

APRIL 11, 2021

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Text to Give: (833) 938-2034

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

## PARISH STAFF

*Pastor:* Fr. Rob Adams

*Deacon:* Dcn. Joe Jacobs

*Director of Religious Education:*

Sr. Amy Westbrook, 614-282-2103

*Administrative Assistant:* Becky Griffith

*Custodian:* Lisa Scalf

137 Bryan Street  
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501  
Phone: 606-437-6117

Website: [www.stfrancispikeville.org](http://www.stfrancispikeville.org)

Email: [stfrancischurch@cdlex.org](mailto:stfrancischurch@cdlex.org)

App: St Francis Pikeville



## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

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." - Jn 20:27



## From the Pastor's Desk....

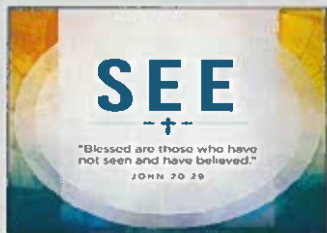
### Sunday Offertory

4-4-2021.....\$4,143  
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700  
**Surplus/Deficit**.....\$1,443

YTD  
 Offertory.....\$114,899  
 Budget.....\$108,000  
**Surplus/Deficit**.....\$6,899

4-4-2021 Building Fund .....\$800

**BUILDING FUND UPDATE:** We currently owe \$79,628 on the new church building. Thank you for your continued support of the Church Building Fund.



Acts 4:32-35  
 1 John 5:1-6  
 John 20:19-31

Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen him, we believe that Jesus is the Christ, begotten by God. We give thanks to the Lord that he has formed us into a community of believers, united in the Spirit.

**Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 954**

Christ is risen! He is truly risen! I hope that everyone had a happy and blessed Easter. It was so good to be able to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection in person this year. We have made excellent progress with the COVID-19 vaccine in Pike County. However, we still have to maintain our COVID protocols. Please be patient and we'll get back to normal as soon as we can!

Let's continue to keep our parish and our country in our prayers.

Fr. Rob

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is a Eucharistic family of Catholic Christians. Nourished by the sacraments and guided by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim Jesus Christ and the Good News of salvation. Following the spirit of the Gospel, St. Francis parish provides continuous religious education and spiritual growth for all parishioners, varied opportunities for social enrichment, and support for the needs of families in Pike County, our nation and the world.

### Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, April 10	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Bill Nusser
Sunday, April 11	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, April 12	No Mass	
Tuesday, April 13	Noon Mass	+Justin Chafin
Wednesday, April 14	Noon Mass	+Laythe Sykes
Thursday, April 15	Noon Mass	+Anne Sykes Hinkebein
Friday, April 16	Noon Mass	+Evelyn Dawahare
Saturday, April 17	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Jerry and Ann Bilicek
Sunday, April 18	10:30 am Mass	For the People

# Parish Calendar & Announcements

## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace. ©LPi

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### EYE HAS NOT SEEN

They say seeing is believing. But if you've ever ordered a pair of pants online, you know that's not always the case. Whatever the photos promise us, what looked like a perfectly nice shade of navy blue on our computer screens comes in the mail as an unusual shade of blue green that only appears in the giant box of Crayola crayons.

The Apostle Thomas, who couldn't bring himself to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing him, is such an utterly relatable figure in the Gospels. Thomas is still reeling from a loss — not only of his good friend but his Lord, who was taken prisoner and crucified before his eyes. Thomas is guarding himself. He's not believing the hype. He's going to be the only judge of what is real and what is fiction.

Would any of us be any different? We've all had those thoughts. Can we believe it all — Jesus, salvation history, the Eucharist — when we haven't seen it with our own two eyes?

That's when we need to remember that those two eyes were absolutely positive they had ordered a pair of navy blue pants.

It's easy for us to sit back stroking our chins in judgment at Thomas, "you didn't believe the testimony of your friends!" But do we accept the testimony of our friends? The saints, the popes, the Church fathers themselves?

Sometimes the things that are most worthy of believing can't be seen with the naked eye.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**BOXES OF LOVE:** Lisa delivered 12 boxes of food for the March Community Dinner. Thank you!

**POOR BOX:** During the month of March, we collected \$147 in the poor box to assist the ministry of Helping Hands. Thank you!

## PRAYER REQUEST



Jerry and Ann Bilicek

Gloria Wagner (Mother of Linda Justice and Susan Chafin)

Steve McCoy, stroke, Lisa Scalf's Cousin  
Jim Goss

Ron Saros

Jonthan and Michelle Meece, pregnancy. Pat and Ron Saros, nephew

Dave Such, Mollie Dawahare Such's father  
in law

Cindy and Christy Hedinger

Tedric Evangelista, Gloria Newsom's  
cousin, cancer

Rita Scheuer

Kenny Blackburn

Alpha Carroll, Signature Health Care

Dr. Harry Altman

Carol Rashella

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

Peggy Brown, Jennifer Brown Day's  
grandmother



## **VOTIVE CANDLES:**

Suggested donation: Large votives  
\$3.00 and small votives \$0.50



**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL - Fundamental Rights - We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.**





April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter  
(Sunday of Divine Mercy) (B)

Acts 4:32–35

1 Jn 5:1–6

Jn 20:19–31

## I Want Proof

**W**ho doesn't? It's not simply that we are children of the scientific age in which proof is essential. Concrete evidence gives us a sense of security; it helps us understand how things work. Even in ordinary human relationships, we want proof. A tune from *My Fair Lady* demands: "Don't talk of love...show me." It's very difficult to live without a certain degree of surety. Consequently, we should not be surprised at Thomas' insistence: "I want proof."

Thomas is often described as lacking faith. This isn't the full story. The reason the other disciples believed was because they had an experience of the risen Lord. Before that experience they were hiding behind locked doors. Thomas was absent; we are not told why. Whatever the reason, he also wanted an experience of the risen Lord. He was not content to base his believing on their word alone. In a sense, more was being asked of Thomas than the others.

Thomas is the patron of all of us whose faith in the risen Lord is based on the word of others rather than on our own unique revelatory experience. Who of us wouldn't want some mystical experience? We are called to believe without seeing. Yet, this isn't strictly true—we *can* see evidence of the resurrection. The best proof is evident in the lives of millions of people who commit themselves to God and who strive to live with integrity.

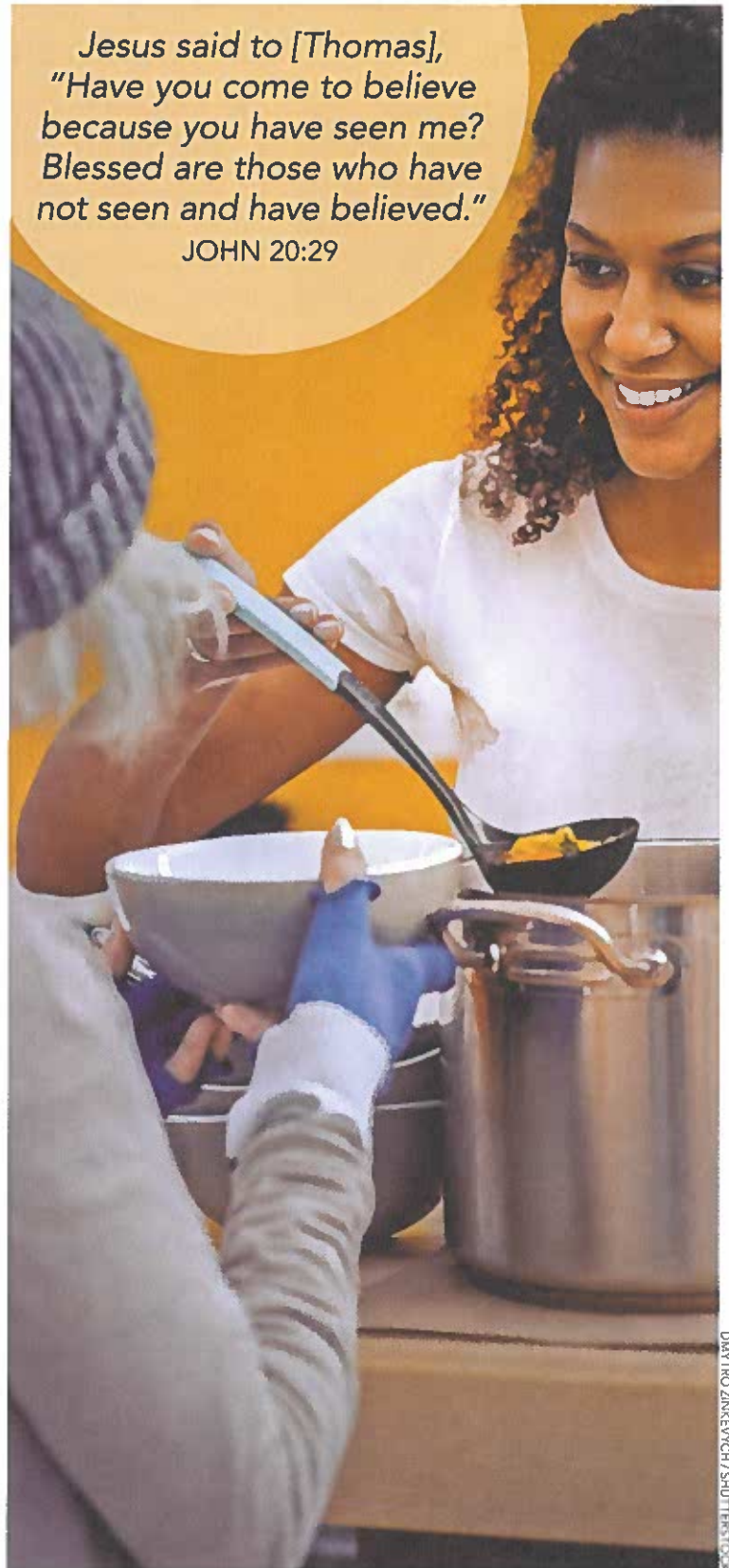
*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### *For Reflection*

- \* *Who are the people who taught you your faith and who live it themselves? Thank God for them.*
- \* *Who looks to you as an example of one who believes that Christ is alive today?*

*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



DIATRO ZINKEVICH / SHUTTERSTOCK

# Dear Padre,

**I get a lot of questions from Protestant friends about the Catholic “obsession” (as they put it) with Mary. What should I say to them?**



**A** convert to Catholicism tells the story of a dinner he had with a friend who had a very evangelical outlook. As they talked about the new Catholic’s decision to convert, the friend asked hesitantly, “What do you think about Mary?” The new Catholic smiled and said, “I think she’s wonderful, don’t you?” The friend responded with an embarrassed “Yes, but...”

If Catholics and Protestants can begin with this premise—that Mary is wonderful—it might be possible to step back and consider why. Mary is an extraordinary human being who holds a special place in the Christian faith for two reasons: first, it was through her that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ; and second, she was the first to believe in Jesus’ mission and ministry.

All Catholic doctrine about Mary refers to two special relationships. She has a special relationship with God because she bore the “God-man” in her womb. She also has a special relationship with us because she was the first Christian.

*Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR*  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*[The disciples] had abandoned the Lord at his passion and felt guilty. But meeting them, Jesus did not give a long sermon. To them, who were wounded within, he shows his own wounds. Thomas can now touch them and know of Jesus’ love and how much Jesus had suffered for him, even though he had abandoned him.*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

## Calendar

**Monday**

APRIL 12

Easter Weekday

Acts 4:23–31

Jn 3:1–8

**Tuesday**

APRIL 13

Easter Weekday

Acts 4:32–37

Jn 3:7b–15

**Wednesday**

APRIL 14

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:17–26

Jn 3:16–21

**Thursday**

APRIL 15

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:27–33

Jn 3:31–36

**Friday**

APRIL 16

Easter Weekday

Acts 5:34–42

Jn 6:1–15

**Saturday**

APRIL 17

Easter Weekday

Acts 6:1–7

Jn 6:16–21

**Sunday**

APRIL 18

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:13–15, 17–19

1 Jn 2:1–5a

Lk 24:35–48

