



**APRIL 16, 2023**

**EXPLORE THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**Second Sunday of Easter – Sunday of Divine Mercy**

Acts 2:42-47

Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 Pt 1:3-9

**Jesus and Thomas**

Jn 20:19-31

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.

## **MEET OUR EXTENDED FAMILY**

### **St. Faustina (Feast Day October 5)**

August 25, 1905 – October 5, 1938

Born Helena Kowalska in west-central Poland, St. Faustina was the third oldest of 10 children. She eventually joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and took the name St. Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament. Sister Faustina had a deep spiritual life. She received revelations from the Lord Jesus that she recorded in her diary at the request of Christ and her confessor, Father Sopocko. In these revelations, Jesus emphasized his mercy and forgiveness for sins acknowledged and confessed. Jesus instructed Sister Faustina to have an image painted. The painting has two rays emanating from Christ’s heart representing the blood and water poured out after his death. Jesus also told her that the Sunday after Easter should be honored as Divine Mercy Sunday and instructed her on how to pray the chaplet of Divine Mercy. Sister Faustina died of tuberculosis in Krakow, Poland, on October 5, 1938. Pope John Paul II beatified her in 1993 and canonized her seven years later. Her name is now linked to the annual feast of the Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and the Divine Mercy prayer recited each day at 3 p.m. by many people.

## **TAKE TIME TO CHAT**

- Go back in time and put yourself in Thomas’ shoes--would you have believed that Jesus was alive if you weren’t there to see it with your own eyes? How would you have felt if you were Thomas the second time Jesus appeared?
- How would you feel if Jesus appeared to you and said, “Peace be with you”?
- Who would you invite if you had a party where Jesus would appear? Why?
- Through St. Faustina, Jesus helped share his message of mercy and forgiveness. How can you share this message with others?

## **FAMILY FUN**

### **Hide and Seek**

Play the children's game Hide and Seek! The person who is "it" counts with their eyes closed while the others hide. When the counting is complete, the one counting tries to find everyone who is hiding. The first one found gets to be "it" next time. The last one found is the winner for that round. Be sure to set some ground rules before starting (e.g., stay inside the house, don't go beyond the backyard, no sharing hiding spots, etc.). Ensure that counting and rules are age-appropriate so that all can have fun!

## **RECIPE OF THE WEEK**

### **Divine Mercy Sunday Sundaes**

*On this Divine Mercy Sunday, make ice cream sundaes together as a family.*

- Get ice cream in the flavor(s) of your choice.
- Prepare toppings of your choice (e.g., caramel, chocolate sauce, strawberries, chocolate chips, kiwi, nuts, marshmallows, bananas, peanut butter cups, or whipped cream).

Fill your bowl with ice cream and the toppings of your choice! Enjoy!

## **FAMILY PRAYER**

### **Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

*Using Rosary beads, the Chaplet begins with the sign of the cross, followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed:*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*On the Our Father beads:*

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

*On the Hail Mary Beads:*

For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

*After five decades, conclude by reciting three times:*

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

## **LITURGY LINK**

Find the image of the Divine Mercy at your parish. If you can't find one, look one up online at home.

## **FAMILY CHALLENGE**

Post a picture of the Divine Mercy image in your home this week.

## **FUN FACTS**

The two rays of light coming from Jesus' heart in the image of the Divine Mercy help us recall the graces poured out in Baptism (water) and the Eucharist (blood). (CCC 2669)

*<https://www.52sundays.com/sundays/april-16-2023>*