

# Dear Padre,

## What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina Kowalska a saint of the Church on April 30, 2000, and in a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that “throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that [we] will experience in the years to come.”

Saint Faustina was born in 1905 and spent most of her life in Poland, in the Congregation of the Virgin Mary of Mercy. She experienced an extraordinary union with God. She received exceptional graces, revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, the ability to read souls, and the gift of prophecy.

One of the images that was revealed to Faustina was that of the merciful Jesus, touching his Sacred Heart, from which beams of red and white light came forth. This image and her devotion to the divine mercies gathered thousands of supporters throughout the world. We still see the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in many of our churches today. In some churches, we might see the newer image, inspired by the saint. Saint Faustina Kowalska died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three, leaving an impressive mystical legacy. She is a disciple of God's divine mercy for the twenty-first century. ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*



## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14
Annunciation of the Lord	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Third Sunday of Easter
Is 7:10–14; 8:10	Jn 3:7b–15	Acts 5:17–26	Acts 5:27–35	Acts 5:34–42	Acts 6:1–7	Acts 3:13–15, 17–19
Heb 10:4–10		Jn 3:16–21	Jn 3:31–36	Jn 6:1–15	Jn 6:16–21	1 Jn 2:1–5a
Lk 1:26–38						Lk 24:35–48



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*The story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer. There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord's mercy.*

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022



# The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**ill is a widower, now in his eighties. He calls every once in a while, partly to talk but really wanting to know how he can convince his grown children and grandchildren to come back to church. He tells me they're good people, but he would like them to have faith. It's been a mainstay in his life, he tells me, something that has gotten him through many difficulties. He loves his family but says their life would be so much richer if they had an active faith life. I try to tell Will he can't argue them into faith. At most he can share with them how faith has been a blessing in his life, hoping that it might then spark an interest in them.

The disciples in the Gospel story about “Doubting Thomas” experienced Will's dilemma. They were unable to convince Thomas that the Lord had risen. He insisted that he would only believe when he could put his fingers and hands into Jesus' wounds, which of course is just what happens the next time they are gathered. For Thomas, words were not enough; he needed the experience.

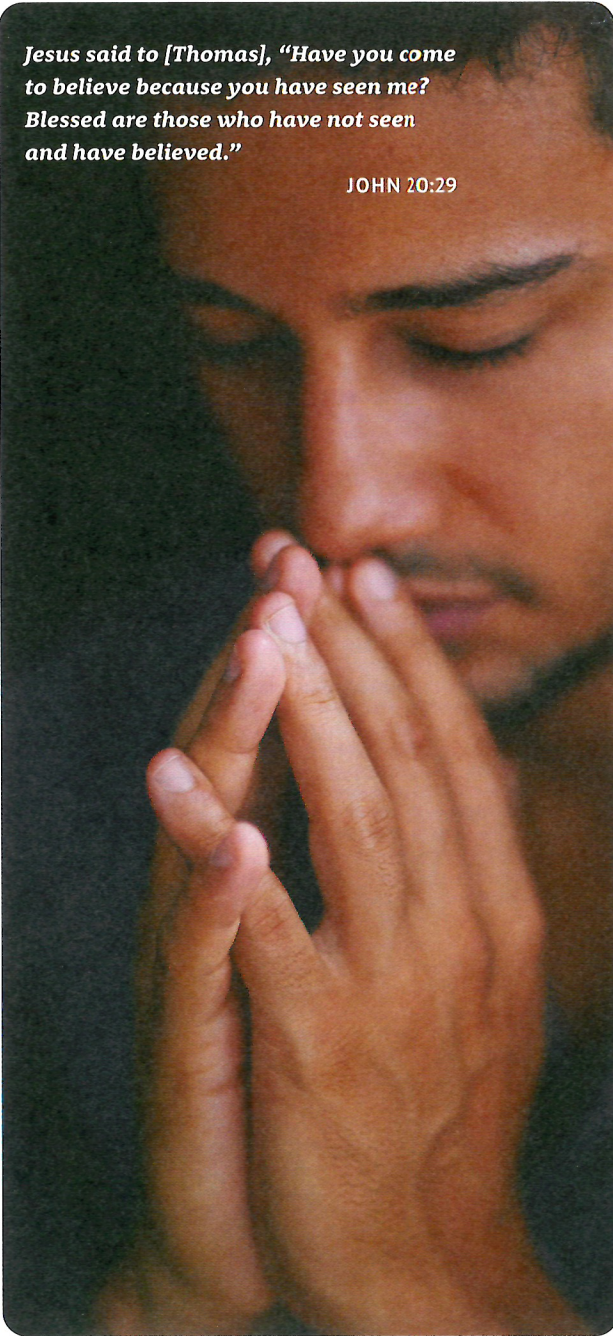
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe, especially those we dearly love. ●

## Reflect

*Have you ever surrendered to faith even when you were filled with doubt?*

*Jesus said to [Thomas], “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”*

JOHN 20:29



## Sunday, April 7, 2024 – Devine Mercy Sunday

### ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Adoration at 9:00 a.m. Weekly Thursday Mass – 10:30 a.m.

Rosary is the first Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. before Mass.

Website: [www.stjudeparishgobles.com](http://www.stjudeparishgobles.com) Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Fr. Alan Jorgensen Office: (269) 657-4459

Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Jim Bauer Office: (269) 628-2219  
P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 Cell: (269) 655-6510  
Gobles, MI 49055  
Email: [deaconjimbauer@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjimbauer@gmail.com)

*For pastoral emergencies, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.*

### St. Jude Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Office Email: [st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com](mailto:st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper: Lauren Gilbert (269) 628-2219  
Choir Director: Laura Woods (269) 628-4866  
Religious Ed Coordinator: Jennifer Price (269) 377-6734  
Safe Environment Coordinator: Jennifer Rossell (269) 744-2582

*Mass Intention for today: April 7, 2024 – Emily & Herbert Perry by Laine Reisch*

### NEXT SUNDAY, April 14, 2024

READER: Brianna Price

ALTAR SERVERS: Bella, Carlina, Bo, Lydia

Mass intention for Thurs., April 11, 2024: Therese Mieu Tran by St. Jude Parish

Mass intention for Sun., April 14, 2024: Glenn & Ruth Caron, by St. Jude Parish

### Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
March 31, 2024:	\$ 1700.00	\$ 1878.00	\$ 178.00	168
Year to Date:	\$ 73,800.00	\$ 73,977.81	\$ 153.81	4561

We are called to be merciful as God is merciful.



Today, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus asked Saint Faustina to institute this feast during one of his appearances to her in 1931. Today, we are encouraged to trust in God's merciful love for us and draw near to him, as well as perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy out of love for God, who redeemed us by his suffering and death.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus shows the disciples his hands and his side. His glorified body still bears the marks of his passion, signs of what he suffered for our sake. It is out of his side that the blood and water flowed when Jesus was pierced with a spear while he was on the cross. In the image of the Divine Mercy, we see the rays of red and white pouring from Jesus' heart, representing blood and water and symbolizing the graces available to us in the sacraments. We are encouraged to approach him in the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist to receive his healing and nourishment.

When Jesus gave the Divine Mercy image to Saint Faustina, he instructed her to include the words, "Jesus, I trust in you." As Jesus told Thomas in today's Gospel, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." To be in the right relationship with others, we must first be in the right relationship with God. As we hear in our second reading, this means loving God and following his commandments. When we go astray or miss the mark, we can trust that God will forgive us, no matter how great our sins may be.

In today's Gospel, Jesus breathes on the Apostles and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, passed on through apostolic succession and priestly ordination, we can be assured of the gift of God's forgiveness today. Each time we turn back to God, we will find he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.

When we receive God's mercy, it frees us to see more clearly who we are and how we are to act. Today's feast invites us to perform acts of mercy out of love for God. We are invited to share the truth with others because we know that Jesus desires to show mercy for their souls as he has for ours. As children of God, what we are given is meant to be shared. We are called to be forgiving because we have been forgiven, to be merciful as God is merciful.

**FROM OUR DRE:**

We thank Karen Percival and Makenzie VanKlompberg, who did our readings today.

CCD resumes 4/7

First Communion Prep resumes 4/10

**LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO JOIN THE PARISH PICNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE** – All are invited to join. We will start meeting sometime after Easter in April. If you're interested, please contact Tammy or Sara or Lauren We look forward to seeing some new faces!

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL** – facial tissues, mustard, packages of taco seasoning, chili mix, over-the-counter products for allergies, pain relief, acid reducer.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE**—In today's gospel, Jesus teaches, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believe." Accepting someone as they are without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations creates a rich relationship. Without acceptance, a home is only a house, and a family is just a group of housemates.

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all those who made Holy Week and Easter Sunday a wonderful celebration. To all those who helped decorate the church to make our parish look so beautiful, to our choir, which provided us with such beautiful music throughout Holy Week, to our servers, who donated their time, and most of all, thank you to our parishioners who came to our Holy Week services. May God Bless you all.

Deacon Jim

**PERMANENT DIACONATE ORDINATIONS**

**Please pray for all these men who will be ordained April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024:**

The Ordination Mass will take place at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

Carlos Alfaro   José Alfaro   Andrew Boyd   Ricardo Pedraza   Matthew Derby

Phillip Green   Charles Kincaid   Doran Lefave   Jeronimo Gutierrez   Thomas O'Conner

Jason Schmidt   Brian Willshire   Anthony Wojcik

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Fran Sage, Father Richard, Pete Percival, Steve Klein, Garry Adams, Joan Rumery, David Vana, Phil Boyer, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Vivian Polomcak, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

**FROM THE DIOCESE**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION** as encouraged by Pope Francis. Through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land, and you become an instrument of peace in a troubled land. For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit [www.myfransican.org](http://www.myfransican.org) or [www.custodia.org](http://www.custodia.org)

**DIOCESE SEEKS SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** - The Diocese of Kalamazoo is seeking a dynamic, driven education professional for its role of Superintendent of Schools. This position oversees all aspects of governance for the 21 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Superintendent ensures a Catholic learning environment that provides and fosters quality academic programs. Qualified candidates should possess a State of Michigan teaching certificate and a minimum of a master's degree in educational administration or a similar area. PhD preferred. Visit [diokzoo.org/employment](http://diokzoo.org/employment) for the full job description. Send cover letter and resume to Tammi Wachterhauser, HR Director, [twachterhauser@diokzoo.org](mailto:twachterhauser@diokzoo.org)

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY – SPACE LIMITED! YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS** - The Diocese of Kalamazoo is opening up 26 spots to take a young adult group to the congress from Friday July 19 - Sunday July 21. The price per person is \$130 and includes: - Ticket to the National Eucharist Congress for July 19-21, Friday - Sunday - Transportation to and at the Congress - Overnight stay If you would like to reserve your spot or have any questions regarding the event, contact Santiago Banda, Young Adult Coordinator, [sbanda@diokzoo.org](mailto:sbanda@diokzoo.org)

**BISHOP LOHSE TO LEAD PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN MARCH 2025** – Bishop Lohse and Father Bob Creagan will lead a jubilee pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi March 19-27, 2025. The early bird registration discount is extended to April 1, 2024. More details and information available at [www.diokzoo.org](http://www.diokzoo.org)

**THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO** has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: (844) 324-3374.

**RETURN OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD THIS JUNE –**

**Bishop Lohse has announced that the regular distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass will return to Parishes across the diocese on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Prior to the return, Parishes will participate in catechesis on three Sundays (June 9, 16, 23). More information will be available on the diocesan website.