

Parish News...

While Easter was last Sunday, the Easter Season is not over. It does not end until Pentecost Sunday which is on June 5th. It is the time after Christ rises from the dead on Easter until the 50th days after Easter or Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles and the followers of Jesus when they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks.



This Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy celebrates the 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. (I love history)

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 tells 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.

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) states " From Creation, God has revealed his nature as love itself, in Sacred Scripture and most perfectly in the life, Passion, death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus. Saints have also borne witness to God's unfathomable love, e.g., in the writings of Augustine, Aquinas, Catherine of Siena, Francis of Assisi, Margaret Mary Alacoque and Thérèse of Lisieux.

In his second encyclical, *Rich in Mercy*, Pope Saint John Paul II offers an extended meditation on the mystery of God's mercy, which he calls "the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God" (*Dives in misericordia*, 13). He returned to this theme throughout his pontificate:

"As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy! Lord, who reveals the Father's love by Your death and Resurrection, we believe in You and confidently repeat to You today: Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy upon us and upon the whole world."

The message of Divine Mercy is not just intended for one Sunday. We should live this and embrace it daily. Our understanding of the mercy of Christ is key to our relationship with Him. It is also essential that we show mercy to others

Events that are happening in other Parishes in the Area

From St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church, Utica:

[Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church](#)

(At their temporary location: St. Peter's, 422 Coventry Ave., No. Utica) (Flyer attached)

Sunday, April 24, 2022

1:30 PM Music & Confession

2:30 PM Chaplet of Divine Mercy

3:00 PM Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

To Serve is to Reign | April 25th-27th at 7:00 PM

with Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM

Monday 4/25 The Holy Eucharist: Source and Summit

Tuesday 4/26 An Immeasurable Gift: God's Mercy

Wednesday 4/27 Mary, Cause of Our Joy



Eucharist Devotion: An hour of Eucharist Devotion will be re-instituted starting Thursday, March 31st and continue every Thursday after the 12:10 Mass to 1:30pm. Prayers, Litany, Chaplet of Divine Mercy allowing also some private devotion time.

Support for Ukraine- The Walk for Ukraine has been posted to a later date. Once I have the new date families will be informed

Adult Catechism: Adult Catechism continues on the first Sunday of every month @ 10AM. Classes will be held in the Cow Palace for all interested in learning to love & grow in faith. A different topic will be discussed each month related to the teaching of the Catechism.



Please remember to bring in the Rice Bowls this Sunday
so they may be turned to Parish Office

First Communion: Practice is this Wednesday 27th, from 5:30pm to 7pm. The time has been extended as the children will be learning a song to sing at Mass. Please make sure the children are on time so we may start promptly. Last practice is on April 30th with a pizza afterwards.

First Communion is next Sunday. Pictures will be taken should families wish. Please have children to the school by 9:30am for pictures. If no pictures are being taken then the children should be to the school no later than 10:15am

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS 10th Grade: It is important that all students attend classes in order to make Confirmation on May 19th. Confirmation name and sponsor information is due this Sunday. This is the same for the letter to the bishop.

Final Direct Prep class is on Sunday May 15th. Required attendance for Confirmation.

This Sunday is the last class for the year. There will be an ice cream social before classes end.

While classes are over till September, families should continue to attend Masses to strengthen your children's faith and understand what their faith is about in the Eucharist.

Registration for the fall Faith Formation will begin in August. If you would like to pre-register for the Fall, please give me a call. Please note that both First Communion and Confirmation is a 2 year program per the Diocese of Syracuse Office of Catechesis. If anyone has any questions regarding these requirements, please give me a call

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday @ 3:15pm prior to Mass and the 1st
Thursday of the month after the 12:10 Mass**

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4pm

Sunday 7:30 AM, 8:30AM, 10AM Polish Mass and 11am

Let's remember that as Catholics, it is important to attend Sunday Mass. At Mass we are able to stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship.



Sunday Readings

Second Sunday of Easter -Sunday of Divine Mercy

First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Responsorial Psalm: PS 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Second Reading: Rev 1:9-11A, 212-13, 17-19

Gospel: Jn: 19-31

This week's Gospel is one of my most favorite. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. This is us now. We are believers in Christ yet we had not seen Him in person. He is the Son of God and that He died and rose again for our Salvation. Blessed by the Name of the Lord.



**This week's reflection comes from the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus -
Kathleen Hughes ,rscj**

With the possible exception of Martha, as in "Mary has chosen the better part," I suspect there is no scriptural character more misunderstood than the Apostle Thomas.

"Doubting Thomas" we've called him and all his spiritual progeny down through the ages because Thomas lived by the adage "seeing is believing" and because he looked for certain tangible signs to shore up his belief.

I'd like to challenge this characterization of Thomas!

As you consider the story of Thomas after the Lord's resurrection, have you ever realized that Thomas never doubts the Risen Lord? Thomas doubts the word and the witness of the Lord's community. When the Risen One turns up a week later, Thomas is filled with faith. "My Lord and my God," he confesses.

In this story from John, it is not Christ who occasions disbelief in Thomas, but Christ's disciples gathered there in the Upper Room. Thomas simply did not find his friends a credible community.

Let's step back...What do we know about Thomas? Actually, precious little from the synoptic writers except that Thomas was chosen by Jesus to be numbered among the twelve.

Only the Gospel of John includes a few vignettes about Thomas. The story of Thomas after the resurrection becomes more intelligible in light of the other incidents John has preserved.

The first mention of Thomas is in the 11th chapter of John. Lazarus has died. Jesus has been summoned and though he delays his journey back into Judean territory, it's clear to his disciples that Jesus intends to go to Bethany, to the tomb where Lazarus has been buried. Some of the disciples think travel is really dangerous under the circumstances: the Jewish leaders were at that very moment seeking an opportunity to put Jesus to death. It is Thomas who realizes Jesus has made up his mind to go to his friends. It is Thomas who says to the others: "Let us go to die with him!" Fearless Thomas, we might call him; loyal Thomas; loving Thomas. Thomas is willing to stand by Jesus, even to the point of death. He urges the others to set their faces, too, to Jerusalem.

A few chapters later John records Jesus' prayer at the last supper. Jesus is preparing his disciples for his Passover through suffering to glory – but only in a veiled way. Jesus' language is one of riddles. It is almost possible to see Thomas, brows furrowed, trying to follow the implications of everything Jesus is saying, and finally blurting out: "We don't know where you are going. How can we possibly know the way!" Thomas wasn't alone surely. The others must have been just as perplexed, but perhaps they were afraid to show their ignorance, perhaps even afraid to call attention to themselves. Minutes earlier Peter had protested his fidelity to Jesus unto death -- and Peter had been cut down to size. Who would dare speak up? Yet Thomas is not cowed into silence. He didn't understand and he wanted to! He can't follow Jesus unless he knows where and how. It's as simple as that. Straightforward Thomas we could call him, or simple Thomas, or how about refreshingly direct and realistic Thomas. Even, Thomas, the follower of the Way.

These two stories serve us well as background for the story of the appearance of the Risen One in the midst of the disciples. The Lord arrives when Thomas is out. The disciples are gathered in fear behind locked doors. Jesus appears and fills them with joy. He confers on them a mission and gives them his own Spirit to continue his saving work. Jesus makes his presence and power known to his closest friends and offers them the spirit-gift for the sake of the kingdom. At least that's what the Scriptures tell us.

But Thomas isn't present. He'd just stepped out briefly. Maybe he was doing a grocery run. Perhaps none of the others would put a toe out the door – but not so, Thomas. He ventures forth. He is either fearless or just plain foolhardy – or maybe both, which may be what we also need to be – but that's to get ahead of ourselves.

Thomas returns and they tell him they have seen the Lord -- but for Thomas, something doesn't ring true. If they have seen the Lord, why are they still locked up tight in that room? If they are filled with such joy, why couldn't he read it on their faces? If they have been empowered by the Spirit of God to "complete Christ's work on earth" as we say in the Eucharistic Prayer – what are they waiting for? For Thomas to return? Surely not, or they would have been so breathless and eager that he would have seen the transformation in their eyes.

So Thomas says to them, in so many words, "I don't find you believable." Thomas – simple, loyal, loving, straightforward, down to earth, direct -- who didn't understand but wanted to, who longed to follow Jesus but who needed to know the way -- Thomas didn't doubt the Lord; he doubted the word of his friends! Thomas found it highly unlikely that the Lord was Risen because he was surrounded by a group of witnesses whom he simply did not find credible.

There is an ancient saying in the Eastern Church:

If you want to know if Jesus is really Risen,

look around you at the faces at the Easter vigil.

Thomas could not read the presence of the Risen One on the faces of his friends...

What would he read on our faces?

What do we read on one another's faces?

This question has everything to do
with the ultimate success of the new evangelization.

We need to look like a credible community,
a community that has seen the Lord and been transformed.



For the little one who cannot attend Faith Formation, here is a way to explain to them this week's Gospel.

There is a very interesting book called "Believe It or Not" by Robert Ripley. Mr. Ripley enjoyed collecting strange and amazing bits of information which, although they seem unbelievable, were true. Let me read some examples of some of the amazing things you will find in his book.

A man by the name of James Cook once had a chicken that laid a perfectly square egg. Now, I've seen white eggs, brown eggs, even spotted eggs, but I have never seen a square egg. Have you? I think I'd have to see it to believe it!

Joann Barnes was a 15-year-old from California, and she once swung a lot of hula-hoops on her body at the same time! How many do you think she swung on her body? (Take guesses until kids say 68.) Can you believe that? I can't even keep one hula-hoop going. I think I would have to see that to believe it!

Here's one I'll bet you didn't know. How long do you think the world's largest weenie was? (Take guesses until kids say 3,000 feet.) The world's largest weenie was over 3,000 feet long, weighed 885 pounds, and took 103 butchers to carry it! Now that's a lot of baloney! I would have to see that to believe it!

This book is filled with things that are very hard for me to believe. But do you know what? If it's true, it's true--whether I believe it or not!

In today's Bible lesson we learn that on the Sunday that Jesus rose from the grave, He appeared to a group of His disciples. One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with them. When the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus and that He was alive, Thomas said, "I won't believe it until I see it with my own eyes. I want to put my finger in the nail-prints in His hands—and place my hand where the spear was thrust into His side.

A week later, Thomas saw Jesus. Jesus invited Thomas to touch His hands where the nails had been. He told Thomas to put his hand in the wound in His side. Then Thomas believed!

Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

A lot of people today won't believe that Jesus really rose from the grave because they haven't seen Him with their own two eyes. Do you know what? It is true whether they believe it or not! You and I have never seen Jesus, but we believe. We accept Him by faith. We don't have to see it to believe it!

Dear Jesus, thank You that You help us accept by faith that You have risen from the grave and that You are alive. In Jesus' name, amen.

This week's prayer is for Divine Mercy. Let's us build a better relationship with the Lord



3 O'Clock Prayer to the Divine Mercy

You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for the souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.

O Fountain of Life, immeasurable Divine Mercy. Cover the whole world and empty yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, I trust in You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One,
Holy Immortal One,
have mercy on us and the whole world.
(3 times)

Amen

Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in You!



Formation for Ministry/Deacon Formation Information Sessions. Is God calling you to learn more about your faith and serve the church? Come and see how Formation for Ministry and Deacon Formation can help you answer that call.; June 5, St. Anthony/St. Agnes, Utica; Sessions are 1:00-3:30.

Register at bit.ly/2022InfoSessions or formationforministrysyr.org or call 315-470-1491.

From Christ the King Retreat House:
Join us for a special week-long retreat with Jim Krisher.

DRAWING HEAVILY ON SCRIPTURE AND THE INSIGHTS OF SAINTS LIKE IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA AND JOHN OF THE CROSS, AS WELL AS MORE RECENT HOLY MEN AND WOMEN LIKE THOMAS MERTON AND EVELYN UNDERHILL. JIM WILL TALK ABOUT HOW WE MIGHT SHARPEN OUR AWARENESS OF THE APPROACHES OF GOD IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES. HOW DO WE DEVELOP SUCH A CONTEMPLATIVE STANCE, SUCH AN OPENNESS TO DIVINE LOVE? RETREAT BEGINS ON SUN. JULY 17 AND CONCLUDES ON FRIDAY, JULY 22. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CTKRETREAT.COM. SEE FLYER BELOW FOR MORE INFO.

Attached are fliers for this week's newsletter

Have a Blessed and Safe Week.

Lynn M. Springer

Director of Faith Formation

Sacred Heart/St Mary's

315 527 8399

Lspringer@syrдио.org