

# Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 19, 2020

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## READINGS

### **Acts of the Apostles 2:42 - 47**

Early Christians adhered to apostolic teaching, centering their lives on prayer, the breaking of the bread, the common life, and charity.

### **2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3 - 9**

Through God's great mercy, Christians have new life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The goal of faith is salvation.

### **Gospel: John 20:19 - 31**

Through locked doors the risen Lord came, stood before the disciples, and said, "Peace be with you." Thomas was not present at first; when he saw Jesus, he could not believe. Jesus conquered his doubt.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The best thing we can do for our friends is to introduce them to our Best Friend – Jesus.  
Have we?

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

During the Easter Season the pastor would always have a special homily for the children. He would invite them to come to the front of the altar and he would invite them to be seated on the steps with him. On Sunday, he reached into his pocket and pulled out an egg. He pointed to the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?" "I know!", little Jamie shouted out. "Pantyhose!"

## PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

Care Home Residents, Homebound Parishioners  
Names remain for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.

## ONLINE GIVING

Sign up for our Online Giving by going to [www.sjbcatholicredbud.com](http://www.sjbcatholicredbud.com) and click on the link! Thank you!

## VOCATIONS CORNER

Today's Gospel is the familiar story of Thomas' declaration of unbelief in the Resurrection until "I put my finger in the nail marks". These kinds of thoughts often attack the minds of those discerning a religious vocation. They are seeking that "definite" sign that the path they are pursuing is the right one. The Lord doesn't always afford that. Let us pray, often and loudly, for these discerners that they "hear the call" of the Lord and continue to respond to it.

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. DENNIS

This Second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. In the last line of the gospel the evangelist tells us the motivation behind the words he has written – that his readers might come to believe. Unlike Thomas, who believes only after seeing the risen Jesus for himself, we encounter our Lord in other ways. Through the words of the gospel and the sacraments of the church, we are able to hear, see, and touch the one who calls us to live life abundantly. The gifts of the word of God and the sacraments have been passed down from generation to generation by the disciples of Jesus. They have been safeguarded and cherished by our ancestors in faith. Now, may we do our part so that others too, might come to believe.

Don't forget, the Easter Season continues for the next 50 days! Continue to share the joy and Easter hope with all around you. I hope that you will continue to gather in prayer with your families at home. Remember, we are Easter People, and Alleluia is our Song!

**A special thanks to all who have so faithfully dropped off or mailed in their Sunday contribution envelopes or have signed up for Online Giving. Your support is greatly appreciated. Please continue to be as supportive as you can be.** If you stop by Church and put your envelopes in the Offering Box in front of the tabernacle, you are invited to stop and take home with you a bottle of blest Easter water. They are in the baskets in front of the Baptismal font.

**Special thanks to Matt & Mark Cowell for all they did to enable us to have the Holy Week Services on You Tube and live streamed. Thanks also to Robin for the music she provided. We will continue to have our weekend Masses on You Tube.**

Have a blest second week of Easter! Remember, don't worry so much, and know that you are Loved!  
~ Fr. Dennis

## HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

Continue praying for an end to the pandemic, and for all who have contracted the coronavirus. Remember the healthcare workers, and all first responders, they are putting their lives on the line for all of us. Mary, Help of the Sick, pray for us. Note: **There will be no Parish Council Meeting this month** as we follow the stay at home directive as well as the social distancing guideline.

**PRAYER WHEN HEALTH IS THREATENED  
HERE AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**

(from PSALM 91)

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. You alone are our refuge, our rock of safety, our God in whom we trust. For You will rescue us from every trap and protect us from deadly disease; shelter us, O Lord, within Your wings, Your promises our armor and protection. We need not fear the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; nor dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at noon. Let no evil conquer us; no plague come near our homes. Order Your holy angels to protect us wherever we would go.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
O Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.

**2020 PICNIC QUILTS**

It's that time! Donate a completed quilt (handmade, no store-bought quilts, queen-size, not laundered) OR donate the cash equivalent (Full: \$210; Half: \$105; Third: \$70). For info on the parish quilters making your quilt, call Clea (282-3529) or Bernell (618-210-5553).

**YOUR GIFTS TO GOD & PARISH**

General.....	\$4,456.50
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$130.00
School Endowment.....	\$65.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$185.00
Catholic Relief.....	\$30.00
Holy Land.....	\$344.50
Home Missions.....	\$15.00
Seminary Education.....	\$25.00
Easter.....	\$3,487.50
Holy Thursday.....	\$371.50
School Support.....	\$90.00
Catholic Communications.....	\$10.00

God Bless you for your support in this difficult time!

**NEW CONFIRMATION DATE**

We received word from the Office of Worship that the date for Confirmation has been changed to Wednesday, June 17th at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Prairie du Rocher. If this should change we will let you know! Anything is possible!

**PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

At the March Parish Council meeting we welcomed the two new members, Nick Wittenauer and Lorraine Liefer. Also the new officers were chosen for the 2020-2021 year. They are: President - Tom Beshoar; Vice-President - Gerald Ratz and Secretary - Jim Hohgreffe.

**DIAPER BANK COLLECTION**

Gracyn Fahey, a Confirmation student at St. John's, is still accepting donations for her Service Project benefiting the Diaper Bank.

To connect with Gracyn to donate diapers, wipes or a monetary donation, please call 618-779-4749.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Given the stay-at-home order that is in effect, the Sacrament of Reconciliation with individual confessions are currently not possible. In keeping with longstanding pastoral practice, when penitents' access to the sacrament is restricted, they can be assured that their sins are forgiven if they make an act of contrition with a firm resolve to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation after the stay at home order is lifted. Likewise the faithful are encouraged to pray and meditate on passages from Scripture which help them to seek the mercy and forgiveness of God and the grace of reconciliation. Let us not forget that the Lord knows our hearts and desires to reconcile our lives to Him, and He awaits our presence in this sacrament.

**POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS TO OUR HEARTS**

(How Can We Not Share This Treasure?) We believe in the Risen One who conquered evil and death! Let us have the courage to "come out of ourselves," to take this joy and this light to all the places of our lives! The resurrection of Christ is our greatest certainty; he is our most precious treasure! How can we not share this treasure, this certainty with others? It is not only for us; it is to be passed on, to be shared with others. Our testimony is precisely this.

**CATHOLIC SERVICE & MINISTRY APPEAL**

Parish goal: \$12,903.00. Donated to date: \$17,340.00. We did it! Thank you!