



Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

JOHN 20:29

The Importance of Trust

ANN M. GARRIDO

We can readily understand Thomas' insistence upon seeing things with his own eyes. Would you believe it if someone told you that a friend whose funeral you had attended was now walking through walls?

At some time or other, all of us have been tricked into believing something we later found out was untrue and remember how foolish we felt. Haven't our parents told us not to believe everything we hear? Haven't our teachers taught us to do our own research? Doubt serves a valuable purpose, and we would be naïve to disregard it.

At the same time, we know that doubt can become a way of life, overstepping its usefulness. During the COVID pandemic, for example, some refused to believe even the most knowledgeable medical voices in the nation. Like Thomas, they insisted that unless they'd "done their own research," they wouldn't believe. Such a stance ignores that unless you are a scientist working in a medical lab, even "your own research" will be based on an act of belief that what you are reading of others' research is correct. Doubt is good, but only in combination with a healthy dose of humility. In the end, the world turns on an axis of trust.

At the close of today's gospel, Jesus names as "blessed" those able to discern what is true and believe not only because of what they have seen with their own eyes but also because of what they have heard through their ears from sources worthy of their trust. ●

Reflect

When has doubt served a purpose, and when has it gotten in my way?



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am
Saturday 7:00pm (Neo-Catechumenal Mass).

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES ...

APRIL 11/12th - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

5:00PM Lector: Joshua Blee EM: Sara Peniston
10:15AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Joyce Lee
Collection: Pat Robinson

APRIL 18/19th - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Lector: Laura DeFrias EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Ramdass EM: Christine DaCosta
Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS ...

APRIL 11/12th - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

5:00PM For All Those Who Are In Most Need of Thy Mercy
10:15AM St. Michael's Deceased Parishioners

APRIL 18/19th - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM In Thanksgiving to the Neo Catechumenal Way Members
Generous Donation
10:15AM St. Michael's Deceased Parishioners

Thank you for your generosity.



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

April 4/5th COLLECTION: \$1,029.00
(Includes Holy Thurs)

Holy Land Collection: 426.00

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Pastor's Point ...

Dear Parishioners,

The Octave of Easter is the eight days from Easter Sunday to the second Sunday of Easter, as the ancients counted, with Easter Sunday counting as day #1 and the Second Sunday of Easter counting as day #8 when Jesus appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room a second time (Jn 20:26-29). During these eight days, the Church shares with us the Gospel stories of the Resurrection of Christ. Today is also celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday, a celebration inaugurated in 2000 by St. Pope John Paul II, when he canonized St. Faustina Kowalska. The Church established Divine Mercy Sunday in recognition of the devotion to the Divine Mercy by Saint Faustina Kowalska, as reported in her visions and conversations with Christ. The day is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences issued by the Church.

The Theme of this Sunday's Readings: Faith, Mercy, and Community

The covenant relationship we share with our Savior, Jesus Christ, is founded on fellowship within the Christian community through communion with each other and with the life of Christ the Redeemer in the Eucharist. A covenant relationship with the Most Holy Trinity also requires communicating with God through prayer, knowing the will of God through studying the Old Testament Scriptures and the New Testament teachings of Jesus Christ, and putting those teachings into practice through acts of mercy toward our brothers and sisters in the human family.

God bless, as Jesus is Risen, He is truly Risen,
Fr. Joe (Pastor at St. Michael's & Vicar General DOHB)

Source - Agape Bible Study for Divine Mercy Sunday



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



The Lord shows us his wounds and says: Peace be with you. Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us, too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, OCTOBER 1, 2025

WORDS OF LIFE

If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities,
"Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion" www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy

Bishops Corner ...

Fellow-Catholics,

Approximately 65,000 flowers and 120,000 olive branches decorated St. Peter's Square for Holy Week and Easter celebrations at the Vatican. These decorations were gifts from Italy and the Netherlands, as has been the tradition for four decades.

For Palm Sunday, 120,000 olive branches were distributed to the faithful attending the Mass celebrated by Pope Leo XIV in St. Peter's Square. These olive branches were a gift from the Umbria regional delegation of the National Association of Olive Oil Cities.

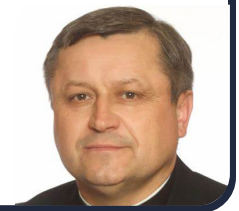
On Easter Sunday, the Vatican Square was covered with a mantle of more than 65,000 flowers from the Netherlands. These plants were a gift to the Holy See from Dutch florists and decorators.

The Vatican detailed the composition of the flowerbeds: "65,000 tulip bulbs, daffodils, hyacinths and mini-daffodils; 220 white and orange violets; 7,800 flowers, including roses, delphiniums, anthuriums, chrysanthemums, gerberas, and matthiolas; 600 branches of plumosa; 80 azaleas and 600 long branches of willow catkins, long branches of eucalyptus, as well as various types of foliage."

For 40 years, the Netherlands has offered flowers to the Holy See for Easter. In November 1985, during the beatification of St. Titus Brandsma, Dutch florists offered thousands of flowers to the Vatican to beautify the celebration. They were invited to do the same for the following Easter, before this practice became a tradition.

Have a restful weekend of Divine Mercy and a blessed week!

+ Wes 
Bishop Wes



Dear Padre,

We are told that when we receive the Holy Eucharist, our venial sins are washed away. Does the same thing happen when we receive spiritual communion?

Yes, and there are many other ways that venial sins can be forgiven. First and foremost is each of the sacraments of reconciliation: baptism, Eucharist, penance, and anointing of the sick. In addition to the sacraments, an Act of Contrition will also suffice, as will a simple prayer of intercession, such as, "Lord, Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Forgiveness of venial sins is directly dependent on one thing: the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit at work in our world and in each one of us. Forgiveness is not merited; it is a gift, and, as a gift, it requires only that we ask and gratefully receive.

It is true that we are all sinful. We are also all blessed. As wonderful as forgiveness is, and there truly is no greater gift of God's love, an equally wonderful gift is gratitude. Perhaps, with every Act of Contrition that we pray, we should also offer a prayer of thanksgiving. It might help us find balance if we remind ourselves not only how we may not have measured up but also that we are blessed and graced. ●



MONSTERA PRODUCTION / PEXELS

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

EASTER CEMETERY MASS

THIS Saturday, 11th April at 11:00am Holy Calvary Cemetery.

*There will be NO 9:00am Portuguese Mass on this day

THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

THIS Sunday, 12th April at 3:00pm – St. Patrick's Church, Smith's

St. MICHAEL'S

- **SYNODAL BIBLE STUDY** - each **Wednesday at 3:00pm** in the Pastor's office, is inspired by the method of **Spiritual conversation** used during the Synod on Synodality. It is leading a small group using the texts from the Sacred Scriptures in a structured format emphasising: listening, discernment, and community, fostering a deeper connection with scripture and with each other and make sure to bring your **Catholic Bible**. Any questions contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236.
- EMMAUS Bible Study: Each Tuesday at 3pm
- Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist celebration - Saturdays at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S

- During the winter season St. Theresa's Cathedral will be locked at 4:00pm from Monday to Friday.
- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Noon Day Mass in St. Theresa's Cathedral: The 12:10pm Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration each Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

- **Opening hours** - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays. Come and see what we have.
- Gift Shop has First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards on sale for only \$2 each, not to mention great Gift ideas too for the special young person in your lives.



LET'S TALK
MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Brochures . . .

Please find included in the Bulletin rack (*in Portuguese and English*) and as individual links to the weekly email blast three flyers discussing your Mental Health and Wellness. They are brilliant, informative and very helpful flyers.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health illness or suicidal thoughts, please call: 236-3770 weekdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm (MWI) 911 or 239-1111 (24/7 Crisis hotline)

The Catholic Company presents

GET FED™
Bite-Sized Faith

Why did Jesus eat fish after the Resurrection? Why did he eat at all?

The Catechism explains this moment with clarity: "Jesus did not return to earthly life... but he showed himself to his disciples with the marks of his Passion... He converses with them and eats with them" (CCC 645)

It's one of those small Gospel details that is easy to overlook. After the Resurrection, when Jesus appears to His disciples, He does something unexpected...He eats. Specifically, He eats fish.

In the Gospel of Luke, we are told: "They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them" (Luke 24:42-43). At first glance, it seems almost unnecessary. If Christ has risen from the dead, why pause to include something so ordinary?

But Scripture does not include details like this by accident.

The disciples, at this point, are not simply joyful—they are confused. They are seeing something they cannot fully comprehend. Luke tells us they were "startled and frightened," even thinking they might be seeing a spirit. Jesus responds in a very human way. He shows them His hands and His feet. He invites them to touch Him. And then—He eats. Not because He needs to, but because they need to see it.



The Catechism explains this moment with clarity: "Jesus did not return to earthly life... but he showed himself to his disciples with the marks of his Passion... He converses with them and eats with them" (CCC 645). The Resurrection is not symbolic. Christ did not rise as an idea. He rose in His body. Eating the fish becomes a small but powerful proof: this is not a ghost, not a vision, not a memory. This is Jesus, alive.

There is something else here as well. Throughout the Gospels, meals matter. Christ teaches, forgives, and reveals Himself at the table. After the Resurrection, He continues this pattern. He meets His disciples not in spectacle, but in something familiar—shared food, fish, the common food of the area, and shared presence. It is not so different from how He meets us now, often in ordinary ways we might overlook.

The detail of the fish reminds us that the Resurrection is not distant from our lives. It is not abstract. It enters into the ordinary. Christ rises—and then sits down and eats with His friends.

It is a small detail, but it tells us something essential: the risen life is not less real than this one. It is more.

Our Sunday Readings

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:42-47
 PSALM 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
 I PETER 1:3-9
 JOHN 20:19-31

Receiving the Spirit

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:42-47

Reading closely

1. What are the basic elements of the Christian life as Luke describes them?
2. What do you think these early Christians were like?
3. What might the lives of these people have been like before they became Christians?
4. What challenges might they face after converting?
5. What might draw others to this group?

Living the word

6. How closely does your own life fit Luke's description of Christian living?
7. Do you think visitors to your faith community would say that it resembles the community Luke describes?
8. In what ways can you and your community come closer to Luke's vision of Christianity?

THE FIRST READING

Hearing from Acts

During the Easter season our first reading is always from the Acts of the Apostles, the second part of Luke's two volume work. Acts tells how the Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' followers to

continue his mission, which Jesus prepared them to do during his earthly ministry. We're reminded that Jesus also shares his Spirit with us so that we can do likewise.

Inspiring a community

In this passage Luke paints an idealized portrait of the new Christian community. Luke isn't pretending that everything was perfect. Rather, he's showing that God's Spirit brings about all that we truly need.

Filled with the Spirit, Jesus' followers...

- learn about and follow his teaching; some even work mighty deeds like Jesus did
- live in fellowship, both spiritually and materially
- share meals
- pray together

In these ways the early Christians manifest the joy and unity they have in Christ. Their joy isn't a passing emotion but a state of mind and heart: Jesus has been raised from the dead, and they believe that one day they will join him. Their joy and the new way they live draws converts to the faith.

JOHN 20:19-31

Entering the word

Imagine that you are one of the disciples.

1. Why are you hiding?
2. What all are you feeling?
3. What have you been doing since Jesus was crucified?
4. What are the other disciples saying and/or doing?
5. What are you doing when Jesus appears?
6. How do you react when Jesus appears?
7. Do Jesus' words of peace surprise you?
8. How do you feel when Jesus shares the Spirit with you?
9. Where is Thomas during all of this?
10. How do you try to convince Thomas of what has happened?
11. Why doesn't Thomas believe you?
12. How does Thomas react when Jesus appears again?
13. Do you think you will ever fear or doubt again?
14. What do you think Jesus and the Father expect of you now?
15. What does this time of reflection leave you thinking about?

THE GOSPEL READING

Peace & reconciliation

The disciples are afraid and withdrawn. Jesus walks through the locked door and gives them peace. The great hope of God's people was for *shalom*, a lasting peace that encompassed all creation.

Jesus tells his disciples to walk through the doors of other locked hearts in order to dispel fear and bring peace and reconciliation into the world. One way the Church fulfills this mission is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Holy Spirit

Before he was killed, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to help the disciples carry out their mission (14:15f). John reminds us that although the earthly Jesus is gone, he remains within and among us in the person of the Spirit (19:30).

Doubt & faith

Thomas is mostly remembered for not believing that Jesus rose from the dead. What people forget is what he said when Jesus appeared to him: *My Lord and my God!* This is the boldest statement of faith in John's Gospel.

Thomas' words of faith sum up the main theme of this Gospel: Jesus is one with the Father, just as Jesus had been telling people all along. To see Jesus is to see the Father. Those who believe that Jesus is from God receive his Spirit of eternal and empowering life.

Seeing & believing

The first half of this Gospel is often called *The Book of Signs*. Here Jesus does and says things so that people will see that he is the one whom God has sent to give eternal life to all who believe. Verses 30-31 thus sum up the reason John wrote. (John's Gospel seems to have ended with verse 31. Later someone added an epilogue.)

Because we ourselves haven't seen the earthly Jesus nor the signs he worked, John wrote his Gospel in order to help us believe. Both the words of this Gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit enable us to believe and profess that Jesus is *our Lord and our God*.

PRAYER

*adapted from a collection of first century hymns
quoted in Days of the Lord, v. 3*

Christ Jesus, Risen One,
as the sun is the joy of those who seek the day,
so our joy is you, our Lord, for you are our sun.
Your rays resurrect us,
and your light drives all darkness from our eyes.
Thanks to you we have acquired eyes
and seen your holy day;
we have been given ears
and heard your truth;
we have been given knowledge
and trembled with joy.
We thank you and we praise you. Amen.