

# Dear Padre,

## What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina Kowalska a saint of the Church on April 30, 2000, and in a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that "throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that [we] will experience in the years to come."

Saint Faustina was born in 1905 and spent most of her life in Poland, in the Congregation of the Virgin Mary of Mercy. She experienced an extraordinary union with God. She received exceptional graces, revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, the ability to read souls, and the gift of prophecy.

One of the images that was revealed to Faustina was that of the merciful Jesus, touching his Sacred Heart, from which beams of red and white light came forth. This image and her devotion to the divine mercies gathered thousands of supporters throughout the world. We still see the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in many of our churches today. In some churches, we might see the newer image, inspired by the saint. Saint Faustina Kowalska died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three, leaving an impressive mystical legacy. She is a disciple of God's divine mercy for the twenty-first century. ✪



The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](https://dearpadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 8 Annunciation of the Lord Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	April 9 Easter Weekday Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15	April 10 Easter Weekday Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21	April 11 St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36	April 12 Easter Weekday Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15	April 13 Easter Weekday Acts 6:1-7 Jn 6:16-21	April 14 Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*The story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer. There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord's mercy.*

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (B)

Acts 4:32-35 / 1 John 5:1-6 / John 20:19-31



## The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**ill is a widower, now in his eighties. He calls every once in a while, partly to talk but really wanting to know how he can convince his grown children and grandchildren to come back to church. He tells me they're good people, but he would like them to have faith. It's been a mainstay in his life, he tells me, something that has gotten him through many difficulties. He loves his family but says their life would be so much richer if they had an active faith life. I try to tell Will he can't argue them into faith. At most he can share with them how faith has been a blessing in his life, hoping that it might then spark an interest in them.

The disciples in the Gospel story about "Doubting Thomas" experienced Will's dilemma. They were unable to convince Thomas that the Lord had risen. He insisted that he would only believe when he could put his fingers and hands into Jesus' wounds, which of course is just what happens the next time they are gathered. For Thomas, words were not enough; he needed the experience.

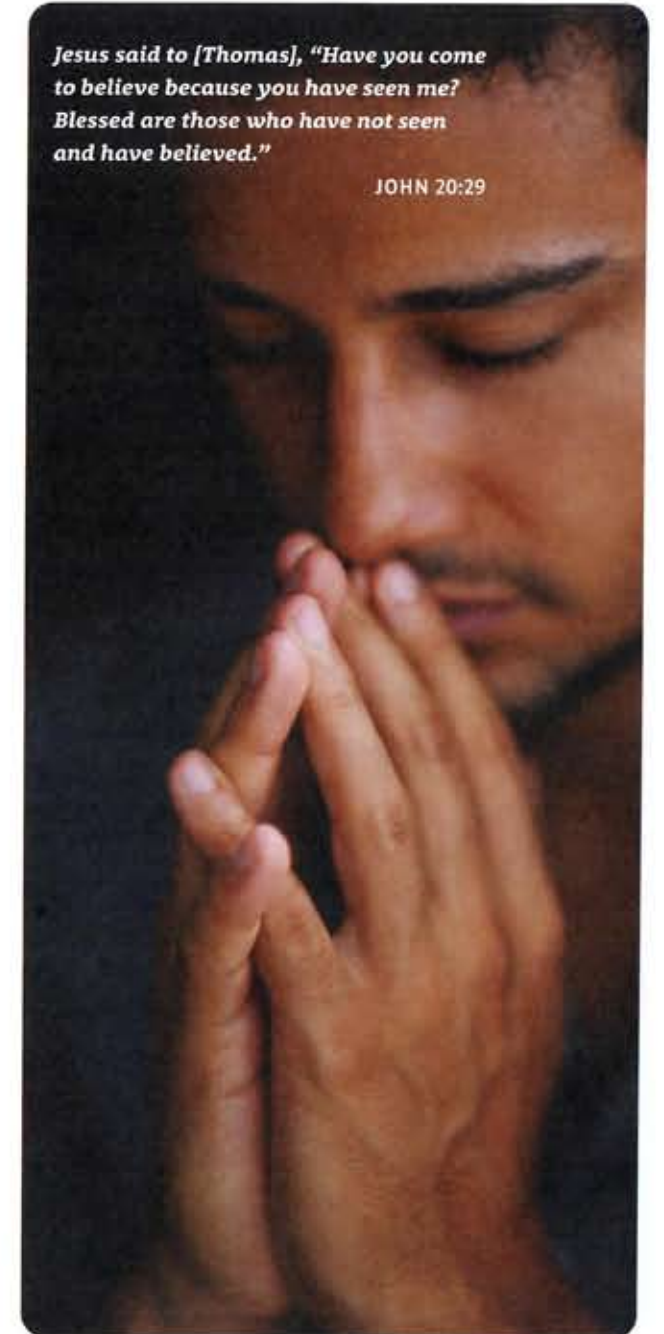
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe, especially those we dearly love. ✪

## Reflect

*Have you ever surrendered to faith even when you were filled with doubt?*

*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



# Easter Flower Memorials

In Loving Memory of:	From:
Curtis Maynard	Dave and Kelly Fisher
Lucille Maynard	Dave and Kelly Fisher
Father Paul Walker	Dave and Kelly Fisher
Tim Scholl	JoAnn Scholl
Wally Olszewski	JoAnn Scholl
Thanksgiving for Sheila Olszewski	JoAnn Scholl
Deceased Family Members	John and Annette Schaad



# St. James Church

Fr. Tim Kozak, Pastor

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## Love God. Love Neighbor. Make Disciples.

*Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick: Call Fr. Tim*

*Sacrament of Matrimony: Call the rectory six months in advance*

*Sacrament of Baptism: Call the rectory three months in advance*

	Lector	Server	EMHC	Greeter
<b>This Sun.</b>	S. Roberts	MJ Drobina	H. Schaad	J. Corcoran
<b>Next Sat.</b>	K. Fisher	MJ Drobina	C. Hatem	J. Corcoran

### Mass Intentions

**Sat., Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>** **Larry & Judy Weiner**†  
*By Ruth Ann Baker*

**Tues., Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>** **Sonny Offenberger**†  
*By Clint & Marsha Anderson*

**Sat., Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>** **Faye Schweikert**†  
*By Ed & Jan Schweikert*

### Bulletin

*St. Bernard Office 740.984.2555*

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**Ministry Scheduling** *Holly Schaad 740.461.8349*  
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**CWC President** *Mary Goode 740.962.5963*

**KrogerCommunityRewards.com** *Joe Hatem*  
*740.559.3770*

### Please Remember in Your Prayers

*Connie King, Joyce Huey, Dobbin Kirkbride,  
Clinton Hutson, Francie, Tim Scholl†, Michael  
Drobina†, Nancy Baker, Earl Schaad†, Bob  
Brokamp†, Robin Clark, Fr. Charles Moran†, Ken  
Brokamp, Msgr. James Boehm†*

**Collection not Available at Time of Publication**

## Divine Mercy Sunday

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### This Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday:

On the second Sunday of Easter in 2000, Pope St. John Paul II officially designated the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. On that same day, Sr. Faustina Kowalska was also declared a saint. During her short life she had apparitions of Jesus which she recorded in her diary. The Lord promised to bestow gifts upon all those who celebrate this day. **The Church has also offered a plenary indulgence to those who attend Mass that weekend, as long as they receive Communion and go to Confession.** This Sunday we will have an image of the original Divine Mercy painting from 1934 and will say the prayers necessary to receive the indulgence.

**What is a Plenary Indulgence?:** All sin damages our relationship with God. When we go to Confession our sins are forgiven, but there is still the temporal punishment associated with sin. The Church offers us the plenary indulgence to wipe away that temporal punishment. Four things are necessary to receive the indulgence:

1. Go to Confession
2. Receive Communion
3. Pray for the Pope's Intentions

That fourth thing can be a variety of things, such as saying a rosary out loud in the church, doing Stations of the Cross in the church, or doing a holy hour in the church. **You can apply the indulgence either to yourself or a loved one who has died.**

**Divine Mercy Prayer Service:** This Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, is Divine Mercy Sunday, when we remember the promises that Jesus made to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. **From 3:00pm to 4:00pm at St. Bernard** there will be a prayer service with readings from Scripture and the diary of St. Faustina, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and music.

**Go to Confession Monthly:** The Church teaches that you have to go to Confession at least once a year. Fr. Tim recommends that you go once a month. Confessions are heard starting 30 minutes before the weekend Mass. You can find Fr. Tim in the sacristy behind the altar or in the dining room of the rectory.

**The Easter Season:** Just as there are different seasons of the calendar year, there are different seasons of the liturgical year, the year of the Church. The season of Lent precedes the Easter Season, and the season of Advent precedes the Christmas Season. The rest of the liturgical year is the 34 weeks of Ordinary Time.

The Easter season begins with Easter Sunday and runs through the 50 days until Pentecost Sunday. The first eight days of the Easter Season are known as the Octave of Easter, which finishes up on the evening of Divine Mercy Sunday. The color of the season is white in celebration of the resurrection of the Lord.

After Pentecost, we will return to the season of Ordinary Time. The color of that season is green.