

APRIL 7, 2024

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Rob Adams, STL

Deacon: Dcn. Joe Jacobs

Administrative Assistant: Becky Griffith

Custodian: Lisa Scalf

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

**Website: www.stfrancispikeville.org
Email: stfrancischurch@cdlex.org
App: St Francis Pikeville**

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Adoration: Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

BAPTISM - 2 WEEKS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.

MARRIAGE PREP - 6 MONTHS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you
have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and
have believed." - Jn 20:28-29

Tomás le respondió: "¡Señor mío y Dios mío!" Jesús añadió:
"¿Tú crees porque me has visto; dichosos los que creen sin
haber visto". - Jn 20, 28-29



Sunday Offertory

03-24-2023.....\$2,400
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$300

YTD
 Offertory.....\$120,733
 Budget.....\$105,300
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$15,433

03-31-2023.....\$2,889
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$189

YTD
 Offertory.....\$123,622
 Budget.....\$108,000
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$15,622



Acts 5:12-16
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

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello everyone,

Just a heads up that I will be on retreat next week. We will not have daily Mass during the weekdays, and Fr. Marc Bentley will be taking our Saturday evening Mass and Confessions. Please pray for me during this week!

I also wanted to share something from Br. Christian, our resident hermit and holy man. Br. Christian will be performing the one-man show Every Brilliant Thing on Saturday, April 13th at 7:30 pm at the Gearheart Auditorium, 1 Bert Combs Drive in Prestonsburg. "One of the funniest plays you'll ever see about depression" (The Guardian), Every Brilliant Thing follows one Man's journey to deal with suicide in his family by making a list of every brilliant thing in the universe to live for (starting with 1. Ice cream....). For ages 12+. Tickets are free and can be reserved at earendelonstage.com/event-list or by calling (646) 724-1635.

Fr. Rob

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, April 6	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Dody Ristrom
Sunday, April 7	10:30 am Mass 1:00 pm	For the People For the People
Monday, April 8	No Mass	
Tuesday, April 9	No Mass/No Adoration	
Wednesday, April 10	No Mass	
Thursday, April 11	No Mass	
Friday, April 12	No Mass	
Saturday, April 13	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	For Vocations
Sunday, April 14	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Prayer for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

Dear Jesus,

As you greeted your disciples after you rose, fill us, too, with your peace.

As you breathed your spirit on them, breathe on us, too.

As your presence was known to Thomas, make it known to us, too.

Help us to live in your peace, power, and presence. Amen. ©LPi

LECTOR ROTATION - Below are the names and dates of the lector rotation.

04/07 Russ Cassidy

04/14 Doyle May

04/21/2024 Steve Misczanski

04/28/2024 Sidney Cline

“If you cannot make your assigned date, feel free to contact a fill in for yourself or contact Sidney Cline at 606-424-8118”.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

A protestant pastor friend of mine was invited to meet Pope Francis with a group of other pastors. He noticed the Pope’s chair was especially ornate and set at the head of the group. He somewhat playfully said, “Holy Father, why do you get that special chair?” The group chuckled nervously at my friend’s audacious chide.

The following year, the group was invited to return. They entered the room to find only simple chairs placed in a circle. Pope Francis entered, sat down in one of the humble chairs and, looking directly at my friend, with a twinkle in his eye, asked, “What do you think of my chair now?” My friend was stunned that the Pope remembered his concerns — and took the time to answer them.

Thomas the apostle was certainly stunned by the Risen Jesus displaying his wounds in person.

But he also must have been equally shocked that Jesus knew and answered his particular questions, worries, and even demands related to his faith. How humbled — and perhaps a bit terrified — he must have been to realize God remembers his concerns and cares enough to answer them.

What questions or demands about Jesus do you find in your heart? Like Thomas, will you be bold enough to voice them this week? How wonderful to know that if we do so, God will remember and respond even to our most audacious desires. — Father John Muir ©LPi

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Question:

Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

Answer:

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young woman, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come.” ©LPi



Terry Reed, cancer and kidney failure

Sharon Collins, cancer

Alex Wells, car accident

Sidney Tackett

Wilson Vanzant, Lisa Scalf’s stepdad

Sister Kathy Avery

Ransom McCoy, Lindsay May’s dad

Jimmie Goss

Tim Deskins

Christine Misczanski, Steve Misczanski’s mother

Melba Schmidt, Kenny Schmidt’s mother

Ryan Altman, Helen Altman’s grandson

Steve Misczanski, Sr. (cancer)

Erica Hunt, Lisa Scalf’s friend (kidney failure)

John Flichman, stroke

Wanda Baker

Jeffrey Scalf, Lisa’s son

Sandy Lowe, cancer

Ron Saros

Kenny Blackburn

Helen Altman

Margarita Gomez

Fran Sykes

VOTIVE CANDLES:

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



The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Will is a widower, now in his eighties. He calls every once in a while, partly to talk but really wanting to know how he can convince his grown children and grandchildren to come back to church. He tells me they're good people, but he would like them to have faith. It's been a mainstay in his life, he tells me, something that has gotten him through many difficulties. He loves his family but says their life would be so much richer if they had an active faith life. I try to tell Will he can't argue them into faith. At most he can share with them how faith has been a blessing in his life, hoping that it might then spark an interest in them.

The disciples in the Gospel story about "Doubting Thomas" experienced Will's dilemma. They were unable to convince Thomas that the Lord had risen. He insisted that he would only believe when he could put his fingers and hands into Jesus' wounds, which of course is just what happens the next time they are gathered. For Thomas, words were not enough; he needed the experience.

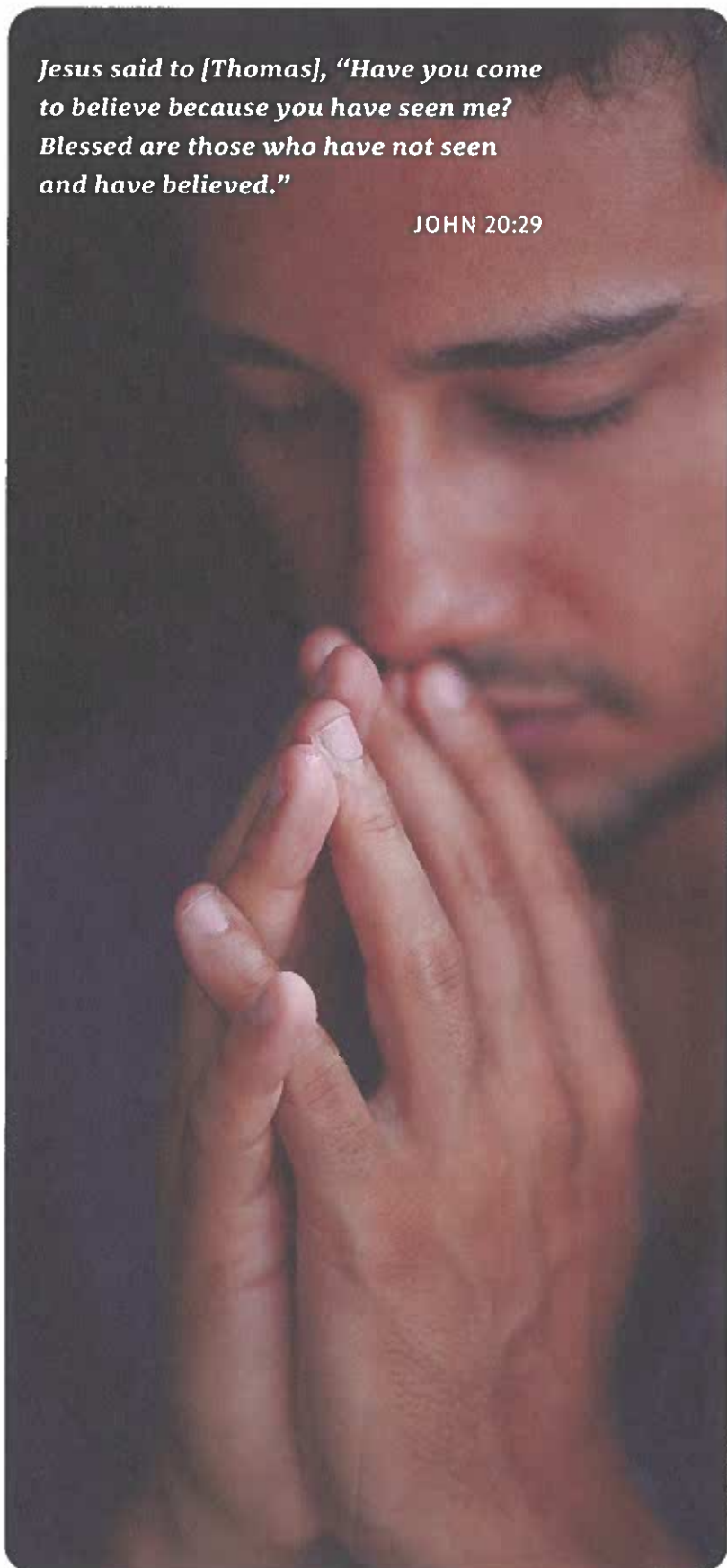
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe, especially those we dearly love. ●

Reflect

Have you ever surrendered to faith even when you were filled with doubt?

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



Dear Padre,

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina Kowalska a saint of the Church on April 30, 2000, and in a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that “throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that [we] will experience in the years to come.”

Saint Faustina was born in 1905 and spent most of her life in Poland, in the Congregation of the Virgin Mary of Mercy. She experienced an extraordinary union with God. She received exceptional graces, revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, the ability to read souls, and the gift of prophecy.

One of the images that was revealed to Faustina was that of the merciful Jesus, touching his Sacred Heart, from which beams of red and white light came forth. This image and her devotion to the divine mercies gathered thousands of supporters throughout the world. We still see the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in many of our churches today. In some churches, we might see the newer image, inspired by the saint. Saint Faustina Kowalska died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three, leaving an impressive mystical legacy. She is a disciple of God’s divine mercy for the twenty-first century. ●



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14
<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>
Is 7:10–14; 8:10 Heb 10:4–10 Lk 1:26–38	Acts 4:32–37 Jn 3:7b–15	Acts 5:17–26 Jn 3:16–21	Acts 5:27–33 Jn 3:31–36	Acts 5:34–42 Jn 6:1–15	Acts 6:1–7 Jn 6:16–21	Acts 3:13–15, 17–19 1 Jn 2:1–5a Lk 24:35–48



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer. There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord’s mercy.

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022