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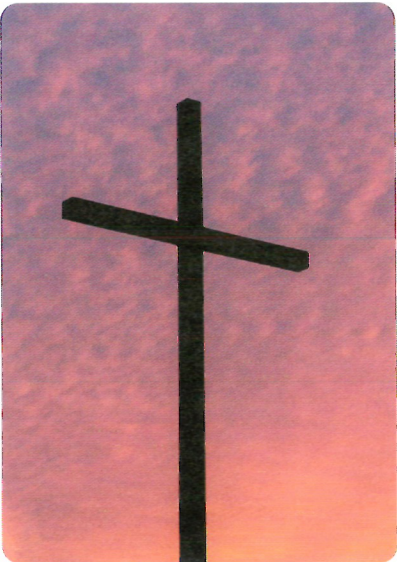
Dear Padre,

How do we maintain our faith in a world that shames religion and creates doubt in our beliefs?

I would respond to your question with one of my own: “When has it ever been different?” In what place has there been universal praise and acceptance of the practices of faith and belief? When has there been a time when there is no doubt? This is a good question for this Sunday, when we hear about St. Thomas, the doubting disciple.

Many years ago, unanimity might have been understood as the norm in a tight-knit neighborhood community of people with the same experience and belief. However, in the wide world today that is so connected and disconnected at the same time, sameness and uniformity cannot be assumed. It may cause unease, or even fear, to learn that someone disagrees with you, perhaps even someone you love, but it should no longer be a surprise or considered out of the ordinary.

Doubt can help a person grow in faith and belief. Even though doubt is challenging, it is often a necessary experience in order to be strengthened and to persevere. Doubt is not something that should cause us to quiver in fear, but rather to rejoice in hope, in the confidence that what we believe is worth living and has something to teach us. ●



AARON BURDEN / UNSPLASH

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
Easter Weekday	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	Sts. Philip and James, Apostles	Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:23–31	Acts 4:32–37	Acts 5:17–26	Acts 5:27–33	Acts 5:34–42	1 Cor 15:1–8	Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41
Jn 3:1–8	Jn 3:7b–15	Jn 3:16–21	Jn 3:31–36	Jn 6:1–15	Jn 14:6–14	Rv 5:11–14
						Jn 21:1–19 or 21:1–14



ANNETNAVI / PEXELS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask ourselves: at home, in my family, at work, in my community, do I foster fellowship, am I a weaver of reconciliation? Do I commit myself to defusing conflict, to bringing forgiveness in place of hatred, and peace in place of resentment? Do I avoid hurting others by not gossiping, which always kills?

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter / Sunday of Divine Mercy (C)
Acts 5:12–16 / Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19 / John 20:19–31



From Anger to Peace

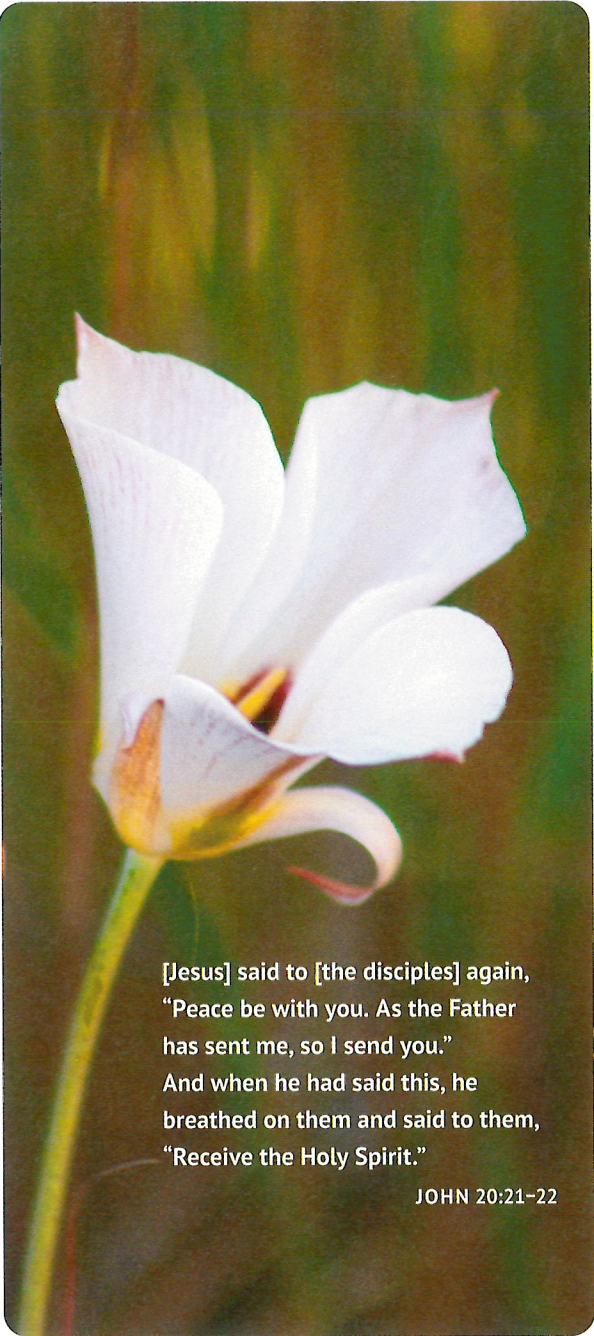
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

At this point in history, we are a nation filled with much anger. Given all that is taking place, one might conclude that it comes from a fear of losing control—fears due to the waves of immigrants seeking asylum, to a changing economy, to political alliances, to artificial intelligence, resulting in our inability to sort truth from untruth. Fears also due to strained relationships with non-Western nations, to urban violence and the abundance of guns, to the conflict between pro-life and pro-choice allegiances, and, for some, to what is perceived as conflicted thinking within the Catholic Church. There is no shortage of what may be fueling our anger. How can faith help us respond in a life-giving way?

Saint John writes that “whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith” (1 John 5:4). This is not to say that we can easily make the world respond in ways we want, but rather that the world has no power over the person who places all trust in God’s presence among us. It was the risen Lord who once brought peace to the disciples behind doors locked out of fear. Might not our faith help us who have locked ourselves behind doors of mistrust and anger? If only we allow ourselves to trust God. Yet, we should not simply shrug off all cares or involvement in life; on the contrary, with faith and trust, we recognize we are not the only players in shaping the events of the world. ●

Reflect

Do I bring my faith to the news of the day; do I pray for peace?



[Jesus] said to [the disciples] again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

JOHN 20:21–22

April 27, 2025 – Divine Mercy Sunday

ST. JUDE PARISH

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For Pastoral Emergencies, Contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Weds. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Religious Ed Coordinator: Jennifer Price (269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator: Jennifer Rossell (269) 744-2582
Choir Director: Laura Woods (269) 628-4886

WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass CELEBRANT:

Sunday	Apr. 27, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Mass	Fr. Creagan
Monday	Apr. 28, 2025	6:30 pm.	Requiem Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	May 1, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Sunday	May 4, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thursday	May 8, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	April 27, 2025	Rose Marie Patricio	By: Sadie Payne
Thursday	May 1, 2025	Howard & Giannina Lounsbury	By: M/M Jake Van Dam
Sunday	May 4, 2025	Roberta Sites	By: Sadie Payne
Thursday	May 8, 2025	Howard & Giannina Lounsbury	By: M/M Jake Van Dam

TODAY:

SUNDAY: 4-27-2025

NEXT SUNDAY: 5-4-2025

Reader	Luke Sage	Reader	Confirmation Class
EO Ministers	Dan & Lorie Wahmhoff	EO Mins.	Tony Karsen & Jennifer Price
Servers	Bo, Bella, Carlena, Ryan	Servers	Bella, Emma, Sadie, Hazyl

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Apr. 20 2025	Target	\$ 2,200	Offered	\$ 1,954.50	\$ 245.00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 81,500		\$ 84,121.70	\$ 2,621.70
Attendance		173	Year To Date Attendance			4906

Relying on the Holy Spirit, we can point others to Christ.

As Christians 2,000 years removed from the early Church, it is easy to underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit. We tend to think of the Spirit only in relation to the sacraments – and indeed, he is active in each of them. But we who received him in baptism and confirmation can continue to call upon him as we strive to live out our vocations each day.

In the Book of Genesis, God spoke or breathed creation into existence. The Hebrew word for this creative force can also be translated as “wind.” It is no coincidence that Jesus arrives on the scene in today’s Gospel and breathes on the disciples to impart the Holy Spirit. He is creating them anew and giving them the power to accomplish marvelous things for the kingdom of God.

We see some of these marvels in the first reading. People are so eager to meet an Apostle that they even lay the sick in the streets so that Peter’s shadow may fall on them. In addition to performing miracles, the Apostles passionately share their testimony about Jesus as the risen Lord, and great numbers are converted. Indeed, the Holy Spirit was alive and active through them.

In today’s second reading, John is caught up in the spirit. Usually, when we use the term “getting caught up,” it refers to being busy or distracted by something, often something insignificant. What if we were caught up daily not by work or household chores, but in the spirit? For John, this experience entailed a profound awareness of the resurrected Christ, who appeared to him in glory. John is terrified by the power before him, yet Christ reminds him not to be afraid.

The disciples had also been timorous, hiding behind locked doors, terror-stricken that they too would end up dead at the hands of the authorities. In the face of adversity, one mark of the Holy Spirit is peace- not in the sense of a heartwarming feeling or emotion. Instead, the peace of the Spirit manifests as the confidence and endurance to carry out God's work, even amid persecution or hardship. Immediately before imparting the Spirit, Jesus tells the disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. "Jesus sent the disciples out amid wolves, so to speak, yet they accomplished their work by the power of the Holy Spirit.

For us, “getting caught up in the Spirit” does not require leaving aside our real responsibilities – our jobs and daily chores – but instead means calling upon the Holy Spirit to help us do all these things for the sake of God’s kingdom. **The Latin phrase age quod agis – “do what you are doing” – applies here. We do what God has called us to do, and we do it well for his sake. In this way, we contribute to the upbuilding of the Church and point others to the kingdom of God.**

NEXT WEEK WE BEGIN THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL. As we celebrate this Jubilee Year of Hope, our theme for this year's appeal is "Pilgrims of Hope: Making an Impact Together." Our support of this appeal will benefit both parish and diocesan ministries. **This year our parish goal is \$17,991.00.** As in past years, 100% of all pledges collected over that amount will be returned to our parish for our local use. **Our BAA Annual Commitment Weekend is scheduled for May 4th.** Please use the time between now and then to make a prayerful decision about participating in the 2025 BAA campaign. Remember that pledges are payable over several months.

FROM THE DRE

May 3—Confirmation at the Cathedral
No class May 4--Confirmation Celebration
No class May 11--Happy Mother's Day
May 18th—Final Class/Clean-up Day

*Please pray for Daisy, Alexa, and Isabella
as they finish their final preparations for Confirmation on May 3rd.*

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Fr. Jorgensen, Brian and Sonny Laughlin, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, David Vana, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, and those on our prayer chain.

ST. JUDE'S IS SPONSORING CARING NETWORK'S PARISH PLAYPEN DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH/APRIL. The Diocese of Kalamazoo's pro-life agency serves pregnant women of all ages, faiths, and marital status who need support in their life-affirming decisions! The following items are currently in low supply in the Caring Closet: boys' and girls' pajamas (sizes 12-24 mos., 3T-4T); girls' tops (sizes 12 and 18 mos.); girls pants 3T-4T; boys tops 18 mos. and 3T; boys pants 18-24 mos., 3T-4T; Diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6; socks for 1–5-year-olds; onesies 6mos and up; baby wash and baby lotion. **All donations are due by April 30th.**

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Jesus invited the disciples to "Come and have breakfast." At this beach breakfast and the Last Supper Jesus teaches us meals should be more than eating. Family meals are opportunities to share prayer, listen to each other's stories, understand and support one another.

*St. Mary's in Paw Paw will have a Divine Mercy Service this afternoon,
with the reciting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:30 p.m.
and the Sacrament of Reconciliation beginning at 3:00 p.m.*

PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF A NEW POPE

- The College of Cardinals, usually composed of Roman Catholic electing Cardinals, gathers in Rome upon the death or resignation of the previous Pope.
- A secret meeting, called a Conclave, is held in the Sistine Chapel, where the Cardinals are locked in until they reach a decision.
- A series of voting rituals are carried out. Each cardinal writes the name of his preferred candidate on a ballot paper and places it in a chalice.
- A decision is reached when a candidate receives at least two-thirds of the votes.
- The Cardinal Protodeacon announces the new Pope to the Roman Catholic people and the world, who proclaims "Habemus Papam" (We have a Pope) and reveals the Pope's chosen name.

FROM THE DIOCESE

BISHOP LOHSE HAS DIRECTED THAT each parish hold a Requiem Mass (Mass for the dead) for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. **Saint Jude will have this Mass on Monday, April 28th at 6:30 p.m.**

We will need a reader and at least three servers, if possible. If you can read or serve, please let Sara know at s.bauer2012@gmail.com

BISHOP LOHSE HAS PLEDGED to provide professional counseling or therapy to victims of clergy sex abuse in the Diocese. Victims can receive 24-hour care via the crisis hotline set with Catholic Charities at 800-873-8336.