



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 31 // APR. 13, 2023

2nd
Sunday
of Easter

In the Beginning...

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Happy Easter! That's right. It's still Easter. Easter isn't just a day. It's a whole season. We spent all of Lent preparing for Easter. We may feel a sort of culmination when Easter actually arrives. But we mustn't let our Easter joy dissipate.

On the Church's liturgical calendar, Easter lasts for fifty days. We can spend this time more fully appreciating God's immense love for us. He loves us so much he sent His only Son to die for us. And by His resurrection, he defeated death and opened the gates to Heaven for us.

We have a couple events coming up at St. Jude that will help us continue in our spiritual journey as we grow closer to God's love and mercy.

On Sunday, April 16, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a special Mass at 3:00pm. Confession will be available starting at 1:00pm and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be at 2:45pm.

On Friday, April 21, Fr. Ayub and the parish of St. Jude will host His Global Love Regional Conference. The speaker is Fr. Kevin Joyce, the founder and director of His Global Love ministries located in the Archdiocese of Omaha. The Charismatic Generational Healing Mass on Friday evening is open to all. Praise & Worship will be at 6:30. Mass at 7 pm. The 2-day conference on Saturday / Sunday is by registration (due by April 18). Visit tinyurl.com/HGL-Registration-Brochure for more information and registration.

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Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM
Also, by appointment

Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM
Thursday: 8:30AM
Friday: 8:30AM

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION PREP

On Sunday, April 16 we'll be having our family Mass and breakfast. Please join us at the 10:30am Mass and then gather in the Brophy Center after Mass for a free breakfast provided by the Knights of Columbus.

Students will be decorating their Communion plates. These are a great memento and will be cherished for years to come.

For those of you who did not attend the last parent meeting, we have some folders to hand out as well (a small parent booklet and a first reconciliation activity booklet for your child).

We hope to see you there!

SAINT JUDE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION / RECONCILIATION DATES TO REMEMBER

PARENT MEETINGS

Sunday, January 15, 2023 5:30- 7 PM

Sunday, February 19, 2023 5:30 - 7PM

Sunday, March 19, 2023 5:30 - 7 PM

FAMILY MASS & BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 16, 10:30AM Mass

Breakfast after Mass

Student decorate Communion Plates

RECONCILIATION REVIEW & CHURCH TOUR

Students only

Sunday April 23, 2023 5:30 - 6:30 PM

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Thursday April 27, 2023 6:30 PM

FIRST COMMUNION PRACTICE

Thursday May 4, 2023 6:30PM

First Holy Communion Mass

Sunday May 7, 2023 10:30AM

Signs of Grace
"You Are Loved"
(about the Eucharist)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[Episode 7](#)

[Presence for Children](#)

Signs of Grace
"You Are Forgiven"
(about Reconciliation)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

[Episode 3](#)

[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

[Episode 6](#)

[How to Make a Great
Confession](#)

Forgiven

[Session 1](#)

[Session 2](#)

[Session 3](#)

[Preparing Your Child
for First Confession](#)

[Answering Common Questions
about Confession](#)

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute" (CCC 2221).

Although the parish helps to form our children in the faith, no one can take the place of the parents' role in forming holy individuals. As parents, we should be well equipped to answer questions and to act, not only as the first teachers, but as the first witnesses of faith. This page is intended to help you in the journey as we work together to prepare your children for this special moment in their lives!

SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Acts 2:42-47](#)

[Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24](#)

[1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

[John 20:19-31](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



We are children of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. Through this wondrous sign of His great mercy, the Father of Jesus has given us new birth, as we hear in today's Epistle.

Today's First Reading sketches the "family life" of our first ancestors in the household of God (see 1 Peter 4:17). We see them doing what we still do—devoting themselves to the Apostles' teaching, meeting daily to pray and celebrate "the breaking of the bread."

The Apostles saw the Lord. He stood in their midst, He showed them His hands and sides. They heard His blessing and received His commission: to extend the Father's mercy to all peoples through the power and Spirit He conferred upon them.

We must walk by faith and not by sight—we must believe and love what we have not seen (see 2 Corinthians 5:7). Yet, the invisible realities are made present for us through the devotions the Apostles handed on.

Notice the experience of the risen Lord in today's Gospel is described in a way that evokes the Mass.

Both appearances take place on a Sunday. The Lord comes to be with His disciples. They rejoice, listen to His Word, and receive the gift of His forgiveness and peace. He offers His wounded body to them in remembrance of His Passion. And they know and worship Him as their Lord and their God.

Thomas' confession is a vow of faith in the new covenant. As promised long before, in the blood of Jesus we can now know the Lord as our God and be known as His people (see Hosea 2:20-25).

This confession is sung in the heavenly liturgy (see Revelation 4:11). And in every Mass on earth we renew our covenant and receive the blessings Jesus promised for those who have not seen but have believed.

In the Mass, God's mercy endures forever, as we sing in today's Psalm. This is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

Source: [St. Paul Center](#)

"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

JOHN 20:19-23

The Gospel at Home

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Gospel Reading:

John 20:19-31 Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

Family Connection

Many of us can relate to Thomas's response to the news that the disciples had seen Jesus. We want to see for ourselves too, but we grow in faith, trusting the experience and knowledge of others.

Many of us have heard the saying "Seeing is believing." As your family gathers, take some time to consider what that saying means. What are some things we believe because we see them? Is there anything we believe without seeing? Today's Gospel reminds us that faith sometimes asks us to believe things we cannot see with our eyes. Read today's Gospel, John 19:19-31, with your family. Think about Thomas's response to the reports about the risen Lord. Is Thomas's doubt reasonable? How does Jesus respond to Thomas? Jesus grants Thomas the evidence that Thomas needs to believe, but Jesus also affirms the faith of those who will be called upon to believe without first-hand experience. We are among those whom Jesus calls blessed. Discuss with your family the basis of each member's faith in Jesus—the witness of the first disciples, the Gospels, the continuing activity of the Holy Spirit, the community of the Church.

Pray together that your faith in Jesus will be strong. Pray an act of faith together.

"Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

JOHN 20:26-29

Did You Know?

The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday

In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her Diary entry 699:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. 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.

In all, St. Faustina recorded 14 revelations from Jesus concerning His desire for this feast.

Nevertheless, Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based solely on St. Faustina's revelations. Indeed, it is not primarily about St. Faustina — nor is it altogether a new feast. The Second Sunday of Easter was already a solemnity as the Octave Day of Easter. The title "Divine Mercy Sunday" does, however, highlight the meaning of the day.



Jesus, I trust in You

Source:

TheDivineMercy.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Sunday, April 16:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass with Children's Liturgy

11:30am - RCIA after the 10:30am Mass

1:00pm - Confessions

2:45pm - Chaplet of Divine Mercy

3:00pm - Mass

Monday, April 17:

A Baptismal Class will be held on Monday, April 17 at 6:30pm in the Kelly Conference Room. Anyone who is planning to have a child baptized is required to attend a class, which you can attend before the birth of the child if it is more convenient. Please call the Parish Office (363-6885) to register for the class.

Tuesday, April 18:

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room.

Friday, April 21 - Sunday, April 23:

His Global Love Regional Conference at the Parish of St. Jude, hosted by Fr. Ayub Nasar, pastor. The speaker is Fr. Kevin Joyce, the founder and director of His Global Love ministries located in the Archdiocese of Omaha. The Charismatic Generational Healing Mass on Friday evening is open to all. P&W at 6:30. Mass at 7 pm. The 2-day conference on Saturday / Sunday is by registration by April 18. Visit tinyurl.com/HGL-Registration-Brochure for more information and registration.

"Jesus replied,
'The first is
this: 'Hear, O
Israel! The Lord
our God is Lord
alone! You shall
love the Lord
your God with
all your heart,
with all your
soul, with all
your mind, and
with all your
strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30

Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM
Also, by appointment

Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM
Thursday: 8:30AM
Friday: 8:30AM

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School

SAINT JUDE PARISH

July 24-28

9 am to 12 noon

All Children
age 4 - 5th Grade

join us
in



For more information
or to volunteer
contact Janet DeBoe at
jdeboe@stjudes.net



Divine Mercy Sunday

Today, besides being the second Sunday of Easter, we also celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy. It is the special day when we remember the mercy of God.



Mercy is when a person treats another better than they deserve. God does not owe us anything, since everything we have comes from Him. When we sin we offend God, but because He is merciful He forgives us when we are sorry.

Jesus' dying on the cross was the biggest act of mercy. He gave up His life so that we could be forgiven of our sins and go to Heaven! Thank God today for all He has given you, especially giving up His life so that you can go to Heaven!

Here are some easy prayers you can say to ask God to be merciful to us:

**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Have mercy on us!**

Jesus, I trust in You!

Answer to Word-Find: My Lord and my God!
www.thekidsbulletin.com



The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Easter
April 16th, 2023



Saint Thomas wasn't there the first time Jesus came to the Apostles after He rose from the dead.
What did Thomas say he would have to see before he believed that Jesus was alive?
Connect the dots to find out!

Saint Mark

April 25



SAINT MARK KNEW THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS, SO HE WROTE HIS STORY, OR GOSPEL. DO YOU EVER READ BIBLE STORIES? DO YOU PAY ATTENTION TO THE GOSPEL READING AT CHURCH? TRY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JESUS SO YOU CAN BE MORE LIKE HIM!

Doubting Thomas Word-Find

Find the words in CAPITALS in the puzzle, and when you're done use the left over letters to fill in the blanks near the end.

T W E L V E S I N S R M
H R Y W U D J E W S E L
O E V E N I N G O R J F
M C D E L S A A S F O O
A E F K E C I P E A I R
S I E N S I L E N T C G
H V A D S P S A D H E I
A E R M Y L O C K E D V
N B E L I E V E D R G E
D J E S U S P I R I T N
S I D E B L E S S E D O
U N B E L I E V I N G D

In the EVENING when the doors were locked where the DISCIPLES were for FEAR of the JEWS, Jesus came and said, "PEACE be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples REJOICED. JESUS said again, "Peace be with you. As the FATHER has sent me, so I SEND you." He breathed on them and said, "RECEIVE the Holy SPIRIT. Whose SINS you forgive are FORGIVEN them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

THOMAS, one of the TWELVE, wasn't there when Jesus came so they told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said, "UNLESS I see the mark of the NAILS in his hands and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A WEEK later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were LOCKED, 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." Thomas said to him,

"_____!"

Jesus said, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? BLESSED are those who have not seen and have BELIEVED."