



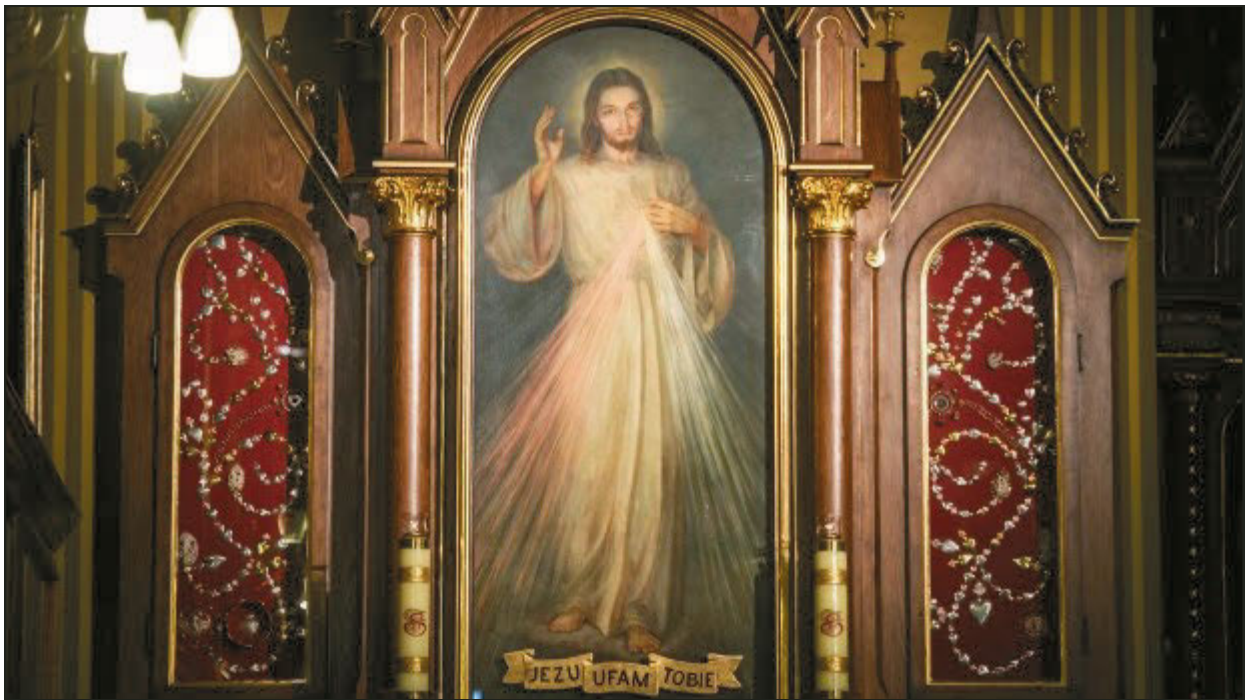
Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

April 16, 2023 ▪ Divine Mercy Sunday

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?



By Philip Kosloski

Divine Mercy Sunday is a name for the second Sunday in the Easter season.

For many centuries, the Second Sunday of Easter was nicknamed **Low Sunday**, in contrast to the **High Sunday of Easter**. Additionally, the newly baptized would wear their baptismal gowns during the eight days of the Easter Octave. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, the Second Sunday of Easter “was consequently known as *dominica in albis* (*deponendis*), the **Sunday of the (laying aside of the) white garments.**”

However, in recent years this same Sunday has been given another celebration: **Divine Mercy Sunday.**

Renamed in the year 2000

In 2000, Saint John Paul II canonized the Polish religious mystic Faustina Kowalska, and during his homily **officially designated the Second Sunday of Easter “Divine Mercy Sunday.”**

John Paul II did this to endorse Faustina’s private revelations as well as to put more emphasis on Divine

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Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM
Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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... Continued from cover

Mercy in the 21st century. He explained during his homily, “Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified: ‘My daughter, say that I am love and mercy personified,’ Jesus will ask Sr. Faustina (Diary, p. 374). Christ pours out this mercy on humanity through the sending of the Spirit who, in the Trinity, is the Person-Love. And is not mercy love’s ‘second name’ (cf. Dives in misericordia, n. 7), understood in its deepest and most tender aspect, in its ability to take upon itself the burden of any need and, especially, in its immense capacity for forgiveness? Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr. Faustina Kowalska to the whole Church as a gift of God for our time ... Jesus told Sr Faustina: ‘*Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy*’ (Diary, p. 132).”

The Polish pope then went on to proclaim, **“It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called ‘Divine Mercy Sunday.’”**

Jesus requested this “name change”

Jesus requested that this Second Sunday of Easter be named “Divine Mercy Sunday” in a vision to Saint Faustina that she wrote down in her *Diary*.

*On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. **It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.** (Diary 699) Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to our neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to absolve yourself from it. (Diary 742)*

Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have affirmed this new tradition and the new feast has become an official part of the Catholic Church’s liturgical calendar.

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*"Do not be
unbelieving,
but believe."*

(Jn 20:27)

Christ's appearance to the apostles, by J.M.W. Turner, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

April 16, 2023

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47 | 1 Pt 1:3-9 | Jn 20:19-31

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"I'll believe it when I see it." We've all said this at some point, usually in response to hearing about someone unreliable doing something out of character. St. Thomas had the same reaction in today's Gospel when he wasn't there when the other disciples saw Christ for the first time since he rose from his tomb - "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." Although Jesus helped Thomas with his unbelief, he blesses those who have not seen, but believe. Have any of us seen the nail marks in Christ's hands and feet, or the wound in his side? Do we see Christ's body and blood on the altar, or do we see only the gifts of bread and wine? Christ comes to us in ways we can understand initially - parables, bread and wine, the face of people we meet throughout our daily lives - but our faith in what we have not seen, in the great mystery of our salvation, is what makes us Christian.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today's first reading, we hear reports of the lives of the first disciples soon after Pentecost: communal living, breaking bread together, prayer, selling of their property and possessions and redistributing among themselves according to individual needs. To our ears today, this idyllic community living seems almost incredible. Yet these first disciples were infused with the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to proclaim the Gospel and think of others before themselves. As Christ's disciples today, how are we behaving toward one another? If we truly are among those who have not seen and yet believe, let's act in full confidence. As we heard in the second reading, our faith is "more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire." We certainly aren't perfect, and our faith at times can be sorely tested, and yet this is our call: to share this faith by doing good works in Christ's name to make disciples and build the kingdom of God.

INVITATION People often see Christ through the words and actions of others. This week, actively seek out opportunities to be the hands of Christ. What opportunities does your community have to practice corporal works of mercy?



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 15, Vigil for Divine Mercy Sunday
4:00 p.m. James Lawler & Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, April 16, Divine Mercy Sunday
8:00 a.m. Wayne Cline (Dec)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Delena Romani (Dec)

Monday, April 17, Monday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. Jacqueline Engels (Dec)

Tuesday, April 18, Tuesday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. Henry P. Clark (Dec)

Wednesday, April 19, Wednesday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, April 20, Thursday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. William Machuga (Dec)

Friday, April 21, Friday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. Ndubuisi Mbano (Dec)

Saturday, April 22, Saturday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. William Hueston (Dec)

Saturday, April 22, Vigil for Third Sunday of Easter
4:00 p.m. Sylvia Laudermilk Meyers (Dec)

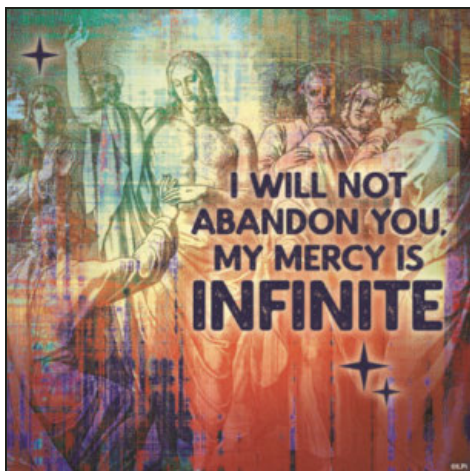
Sunday, April 23, Third Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. Lucilyn & Henry Clark (Dec)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

04/16 • Rev. James Johnson
04/17 • Rev. Thomas Morgan
04/18 • Rev. Bibin Mathew, IC
04/19 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
04/20 • Msgr. Robert F. Morris
04/21 • Rev. Cesar Petilla
04/22 • Rev. William C. Fickel, SSS

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.





RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Due to the constant unchecked flow of data and information through the Internet, it can be hard to know when a story is real news or rubbish. It never ceases to amaze me when someone I know has bought into some crazy fake news story. Sometimes the story is just so unbelievable: celebrities who gained two hundred pounds in a month, women having babies who were never pregnant, or people actually being seen who are dead! Like Elvis!

The apostle Thomas found the news that Jesus was alive just too far-fetched to believe. But he didn't first hear the news on the Internet or read it standing in the grocery store checkout line. His friends told him. His fellow apostles told him they had actually seen the Lord with their own eyes. Their testimony was not enough. He needed proof.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us not only hope, but also a reason to be his disciples. We have not seen with our own eyes but, like Thomas, we have a community, the Church, that has relayed the truth to us. This same Jesus now calls us to go forth to spread the Gospel. More unbelievable than that, we have, through the gifts we have been given, a chance to change and even save lives. The day may come that you, moved by this news of the risen Lord, will be an agent of his love to the point where someone will tell the tale that you, a follower of Jesus, actually helped to change his or her life. Pretty unbelievable, right?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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St. Anselm | April 21



St. Anselm of Canterbury left his home in Italy to travel as a young man and ended up at the monastery in Bec, France, which was known for the teachings of its leader, Lanfranc. Anselm rose quickly to become abbot of the community and his writings are now compared in importance to those of St. Augustine.

In 1093 Anselm was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by William II Rufus, the son and successor of William the Conqueror. However, at the time there was a controversy in Europe over whether kings or the pope had the power to invest bishops. Anselm, who believed only the pope should have the right to invest an ecclesiastical authority, spent much of his time as Archbishop exiled in Rome.

St. Anselm's teaching and works of theology are his most important contribution to the Catholic faith. He is considered of the fathers of scholastic theology and his chief achievement in philosophy was the ontological argument for the existence of God. His work *Cur Deus homo?* taught that atonement for sins could only be achieved through Christ. He was canonized in 1494 and named a Doctor of the Church in 1720. © LPi

Mass of Healing for Survivors of Abuse

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
11:00 A.M.

Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle
5815 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg

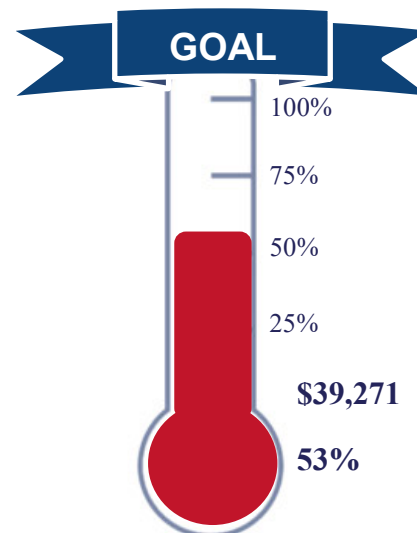
Open to the public. This Mass is for those in need of spiritual healing because of abuse in all forms, including sexual, physical or emotional, and those who wish to pray for victims/survivors of abuse, their family and friends.

Livestream Available: dosp.org/livestream
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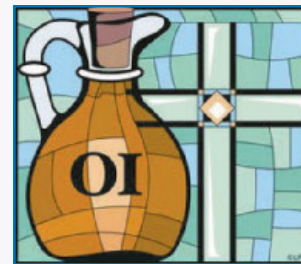
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Riley, Marie
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Shelby, Ron & Montez
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Thuline, James and Lil
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Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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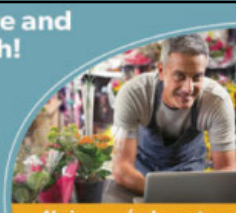
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