

Sunday of Divine Mercy – April 7, 2024



On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw

the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst 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 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name

.-John 20:19-31

Doubting

So what is the trouble for this famous man, Thomas, in the Gospel? His doubts echo through history. We often assume that he was just a tough guy who had trouble trusting. But it would help you and me in our own doubts if we could understand more about this person who couldn't believe in the resurrection.

We call him Doubting Thomas.

First, who was he? His real name in Aramaic, Te'oma (Thomas), meant twin, and he was also called Didymus, which meant the same thing in Greek. So he likely was a twin, perhaps of Matthew.

He might have been a bit glum. For instance, he gave a practical but gloomy response when Jesus wanted to go back to Judea after Lazarus died. None of the disciples wanted to go there, because they knew the leaders had tried to stone Jesus (John 10:24-30). At that point Jesus gave some high-minded talk about how much they would learn by going, but Thomas ignored these reasoning. His sarcastic reply is a perfect picture of him: "Alright, let us also go die with him" (John 11:16)*

Here Thomas reminds me a bit of Joe Btfsplk, the famous Al Capp cartoon character from yesteryear who walked around with a perpetual rain cloud over his head!

Much later, just before the passion, Jesus will say, "Where I am going you know the way." This was really a spiritual statement about going to the Father, but Thomas took it literally (John 14:3-6). He gives a very matter-of-fact response, but rooted in emotion. In summary he says, "You're talking in secrets! We can't follow you if don't say where you are going! Help us."

Thomas loved Jesus doggedly, that is for sure. But he feared the dangerous situations that Jesus always walked right into. Thomas' practical nature looked frankly at them and drew the pragmatic, pessimistic conclusion.

Thomas the twin had twin emotions, love and fear.

Is it any wonder, then, that in this Sunday's Gospel Thomas laid down unflinching requirements for believing in the resurrection? Take a look. His worst fears already had come true: Jesus had been killed. To deal with this sorrow Thomas resolved to accept the death stolidly. He would never slip and talk about his departed friend in the present tense, as if he were still here. Thomas the pragmatist knew that Jesus was dead and gone. He had predicted it.

Then came the new news.

"Didymus, Jesus is alive! You were away, but suddenly he stood there among us even though all the doors were locked! He talked to us!"

No. NO! Thomas' heart could not accept it. He wanted it too much. He could not bear to believe it.

Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe. (John 20:25)

This is exactly in character for Thomas/Didymus. These tough words are really a protection for a heart that would break in pieces if it were fooled by another false hope. "The only way I would believe such nonsense is if you give me absolute proof."

Jesus gave it. Fingers in nail marks, hand in side.

Thomas had always belonged to Jesus. Yes, he was cynical, but when he got the practical proof he needed, he sank to the ground in heart-rending surrender.

"My Lord and my God."

What a great story for us at Eastertide.

- John Foley, SJ

Readings for Divine Mercy Sunday

Reading I: Acts 4:32-35

Reading II: 1 John 5:1-6

Sequence: Victimae paschali laudes

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Readings for Next Sunday

Reading I: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Reading II: 1 John 2:1-5a

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

FINANCE

1st Collection=\$6,272

Betty Chinn /St Vincent de Paul = \$1, 919

Holy Land =\$456

Holy Thursday =\$359

Next week's 2nd Collection is for Building & Maint.

St. Bernard Rosary Program Report:

Rosaries prayed this week =46 Cumulative = 4,872

Marian Shrines Pilgrimage with Fr. Bernard D'Sa

Fr. Bernard will be leading a 13 day pilgrimage to Marian Shrines from July 7th – July 19th. The trip will visit shrines in France, Portugal and Spain. Some of the places visited will be Paris, Versailles, Chartres, Lourdes, Loyola, Oviedo, Santiago de Compostela, and Fatima. The price is \$4, 595 per person (double occupancy). For more info contact Holy Land Tours and Travel at (1-800-655-8644, www.holylandtoursandtravel.com or info@holylandtoursandtravel.com)

Eureka Holy Mass Schedule:

First Saturday, April 6

8:30 am First Saturday Marian Devotion Sacred Heart
3:15 Confessions St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm Mass for the People St. Joseph Church

Sunday of Divine Mercy – April 7

7:30 am +Alberto Tan St. Joseph Church
9:00 am No Intention Sacred Heart Church
10:30 am +Lance Madsen St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm (Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Monday, April 8 Feast of the Annunciation

12:15pm Int.Cailan Halliday (HB) St. Bernard Church

Tuesday, April 9

7:30 am +Ritz Anne Uy St. Joseph Church

Wednesday, April 10

12:15 pm Int. Julie Myers (HB) St. Bernard Church
*Followed by Confessions & Adoration St. Bernard
6:00 Adoration & Confession Sacred Heart Church
7:00 pm (Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Thursday, April 11

7:30 am +Robert Riehl St. Joseph Church
11:30 am No intention St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

Friday, April 12

12:15 Int. Mildred Perrone St. Bernard Church

Saturday, April 13

3:15 Confessions St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm + Mary Charbonneau St. Joseph Church

Sunday, April 14

7:30 am Mass for the People St. Joseph Church
9:00 am +My Hieu Venema Sacred Heart Church
10:30 am Int. Mildred Perrone St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm (Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Please Pray For: Mary Murphy, Obdulia Walters, Paul Windham, Barbara Clement, Stephen, David Gerрман, Tate, Kayden and Naylor Family, Barbara Reese, Teri McNamara, Padilla Family, Adriana Barrett, Nancy C., Lily Ennis & Family, Joyce Marty, Karla Kincade, Caroline Brooks, Santos and Basil Mainus, Josephine Silva, Judy Weber & Family, Dn. Steve Justus, Biesecker Family, Hinton Family, Colleen Huddleston, Caden Naylor, Diane Kerr, Jim Mowery, Sharon P., Stormie C. Myers, Amber, Peter John A., Robert Francis, Dan, Stella, Sandra, Maureen Sullivan, Martha Fosnaugh, John Hinds, Marian Griffin, Margaret Knight, Millie Perrone, Star Salazar, Barbara, Shawn, Lauriee Moralez, and Anderson Family..

Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:

Don Cloney, Clare, Gary Krietsch, Donald Burghart, Robert McCauley, Saturnina Tetrault, Patricia Lee Silva, Marilyn Zibilich, Lee Berning, Marie Giampaolo, Stella's Siblings, John Conant, Maryanne Elise Biesecker, Felipe de Jesus, Manuel Machado, Bettie Albright, Deacon Frank Weber, Deborah Justus, Jon Albert Mitts, John Eyeler, Patricia Kinsella Jurkovich, Robert Kerr, Merle Myers Jr, Dave Silverbrand, Betty Lutje Judy Williamson, Rosemary Buss, Vivian LaMont, and Chet Branum.

St. Bernard's Phone Prayer Line.

For those who are interested in joining the prayer chain or anyone with a prayer request, please call Alan/Illeen at (707) 442-6844. "Prayer is an act of love, words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love." ~ St. Teresa of Avila

DO NOT PARK NOTICE - H ST LOT

Please do not park in the 627 H St parking accessed off of H and 7th Streets. This is a private lot. Thanks.

Divine Mercy Message To St. Faustina For All

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us. God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as *The Divine Mercy* is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread. Jesus told St. Faustina, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy" (Diary of Saint Maria

This Sunday Pancake Breakfast - Sunday April 7th



The St. Bernard Pancake Breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus will be held April 7th in St. Bernard Parish Hall. Time is 8:30 am till 12. The menu includes pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs and all the usual wonderful trimmings! Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12 and \$25 for a family of 5 or more. Proceeds to St. Bernard Parish Building Fund

Worldwide Call To Prayer- Return to Our Lady

Beginning on March 12th and ending December 12th (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe) there will be a nine month novena to the Virgin Mary to intercede "against the pressing crises of our age" – and calling on Catholics around the world and "especially in the Americas" to help. Prayers and spiritual nourishment are to be found on the website. In addition you can sign up for regular inspirational email messages. Sign up at <https://novena.cardinalburke.com/>

Welcome To New Catholic Members With much joy and grateful hearts, we thank the Lord for the newest members of our Catholic family. Maggie Freeman, Symphony Horvath, Michael Isaacson, Kiona Kannika and Nate Le were all baptized at the Easter Vigil last Saturday night, and Dawn Gomersall and Greg Paez made professions of faith and received into the Catholic faith. Welcome, welcome to the family!!!

Many Thanks For Easter Mailing Help

Thank you Mikelyn Kishpaugh for your assist with the Easter mailing. The angels sent you and you jumped right in when needed. God bless you!

