



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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF Easter

(OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 19, 2020

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Saturdays—4PM or by appointment

Baptism

Class required for parents and godparents held the last Friday of month. Call the parish office two weeks prior to schedule. Baptismal sacrament given the last Saturday of the month at 11AM or by arrangement.

Marriage

Please contact Fr. Basile Sede at least 6 months before the desired wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick

The primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which a person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties of serious or prolonged illness. Please call and email the parish office to request anointing.

Parish Office Hours

During the Covid-19 Outbreak, please send an email to olccharlotte@charlottediocese.org with any questions.

Pastor: Rev. Basile Sede

Secretary: Colleen Kudela

Maintenance: Joseph McGuire

Music: Erick Massey & Michelle Wylie



Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church

Of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

2301 Statesville Ave, Charlotte, NC 28206 | Phone (704) 375-4339 | Fax (704) 375-8039 | ourladyofconsolation.org

Mass Schedule

All Masses have been canceled until further notice

Tune into our website on Sundays for Mass with Father Basile Sede

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE!

Most of us have had the misfortune of missing something important simply by being absent, and then hearing about what happened. In today's reading, unique to John's Gospel, Thomas is the only apostle who was not around when Jesus appeared to his friends for the first time after his death and resurrection. They were frightened and grieving, not knowing what would happen to them. Remember, they found themselves to be fugitives, seemingly guilty by association with a criminal executed by government officials. Suddenly, Jesus was with them, beaming peace and mercy to his fragile followers. What joy! What a shock, too! We will never know why Thomas had left their hiding place. All we know is that he returned to wild stories about Jesus being alive after dying a brutal death. He must have thought that the other apostles in their grief had a shared delusion of what they wished were true. When Thomas finally saw Jesus, he gave what is considered the most profound profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" In his tender mercy, Jesus ministered to Thomas by helping him to see for himself.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

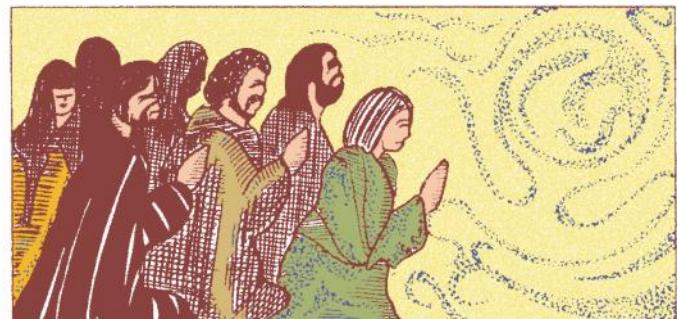
Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17;

Mk 16:15-20

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11;

1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35



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Parish News

Please note that since we cannot attend Mass it is important for our Church that we continue to tithe during this difficult time.

All meetings and all face-to-face meetings are canceled effective immediately until further notice.

Please contact your Ministry Leaders with any questions or to see if you will meet with an online streaming platform.



PRAYER LIST

Larry Bass
Deborah Bond
Mr. Josesph Castro
Mrs. A. Connors
Florine Dennis
Robert Douglas
Fr. Jim Goode
Theresa Greenley
Alan W. Jones
Cassandra Lambert
Sammuel Lambert
George Lewis
Vilma Males



Edward Marsh Jr.
John McDowell
Sr. Bessie McCarth
Patricia North
Robin Plummer
Julius Rose, Sr.
Janice Rucker
Lee Anne Rucker
Angela Smith
Jake Suggs
Diane Taylor
OLC Parishioners

Please notify the Parish Office to have yourself or a family member placed on the Prayer List for the New Year. Names will appear through the calendar year. You can email your request to olccharlotte@charlottediocese.org or call the parish office.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).

Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading — God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-9).

Gospel — The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts (John 20:19-31).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

****PLEASE NOTE THAT MASS INTENTIONS ARE SAID BY FATHER BASILE DAILY IN HIS CHAPEL EVEN IF THERE IS NO MASS****

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

For the end of racism and for the healing of its effects requested by Stan Fri

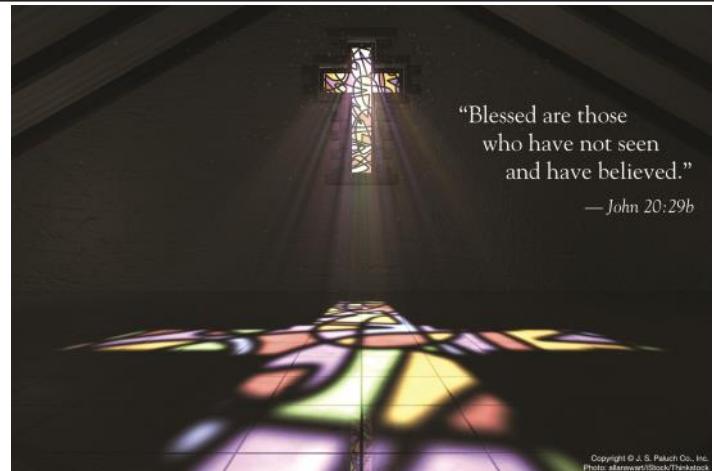
Birthday Blessings for Regina Gillneau

For the 25th Anniversary of Hyginus & Celina Okechukwo requested by Celina Okechukwo

Mass Intentions - Please contact the office or email olccharlotte@charlottediocese.org to offer Masses for your loved ones: praying for the deceased, birthdays, anniversaries and other events. Every Mass should have an intention.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Poor Thomas. Singled out from among the disciples because he refused to believe what they were telling him—that they had seen, in the flesh, their friend and their Lord, Jesus Christ. Can any of us really blame him? All of the disciples were terrified, crestfallen, hiding. But what of Thomas? Just where was he when Jesus appeared the first time to the group huddled in fear? He had gone “out”—out of the community where his faith had life. Maybe this was actually a blessing for Thomas and not the curse associated with the “doubting Thomas” moniker bestowed on him by tradition. Oh, the divine mercy of the Lord! Could Thomas be the forerunner of all of us who come in fragile hope and uncertainty to the Christian community, so beautifully described in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles? Could Thomas be an ultimate exemplar of the faith described in the First Letter of Peter?



WE WALK BY FAITH

But what of us? The early Christian community could only trust the words of these same apostles, the ones Thomas couldn’t believe, when they preached Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Who could believe what they said? The Holy Spirit, breathed upon the disciples in that first encounter, emanated so powerfully from them that they were able to convene seemingly utopian communities of faith. Filled with “divine mercy,” their lives became an evangelization to the world. And this is how we too are sent out, like the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit and bearing the Lord’s peace and mercy to a troubled, suffering world. The wounds of Jesus are very real today in the needy and broken. May we always work to bind up those wounds wherever we find them.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Our Lady of Consolation

Parish Life Center

Thursdays | 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

(light snacks provided)

April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2020

Hosted by Catholic Charities & Our Lady of Consolation Health Care Ministry

Building Better Caregivers will help you to:

- Reduce stress for caregiver and care partner
- Improve health using self-care methods
- Manage difficult care partner behaviors
- Plan for the future
- Find information and resources
- Increase communication skills

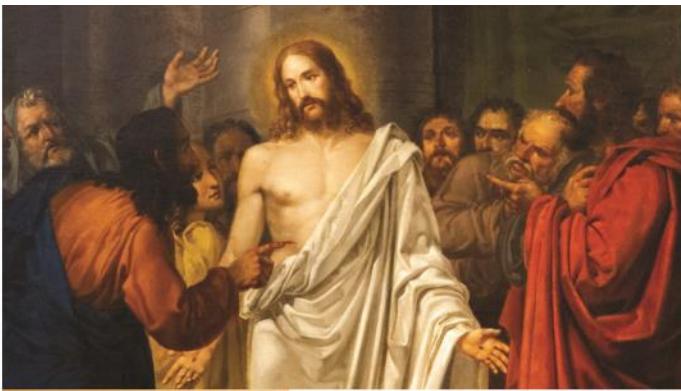
Please register by Monday, April 20th by contacting Sandra Breakfield at **704-370-3220** or sabreakfield@charlottediocese.org



St Martin de Porres Outreach Ministry

The food pantry operates two days per week giving food to those in need. If you need assistance with food, or know someone who does, please call 704-817-8813. We are open on Tuesday from 10:00AM - 12:00PM for appointments only.

Interested in joining the food pantry team? Please contact Deborah Wadsworth at 704-231-7956.



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Easter* (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 19, 2020

BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION

The readings today describe how life was lived in communities formed not long after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Their focus is on communal life and the teachings of those who knew Jesus best, his apostles. The readings from First Peter and John both remind us that even among the apostles there is a tension between believing and seeing the reality of the resurrection. John tells of an apostle, Thomas, who refused to believe in the risen Christ until he had seen and touched his wounds. Jesus offers him the chance to do just that. Most of us are not in a position to demand such tangible proof from Jesus. But these stories are written so that we, who cannot see Jesus as his apostles did, can still come to believe and through that belief have life.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

In today's passage from Acts we read of an idealized version of what the first communities were like. People are devoted to the community, to teaching, breaking bread, and sacrifice. Many signs and wonders were done. First Peter offers a more realistic picture because time has passed and believers are still waiting. Faith is being tested by the passage of time and the suffering that is a part of life. In the Gospel, the disciples are consumed with recent events. That is all they can talk about. Poor Thomas misses the latest revelation, that is, the visit by the risen Jesus to the disciples in the locked room. He is angry and refuses to share in the excitement or even to believe it happened. So Jesus appears again, this time when Thomas is present. Jesus tells him to touch and feel the wounds so that Thomas can believe. Jesus then reminds Thomas and us that there is something more to believing than just the physical reality.

OR IS IT?

Too often we are more like Thomas than we might like to think. We are disturbed when we can't directly see or experience the results of our faith. We want some evidence for all the years of faith and struggle when there seems so little to show for our faith. The mistake that Thomas made and that we make is thinking that if we could just see some evidence that our faith makes a difference, then it would be easier to have faith. But it is not the evidence that makes faith possible. Thomas does not gain his faith because he puts his hands in Jesus' wounds. Thomas gains faith because Jesus comes back. Jesus comes back again and again and again. Jesus returns every time we ask for his presence in our life because Jesus never really leaves. Thomas had only to ask. We need only ask.

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Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

John 20:29

TODAY'S READINGS

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Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24
1 Peter 1:3–9
John 20:19–31