn't be our first concern.

Rather, let's reflect on our own failures, the ways each one of us fails to do what Jesus did for Thomas, the ways each of us fails to give others a reason to believe. People are searching. Let's help them find what they're looking for.

Fr. Peter Tran

COLLECTION for April 4, 2021: Envelopes: \$1,670; Loose: \$344; Online Giving: \$1,305.60; Total \$3,319; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under (+1,557.83) *Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY -APRIL 11, 2021 Right after Sunday Mass we will pray together the **Divine Mercy Chaplet**. Eucharistic Adoration will be available until 3:00 p.m. We will conclude with a **Solemn Benediction at 3:00 p.m.** Please make an effort to spend some time with Our Lord to receive His Divine Mercy!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS) We are in the process of starting to schedule Mass ministries. If you would like to be scheduled to serve, please let Fr. Peter know.

MASS SERVERS NEEDED & MASS SERVER TRAINING We will resume to have Mass Servers at weekend Masses. If you are willing to continue to be scheduled or anyone who would like to serve, we will have a training sessions on Wednesday 4/14 at 6:30 pm. Or Sunday (4/18) right after Mass. Please let Fr. Know you.

FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION SIGN UP If you would like to spend some time with Our Lord in adoration from **12:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, the SIGNUP SHEET on the **BULLETIN BOARD ON BOTH DOORS**. Please make an effort to do so, as Jesus asked St. Peter, **“So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?” (Matthew 16:40)**

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEW MEMBER CEREMONY This event will take place **Sunday Mass April 25th at 2:00 pm at St. Dominic in Garden City**. This is a **brand new Ceremony that only takes about 30 minutes**. No more secrecy! Family, friends and anyone interested in learning more about the **Knights of Columbus** can observe the Ceremony. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degrees will be explained and covered in this Ceremony so if a Member only has his 1st Degree this is a great opportunity to get the 2nd and 3rd degree, Every Catholic men, 18 or older, should be a member of the Knights of Columbus! This is a great opportunity to join this **Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service Organization**.

A FEW CHANGES IN MASS PROTOCOL To follow our local guidelines and after consulting with our Pastoral Council members we will begin with a few changes in our pandemic protocols. 1. Ropes will be taken down the South Side. 2. Although the mask mandate has been lifted in our community it is up to you to wear them if you are able. 3. Holy Water bowl fonts are available and they are refilled after every Mass.

RCIA CONGRATULATIONS TO Rony Jahir Santos Gutierrez, Alex Hernandez Alcantar, Yareli Ibarra, Mailia Ibarra, & Andrew William Powers who received their sacraments of Initiation this Easter Vigil– Holy Saturday. We would like to thank you the sponsors, family members and parishioners who accompanied our New Members on their faith journey. A big Thanks to all those who helped in forming and catechizing our new members.

CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS We wish to congratulate Victor Davian Ramirez and Jovan Saul Saenz who were confirmed this Easter Vigil– Holy Saturday. Because of the time conflict they weren't able to receive confirmation last March 18. We are grateful to their parents, sponsors, catechist who worked hard to prepare them for this very special day on their journey of faith! May the love of Jesus forever remain close to you.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES –APRIL: 14, 21, 28—Last day of CCD.

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. (John 20:19-31)

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced total stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

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.

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (John 20:19-31)

Peace & reconciliation The disciples are afraid and withdrawn. Jesus walks through the locked door and gives them peace. The great hope of God's people was for shalom, a lasting peace that encompassed all creation. Jesus tells his disciples to walk through the doors of other locked hearts in order to dispel fear and bring peace and reconciliation into the world. One way the Church fulfills this mission is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Holy Spirit Before he was killed, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to help the disciples carry out their mission (14:15f). John reminds us that although the earthly Jesus is gone, he remains within and among us in the person of the Spirit (19:30). Doubt & faith Thomas is mostly remembered for not believing that Jesus rose from the dead. What people forget is what he said when Jesus appeared to him: My Lord and my God! This is the boldest statement of faith in John's Gospel. Thomas' words of faith sum up the main theme of this Gospel: Jesus is one with the Father, just as Jesus had been telling people all along. To see Jesus is to see the Father. Those who believe that Jesus is from God receive his Spirit of eternal and empowering life.

Seeing & believing The first half of this Gospel is called The Book of Signs. Here Jesus does and says things so that people will see that he is the one whom God has sent to give eternal life to all who believe. Verses 30-31 thus sum up the reason John wrote. (John's Gospel seems to have ended with verse 31. Later someone added an epilogue.) Because we ourselves haven't seen the earthly Jesus nor the signs he worked, John wrote his Gospel in order to help us believe. Both the words of this Gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit enable us to believe and profess that Jesus is our Lord and our God oursundayreadings

**OUR LORD'S PROMISES ATTACHED TO THE PRAYING OF THE CHAPLET
OF DIVINE MERCY AS REVEALED TO**

ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA



1. "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image (of Divine Mercy) will not perish. I also promise victory over (its) enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory." (*Diary, 48*)
2. "The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death." (*Diary, 754*)
3. "When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one." (*Diary, 1541*)
4. "When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as a just Judge but as a merciful Sav-

ior." (*Diary, 1541*)

"Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death." (*Diary, 687*)

6. "Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy...I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy." (*Diary, 687*)
7. "To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak." (*Diary, 1521*)
8. "The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion for sinners. Know, my daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered." (*Diary, 1397*)
9. "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...I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion." (*Diary, 1320; also, cf. Diary, 1572*)
10. "Souls who spread the honor of My mercy...at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior." (*Diary, 1075*)
11. "The two rays denote Blood and Water...These two rays issued from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father...I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy...whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (*Diary, 299-300*)
12. "I desire that the Feast of Mercy...be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter...The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion (in a state of grace on this day) shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (*Diary, 699*)
13. "Through this chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will." (*Diary, 1731*)
14. "My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world." (*Diary, 1485*) <https://fathersofmercy.com/>

**SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
HOLD ONTO THE HOLY MEMORIES**

It's unlikely that those who survive the pandemic will look back on these days with much nostalgia. Sickness and loss, fear and division, stress and isolation: The consequences will be with us for a generation. Yet emerging from the tragedy were also instances of humanity, decency, and heroism that echoed the time of the first apostles. We've shared food, masks, information, errands, toilet paper, songs. We've gathered on balconies and in virtual rooms. We've found ways to pray and to encourage. This Divine Mercy Sunday, give thanks for those who have helped you through this and every crisis. (Prepare the Word)

**SOLEMNIDAD DEL SEGUNDO DOMINGO DE PASCUA; DOMINGO DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA
AFERRARSE A LOS RECUERDOS SAGRADOS**

Es poco probable que quienes sobrevivan a la pandemia recuerden estos días con mucha nostalgia. Enfermedad y pérdida, miedo y división, estrés y aislamiento: Las consecuencias nos acompañarán durante una generación. Sin embargo, de la tragedia también han surgido ejemplos de humanidad, decencia y heroísmo que se asemejan a la época de los primeros apóstoles. Hemos compartido comida, máscaras, información, recados, papel higiénico, canciones. Nos hemos reunido en balcones y en salas virtuales. Hemos encontrado formas de rezar y de animar. En este domingo de la Divina Misericordia, da gracias a quienes te han ayudado en esta y en todas las crisis.

PARKING LOT PROJECT -THANK YOU

We cannot say this enough.....A HUGE thank you to all the workers who showed up to help run the concrete Monday morning. Without those men (and women) who came out to help, the task of pouring 53 ¾ cubic yards of concrete would have been a much more difficult task.

When the first truck showed up at 9:45 Monday morning the number of young men there was very relieving to see. Not to be left out, some of our 'more experienced' members, were very welcome too. All of the parish members involved were greatly appreciated. With all the help involved, it made the burden on everyone a bit easier. I hesitate to name names for fear of leaving someone out, so I won't even try. Just let it be known, we, the building committee, thank each and everyone who showed up, to finish the parking lot project.

Not to be forgotten, a big "Thank you" to those who prepared the parking lot before the big pour on Monday. My college professor always said; Prior preparation, prevents poor performance....if that is true, and I'm sure it is, these men and women who participated in the preparation made the job on Monday a breeze.

A special 'Thank you' goes out to Kent Landon, who without his knowledge, experience and equipment, the project would have taken considerably longer.

And without the spiritual guidance from Father Peter, who knows where we would have been. Beyond the spiritual guidance, Father handles a shovel pretty well. :-)

Again, the building committee members are extremely happy and pleased with the outcome of the project and thank any and all who had anything to do with the successful completion of our parking lot project, whether you were there physically to help, donated monetarily or prayed for the success of this long, drawn-out project.

THANK YOU FOR THE DONATION OF 2021 EASTER FLOWER—MEMORIALS



Our sincerest thanks to those who donated to make our church so beautiful this time of year. These donations were made in loving IN MEMORY OF: MEMORIAL FROM:

MCKINNEY & BERNING FAMILIES

STEVE & DEBRA BERNING FAMILY

EDDIE CATLIN,

CAROLYN ROBERTSON

BILL & JUNE TERWORT,

LEONARD, JUDY, & TIM CATLIN

JOSHUA SKIPTON

MIKE & MARY JANE SKIPTON

ALFONSO SANDOVAL

JESSE & CAROL SKIPTON

PAUBLA AUNGUIANO

CHUCK SULLIVAN

PHYLLIS SULLIVAN

KATHI SULLIVAN

MICHELLE & DAVID BERGKAMP

ALVIN & SUELLEN

ELIZABETH HUGHES

HEARTHA VITHATU

CHARLES & MARY MARGERT SCHRUFER

WILFRED & ANNA BERGKAMP

KOONS & CONINE FAMILIES

JOHN & MARLEY KOONS

RICE & CAJOJ FAMILIES

STAN & NANETTE RICE

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS!

We wish to congratulate the children of St. Anthony and Christ the King who celebrated their First Holy Communion this weekend, Saturday –April 10! We are grateful to their parents, catechists and teachers who together worked hard to prepare them for this very special day on their journey of faith! May the love of Jesus forever remain close to you as you receive Him in the Eucharist!

**KINGSTON BERKAMP
JOLEIGH LOHMAN-FULLER
ORLANDO VILLA
KIRBE LYN KOONS
YARELI IBARRA
EMANUEL JOSE VALLE**

**JONATHAN CHRISTOPHER GANNETT
JADEN EDUARDO VALLE
LUKE NOLAN TRAVIS WOODROW
TAYLEIGH YAKEL
BRELUND BUDD
JONATHAN CERRILLO**

CONGRATULATIONS



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