

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



The Gift of Faith

Merciful God,
in this Easter season
you call us to see through eyes of faith.
Soften the hardness of our hearts
that keeps us from seeing you in
one another.
Give us the gift of your peace
and strengthen our belief in your presence;

especially when our vision is clouded by
fear and doubt.
We thank you for the gift of faith so
freely given
and for the courage to embrace that faith
and give witness to it
for the good of all people.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 24, 2022
All Things Are Possible



Today's readings: Acts 5:12–16; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19; John 20:19–31.
At times, it may seem farfetched to place belief in a person or a possibility. Having been sure at some time of an impossibility, we may identify with the apostle Thomas. He might have felt that Jesus could not have risen from the dead.

So sure was Thomas in his absence of belief that he told his friends, “Unless I see the marks of nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks . . . I will not believe.” Once Jesus entered the locked room, Thomas’ heart changes and he declared, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus accepted this change with mercy.

When tempted to lock ourselves away for fear of hurt or disappointment, it is good to be mindful that Jesus Christ can still be present to us. “Peace be with you,” he said to the disciples and he says to us in our tribulations. The gift of faith that he offers can provide the courage to step out of the locked room where we hide our emotions, our gifts, and our hopes. For our generation and so many others, Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have seen and have believed.” Where in your life are you unsure and need to change your heart? Spend time asking Christ to enter that place and bring you peace.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 25 Gospel Boldness

What does it mean today to speak the Word of God with boldness? To embrace a life that is based on Gospel values? Living out Gospel values can bring a beacon of hope to others. In the face of anger and hatred, such a way of living means to choose to love; in the face of weariness and sickness, it means to be a healing presence. Whenever we choose to hope, to love, and to heal, our faith is lived out loud. Such a faith alerts others to the presence of God. *Today's readings: 1 Peter 5:5b–14; Psalm 89:2–3, 6–7, 16–17; Mark 16:15–20.*

Tuesday, April 26 Creating a Community of Love

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind,” we hear in the reading from Acts. Imagine the Church acting with “one heart and mind.” The possibilities are limitless. The poor among us would be cared for, those in need of comfort and healing would find a place to rest, there would be no one marginalized because everyone would be welcomed. Pay attention to those who enter your life and how you welcome them. Your welcome reveals God’s love. *Today's readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

Wednesday, April 27 God So Loved the World

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son” has been heralded on posters, billboards, and T-shirts. As today’s Gospel states, it is up to believers to live out the truth of God’s love. Keep in mind that you reflect God’s light and love in how you greet others, show compassion, and offer encouragement. *Today's readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

Thursday, April 28 Open to the Spirit

In the first reading, the apostles tell the Sanhedrin of the witness of the Holy Spirit; in the Gospel, Jesus says that the gift of the Spirit is not rationed. This Holy Spirit surrounds us in every moment, energizing us to offer to our world mercy and compassion. Pray to the Spirit for courage to live the Gospel in word and action. *Today's readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

Friday, April 29 Grace in Abundance

Many people worry about scarcity. They are concerned that they do not have enough and even that they do not love enough. God’s grace, though, is available in abundance. In today’s Gospel, we hear of the apostles’ concern that there was not enough food for the crowd. Jesus, however, provides more than enough for all to have their fill. He takes precious little food and transforms it into a feast that yielded twelve baskets of food when all had eaten. Imagine what God can do with our lives when we are open to transformation. *Today's readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

Saturday, April 30 A Simple Prayer

Any parent or guardian stays constantly alert to the well-being of their children. Why is it so hard to imagine that God does the same with us? As God’s children, we are not unlike the disciples in the boat: sometimes we get tossed about by life and feel anxious. As the disciples discovered, Jesus was not far away. Just as Jesus calls out and reassures the disciples, he does so with us. When you are facing a moment of fear, pray, “Jesus, I trust in you!” *Today's readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*

