

FOR THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 15th-16th, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter (Or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Gospel reading

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 Messiah,
the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Intercession

That, filled with joy in Jesus, our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* may overflow to bless many.

Copy for bulletin announcement

Today Jesus specifically blesses “those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). If you haven’t seen Jesus, you have a special potential for blessedness. That’s us!

It’s a special joy that comes from hope. Confidently hoping for the fulfillment of our desire is a joyful state. Enduring in such hope *increases* our capacity for joy.

Oh, joy upon joy! Indeed, “All the way to heaven is heaven,” as a saying attributed to St. Catherine of Siena goes. Please support our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* so we can help others access this joy. As a parish, we rejoice to have such a massive hope for one another. Please help us reach souls who labor in quiet despair because without you, we can’t reach them. Pray, donate, and sacrifice for our Appeal. By giving with the confidence that “gifts will be given to you” (Luke 6:38). *Blessed* are those who have not seen and have believed. *Believe* in what Christ can do through our parish for this local community. Believe because “Hope does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5). Alleluia!

Copy for pulpit announcement

Lift your gifts for our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* to God this Easter season as a sacrifice of joy. Today, we rejoice with all those “who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). That’s us! We need your help to get this joy out to our local community. Our parish has the greatest treasure in the world: the risen Christ in the Eucharist. Build us up through your donations, prayers, and fasting. Our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* can’t do it without you. Please help us help the world know he’s truly here. Alleluia to that!

Social media post/content

Photo: A painting of the Divine Mercy image.

Header: “*Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*” – John 20:29

Sub-header: Second Sunday of Easter

Copy: The image of Divine Mercy expresses the message that we trust in Jesus. Today, we relish our faith. Thank you for believing in the ministries of our diocese by trusting us with your gifts to the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.