

St. Bridget Catholic Church, Schriever, LA
Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

**Divine
Mercy
Sunday**

**“Jesus,
I Trust in You”
April 24, 2022**

Dear Saint Bridget Family My Dear people of God,
The Lord is risen, Alleluia Alleluia.

The second Sunday of Easter is a day the Church sets aside to celebrate the love of God manifested in His mercy for us. This is what we call **Divine Mercy**. Sacred Scripture or the Bible, speaks extensively about the mercy of God and presents God as one who is merciful (*Luke 3:36*) and whose mercy endures forever (never ends). In the Old Testament, mercy is referred to as *Hesed*, which is “loving kindness.” In New Testament Greek the word mercy is *Eleos* and in Latin it is called *Misericordia*. Mercy is a very central attribute of God.



Theology itself is an attempt to understand God who is love and mercy. For various reasons, sometimes God has been mis-perceived as harsh and judgmental. It is for this reason that Pope Francis declared an extraordinary jubilee year of mercy from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016 to remind the world about the mercy of God. In his message entitled *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy), Pope Francis reminded everyone that; ***“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s (God’s) mercy.”*** Indeed, it is through the mercy that God accepts us despite our sinfulness and unworthiness.

The celebration of this second Sunday of Easter therefore has a twofold focus; the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Mercy of God. An obvious question we may ask is; how do we reconcile the resurrection and the mercy of God? Well, if resurrection is about coming back to life, then it is closely related to mercy because it is the mercy of God that gives us an opportunity for life after death. In other words, we do not deserve it or we cannot earn it. It is a gift from God for those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The mission of the Church therefore is to proclaim the mercy of God. Jesus transmitted the power of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive peoples’ sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound” (*John 20:22-23*). By these words, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which gives ordained ministers the power to forgive sins and to restore peace to troubled hearts in the name of Jesus, through the ministry of the Church. Peace is what we lose when we go far away from God and the same peace is what we regain when we return to Him with a humble and contrite heart. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession), the priest addresses the following powerful words for a repentant sinner:

“Through the ministry of the Church, may the Lord grant you pardon and peace.”

My dear brothers and sisters, as we celebrate this Divine Mercy Sunday, we are called not only to receive and experience the mercy of God, but also to share it with others. If we become selfish with the mercy of God, then we would not be fulfilling the command from Jesus to love one another as He loved us (*John 13:34*). The following story from the famous Russian writer Dostoyevsky illustrates this call and challenge for us not only to receive mercy but also to be channels of that mercy for others.

The story is of a woman who found herself in hell and she felt she did not belong there. She could not bear the suffering and so cried out in agony for the mercy of God. God indeed in His mercy listened and was moved with pity and said to her; *“If you can remember one good deed that you did in your lifetime, I will help you.”* Wracking her brain, she remembered that once she had given a starving neighbor an onion. God then produced the onion complete with stem. The woman grabbed the onion, and God began to pull her up and out of hell. But others, damned (condemned) with her, began to grab hold of the woman’s skirts to be lifted out, too. The stem of the onion held and would have saved them all, but the woman began to kick and scream for them to let go. Thrashing about trying to dislodge her friends was too much for the onion and the stem snapped, plunging them all back into the depths of hell. So with us, holding on to our onion stems, our good works, we lash out jealously at those who have not done as much as we have for God”. As we celebrate the love and mercy of God, let us also be instruments or channels of that love and mercy for others.

May the joy and peace of the risen Lord be with us now and always. Happy Easter.

Fr Simon Peter

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Today we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy and so we usually call today Divine Mercy Sunday.

St. Faustina was privileged to receive apparitions from Jesus emphasizing his mercy, and especially his mercy today. Jesus promised that those who go to Confession and receive Holy Communion today will receive not only forgiveness of their sins, but the total remission of all temporal punishment for their sins. It is like a second baptism, all sin and punishment is wiped out. Confession during the week beforehand is also acceptable. Our attitude should be one of total trust in Jesus' Divine Mercy. Confession before today in preparation for this feast is also okay, Sister Faustina used to confess on Saturday. Jesus' promise is recorded three times in the Diary of Saint Faustina, each time in a slightly different way.

This is the first teaching from Jesus:

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 grace 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. (Diary §699)

This is the second teaching from Jesus, *I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy. (Diary §1109)*

This is Jesus' third teaching, *I ask of my faithful servant [a priest] that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy. (Diary §300)*

LIFE THROUGH THE LENSE OF SCRIPTURE

In Jesus' first appearance to his disciples, as described in today's Gospel, Jesus sends the disciples, and all who follow him: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Jesus speaks to us here: we the Church are a "sent people," sent to participate in God's mission, that is, God's purposes and activity for all of humanity. Like Jesus was sent to Israel, we are sent to witness to our world of the boundless love of God, and to offer an alternative way of living based on that love. The wounds that Jesus displayed to his disciples remind us that this new way of life often involves both dying to the familiar and comfortable, and rising to the new and unknown. When we join in efforts to challenge injustice, heal broken relationships, or care for those on the margins of society, we share in the death and resurrection of Jesus.



JESUS CAME AND STOOD
IN THEIR MIDST
AND SAID TO THEM,
“PEACE BE WITH YOU.”

JOHN 20:19

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

(OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 24, 2022

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In today's Gospel, we notice there was a week between Jesus' first appearance (without Thomas), and the following appearance (with Thomas). During this week, Thomas chose to stay with the community. But why? Perhaps he trusted his friends in some way. Perhaps he reflected on their life with Jesus and on the possibility their account was true. In the week between, Thomas stayed and lived with the questions, and with his doubts. Importantly, the disciples did not cast him out as an unbeliever. It seems they accepted and loved him, just as he was.

Perhaps many of us live in this “week between.” We have questions and doubts. We can choose to leave or to stay. We can either engage or ignore our deepest questions. If we embrace our questions with courage, we can live into them. Perhaps we will encounter, through God's initiative, and with the help of our companions in faith, some of the answers—and new questions along the way.

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PRIMARY DIMENSIONS

We are currently in Year C of the three-year Lectionary cycle. For the Second Sunday of Easter, in all three years, the first reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. Year A (from Acts 2) tells of the new Christian community's dedication to prayer. Year B (from Acts 4) tells of their sharing of goods and deep bonds of trust in each other. Today we hear in Acts 5 of the early Church's ministry of healing to the community, performed by Peter and the apostles.

These represent three of the primary dimensions of those first Christian communities: prayer in relationship to God; sharing in relationship to each other; and service in relationship to the world around them. We are reminded that all three are fundamental to our identity as Church. We fail to live fully as Church when we neglect any of these relationships. We are called to encourage their full flowering in our own parish's life.

Today's Readings: Acts 5:12–16; Ps 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; Rev 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19; Jn 20:19–31



HAPPY EASTER!

Our CRS Rice Bowl journey has ended, but our prayers, fasting and almsgiving continue as we seek a closer relationship with God and our global family. Let us hold in our hearts our sisters and brothers in Guatemala, Bangladesh and Rwanda and commit to share our Easter joy with those in our local community and around the world. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at St. Bridget or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.



TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING | (Acts 5:12-16,)

PSALM | (Psalm 118)

SECOND READING | (Revelation 1:9-11a, 1-13, 17-19)

GOSEPL READING | (John 20:12-31)

EVERYTHING IS CHANGED

Sunday Collect

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made our own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

MONDAY, APRIL 25 | Peter 5:5b-14; Ps 89; Mark 16:15-20

TUESDAY, APRIL 26 | Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93; John 3:7

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27 | Acts 5:17; Ps 34; John 3:16-21

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 | Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34; Lk John 3:31-36

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 | Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27; John 6:1-15

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 | Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33; John 6:16-21

SUNDAY, MAY 1 | Acts 5:12-16; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31

REFLECTION QUESTION

How can I keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection in my daily life?

GOD IS GOOD. ALL THE TIME.

Christian
Giving



ANNUAL BISHOP'S APPEAL

ST. BRIDGET HAS REACHED 100% OF OUR GOAL!

Thank you for your generosity!

YOUR GIFT MAKES A LASTING DIFFERENCE.

SANCTUARY LIGHT

April 23rd—April 24th

Brandon Filardo by Mom and Dad

Juanita Richard by Mike Richard

MASS INTENTIONS

April 23rd	4:00 PM	Tristian Ables by Mamaw and Family
April 24th	8:00 AM	Marion Oliver by Pat Walker
	10:30 AM	Juanita Richard by Mike Richard
		Margaret Melancon by Ava Percle and April Mayo
April 25th	8:00 AM	Katie Ann Boudreaux by Aline and Craig Boudreaux
April 26th	8:00 0AM	Arthur Landry by Dee Landry
April 27th	8:00 PM	James “Jim” LeBoeuf (WA) by Gale LeBoeuf
		MaryBeth Chauvin by Brother and Sisters
April 28th	8:00 AM	Parishioners
April 29th	8:00 AM	Our Holy Priests
April 30th	4:00 PM	Olema and Ida Darcey
		Anthony “Rod” Rodrigue

PRAYER LINE

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, Donnie Aucoin Jr, Jacob Aucoin, Jeannie Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Aline Boudreaux, Delores Bourgeois, Emile “Jay” Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Emma Del Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Gary & Sheila Cavalier, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Jane D. Clement Bryce Comeaux, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Dorothy Didier, Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Linda Ekiss, Avery “Brother” and Sonja Fonseca, Melissa Fontana, Robin Ford,, Alisa Frederick, Julie Frisella, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens, Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Kendra Guillot, Darlene Vicknair Hamm, Kevin Hardee, Myles Harris, 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, Mila Marsala, Payton Martin, Keith Matherne, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Olivieri, Annie Ordoyne, Angie Parr, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, Huey “Pat” Porche, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lisa Nobles, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodrigue, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simmoneaux, Penny Simmons, Brenda Sonier, Mike Stegall, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Earl Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Joyce Touns, Ricky Turner, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Freddie Webre, Mike Wiley, Anna Wooten.

Please notify the office when names can be removed.

SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS

THROUGH THE ANNUAL EASTER
SECOND COLLECTION



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Come Lord Jesus—a scripture study focusing on the weekly readings is held on Monday's from 9 AM –10:30 AM. Call 446-9096 to inquire..

The Rosary is prayed every Wednesday and Friday after the 8 am Mass. All are invited to join in this experience.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

St. Bridget Church is seeking to fill the position of Secretary/Bookkeeper. Please contact the St. Bridget office for more information. 985-446-6801 ext. 3

Resumes can be submitted to:
stbridgetchurch@htdiocese.org



FAITH IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END IS LOVE—ST. AMBROSE

A Prayer for

Easter

Heavenly and Almighty Father, I give thanks this day for your great gift of Jesus Christ, that you would love me so much you'd send your only Son to live and die for my sins. I celebrate in his glorious resurrection, claiming victory over death and sin. May I daily die to my sin, ever stepping closer to you and your path for my life. Forgive my sins, Lord, and let me live fully in the joy of Christ. Amen.



Mass Schedule

WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY—FRIDAY 8 AM

WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY | 4 PM

SUNDAY | 8:00 AM
10:30 AM

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY | 3 PM — 3:50 PM

SUNDAY | 7:00 AM — 7:50 AM
10:00 AM — 10:20 AM

PHONE | 985-446-6801

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