

ST BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL 11, 2021 | SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

Jesus

came and stood in their midst and said to them,
“Peace be with you.”

~ John 20:19

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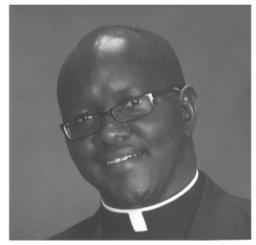
A photograph of a man with blonde hair, wearing a red robe, standing in a field of yellow flowers. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a bright, sunny day with some white clouds. The photo is set against a diagonal background of a yellow field.

My Dear people of God,

Happy Easter!

The Lord is risen, Alleluia Alleluia.

Easter is the greatest and most important of all Solemnities in the Church. Yes, even more important than Christmas, which many times we give much more attention. Because of the importance of the Easter mysteries, the Church gives us fifty days to celebrate it. This is to allow us to savor it and allow this great mystery permeates our lives. The fifty days are from the Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday (April 4 - May 23, 2021). This period is called the ***Easter Season*** and during this season, we are invited to celebrate with joy and exaltation the gift of eternal life won for us by Christ Jesus. The first eight days of the Easter Season are called '***the Octave of Easter***', which means an extended Easter day (*each of them is Easter Sunday!*). The gospel readings for the Octave are the early first accounts of the resurrection and the other readings are the early preaching of the disciples who were witnesses to His resurrection.



The gospel reading today opens with a statement that we can all relate with, especially in the face of death; "*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.* In the face of death, especially of a loved one, fear tends afflict us. Just as He spoke to the disciples, Jesus speaks to us today and says: "***Peace be with you.***" Jesus speaks peace into our lives even in the face of the fear of death. The gospel goes on to proclaim that the disciples rejoiced when they saw the risen Lord. I can only imagine their joy at the realization that ***there is life after death!***

My dear brothers and sisters, reflect with me for a moment on the events of the resurrection from the perspective of Thomas, who is clearly the center of the gospel today. He is one of the twelve; that means he is a close friend of Jesus. Along with the others, they have gone through a challenging period of seeing their Lord and master suffer and die. Their hopes and dreams are shattered. Can you imagine what could have been going through their minds on the Saturday after the crucifixion? They must have been utterly dejected. Then comes the day of the resurrection. As the gospel of today recounts, Jesus appears to his disciples! To them he says- 'peace be with you' and goes ahead to show them his hands and his feet. And they are delighted and rejoice. Thomas however, is not with them. Thomas has missed the 'party'! Can you imagine what would have happened if it was today, with social media? The news of Jesus risen from the dead would have gone viral- facebook, twitter...

Later, when Thomas returns, the disciples recount to him what had happened: '*we have seen the Lord*' and you missed out. That week must have been a long one for Thomas. Every day (and possibly even every moment), all that the other disciples must have been speaking of and relating to was their experience of the risen Lord. Thomas did not fully comprehend what they were relaying to him therefore, he wanted to have a personal experience. He wanted to have what they had. He wanted to see the Lord. He wanted to touch and experience Him.

Then a week later, Jesus appears to them again and this time Thomas is with them. Thomas then makes that profound statement of faith: "***My Lord and my God***". He has had a personal experience. Knowing that not everyone will have the privilege of seeing and experiencing Him after the resurrection, Jesus said: "...***Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed***". Thomas was merely echoing the human cry for certainty. And that represents all of us who have not and will not see the resurrected Jesus, but believe. That is the gift from Thomas for us.

This Sunday is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Our Lord Jesus came to show God's mercy for us and He entrusted the apostles with the authority to continue the mission of mercy in the forgiveness of sins. As we continue to celebrate Easter, let us be reminded that Jesus conquered sin and death. Through His mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we conquer sin that leads to death in our lives.

Happy Easter

Fr Simon Peter

DEATH IS LIFE

BY POPPY, POPPY'S POETRY PAGE

Death is life, and life is death, how odd a mystery.
God, Himself, became a man for everyone to see.
Life is more than food and drink, or striving to obtain.
If....in life, that's all there is, existence is insane.

Why would God, allow a man, to just be born and die?
If in life, that's all there is, the question must be, 'why?'
Life would have no purpose, if we only live and die.
If all we have, is these few years, why should we even try?

But, God did come to common man, trying to explain.
The plan He had, for all of them, to come with Him to reign.
He said, "This life is nothing, it is just a place to start."
The earth is like a garden, where He's planted every heart.

He wanted us mature and pure, before we enter in,
The perfect world, He has for us, when we outgrow our sin.
He placed us here to learn to be obedient to Him.
Not out of fear, of who He is, but love we have within.

Then, He realized, we could not do it on our own.
He became a man Himself, to help us to atone.
He saw that we were weak and could not shed the awful sin.
So, He came down to break us free, so we could be with Him.

He said, "It's very simple, for the sin to go away,
It takes a death, to kill it off, and someone has to pay."
He said, "The price of sin is more than we can afford,
But," He said, "I'll pay the price, if you come to the Lord."

"I will take the sin upon Me and I'll die for you."
"Then, on Easter, I'll rise up, then all you have to do....
Is believe I died for you, and paid your debt that day."
"Just accept My gift to you, that's all there is to say."

"It's really very simple, not as men would have it be."
"Just believe I died for you, then come and follow Me."
"It's not that complicated, like religion's always been."
"Just believe I died for you, to take away the sin."

"Because, on Easter morning, I arose and it was done."
"Now, the minute you believe, your new life has begun."
"I will take your life that day and show you what it's for."
"Then you'll know the meaning, when in life you reach death's door."

"Life is death and death is life, because of what I've done."
"You need not fear, because of sin, that.....is why I've come."
"I gave you life to seek Me out, the moment you were born."
"And now Eternal Life is yours, because of Easter Morn."

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING | With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:32-35)

PSALM | Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118)

SECOND READING | The victory that conquers the world is our faith (1 John 5:1-6)

GOSPEL | Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed (John 20:19-31)

DOUBT

The desire to be able to prove the existence of a divinity has troubled humanity since human consciousness first became aware of the divine. To this very day we are fond of saying that any number of things—from sunsets to hot fudge sundaes—are “proof that there is a God.” We get so caught up in the story of “doubting Thomas” that we fail to notice that today’s Gospel gives us John’s account of Pentecost, the bestowing of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples following the Resurrection. Thomas, evidently, missed out not only on seeing the Risen Christ, but receiving the Holy Spirit as well. This is not to be taken lightly and, perhaps, makes Thomas’ disbelief a bit easier to comprehend. It also makes his professing that Jesus is his Lord and God—the only time the New Testament explicitly refers to Jesus Christ as “God”—more remarkable.

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FEAST OF FAITH

The Psalms in the Liturgy

The book of Psalms is a prayer book, hymnal, and anthology of verse all rolled into one. It contains one hundred fifty ancient songs—poem-prayers that express the joys and sorrows of the Hebrew people and their longing for God. The psalms are incredibly varied in tone. Some are solemn anthems of praise that once accompanied processions of great multitudes to the temple; others record the lonely cries of a faithful soul who feels abandoned by God.

This ancient prayer book of the Hebrew people is our principal prayer book as well. The psalms are everywhere in the liturgy—in the antiphons and acclamations of the Mass, and most particularly in the responsorial psalm that follows the first reading. The psalm that is sung at Mass usually echoes the themes of the first reading, and sometimes even comments on it. On this Third Sunday of Lent, we listen to the Exodus account of the stubbornness of God’s people in the desert, and then the psalm comes to remind us: “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts” (Psalm 95:8). In their wonderful variety, the psalms teach us how to pray.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

MONDAY | Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-3, 4-9; Jn 3:1-8

TUESDAY | Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY | Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

THURSDAY | Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

FRIDAY | Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

SATURDAY | Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

SUNDAY | Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

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

JOHN 20:29



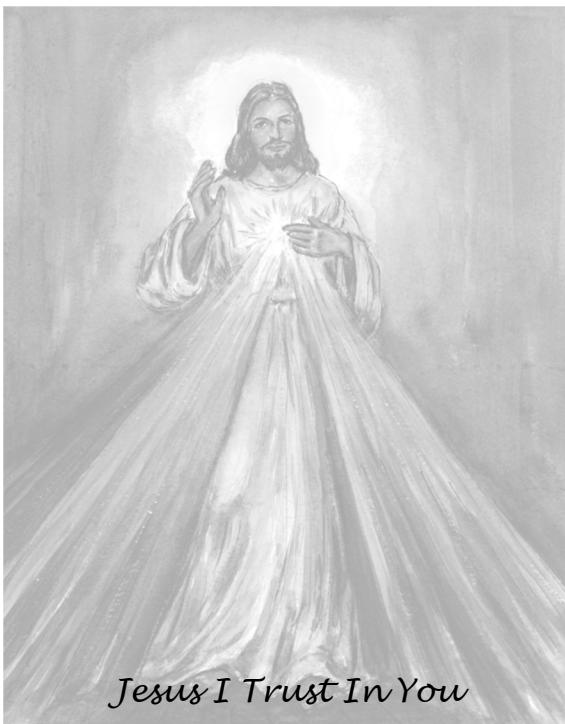
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APRIL 11, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

The apostle Thomas will forever be remembered as the one who doubted. It is good that his experience is recorded in the Gospel of John. We all doubt sometimes, and "Doubting Thomas" shows us how to move from doubt to belief, knowing that the risen Jesus will be with us through it all. Thomas did not keep his doubts to himself, but instead voiced them aloud to his trusted companions. We can only imagine the conversations that took place between Thomas and the other disciples as they described the peace that they felt following Jesus' time with them. Thomas' doubts were put to rest once and for all when Jesus offered him physical proof of the Resurrection. We do not have the sort of physical evidence that was shown to Thomas, but we can perceive Christ's presence in the Eucharist, in the words of sacred scripture, and in the presence and actions of others.

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LIVING FAITH

The journey of faith often ebbs and flows, with times when our relationship with the Lord is the guiding force in our lives, and times when we are tempted to turn away from all we know to be true, good, and beautiful. In those moments when we find ourselves struggling with doubt or temptation, we can follow Thomas' lead and turn to trusted companions, faithful and faith-filled family and friends, who will support us and show us the way from doubt to living faith. Like the disciples who were in the room when Jesus came among them, we too have received the Holy Spirit. Today, let us consider where we are on the journey of faith, turn to trusted companions and the Holy Spirit to strengthen us on the way, and know that the Lord is with us as we live and grow in relationship with Christ.

Today's Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;
1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

Welcome All!

WEEKDAY MASSES
MONDAY—FRIDAY 8 AM

WEEKEND MASSES
SATURDAY | 4 PM
SUNDAY | 8:30 AM
10:30 AM

CONFessions
SATURDAY | 3 PM — 3:50 PM
SUNDAY | 7:30 AM — 8:20 AM
10:00 AM — 10:20 AM

PHONE | 985-446-6801
LOCATION | 2076 W MAIN ST SCHRIEVER
EMAIL | STBRIDGETCHURCH@HTDIOCESE.ORG
MEDIA | FACEBOOK.COM/STBRIDGET

THE SANCTUARY LIGHT | IN MEMORY OF

April 11th—April 17th

Brandon Filardo by Mom and Dad
Jacob and Sadi Mabile by Bernadette Mabile

MASS INTENTIONS

April 11th	8:30 AM	Gerald and Jane LeBouef by Faye Seal, Vanessa Knight and families Jimmy Coupel by Diana Bailly and family James Brunet (B) by Olin Family
	10:30 AM	Derrill Riche by Cecile Vidrine
April 13th	8 AM	Sadi Mabile by Bernadette Mabile
April 14th	8 AM	Missionaries of Charity and the people they serve
April 17th	4 PM	Eric Thibodaux by family Ram Bernard and Chris Landry by The Louis Stevens Family
April 18th	8:30 AM	Marion Knight by Godfrey Knight Pershing Mire (DA) by Charles and Anita Cavalier and family Emily and Fernand Cavalier by Charles and Anita Cavalier and family Delsie and Louis Stevens (Anniversary)

God is good — All the time

PRAYER LINE

If you or someone you know needs to be added to the prayer line, call Nina Richard at **446-1206** or the rectory at 446-6801. In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the sick, elderly, and homebound. Please pray for: Elaine Ables, Susan Arceneaux, Heidi Ardoine, Donnie Aucoin Jr, Jacob Aucoin, Jeannie Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Jane Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Pat Billiot, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Aline Boudreault, Emile "Jay" Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Emma Del Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Gary & Sheila Cavalier, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Brad Clement, Bryce Comeaux, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Dorothy Didier, Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Alan Dunbar, Linda Ekiss, Avery "Brother" and Sonja Fonseca, Darin Fonz, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Bryan Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Kendra Guillot, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Cheryl Henderson, Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Eldine LaFleur, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Emily LeBoeuf, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Olivieri, Annie Ordone, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Owen Prejean, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodriguez, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simmoneaux, Penny Simmons, , Brenda Sonier, Deacon Ryan Stawaizz, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templett, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Wendy Thibodaux, Ronnie Thomas, Chris Toups, Joyce Toups, Ricky Turner, Suzanne Usey, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Freddie Webre, Anna Wooten. Please notify the office when names can be removed.



APRIL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



Let the Wind Carry Our Prayer

Prayer

Spirit God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer for children who suffer from physical abuse, from emotional and verbal abuse, from abuse by trusted adults, that they may know our care for them. We pray...

R: Holy Spirit, bear our prayer to heaven on the winds of Your love.

Ever-reassuring God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer for all adults who still carry the memories of abuse as a child or teen, that they may be blessed with healing and a renewed spirit of hope, allowing God, through and with others, to help them rekindle and share their life-giving gifts with the world. We pray...

R: Holy Spirit, bear our prayer to heaven on the winds of Your love.

Healing God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer for all children who fear the threat of bullying, the threat of harsh physical punishment, the pain of hurtful words, that they may be free of fear and feel safe wherever they are. We pray...

R: Holy Spirit, bear our prayer to heaven on the winds of Your love.

Joyful God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer that all children and teens know the joy of living, the joy of learning, the joy of understanding how precious they are in Your eyes and in ours. We pray...

R: "Holy Spirit, bear our prayer to heaven on the winds of Your love."

Loving God, let the wind carry our prayer to you...

A prayer that every adult might treat every child with respect, with dignity, with a desire to support and affirm them, and to challenge them in caring ways to be the best they can be..." we pray...

R: "Holy Spirit, bear our prayer to heaven on the winds of Your love."

DIOCESAN OUTREACH LINE: (985) 873-0026 OR (985) 850-3172

For more info, visit: www.htdiocese.org/safe-environment

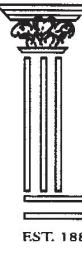


CHURCH PEWS FOR SALE

The upcoming church renovation will require the removal of all current church pews. Pews are being sold at \$250 a piece with proceeds going towards the renovation project. Pews will be available for pick up April 18th—April 25th. Please call the office to reserve.
985-446-6801 ext. 3

LAST MASS! APRIL 18th, 2021

Beginning April 19th, all masses will be taking place in the Annex/Community Center as we prepare for church renovations.

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