



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CATHOLIC CHURCH

— ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD —

APRIL 19, 2020

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
“JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU”

MASS SCHEDULE

MASS TIMES

Saturday..... (Vigil) 4:00pm
Sunday..... 8:30am, 10:30am, 7:00pm
..... (Spanish) 3:00pm

DAILY MASS

Mo, Tu, Th, Fri..... 8:30am
Wednesday.....6:00pm

CONFESSIONS

One half hour before each Mass daily
and Sundays.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL—Open 24 hours daily.

OUR CLERGY

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Pastor

aolpastor@gmail.com
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REV. MR. THOMAS ST. PIERRE

Deacon

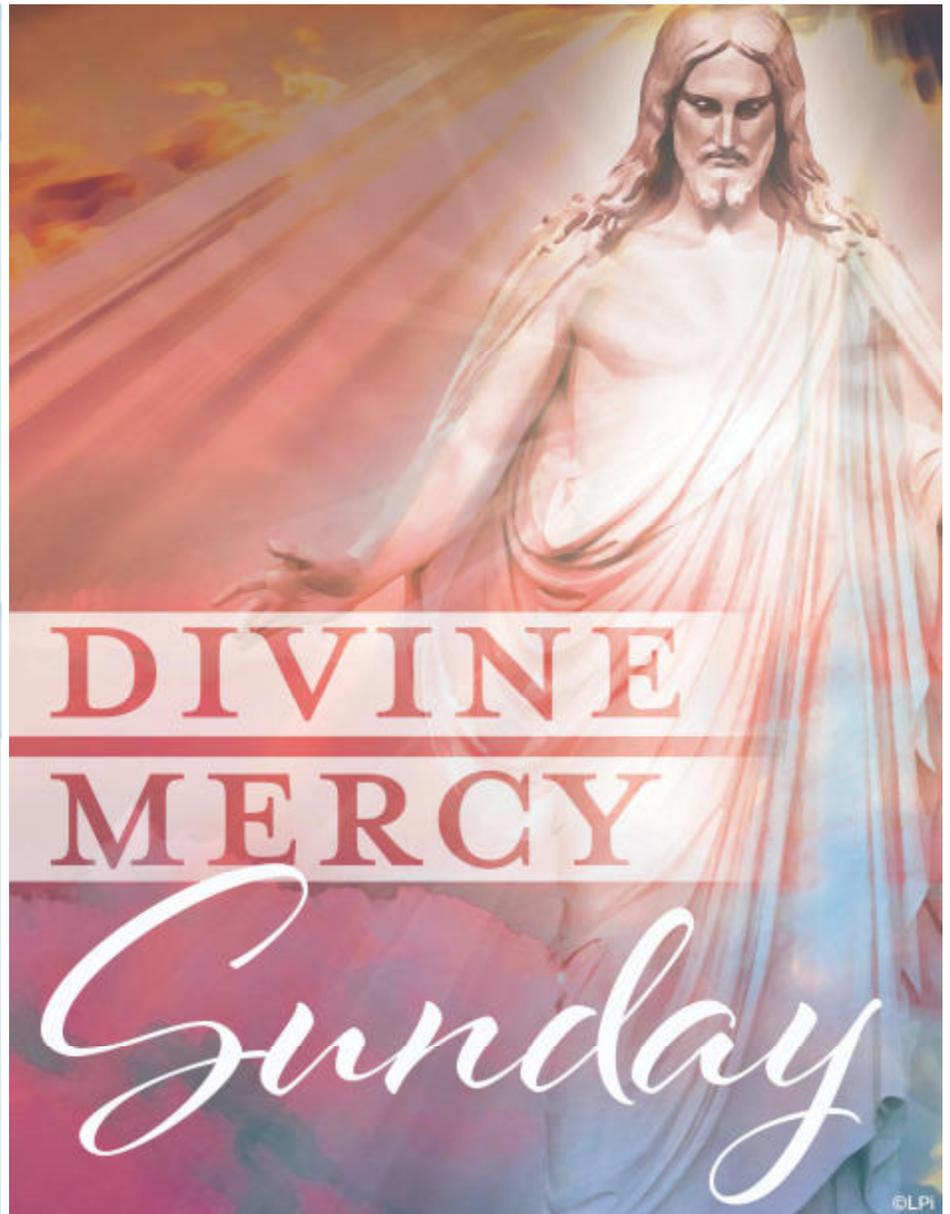
tjstpierre@yahoo.com

REV. MR. DAVID FARINELLI, LPC,

LMFT

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DIVINE
MERCY

Sunday

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MASS INTENTIONS

LIVE-STREAM OF ALL MASSES CAN BE VIEWED ON THE AOL FACEBOOK PAGE OR ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE.

Monday, April 20

8:30 am Henry Harris, Jr.

Tuesday, April 21 • St. Anselm

8:30 am Jeffrey & Patrick Cupit

Wednesday, April 22

6:00 pm Dolores Dottolo

Thursday, April 23 • St. George • St. Adalbert

8:30 am John Rauch, Jr.

Friday, April 24 • St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

8:30 am Zulma Williams

Saturday, April 25 • St. Mark

4:00 pm John Rauch, Jr., Stuart Torres, John Paul Loupe, E.J. & Edna Guidry, Conrad & Betty Hymel, Grady Duff, Jr., Scott Duff, Glen Keating, Rosalie Lucia Sander, Jerry Sander, John & Margaret Williamson, Irving & Norma Vial, Debbie Jones, Jackie Ragusa, Souls in Purgatory, Special Intentions

Sunday, April 26 • Third Sunday of Easter

10:30 am Gwen Booth, Maude Hymel, Nancy Freitas, Vivian & Lionel Fisher, Jr., Joseph & Verlie Marks, Dolores Fajardo, Maria Espinal, Joe Basurto, Mary Jo Phillips, Melanie Champagne, Minda & Ricardo Ano-Os, Fe Laygo, Souls in Purgatory, Our Parishioners



VIGIL LIGHT FOR APRIL

In memory of E.J. & Zola Martin, Clarence & Shirley Frost, and Steve & Nancy Valure

Divine Mercy Sunday

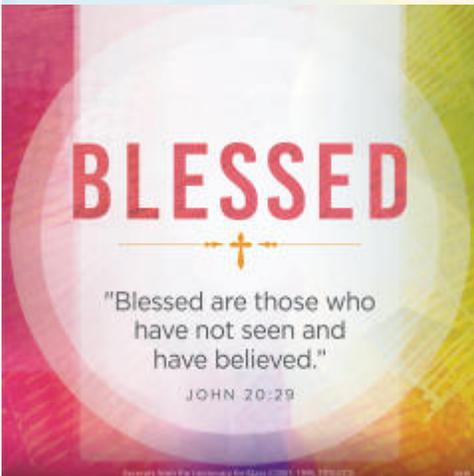
Today, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It's origin stems from St. Faustina who had private revelations concerning Divine Mercy. Her Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed.



"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. ...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, no. 699)"

On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. For more info on the origin of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Divine Mercy image, the Chaplet, and the Novena, visit www.aolparish.org/documents/2020/4/divine-mercy-origin.pdf.

Jesus, I trust in You.



AROUND OUR CHURCH & OUR COMMUNITY



Additional Easter Flower Memorials

Tom & Teresa Bautsch

Steve Navarre

David Lowry

Dave & Vivian Scioneaux

The Parish Office will remain closed while the state mandated stay-at-home order is in effect. If you are in need of assistance, you may email us at aolparishoffice@gmail.com or call Fr. Walter at 985-630-2837. Please continue to monitor our website aolparish.org and Facebook page for updated information.



The Clarion Herald is currently available only in electronic format. You can view the edition of the Clarion Herald and archives of previous issues online at clarionherald-la.newsmemory.com. It can be easily accessed through the "Clarion Herald eEdition" link at clarionherald.org or via the link on our Parish Website.

From St. John the Baptist Parish



The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation and hundreds of billions in federal funding as well as provide data that will impact our Parish for the next decade.

Funding for roads, schools, transportation, emergency services, and services for families are all allocated based on Census responses. Census responses affect every aspect our community and it only happens once every ten years. Make your voice count! Respond today at 2020census.gov.



Dear Friends of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans,

Easter Sunday, and with it the beginning of the whole Easter season, marks Jesus' resurrection and triumph over sin and death. After 40 days of fasting, almsgiving and penance, the season brings joy-filled new life and abundant hope.

We are grateful to each of you, whether through monetary donations or simply keeping us in your prayers during this time of reflection.

In your continued support of Catholic Charities, you are bringing this same hope and new life to the most vulnerable in our community. You're offering early childhood education to children, services and education to pregnant women, food to low income seniors, health services to seniors and the developmentally and physically disabled and so much more.

You are helping them triumph over their troubles, resurrect from their burdens. Your support is a heartfelt answer to Mother Teresa's call to "do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

I wish you and your families a blessed, peace-filled Easter!

God bless you,

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, MSC

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, MSC
President & CEO



REFLECT

First Reading

According to Luke, the original community of believers in Jerusalem met daily to pray, break bread, and commit themselves to the teaching of the Apostles. When have you experienced a similar level of communal harmony?

Second Reading

The First Letter of Peter opens with a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings received from the resurrection of Jesus. In what ways do you show gratitude for Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

Gospel Reading

John is the only evangelist to record the episode of Thomas' initial doubt in Jesus' resurrection. What role does doubt have in your spiritual journey?

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ASCENSION OF OUR LORD STATEMENT OF FAITH

Ascension of Our Lord is a Catholic Church, in full union with the Church in Rome. We are dedicated to, and are under the "Authority of our Holy Father, and therefore, accept and embrace all of the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church". We invite all to worship with us in the confidence of knowing that our Church and doctrines were established by God through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit and safeguarded by His Church, which is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. (Established July 1979)

PARISH CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 22 - 7:00pm RCIA Thursday, April 23 - 12:30pm Hearty Meal

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

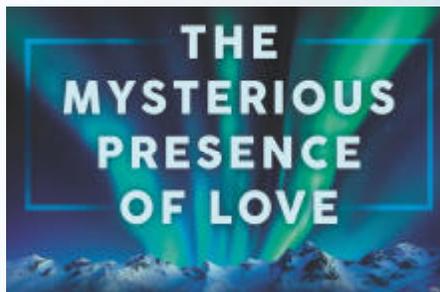
A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I-don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

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PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel is currently closed. We anticipate reopening after April 30th.

"Ten minutes a day can make all the difference in the world. The more time you spend in the classroom of silence the more clearly you will hear the voice of God in your life."

-Allen Hunt



SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS: Baptismal seminars are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Parish Office at 7:00pm. Please call the Parish Office to pre-register.

WEDDINGS: Couples must contact the priest at least six months prior to the preferred date of the wedding.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please call the Parish Office or 985-630-2837 (evenings).

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: To be added to the list, please call the Parish Office.

FUNERALS: Family must make arrangements with the priest prior to making final arrangements with the funeral home.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD CATHOLIC CHURCH



APRIL 19, 2020
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**"Blessed are those who have not seen
and have believed."**

John 20:19-31

"You've got to believe." Coaches and motivational speakers use these words to convince their listeners that they can accomplish extraordinary things. "You've got to believe" serves as the mantra for John in his gospel.

John's gospel differs distinctly from Matthew, Mark and Luke. John records only seven miracles that Jesus performed. Not that Jesus performed only seven miracles but that seven represents a complete number. He wants to show that only someone with the power of God can do these things. In addition he calls these miracles 'signs' because they point to the reality of Jesus as Son of God. Finally every miracle Jesus performs elicits some degree of belief on the part of those who witnessed it. All that Jesus does in his lifetime and what he does after he rises from the dead provide a basis for people to believe.

After the Resurrection, Jesus appears several times to his disciples. Once again, Jesus wants to assure them that he has risen from the dead. He wants them to believe. Today we see how Thomas refuses to believe. John includes this account as a way of showing to the early Christians that they need not see Jesus rise from the dead in order to believe.

The early Church manifested their belief in various ways. They gathered as a community to worship and pray. They shared Jesus in the breaking of the bread. They realized the importance of forgiveness.

Forgiveness comes through the forgiveness of sins. Only God can forgive sins but now Jesus delegates that authority to the Church. The words of Jesus, 'whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven' become the foundation of the sacrament of Reconciliation. So often people will confess a sin they have confessed over and over as if they do not believe that God has forgiven them. God has forgiven them. They haven't forgiven themselves. They refuse to believe in this sign of Jesus' forgiveness.

In the Eucharist so many people look upon this sign of Jesus' presence with an attitude less than reverential. Their actions reflect an attitude of disbelief. As if like Thomas they need a real body of Jesus present before they will believe.

Saying we believe and living out that belief are two different concepts. A person can hold up a lottery ticket he just bought and say with all sincerity that he has purchased the winning ticket. But if he truly believes, then why wait for the drawing, go out and start spending that money now. Of course, most people who say they believe in something do not show it in how they act on that belief.

Do we believe that we find forgiveness of our sins in Reconciliation? Do we believe that we experience the reality of Jesus in the Eucharist? If so, then how do our lives differ from those who do not hold those beliefs?

Fr. Walter Austin



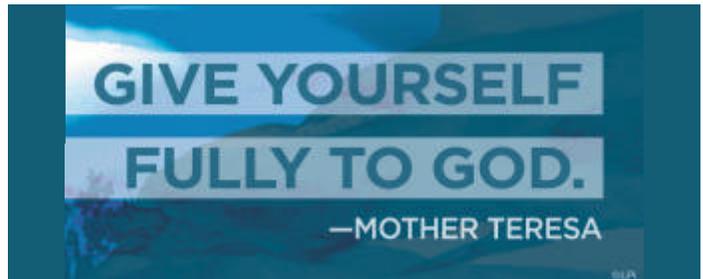
Give Yourself Completely

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20
Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

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