

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the
Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

I Trust In You!



**DIVINE
MERCY**

St. Mary & St. John Churches

Fr. Craig's Homily From Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

The gospel writers left absolutely no doubt. When Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and a few other women went to anoint the body of Jesus on that first Easter morning, they were disheartened, and their spirits were dragging. It was as though the crucifixion of Jesus had turned their worlds upside down. You know that feeling of having your world turned upside down. It may have come through the death of a parent, a job that was phased out, an automobile accident, or a dreaded diagnosis. Now the Coronavirus has the entire world turned upside down! And so, as we celebrate the Lord's resurrection, what do we do and where do we turn? Where is our loving, merciful God? For answers, we go to the resurrection story itself to learn three lessons.

The first lesson is that God always knows where we are. The women arrived at the tomb of Jesus broken-hearted that the Lord was dead. They only thought of themselves and what would happen to them - being alone and without help of any kind. But those women forgot something important: that the God who knows all things knew exactly where those women were, and they discovered that the miracle was true. The tomb was empty! The living God came to them when their hearts were deflated and they had no hope, and He filled them with joy and gladness – all because He knew exactly where they were. And this same God knows exactly where we are, and what is happening to every single one of us.

Secondly, we learn that the devil was at work in the crucifixion. Scripture verifies that the devil captured the heart of Judas. He turned the High Priest against the Lord, supported trumped-up charges against Jesus, and manipulated the people to be indifferent and to prefer a criminal, Barabbas, to be released and not Jesus. There is no question. The devil was no doubt thrilled when the Son of God was stretched out on His cross. On the sidelines, when the Lord gave up His Spirit, the devil was prepared to shout, "I won! I won!" Today as the Coronavirus creeps over the world, the devil is re-joining that the health of individuals is being destroyed. We have the devil to thank for our predicament, and scripture leaves no doubt about that. It says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, cosmic powers of this present darkness, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). The devil worked against the Lord, and he is working against us.

The last lesson is that God desires to remind us of who is in control of all things. The women going to the tomb were dismayed. The disciples were in hiding because they thought everything was over. Everything seemed black and grim. Everyone's focus was on themselves. Is that not what is happening in America? As the Coronavirus claims victim after victim, our focus is on ourselves, "Who's next? Will we die?" We have gone our merry way watching the Church lose its place and position in America, seeing members become indifferent about faith and commitment, and watching young people on Sunday mornings by the thousands be more devoted to sports than to spirituality. We must never forget that nothing happens without the Lord's approval – nothing, including a virus! Could it be that on this resurrection Sunday that the Lord is giving us a reminder? He is saying, "Wait a minute! I am the Lord of Life! I am in charge and in control of ALL things, not some, but all things!" Yes, the risen Christ is in control, and we must never forget that. Psalm 46 tells us where our help is to be found: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble." And remembering that, we must return to Him in repentance for ourselves and our nation.

Yes, our world is turned upside down, but the risen, sovereign, almighty, omnipotent Lord is holding you and me in His hands – and, as the song says, "He has the whole world in His hands." Thanks be to God!

READINGS

Sunday	Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31
Monday	Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday	Saint Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday	Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday	Saint George, Martyr; Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20; Jn 3:31-36
Friday	Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday	Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20
Sunday	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

The more a person loves God,
the more reason he has to
hope in Him. This hope produces
in the Saints an unutterable
peace, which they preserve even
in adversity, because as they
love God,
and

know how
beautiful
He is

to those who love Him,
they place all their
confidence and find all
their repose in Him alone.”

— **Saint Alphonsus Liguori**

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick, who
at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in
Cana of Galilee,
we may

return to joy

and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection.
Amen.

*Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary
during the coronavirus pandemic*

O Great St. Rocco,
deliver us, we beseech thee,
from the scourges of God;
through thy intercession,
preserve our bodies from
contagious diseases, and
our souls from the contagion
of sin. Obtain for us salubrious
air; but, above all, purity of heart.
Assist us to make good use
of health, to

bear
suffering
with patience

and,
after thy example,
to live in the practice of
penance and charity,
that we may one day
enjoy the happiness which
thou has merited by thy virtues.

St. Rocco, pray for us

Happenings In and Around Our Parish Home

Private Prayer Hours

St. Mary and St. John are open for private prayer hours as follows:

***St. Mary:** Monday - Friday from 9am-12 noon

***St. John:** Wednesday and Thursday from 9am - 12 noon

Please observe all social distancing rules if you choose to attend.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued generous support! Contribution envelopes may be mailed to either Church, or online giving is available via Parish websites or MyParishApp (text APP to 88202):

***St. Mary Office:** 212 W. Hanover St., Marshall, 49068

***St. John Office:** 1020 Irwin Ave., Albion, 49224

Military Prayer List

Please pray for family members of St. Mary/St. John parishioners who are currently serving in the military.

Please email all names for inclusion in this list to:
stmarymarshall@aol.com.

Cameron Cook, Matthew Fedewa, Brody Fitzgerald, David Haack, Blake Iobe, Jacob Konkol, David Mellino, Christian Sabados, Cody Sabados, Paul Shen, Rick Spells II, Christopher Staab, Jr.

STMARYMARSHALL.ORG

During this time of social distancing, the St. Mary Website is a great source of information for: links to important updates from Bishop Bradley, recordings from weekend Mass with Fr. Craig, and online giving to name a few.

Please Pray For All Those Impacted By Coronavirus & Those Listed Below...

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Louann Atkins
Mike Atkins
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Maeve & Richard Bartelson
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Russell Buller
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Pixie Coats
Michele Comperchio
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