



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Second Sunday of Easter

DAILY MASS on YouTube at church.stfrancisxavier.com

Church Open for Prayer Daily from 10 am – 4 pm — observe social distancing

NOTE: Public Masses, Public Prayer suspended during Coronavirus Threat

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Call or Email Parish during virus; use door slot for mail or small packages

WEBSITE: church.stfrancisxavier.com

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Parochial Vicar: Rev. Thien Nguyen

Deacons: Robert D. Normand, M.D.

Kevin J. Darrah and V. M. Wheeler III

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6PM Choir Director: Jamie Diliberto 504-258-8826

Cantor/Wedding Coordinator: Linda Jones 504-421-7946

SHARING PROGRAM - Carol Pritchard 504-835-6809

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

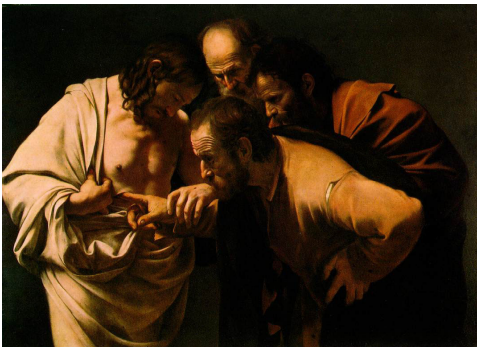
**“Jesus gives the disciples the power to forgive sin and
Jesus appears to Thomas” Jn 20:19-31**

Do we know the joy of the resurrection? The Risen Lord Jesus revealed the glory of his resurrection to his disciples gradually and over a period of time. Even after the apostles saw the empty tomb and heard the reports of Jesus' appearance to the women, they were still weak in faith and fearful of being arrested by the Jewish authorities. When Jesus appeared to them, he offered proofs of his resurrection by showing them the wounds of his passion, his pierced hands and his side. He calmed their fears and brought them peace, the peace which reconciles sinners and makes us friends of God.

The last apostle to meet the resurrected Lord was the first to go with him to Jerusalem at Passover time. The apostle Thomas was a natural pessimist. When Jesus proposed that they visit Lazarus after receiving news of his illness, Thomas said to the disciples: *"Let us also go, that we may die with him"* (Jn 11:16). While Thomas deeply loved the Lord, he lacked the courage to stand with Jesus in his passion and crucifixion. After Jesus' death, Thomas made the mistake of withdrawing from the other apostles. He sought time alone rather than fellowship in his time of trial and adversity. He doubted the women who saw the resurrected Jesus and he doubted his own fellow apostles.

When Thomas finally had the courage to rejoin the other apostles, the Lord Jesus made his presence known to him and reassured him that he had indeed overcome death and risen again. When Thomas recognized his Master, he believed and exclaimed that Jesus was truly Lord and truly God! Through the gift of faith, we, too, proclaim that Jesus is our personal Lord and our God. He died and rose that we, too, might have new life in him. The Lord offers each of us new life in his Holy Spirit that we may know him personally and walk in this new way of life through the power of his resurrection. Do we believe in the good news of the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit to bring new life?

"Lord Jesus, through your victory over sin and death, draw us near to you and fill us with Resurrection Power and the Holy Spirit."



"The incredulity of Saint Thomas," by Caravaggio

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday. Some of the following is a repeat of a column I wrote last year.

In 1995, a woman approached me about having a celebration of Divine Mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter: a special Mass, a Novena, a Divine Mercy Image in Church, and Confessors to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I had a hard time understanding her request since we celebrate God's mercy and the triumph of Jesus over sin at every Mass. Her request and her persistence caused me to do some research. I learned that Jesus, in mystical revelations in the 1930's to a Polish nun named Sr. Faustina Kowalska, directed her to have a Divine Mercy Feast Day set in the Church because people just didn't comprehend the incredible mercy of God for sinners.

In the year 2,000, Pope St. John Paul II declared the Second Sunday of Easter "Divine Mercy Sunday" in the Universal Church, fulfilling Jesus' request. He proclaimed a Divine Mercy Plenary (full) Indulgence (remission of Purgatory time) for those who confess their sins and fulfill the other requirements for an indulgence (See article in this bulletin).

So today, the Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate the incomprehensibly generous mercy of God for sinners by virtue of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. God forgives our sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and even remits the punishment or consequences for sin in the life to come.

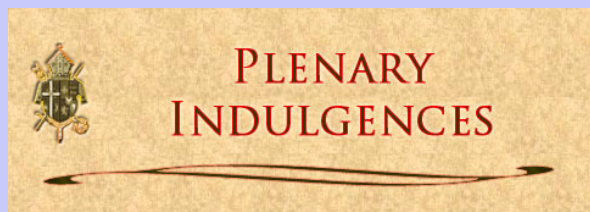
To celebrate the great mercy of God *this Sunday*, we will have several offerings:

- +Concelebrated Mass with Music accessible at 8 am on our Website, concluding with Video Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- +Live Blessing with the Eucharistic Monstrance from 10 am – 12 noon under the Port Cochere.
- +Divine Mercy Chaplet accessible at 3 pm on our Website.
- +Divine Mercy Confessions from 4-5 pm, both drive-through under the Port Cochere and in church.

In addition, there will be Divine Mercy Confessions this Saturday from 3-4 pm, both drive-through under the Port Cochere and in church.

Wishing you a very blessed celebration and experience of Divine Mercy!

God bless, Fr. Joe



A **Plenary or Full Indulgence** is the cancellation of *all* punishment for sin, meaning there is no time in Purgatory after death. St. John Paul II decreed a Plenary Indulgence for **Divine Mercy Sunday** as a way to enhance the devotion.

Conditions for the Indulgence: The Divine Mercy Sunday Indulgence requires the “usual conditions” for an indulgence (Sacramental Confession, Holy Communion on the Feast Day [this year, attending Mass virtually during the suspension of public masses], Prayer for the Pope’s intentions, and detachment from sin. In addition, a person must pray the Divine Mercy prayers, **or** pray an Our Father and the Creed, concluding with the words, “Jesus, I trust in you.” (Divine Mercy prayer materials are available in Church and on line.)

Sacramental Confession: The Sacramental Confession required for the Divine Mercy indulgence can take place on Divine Mercy Sunday or within two weeks before or after the Feast Day.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, April 18, 2020—4:00 PM

Jay Carisella, Ben David, Judge Patrick Schott
Holy Souls in Purgatory, Mary Ross Berridge
Oliver S Delery, Jr., Margie Villere, Kathleen Ehrlicher
Mary Marilyn Pfister Allard, Susan Shepherd Ridgeway
Dudley Galatas, Lolita Wegmann, Louis Gilbert Lafleur
Carlos Gutierrez, Luis R. Espinoza

Sunday, April 19, 2020—8:00 AM

Parishioners of St. Francis Xavier

Sunday, April 19, 2020—10:00 AM

Edward Laizer, Estelle Laizer, Stephen J. Laizer, III.
Stephen J. Laizer, Jr. Thelma Laizer, Gregory Brunet
Christopher Briede, Virgie Brennan, Lolita Wegmann
Holy Souls in Purgatory, Jay Carisella, Bonnie Murray
Debra Gautreaux, Janet Brignac, Dorris Sylvester
Susan Shepherd Ridgeway, Dudley Galatas, Joan Hartson
Muriel Santangelo, Judge James Carriere, Peggy Hepting
Betty McDermott, Carlos Gutierrez, Rylee Griffin*

Sunday, April 19, 2020—12:00 Noon

Parishioners of St. Francis Xavier

Sunday, April 19, 2020—6:00PM

Sean Patrick Griffin

Monday, April 20, 2020

6:30 AM—Joshua Summers

8:00 AM—Patricia V. Coudrain

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

6:30 AM—Joshua Summers

8:00 AM—Patricia V. Coudrain

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

6:30 AM—Gerald Courville

8:00 AM—Marie Therese Waguespack Haydel

Thursday, April 23, 2020

6:30 AM—Gerald Courville

8:00 AM—Patricia V. Coudrain

Friday, April 24, 2020

6:30 AM—Gerald Courville

8:00 AM—Oliver S. Delery, Jr.

Saturday, April 25, 2020

8:00 AM— Frank D’Antoni * Denotes Living

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week the sanctuary lamp will burn **In Memory of Claire and Wilfred Scheyd**. If you would like to schedule a week, call at 834-0340. The cost is \$10. Call the Parish Office for open dates in 2020.

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK

Ann Marie B. White, Kaylin, Barbara Johnson, L.P.T., Patti, Maria, Beverly Brickman, Arghiro Kleamenakis, Anna Smith, Sherron Smith, Michael Harrison, Rose Marie Pontiff, Sr. Janet Dohr, Amanda Beal, Michelle Guidry, Donna Pizanie, Janie Smith, Lance & Christian Peytavin, Connor Vorhoff, Stephen A Losee, Alma Weilbaeher, C.D., Rita Sheftall, Sheila Sheets, Jan Capora {Prayer list call 834-0340}

READINGS FOR APRIL 19 thru 25

Sun: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

Mon: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

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

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

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

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

Sat: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

MONTHLY PRAYER REQUESTS FOR PRIESTS

April 19—Rev. Msgr. Frank J. Giroir

April 20—Rev. Edward J. Lauden

April 21—Rev. Msgr. James R. Dixon

April 22—Rev. Minh Cong Phan

April 23—Rev. Dieu Van Tran, S.D.D.

April 24—Rev. Andrew Rudmann

April 25—Rev. Joseph Krafft



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Eucharist or Holy Communion is the Body of Jesus. It is a source of great spiritual strength. The Church encourages the faithful to receive Holy Communion frequently, which ordinarily takes place at Mass. For the time being, that is not possible because of precautions being taken due to the coronavirus threat.

When we cannot receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we can still make an Act of "Spiritual Communion," in which we express our faith in Jesus and in His Presence in the Eucharist, and we ask to unite ourselves to Him. The Lord grants graces and strength through this action. The key elements of Spiritual Communion are an Act of Faith, an Act of Love, a desire to receive Jesus, and an invitation to Him to come into our heart.

The following is a revered prayer of St. Alphonsus Liguori when making a spiritual communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

We hope you will consider praying this prayer regularly until public Mass is restored in our Church.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORTING April 4/5		
WEEKLY OFFERING	\$10,098.00	\$16,254.00
OTHER (Faith Direct pro rata)	\$2,850.00	\$2,850.00
EASTER COLLECTION		\$5,264.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$1,116.00	\$975.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$14,055.00	\$25,343.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$18,895.00*	\$18,895.00*
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$(4,840.00)	\$6,448.00
DEACON ED'S FOOD BANK	\$670.00	\$4,525.00
GOOD FRIDAY—HOLY LAND		\$779.00

*reduced expenses during Coronavirus

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION AND HEALING FROM CORONAVIRUS

(Adapted from prayer in America Magazine)

Lord Jesus, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick got well. Come to our aid in the midst of the global spread of coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus; may they regain their strength and health. Heal us from fear, which prevents nations and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from pride, which makes us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Bring those who have died from the virus to eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair, and give them peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and medical professionals who seek to help those affected and put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection.

Be with leaders of nations. Give them wisdom to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they serve; guide them to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, be with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of anxiety, give us peace.

We pray this in your most holy name, Jesus, for You are our loving and healing Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, St. Joseph, St. Francis Xavier, St. Roch and St. Rosalie, pray for us!

Despite Coronavirus, the Easter bunny visited some parish families



Once again, on the lighter side of home learning . . .

On the phone, Mrs. Smith tells Mrs. Jones, "I've had it! I expelled all three kids!" Mrs. Jones says, "Where to?" Mrs. Smith replies, "To Grandparental Correctional Institute outside of Covington!" "Do you think it will help?" Mrs. Jones asks. "Oh, yeah! Grandma is a retired teacher!" Mrs. Smith replies smugly. "Oh, do you think she'll take my two, too?" Mrs. Jones asks hopefully.

We hope you had a blessed Easter and enjoy these lighter side pictures. Remember, continue to pray daily for Divine Mercy.

(Photos - courtesy of Mrs. Brigitte Starr; Easter Bunny - Mr. Jeremy Starr)

Photos from Holy Week 2020 – the Holy Week of Coronavirus



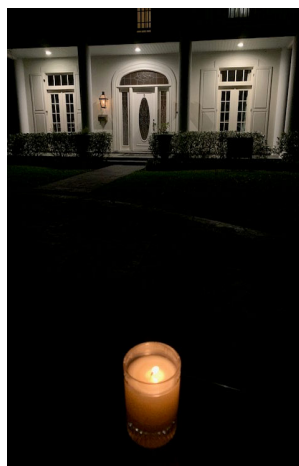
Adoration after Holy Thursday Evening Mass



Praying Stations of the Cross on Good Friday



Holy Saturday Evening Lanterns



Lighting the Way for Jesus



Altar set for Easter Sunday Mass



Hundreds of Cars with Parishioners and School Families come for Outdoor Eucharistic Blessing on Easter Sunday

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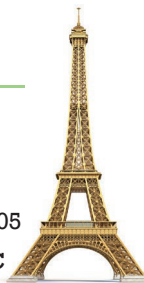
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