



SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH**

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Dear Friends,

"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad, alleluia"! These are the words from the responsorial psalm that we sang on the Easter Sunday Masses and the antiphon prayed in the Liturgy of the Hours during the Octave of Easter. They remind us that the joy of Easter cannot be contained just in one day but we have the whole Season of Easter to come to deeper appreciation of Christ resurrection. This Sunday is the second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday and the Gospel recalls for us the profession of faith by Thomas.

*"Thomas had not been in the room when the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples, and so has missed out on any personal encounter with him, the words of missioning, and the bestowal of the gifts of peace and forgiveness in the Spirit. John makes Thomas a foil for our own need of these gifts and our struggles with doubt and faith. Often the comments about Thomas concentrate too much on him as a doubter (which he is never called anywhere in the gospels) and too little on his desire to touch the source of life. John's gospel shows him to be the kind of person who blurts out the questions or comments others are too timid or too embarrassed to speak. He is ready to go along with Jesus en route to Lazarus's grave and die with him (John 11:16); and he is honest enough at the Last Supper to say that none of the disciples have any idea where Jesus is heading (John 14:5). The disciples to whom the risen Lord appeared on Easter eve announce the*

resurrection to Thomas in the same words as Mary Magdalene spoke to them: "We have seen the Lord." And they are just as unsuccessful in convincing Thomas as Mary had been with them. Like all disciples, Thomas needs a personal experience of Jesus before he will believe. Until then, he is locked in his own criterion for faith: he wants Jesus to be "touchable."

So eight days later, on the next "first day of the week" according to the resurrection timeline, the risen Lord of the Sabbath stands again in the midst of his disciples, greets them with his peace, and then turns to the individual who is most in need of this. For eight days Thomas has wrestled with the dark stranger of doubt and is wounded by this struggle. The wounded, risen Jesus and the wounded disciple stand before one another. Jesus invites Thomas to stretch out his hand to the wounds of his hands and side. But there is no physical touching. Jesus's personal presence and self-offering to Thomas touch him and demolish all doubts. Here is "the way, and the truth, and the life" that Thomas is seeking, and he responds with the most profound and personal assent of faith in all the gospels: "My Lord and my God!" For the future generations who will listen to this gospel in the presence of the physically absent Jesus, the last beatitude that Jesus then addresses to Thomas is our greatest hope: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." It is to hand on such life-giving faith, says the evangelist, that he has written his gospel.

In his Asian Journal, Thomas Merton wrote: "Faith means doubt. Faith is not the suppression of doubt. It is the overcoming of doubt, and you overcome doubt by going through it. The man of faith who has never experienced doubt is not a person of faith. Consequently, the monk is one who has to struggle in the depths of his being with the presence of doubt, and has to go through what some religions call the Great Doubt, to break through doubt into a certitude which is very, very deep because it is not his own personal certitude; it is the

*certitude of God Himself, in us." (Living Liturgy 2021)*

Thank you to our parishioners who donated towards this year's Easter flowers. The names of all those for whom we prayed at each Easter Mass have been published in last Sunday's online bulletin on our website. Having flowers decorating the sanctuary always makes that space more beautiful and joyful.

I am sure that many of us know this, but since Thursday, April 8 we are under a "stay at home order" lockdown due to the ongoing pandemic. That means that we can only accommodate 15% of our seating capacity at any time, including weddings, funerals and any other Masses and liturgical celebrations. But the good news is that the Church remains open and accessible for private and communal prayers.

I wish to thank all the volunteers who assisted us during Holy Week: our lectors, ushers, musicians, decorators and altar servers, as well those who provided help in organizing different ministries. Having our volunteers helps to have the Liturgies and Masses proceed smoothly with less stress on your pastor :)

The Knights of Columbus need your assistance. A few months back one of the freezers belonging to them failed and is beyond the cost of repair. They are asking if anyone would be able to donate a used stand-up freezer. If a parishioner has one that they no longer need then the Knights would be prepared to come by to pick it up. Please call the Grand Knight, Rocco Viola at 9056621224 for more information.

During the past few weeks, when we were doing the online booking for the Holy Week Masses and liturgies, I was able to collect multiple new email addresses from our registration system. I am going to add those emails to the contact list for my weekly parish email that I send on Fridays, but if anyone wants to be removed from that list please email me back this request.

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners who passed away recently: Victoire Losier, Antonio Truglia and Rosa Petitti. And please pray for those who are grieving the loss of their loved ones. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

As this Sunday we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, all are invited to join us for the Holy Hour with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will begin at 2pm. During this time there will be an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 3pm, when we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy followed by the Benediction at 3:30pm.

Just a reminder to us all about being careful when we receive the Blessed Sacrament during Mass while having to manage our face masks. I have noticed that sometimes, as parishioners are removing their facemasks, and trying to consume the Blessed Sacrament at the same time, some pieces of the host get broken and fall onto the floor. Please don't rush the process.

An update on First Reconciliation and First Communion has been sent by email to the families of all those students in Grades 2 and 3 who have been registered to receive them this spring, as well as to school staff who are involved. The information in the email is also available in the News tab of the parish website.

See you on Sunday everyone, either in person or on the livestream of the 9am Sunday Mass.

God bless.

Fr. Mariusz

# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. (Acts 4:33)

## PSALM:

Give thanks to the Lord, for his is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118) Or Alleluia.

## SECOND READING:

Everyone who believe that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. (1 Jn 1:1a)

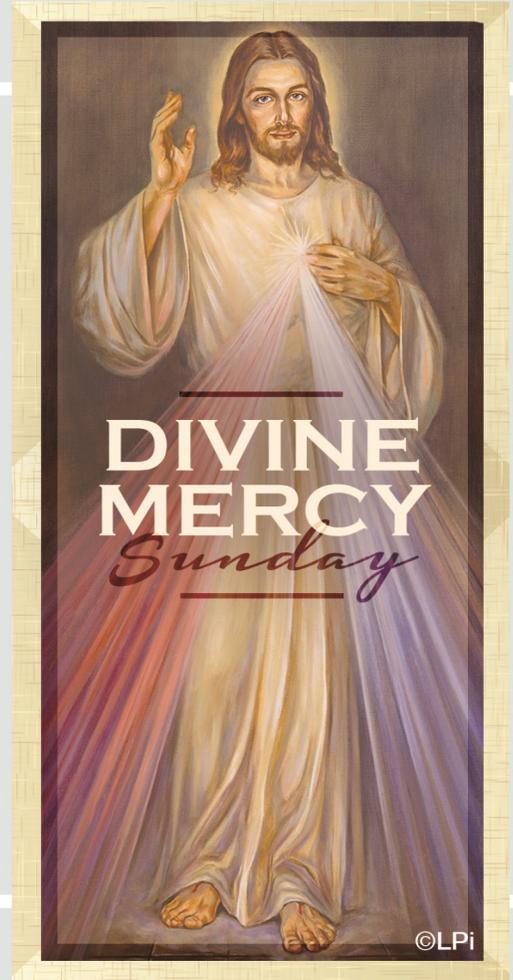
## GOSPEL:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Jn 20:21)

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## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2021

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)  
Tuesday: St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr  
Saturday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin - Protectress of Canada  
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter



## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

Luke gives us a glimpse into the solidarity of heart and mind with the original community of believers in Jerusalem. How does your current community of faith compare to this first-generation Jerusalem church?

### SECOND READING

John speaks of the power of faith and love for believers in conquering evil in the world. How does the faith and love in your life sustain you?

### GOSPEL READING

The story of Thomas' doubt in the resurrected Jesus is one of the most well-known resurrection narratives. Why do you think Christians throughout the ages are drawn to this story?

# Weekly Schedule

Date	Celebration - Time	Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar
<p><b>Monday,</b> April 12:</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 4.23-31 Gospel: John 3.1-8</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:00 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:30 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Francisco Sordo</p>
<p><b>Tuesday,</b> April 13:</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 4.32-37 Gospel: John 3.7b-15 Optional Memorial of St. Martin I</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Wojciech Kuzma</p>
<p><b>Wednesday,</b> April 14:</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 5.17-26 Gospel: John 3.16-21</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Permanent Deacons</p>
<p><b>Thursday,</b> April 15:</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 5.27-33 Gospel: John 3.31-36</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. James McSharry</p>
<p><b>Friday,</b> April 16:</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 5.34-42 Gospel: John 6.1-15</p>	<p>Rosary – 7:30 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:00 AM <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b> – 8:30 AM –9:30 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Francis Hubilla</p>
<p><b>Saturday,</b> April 17:</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 6.1-7 Gospel: John 6.16-21</p> <p>ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA (Memorial)</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:00 AM <b>Mass</b> – 8:30 AM Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed) <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> – 4:00 PM –5:00 PM (or by appointment, please call the parish office) <b>Mass</b> – 5:30 PM</p>	<p>Rev. Joseph Okoko, i.v.Dei.</p>
<p><b>Sunday,</b> April 18:</p> <p>1st Reading: Acts 3.13-15, 17-19 2nd Reading: 1 John 2.1-5 Gospel: Luke 24.35-48</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:30 AM (livestreamed) <b>Mass</b> – 9:00 AM (livestreamed) <b>Mass</b> – 11:00 AM <b>Mass</b> – 4:00 PM</p>	<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</p>

## 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

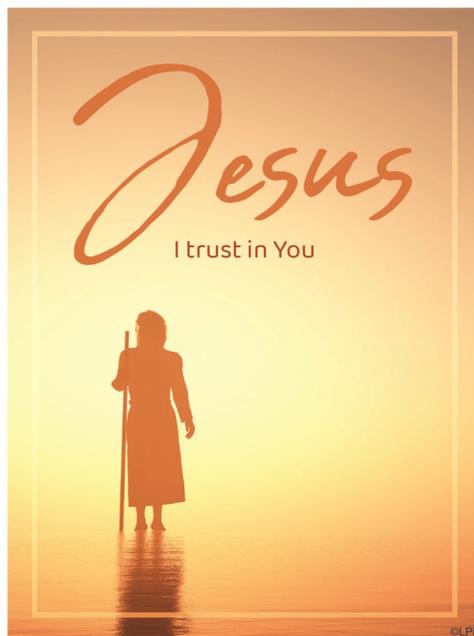
## WHY ARE PRIESTS TRANSFERRED FROM ONE PARISH TO ANOTHER? HOW IS THAT DECIDED?

Bishops take the appointment of pastors to parishes very seriously and the decision to assign or transfer priests is one of the most important decisions bishops can make, effecting the lives of everyone in the parish community.

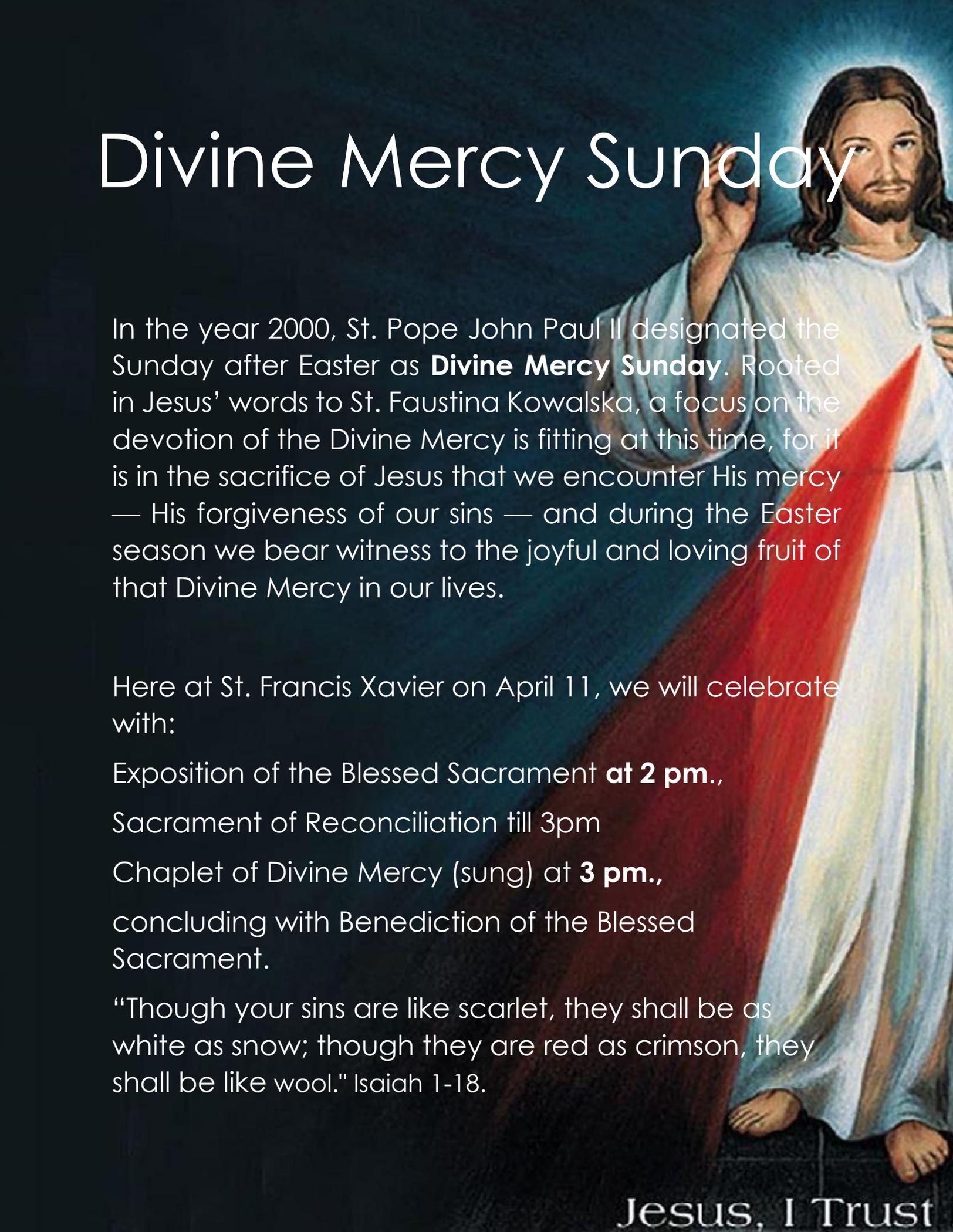
In the Dioceses of Canada some bishops implemented a six-year term limit for pastors (which can be renewed by bishop); term limits for associate pastors vary from diocese to diocese. Sometimes a particular priest is assigned to a parish or chaplaincy to respond to specific issues (such as a parish merger, a fundraising campaign, or

because he has special qualifications that make him a good fit for the community). In the case of new or recently ordained priests, the vibrancy and diversity, the presence of a school, or certain social programs offer invaluable training and ongoing formation.

In making their decisions regarding the placement of priests, most bishops rely on a priest personnel committee or a council of priests. There is also a period of dialogue with the priest(s) who will be moved, sometimes even including an extended period of discernment and self-assessment, helping to be as sure as possible that the assignment of a priest to a particular community will truly benefit the people and be a healthy one for the priest himself.



# Divine Mercy Sunday



In the year 2000, St. Pope John Paul II designated the Sunday after Easter as **Divine Mercy Sunday**. Rooted in Jesus' words to St. Faustina Kowalska, a focus on the devotion of the Divine Mercy is fitting at this time, for it is in the sacrifice of Jesus that we encounter His mercy — His forgiveness of our sins — and during the Easter season we bear witness to the joyful and loving fruit of that Divine Mercy in our lives.

Here at St. Francis Xavier on April 11, we will celebrate with:

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament **at 2 pm.**,

Sacrament of Reconciliation till 3pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy (sung) at **3 pm.**,

concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." Isaiah 1-18.

Jesus, I Trust

# LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Alleluia! Forgiveness has risen from the grave! What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. When experienced, we are moved to do all in our power to avoid sin and embrace the loving presence of our risen God. God stands ever ready to receive us and wants nothing more than for us to come home. How reluctant we are to believe this truth! We want proof, tangible evidence and absolute assurance that what we have been told is true. Jesus has risen from the dead and brings us peace. It is the gift of wholeness and holiness that is breathed upon us by God's life-giving and healing mercy. May the rays of love that flow from the heart of Christ pierce ours!

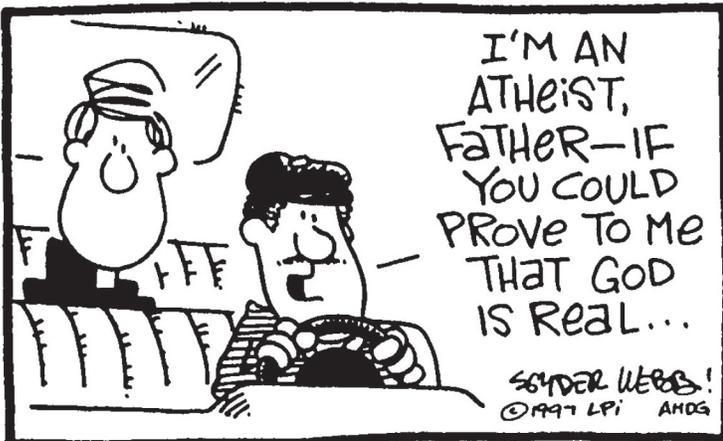


## PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you!



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



A special thank-you to the groups and ministries  
who led the Stations of the Cross for our parish on  
the Fridays of Lent:

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Divine Mercy

Knights of Columbus

Development and Peace

Catholic Women's League

Youth Ministry

Thank-you for helping our parishioners to  
experience and engage in Jesus' journey to Calvary  
in so many beautiful and unique ways this Lenten  
season. Your time and efforts are deeply  
appreciated.

## 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.

*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*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

*"We can cure physical diseases with medicine but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love."*

*St. Teresa of Calcutta*

# 3 EASY STEPS

## TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



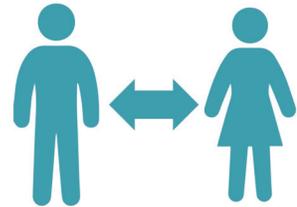
### WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.



### DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.



### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



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# Kids Corner

READ THE  
GOSPEL &  
COLOR



In today's Gospel, Thomas had a hard time believing his friends. Jesus was alive! They saw Jesus! Well, Thomas could not believe it. He needed proof. Thomas wanted to see Jesus for himself. Thomas wanted to touch Jesus' scars on his hands and his side. Once Thomas did that, then he would believe. You may have doubting friends like Thomas. Be patient with them. Do not get angry with them. Love them instead, and gently tell the truth about Jesus. Ask Jesus to open their hearts, so they can believe in him, too.

## PRAYER

God, help me to be patient with my doubting friends. Show them that Jesus is their savior, too.

## MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Talk to God about a friend who does not believe in Jesus. Ask God to give you the right words to say about Jesus. Then ask God to help you be patient.

# MASS INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 12 TO APRIL 18, 2021

DATE	MASS INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
<b>Monday, April 12:</b>	Giuseppe Giacoboni In Thanksgiving to Jesus for prayers answered	Bruna Giacoboni  M. Joun
<b>Tuesday, April 13:</b>	For the health & intentions of the Castellani Family In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary for watching over Domenico Villella's health	Mario & Louise Castellani  Angela Villella
<b>Wednesday, April 14:</b>	<b>MULTI-INTENTIONAL</b>  Souls in Purgatory Suko Bose Francesco Ventricini Fred Mastroianni Antonio Truglia Rosa Petitti Aleksandra Portka Intentions of Wieslawa and Adam Cybulscy Special Intentions Special Intentions	Stan & Ruth Szewc John & Irene Hickson Maria Ventricini The Mastroianni Family  Maria Adam Cybulski Grazyna Chomicka Halina Kwasniewska
<b>Thursday, April 15:</b>	Bruno Perusin Souls in Purgatory	Bertilla Perusin Eleonora Malatesta
<b>Friday, April 16:</b>	For the Special Intentions of Ewa	Ewa Nimcz
<b>Saturday, April 17: 8:30 am</b>	Carmela Oddi Tony Florio	Giuseppe Susi & Family Calogera Cannizzaro
<b>Saturday, April 17:  5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>MULTI-INTENTIONAL</b>  Vladyslav Indyk Fabio & Donna Pettorossi Antoinette Marchionda Clemente & Redenta Massignani Elisa Altobelli-Bozzo Giuseppina Fuca Martin Thien Phu Nguyen Iolanda & Guerino Bosica Maddelen Lustrinelli Lorenzo Castelli John Spadafora Anna DeSimone Adam Wyzkiewicz Francesca Stramenga Domenico Sinicropi Francesco Basolini Antonina & Nick Zamora Shirley Downey Dirkje (Dickie) Krebs Rosi Campanella	Marek Kulak Pettorossi & Laskowski Family Lina Marchionda Annamaria Reginato Altobelli, Batt & Mancuso Families Frank Fuca Kim Le-Butler Antonietta Placidi The Family Maria Castelli Mom & Dad Fil & Raffaella Giannini Wyzkiewicz Family Luigia Paradisi Lauretta & Family Alfonso & Alissia Bozzeli Dr. Emil Zamora Margaret Downey Domenic Pace Deacon Carmelo & Family
<b>Sunday, April 18: 9:00 a.m.</b>	Krista Pauly Special Intentions for Mary Barney	Margaret Pelino Mary Barney
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Clelio D'Angelo Agostino DiNunzio	Natalina D'Angelo Rosalia DiNunzio
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	For the People of the Parish (Missa Pro Populo)	