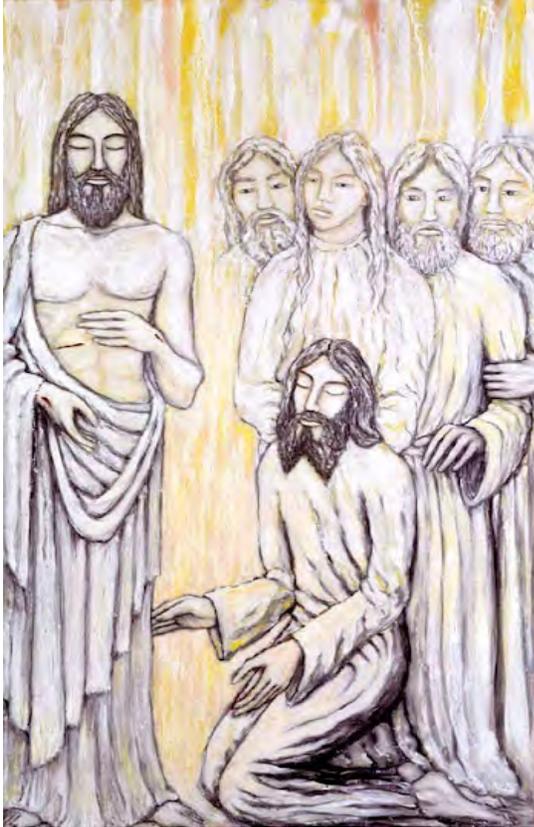


**Parish Newsletter**  
**For**  
**24 April 2022**



**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF  
EASTER – “DOMINICA IN  
ALBIS” (The Sunday In White  
Albs)**

***From Father Robert – Reflecting On The Gospel***

A dispirited, frightened group of disciples huddles together behind closed doors on the evening of Easter Day. They have realized, only too painfully, that by deserting Jesus in the hour of His passion and death, they have also betrayed themselves. They are wounded people who may believe that Jesus has risen from the dead, but what that means, and what it means *for them*, given their unfaithfulness, leaves them in panicking ignorance. Then the Tomb Breaker Himself, with His wounded, living

body, is among them, breaking not only into their closed room but also into their despair.

The first gift of His resurrection that Jesus offers them is peace. Jesus breathes on them, and the word that John uses here for “breathe” is used nowhere else in the New Testament. It has all the nuances of the spirit/breath/wind of Genesis, which brooded over the primeval chaos to bring forth new life (Genesis 1:2). In Genesis, too, the Creator God breathes into the nostrils of human dust, and this dust becomes a living person.

When Jesus breathes over the disciples, their humanity is raised from the dust of disappointment and fear. This Easter Day is the first day of the new creation for the “eighth day” in the Genesis timeline.

On the following “eighth day,” there is also a new beginning for Thomas, who was absent the week before. Nowhere in the gospels is Thomas ever described as “doubting.” He has been outspoken, generous, ready to face death with His master. At the Last Supper, he is honest enough to say aloud what the other disciples were most likely thinking: that none of them *is* sure where Jesus is heading.

But like his companions who did not accept the testimony of Mary Magdalene about Jesus’ resurrection, Thomas also wants a personal experience. His post-resurrection challenge is: “Do not be unbelieving, but believe.” In both his disbelief and his faith, Thomas represents us, the future generations who are called to blessedness because we believe without having seen Jesus in the flesh.

Jesus invites Thomas to touch the wounds in His risen body, for in this opened body is the way, truth, and the life that Thomas was

seeking. As Jesus and His disciple stand before each other in the midst of the community, it is Thomas' faith, not his hands, that dig deeply into the mystery of his risen Lord, and he cries out the most profound and personal proclamation of gospel faith: "My Lord and my God!" In return, Jesus speaks the greatest of all beatitudes that will resound beyond that Jerusalem room, into our assembly today, and to the end of the ages: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

A visitor to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., described watching a man stand before the wall into which are carved more than 58,000 names of Americans who sacrificed their lives or are missing in action because of that tragic war. The man moved slowly along the wall, stopping now and then to run his fingers over some of the names. Tears streamed down his face as he touched one he recognized. The wall is a place of gathered memories. The name that Thomas gave to Jesus is carved into our heart at our baptism. We often need to rub the fingers of our Christian memory over it, recognizing with gratitude the peacemaking sacrifice of Jesus that is our salvation. We also need to recognize that Christ still shows Himself to us in the wounds of the suffering members of His body: ourselves, and our sisters and brothers known and unknown.



When you are feeling anxious, do you focus on solving the problem leading to your

anxiety, or do you focus on finding peace in the situation? How might finding peace before all else benefit you?

Have you ever experienced a miracle or something miraculous in your life?

What is a "rejected cornerstone" in your life – something you dismissed early on but later came to realize was essential?

The apostles in today's reading gather in "Solomon's portico." Is there a home or meeting space where you usually gather with your community? What is the benefit of having a gathering place to be and pray?



**About Liturgy – "My Lord and My God"**  
Thomas' proclamation of faith in today's gospel, "My Lord and my God!" is also a popular devotional prayer of some people. It mimics the "doubting" apostle's recognition of the Lord truly present in his midst.

It's worth considering that while gathered at the altar, we are anamnetically (remembering, making present a past experience) at the Last Supper and the crucifixion as well as at a foretaste of the eternal heavenly banquet. At the fraction rite, when the Body of Christ is broken to be shared with the many for the forgiveness of sins, we sing, "Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us...grant us peace."

Hopefully, we can't help but notice these liturgical connections, done with intent and with the conscious participation of the faithful. We see that signs of the Real Presence abound in our liturgy, if we pause to recognize them. This sort of liturgical spirituality is so much more approachable and beneficial than a classroom philosophical discussion on transubstantiation.

Let the liturgy serve its catechetical role, that what we pray reinforces what we believe and what we believe is found in our corporate prayer!



***About Liturgical Documents – “Sing To The Lord – Progressive Solemnity”***

One thought regarding liturgical celebrations that Sing to the Lord puts before the church again is the concept of progressive solemnity, which is found in several previous liturgical documents. This notion extends beyond the music of the liturgy to elements like vestments, candles, and which of the various and rich options in liturgies are utilized, based on the hierarchy of memorials, feasts, solemnities, etc. Sing to the Lord is quick to add that “solemnity should never be allowed to devolve to an empty display of ceremony, however” (113).

Musically, one concept of musical progressive solemnity seems to have not gotten much traction in the United States – the ranking of various parts of the

celebration of Holy Eucharist to be sung. In order, these parts are: a) Dialogues and Acclamations, b) Antiphons and Psalms, c) Refrains and repeated Responses, and d) Hymns (STL #115). That is, when doing only a minimal amount of singing at a liturgy (say, a weekday of Ordinary Time), start with singing dialogues and acclamations. Then, as the solemnity of any celebration increases (along with an ability to provide music ministry), add items from category B, then C, and finally D. These categories, notably, are different from what is listed in *Musicam Sacram* (#28-32) which was also not widely accepted. The usual experience before STL (in 2007) and since is nearly the opposite of these suggestions. This is not to say one manner of music ministry is better than the other; rather, it is just to note that on this occasion the reception of this part of this particular liturgical document was “cool” at best, or practically nonexistent.



The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to The Glory of God and In Honor of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary of **Joe and Theresa Nelms**.



Yesterday afternoon, during our 4:00 p.m. Vigil Eucharist, the children of our Faith Formation Program celebrated and received their First Holy Communion.

Congratulations to: **Giovanni Gaytan, Jacqueline Gaytan, Andrew Fajardo, Emily Figueroa, Amber Ramos, Miguel Sanchez and Brenda Zamaroni.**

We thank their catechists and parents for all the time, effort, energy, and faith they shared with the children in order to prepare them for this next significant step in their journey to full initiation in our Catholic Faith.



You are invited to join Father Robert in celebrating his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday next Saturday, 30 April 2022, beginning with the Saturday Vigil Eucharist at 4:00 p.m. followed by a reception in the parish hall. The following morning, 1 May 2022, after both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Liturgies, there will be a special Hospitality Sunday to continue the birthday celebration with Breakfast Pastries and Mimosas!

**In lieu of gifts, Fr. Robert has asked that if you would like to honor him, to make a donation to the Expansion Fund to help furnish our new kitchen with everything that it needs: chairs, place settings, flatware, pots and pans, glassware, etc.** In the Memo Line of your check, please be sure to indicate Kitchen Furnishing. We

hope you can join us for this parish celebration.

**If you plan on attending, please call the parish office , 925-778-0768 and leave your name and the number of family members who will be attending.** Thank you!



*“Feed my lambs,  
feed my sheep”*

**2022 BISHOP'S  
MINISTRIES  
APPEAL**

The Diocesan Annual Bishop's Ministries Appeal is well underway. For the last several weeks, we have been preparing for this opportunity to respond to the needs of various programs, ministries, and outreaches of our diocese. Each parish is given a financial goal, based on their weekly offering, to support the Appeal. Our goal this year is once again \$34,900.00. In order to reach our goal, I have requested a one-time contribution in the amount of \$100 per family. I realize that some of our members will contribute more, some will contribute less, but what is important is that we all participate in this effort and with all of us participating, there is no question we will reach our goal. **Please write your check to “Bishop's Ministries Appeal” and place it in the envelope provided; in the memo line, please write “Bishop's Ministries Appeal” and do not seal the envelope.** We will count the contributions in order to give you a weekly update on our progress in meeting our goal. I thank you for your support and generosity once again in responding to this annual Diocesan Appeal.

If you did not remember to bring your contribution last weekend, I hope you remembered to do so today. We will continue to receive your contributions gratefully. To date, we have received over \$18,000 representing 52% of our goal from 133 parish families.



The Liturgies of Easter, beginning with the Great Vigil and concluding with the 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning Eucharist, were wonderful, faith-filled, reverent, exuberant, joyous celebrations of Our Lord's resurrection. Father Moses remarked at the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Liturgy: "I have never seen this church so packed!" And indeed, the sanctuary was filled to overflowing! We thank all of you for being with us, for your joy, excitement, energy, enthusiasm, and faith that made our worship such a faith-filled experience. Once again we congratulate **Brice, Michael, and Joseph** on receiving and celebrating Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Great Vigil. The reception that followed could not have been more joyous: the beautiful environment, food, and drink provided by Shelli Daviess and her family, so many who attended and enjoyed the hospitality and the ability to celebrate with parishioners, the Neophytes, and making new friends. The Neophytes returned on Sunday morning to join in the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy in their baptismal albs and received

the heart-felt congratulations of the congregation.

Once again, on behalf of all of us, I want to thank the members of the Art & Environment Committee for all their work, dedication, commitment, and love in creating such a beautiful environment for Easter and its Season: **Claudia & Tony Gumina, Pablo & Norma Villegas, Dave Simpson, Leo & Minnie Rivera, Peter Degl'Innocenti, Doris Radovan, Estrella Rusk, Theresa Nelms, Don Benson, Tom & Stevie Catchings, Mary-Theresa Radovan, Jose Perez, and Lorraine Lohmeier.** Our thanks as well to **Rosie Davis** who played for and accompanied our **cantors and schola** for all the liturgies of Holy Week; to **Shelli Daviess, Alicia Solano, and Jeannine Ford** for presiding and preaching so powerfully for the Sung Morning Prayer Liturgies of the Triduum and **Alicia Perez and Maryann Peddicord** for cantoring; to all the **Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Guild, Adult Acolytes, Altar Servers, Dilia Aparicio** for laundering and ironing all the sacred linens, to the **Knights of Columbus** who provided Parking Lot Security for both Palm Sunday and the Liturgies of Easter, all those who donated so generously to provide the Easter Environment, and last, but certainly not least, **Father "Moses"** for presiding, preaching, and leading us in the various liturgies of Holy Week in such a prayerful, powerful, engaging, and challenging way.

Both Fr. Moses and I wish to thank all those who were so gracious, generous, and thoughtful in gifting us with cards, gifts, Easter Candy and Breads, and all the ways you showed such great appreciation for the two of us and our ministry and leadership with and for you. You are a gift and blessing to us! We are humbled and grateful by these expressions of your love.



Our parishioner, **Bob Butler**, a regular 4:00 p.m. parishioner, has been awarded Antioch's Citizen of Year Award for Most Impact. He has decades of experience in television and radio and news reporting, writing, and production. For over 40 years, we have heard his voice report the news on KCBS radio networks. He has taught broadcast journalism at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University and served as President of the National Association of Black Journalists. He has been helping neighbors during the pandemic by shopping for them. He delivered items to seniors, people with compromised health issues and parents with small children or children with disabilities and many people who were just too concerned to go out for fear of exposure to Covid-19. Thinking of others before himself and for his efforts, he was named the Citizen of the Year With The Most Impact. Congratulations, Bob! We are very proud of you! You truly live the gospel!



### ***Volunteer Opportunity***

The parish is looking for a volunteer to maintain the parish website. This is a great opportunity to serve your community by supporting one of the parish's principal means of communication. Good communication skills, creativity, and

attention to detail are important. The website, which is hosted by eCatholic®, can be maintained from home. Contact the parish office if interested.



### ***California Food Handler Cards***

As reported in the Parish Newsletter, our new kitchen has been certified by the Contra Costa Health Department and now has a permit to operate as a production kitchen. As we move closer to being able to use our new facility, we want to remind everyone that a California Food Handler Card will be required for anyone who works in our kitchen, including food servers. This will ensure that everyone working at our events has a basic knowledge of food safety and sanitation.

Food Handler Cards can be obtained by taking an online food safety course. Courses are offered by a number of certified organizations and with prices ranging from \$7 - \$15. Links for several certified organizations are posted on the parish website (note: you are not limited to the organizations listed - you may choose other organizations from which to obtain your card as long as they are certified).

Once you obtain your Food Handler Card, please provide a copy to the parish office. Per health department rules, these copies will be kept onsite in our kitchen.



The Children’s Liturgy of the Word will be returning to Sunday Mornings at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. If you would love to be a Catechist for the children during the homily on Sunday mornings, please reach out to me.

It would be wonderful to have 4-5 Catechists, rotating each week to work with the children. That would mean each Catechist would work with the children every 4-5 weeks.

All materials will be provided each week. If you are interested, please contact Shelli Daviess at [daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daviesszoo@sbcglobal.net) or 925-778-0768 ext. 305. Thank you.



***Justice Corner by Carolyn Krantz,  
Pastoral Associate***

This is a current moment of chaos and opportunity. We have been through three years of death, sickness, violence and war. What is God trying to teach us, His church, in this moment? The Epistle speaks of the final times. “Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives!” and we live with Him who is to come. We must use our imagination to see the light in the midst of the darkness. Imagination gives us the power to create, to look at what we’re

experiencing with hope.

I have been challenged and moved by a book by Stephanie Spellers, an African American woman and Episcopal Bishop. The book is called *The Church Cracked Open*, (NY: Church Publishing, 2021). She rightly calls this time excruciatingly painful. We have seen the diminishment of congregations and parish activities. People want to “get back to normal” only the normal of the past no longer fits. It will not work in the present reality. We have been introduced to the concept of “missionary disciples” by Pope Francis but how we are practicing this remains to be seen. What avenues and programs exist to help us with this? We claim to be a parish that is a rich stew of people whose heritage is from all over the world. We speak eighteen languages, but is each ingredient of the stew an equal part of the whole?

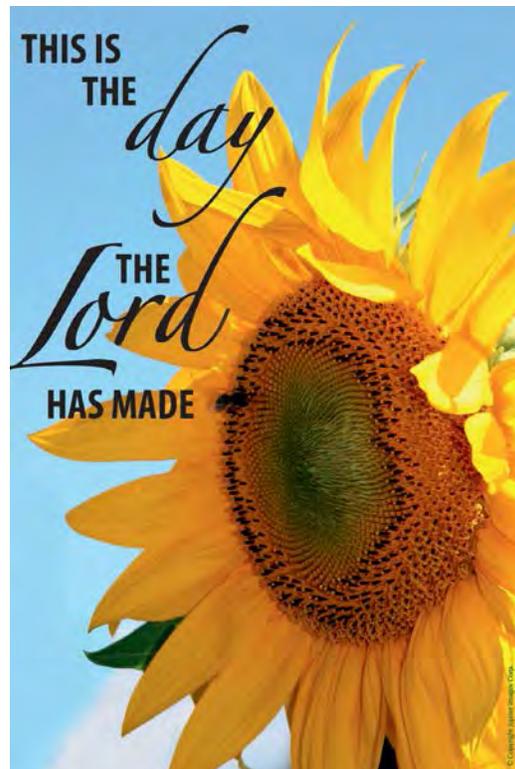
If we are truly to die with Christ, we must acknowledge the reality and look at the cracks: women's rights, white privilege, clergy abuse, immigration issues, poverty in our area, etc. Are we a self-centered church or are we emptying ourselves for others? Can I feel the pain of the world or am I just concentrating on MY life, MY family, MY friends? Am I reaching out to make a difference if I can?

I once went to a conference at Notre Dame where a woman spoke of the struggles of Apartheid in South Africa. We were asked how we felt after her sharing of the struggles there. I said I felt sad. She replied, “Get over it and get angry!” In other words, do something about it! I have to mourn over the Church's mistakes and then reach out to the wounded to create a beloved community.

Once we are cracked open with the genuine picture of the failures of the Church, we can

imagine change that will make our church better. Imagine ways to be anti-racist, especially if you are white. Imagine ways to undo privilege, ways to build acceptance of differences. Who benefits and who suffers from Church rules, hierarchical control and clerical privilege? Where do we need to lose my way of doing things so that a beloved community can be built? Where can I stand in solidarity with the suffering? How can I lose my life to be one with the poor? Self-emptying makes room for solidarity when the center of gravity is outside ourselves.

We have much work to do to recover the fire and energy of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It begins with prayer, but it doesn't stop there. Whether individually, or in our organizations we are called upon to transform our way of being Church. Then, like on Easter Sunday, we will not be able to contain the people flocking to our doors. Then East County will know that the Holy Spirit lives among us. We will light a fire that can be seen around the world.



# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



## The Gift of Faith

Merciful God,  
in this Easter season  
you call us to see through eyes of faith.  
Soften the hardness of our hearts  
that keeps us from seeing you in  
one another.  
Give us the gift of your peace  
and strengthen our belief in your presence;

especially when our vision is clouded by  
fear and doubt.  
We thank you for the gift of faith so  
freely given  
and for the courage to embrace that faith  
and give witness to it  
for the good of all people.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 24, 2022  
All Things Are Possible



*Today's readings: Acts 5:12–16; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19; John 20:19–31.*  
At times, it may seem farfetched to place belief in a person or a possibility. Having been sure at some time of an impossibility, we may identify with the apostle Thomas. He might have felt that Jesus could not have risen from the dead.

So sure was Thomas in his absence of belief that he told his friends, “Unless I see the marks of nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks . . . I will not believe.” Once Jesus entered the locked room, Thomas’ heart changes and he declared, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus accepted this change with mercy.

When tempted to lock ourselves away for fear of hurt or disappointment, it is good to be mindful that Jesus Christ can still be present to us. “Peace be with you,” he said to the disciples and he says to us in our tribulations. The gift of faith that he offers can provide the courage to step out of the locked room where we hide our emotions, our gifts, and our hopes. For our generation and so many others, Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have seen and have believed.” Where in your life are you unsure and need to change your heart? Spend time asking Christ to enter that place and bring you peace.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 25 Gospel Boldness

What does it mean today to speak the Word of God with boldness? To embrace a life that is based on Gospel values? Living out Gospel values can bring a beacon of hope to others. In the face of anger and hatred, such a way of living means to choose to love; in the face of weariness and sickness, it means to be a healing presence. Whenever we choose to hope, to love, and to heal, our faith is lived out loud. Such a faith alerts others to the presence of God. *Today's readings: 1 Peter 5:5b–14; Psalm 89:2–3, 6–7, 16–17; Mark 16:15–20.*

### Tuesday, April 26 Creating a Community of Love

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind,” we hear in the reading from Acts. Imagine the Church acting with “one heart and mind.” The possibilities are limitless. The poor among us would be cared for, those in need of comfort and healing would find a place to rest, there would be no one marginalized because everyone would be welcomed. Pay attention to those who enter your life and how you welcome them. Your welcome reveals God’s love. *Today's readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

### Wednesday, April 27 God So Loved the World

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son” has been heralded on posters, billboards, and T-shirts. As today’s Gospel states, it is up to believers to live out the truth of God’s love. Keep in mind that you reflect God’s light and love in how you greet others, show compassion, and offer encouragement. *Today's readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

### Thursday, April 28 Open to the Spirit

In the first reading, the apostles tell the Sanhedrin of the witness of the Holy Spirit; in the Gospel, Jesus says that the gift of the Spirit is not rationed. This Holy Spirit surrounds us in every moment, energizing us to offer to our world mercy and compassion. Pray to the Spirit for courage to live the Gospel in word and action. *Today's readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

### Friday, April 29 Grace in Abundance

Many people worry about scarcity. They are concerned that they do not have enough and even that they do not love enough. God’s grace, though, is available in abundance. In today’s Gospel, we hear of the apostles’ concern that there was not enough food for the crowd. Jesus, however, provides more than enough for all to have their fill. He takes precious little food and transforms it into a feast that yielded twelve baskets of food when all had eaten. Imagine what God can do with our lives when we are open to transformation. *Today's readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

### Saturday, April 30 A Simple Prayer

Any parent or guardian stays constantly alert to the well-being of their children. Why is it so hard to imagine that God does the same with us? As God’s children, we are not unlike the disciples in the boat: sometimes we get tossed about by life and feel anxious. As the disciples discovered, Jesus was not far away. Just as Jesus calls out and reassures the disciples, he does so with us. When you are facing a moment of fear, pray, “Jesus, I trust in you!” *Today's readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*



**ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US, MANY THANKS TO OUR PARISHIONERS WHO'S  
GENEROSITY MADE OUR 2022 EASTER ENVIRONMENT POSSIBLE**

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**IN LOVING MEMORY OR HONOR OF:**

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Iacona, Beverly	Vince Iacona
Lyons, Martin	Msgr. J Sudasky, Mary Lyons
Mangini, Fr. Richard	Raymond & Margaret Mangini
Jennings, Nieves	Mario & Isidora Guarin
Pajaria, Amy	Milagros Clemente
Rusk, Estrella	Joel Rusk, Sheryl Young-Benson
Stevens, Daniel & Helen	Ferdinand Hoyer
Walker, Rich & Bertha	Heriberta Torres

# *St. Ignatius of Antioch*

## *Spring Tea*



*Benefitting Relay for Life of the Delta*

*Sunday May 22, 1PM to 4PM*

*Hostesses Alicia Perez and Maryann Peddicord*

*Outdoor seating for a delicious high tea luncheon*

*Menu includes: scones, black currant tea, petite sandwiches and dessert*

*\$20 per person – please pay upon arrival but reserve your seat asap as seating fills up quickly*

*Raffle prizes available*

*Call Alicia Perez @ 925-783-8325 or email [aliciaperez689@yahoo.com](mailto:aliciaperez689@yahoo.com) to make your reservations*

*Hat Contest Prizes for most original hat or fanciest hat!!*





CoCo Farms



THE GREEN TRIANGLE



# DVG MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

Remember and honour

## ANTIOCH

Oak View Memorial Park  
2500 E. 18th St. Antioch, CA  
**PROGRAM STARTS @ 10AM**





St. Ignatius of Antioch

*Please join us:*

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Evening Prayer and Chaplet

April 24, 2022

3:00 PM

Jesus I Trust in You!

## Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday is the Second Sunday of the Easter season. It was named by Pope John Paul II at the canonization of St. Maria Faustina on April 30, 2000, and then officially decreed by the Vatican.

Divine Mercy Sunday can be seen as the convergence of all the mysteries and graces of Holy Week and Easter Week. It is like a multi-exposure photograph of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Easter Week. Or we can think of it as a converging lens that focuses the light of the Risen Christ into a radiant beam of merciful love and grace for the whole world.

In fact, Jesus revealed in various revelations to St. Faustina that it was His desire that we celebrate this special feast. *The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. 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, 699)*

Our Lord revealed to St. Faustina His desire to literally flood us with His graces on that day. Just consider each of the promises and desires that He expressed about Mercy Sunday, which are recorded in the main passage of the *Diary* — passage 699 — about Mercy Sunday:

*On that day the very depths of My tender Mercy are open.  
I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon these souls who approach the Fount of My mercy [the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist].*

*The soul that will go to Confession [beforehand] and receive Holy Communion [on that day] shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.*

*On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened.  
Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.  
The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness.  
It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIVINE MERCY:

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/eadm/>