



Bulletin

Sacred Heart Parish
Eucharist Schedule: Saturday 4:00

Masks are mandatory in the Church

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April 10rd, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday

The Holy Gospel that the Liturgy presents to us on this second Sunday of Easter, is one of the most well known, discussed, and appreciated—the meeting of the Risen Lord with St Thomas. The Fathers of the Church have given us numerous insights into this Gospel text. Likewise, it has proven the inspiration to the numerous artists who have physically represented the events of this Gospel in order to give us a clear idea of what happened, ‘eight days after’ the first apparition of the Risen One, to the disciples congregated in the cenacle.

Jesus’ response to Thomas, after he recognized Him as *‘My Lord and my God’*, has a mysterious fascination that must relate not so much to the disciples—those who *‘have seen’*—but rather to those, like us, who were added to their number afterwards. *‘You have come to believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.’* (Jn 20:29)

The attention that these words evoke seems yet more paradoxical if we remember that the Lord had proposed, to the same author of the Gospel, what can be justly referred to as the Christian method, *‘come and see’* (Jn 1:39). How can we possibly reconcile these two phrases by Jesus that form the ideal setting for the whole of the fourth Gospel? Perhaps, in the end, the Lord decided to change His method? What do the words *‘have not seen’* really mean?

The timely recollection of the *‘eight days after,’* which is the Sunday after the Resurrection, permits us to tie our reflection to one of the most significant

Eucharistic hymns composed by another Thomas, St Thomas Aquinas. In the Adore Te Devote, which refers to the Eucharist, we read: *‘Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgement of you. But hearing suffices firmly to believe’*. Combining these words with today’s Gospel we can justly affirm that the experience *‘to see’* was not denied to us, but it is in contrast with the Apostle Thomas’ physical experience, who was able to put his own finger into the holes in Christ’s hands and side, whilst we can only comprehend it in the faith which is guarded and transmitted by the Church, our Mother and Teacher.

That which we *‘have not seen’* is therefore the glorious Body of the Risen One. However, today we have the ability to *‘listen’* to the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church and so we can *‘see’* the real Body of Christ which is the Eucharist. We can *‘see’* His Mystical Body which is the Church. We can *‘see’* Him in our lives and in the lives of our many brothers who, after meeting the Lord in a real but mysterious way, are united to Him in His Spirit!

Like Thomas, Christ calls us to fill the holes left by the instruments of the passion in His Body with our own hands so that our lives and the verbal witness that we give proclaim His Resurrection. Our senses could betray us, but we know that we have met the Risen One and we have recognized Him!

The certain hope that Peter, who betrayed the Lord three times for fear of death, proclaims to us with the words, *‘rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy’* (1 Peter 1:8), become fully comprehensible because blessed are they that *‘have not seen’* the Risen Lord, but seeing the joy of His disciples *‘have believed’* in Him!

From the *Congregation for the Clergy*

Old Calendar: Low Sunday; "Domenica in albis"; "Quasimodo" Sunday

"I shall sing forever the Lord's mercy." (Ps 89 [88]) This Sunday is popularly known as Mercy of God Sunday. Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on April 30, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that Blessed Faustina make a special novena before the Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. Jesus also asked that a picture be painted according to the vision of Himself as the fountain of mercy. He gave her a chaplet to be recited and said that it was appropriate to pray the chaplet at three o'clock each afternoon (the Hour of Great Mercy).

Today is the feast of St. Stanislaus of Cracow which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.

Collection:
Good Friday, 2021

Envelopes	\$335.00
Loose	\$20.00
	\$355.00

April 3rd, 2021

Envelopes	\$845.00
Loose	\$10.00
Initial Offering	\$5.00
	\$860.00

Notices:

1: Silver Rose Prayer Service: A Pro-life Celebration

The travelling Silver Rose will be in our area on Tuesday, April 13th. Please join with the Knights of Columbus in honouring Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe to reaffirm our dedication to the sanctity of human life. Holy Mass will be held in Sacred Heart Johnstown at the outdoor shrine (weather permitting) or in the church on April 13th at 3:30 pm and then at St. Peter's Church on April 13th at 6:30 pm.

Due to COVID guidelines for church limitation on numbers it is suggested that you sign at the site where you wish to attend. This, in case the outdoor venue becomes unavailable.



2: Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Helen Slade

Johnstown Parish Hall

Mondays, for 8 weeks, beginning April 12

10:00 - 11:30 am, Fee: \$25.00