

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS: April 23-24, 2022

Some facts about the Centennial Celebration (1923-2023): *"A pulpit in circassian walnut with carved marble inlays and bronze steps leading to same, with a richly carved sounding board with lambrachin effect, adds to the richness of the Sanctuary."* (page 21, *Memoirs of St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1931*) **NOTE:** Originally, this elaborate pulpit with a baldachin was installed (1923) on the first column opposite of the large Crucifix. Sometime in the 1950's, the Pulpit was transferred to the column where the Statue of St. Louis IX, King of France currently hangs (he wasn't there at that time), facing towards the inside of the High Altar and without the Baldachin. Sometime in 1970's the pulpit was totally removed (together with the marble altar railings and brass gates), the carved inlay marbles around it were destroyed, the bronze steps and all other decorations disappeared. In 2018, I discovered the remnants of the old pulpit in the basement and restored whatever remained of it with the help of some friends. The restored pulpit was installed in its current location in 2020. A Complete write-up of the project can be found in the Bulletin Board outside the Sacristy door.

This Sunday afternoon, Fr. Rholly and I will have the privilege of giving our First Communicants their First Holy Communion. Traditionally celebrated as the fourth sacrament of initiation (baptism, confirmation, confession and Eucharist), the giving of the Most Precious and Holy Body and Blood of Christ to our young people follows our baptismal and missionary call to ministry. In other parts of the world, this sequence of sacramental reception is still followed except in north America where confirmation became the last sacrament of initiation to be received. The current Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), however, still follow the old sequence of the sacraments when receiving a catechumen to the Church. The old sequence of the sacrament of initiation is faithful to our Church ecclesiology and baptismal mission wherein having been baptized and sanctified by the Spirit, we are called "to preach the gospel and bring Jesus to all the nations." Let's keep our young people in our prayers as they begin responding to this mission even at a young age.

On this the 2nd Sunday of Easter, the Church observes Divine Mercy Weekend to celebrate God's Infinite Mercy on His people. The readings this weekend will give us occasions where God showed His mercy to His people directly or through others.

In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter was God's instrument in giving mercy to those most in need and vulnerable – those who are sick in mind, body and spirit. After a painful ordeal during Holy Week, the apostles of Jesus having been strengthened by the Gift of the Holy Spirit, became means for God to continue healing those who are broken and in fear. Even though the Apostles at times were overwhelmed and afraid of the tasks entrusted to them, God comes along (Book of Revelations) and reassures them (Apostle John) that God is in control! In the Gospel of John, Jesus appeared to the frightened apostles and disciples who locked themselves in a room "for fear of the Jews." Expressing only love, mercy and forgiveness, Jesus showed Himself to the disciples to calm their spirits and strengthen their faith. The faith of the apostles and disciples of Jesus were renewed after experiencing the mercy of the resurrected Christ. **Mercy strengthens one's faith!**

How often have we heard in the Scripture the passage, **"it is mercy I desire and not sacrifice?"** (See Matthew 9:13; 12:7; Mark 2:17; 12:33; Hosea 6:6; Luke 5:31; 5:32; 1 Timothy 2:17; 12:33). For God, showing mercy to anyone at all times is the best act of faith!

Jesus had used this statement over and over again in His teachings; a statement which is the foundation of all good things to come. For Jesus, mercy begets kindness and compassion, forgiveness and love, witness and evangelization. Mercy opens up all possibilities in one person to become an experience of God and a reflection of Jesus to all. When a person is merciful, they bring out the presence of God.

No matter how much faith one claims to have, no matter how many sacrifices they make or how pious and religious they have been in life, unless their actions and sacrifices are tempered with mercy, in the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 13:4-8), they will simply sound like noisy gongs and clanging cymbals. **Mercy strengthens faith!**

As we celebrate Divine Mercy this weekend, ask yourself, *"Who do I need to show mercy to at this time of my life?"* Yourself? Family members? Friends? Neighbors? Strangers? Your priests and deacon? Your co-workers? People you don't know? Other Christians? Civic leaders, Government or World Leaders? Non-believers? Remember: **mercy strengthens faith**, and most of the time it's not the faith of others BUT yours that needs to be strengthened.

Father Vic+

April 9th / 10th 2022

Weekly Offering



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Weekly Envelopes	\$ 13,404.41
Weekly Loose	2,198.25
Weekly ACH	355.00
	\$ 15,937.66

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Please remember
John Green

Who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that his family may find comfort and consolation through their faith.

PRAYER INTENTION BOOK

We have a Petition Book for your prayers and intentions.

The Petition Book can be found in the vestibule (front entrance) of the church and it will be offered during the celebration of Mass. In addition to being part of the Eucharistic Celebration, some of our prayer warriors will be praying for all petitions and intentions written in our Petition Book. Let us continue to keep and lift up each other in prayer.

Help Support our Thibodaux
Volunteer Fire Dept. Fair
April 28th—May 1st



Parade: Sunday,
May 1st @ 11 AM

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Congratulations
to our students who
are making their
1st Communion

Sunday, April 24th.

Please keep them in your prayers.



ROSARY
Mondays & Thursdays
9:30 AM

Flame of Love Rosary
Wednesdays 8:30 AM—10 AM



YOUTH FORMATION

We are in need for volunteers for
all grade levels for the
2022 –2023 school year.
Please contact Sue or Patty
985-446-1387 ext. 217



Baptismal Seminar

Thursday, April 28
7:00 PM - Life Center
Parents and Godparents
are to attend.
Call the office to register



Jake Hebert & Brooke Himel (3)
Nathan Hoffmann & Shelby Theriot (2)
Patrick Huettemann & Nina Kalpakis (2)
James Viguerie & Lauren Bergeron (1)