



## 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.

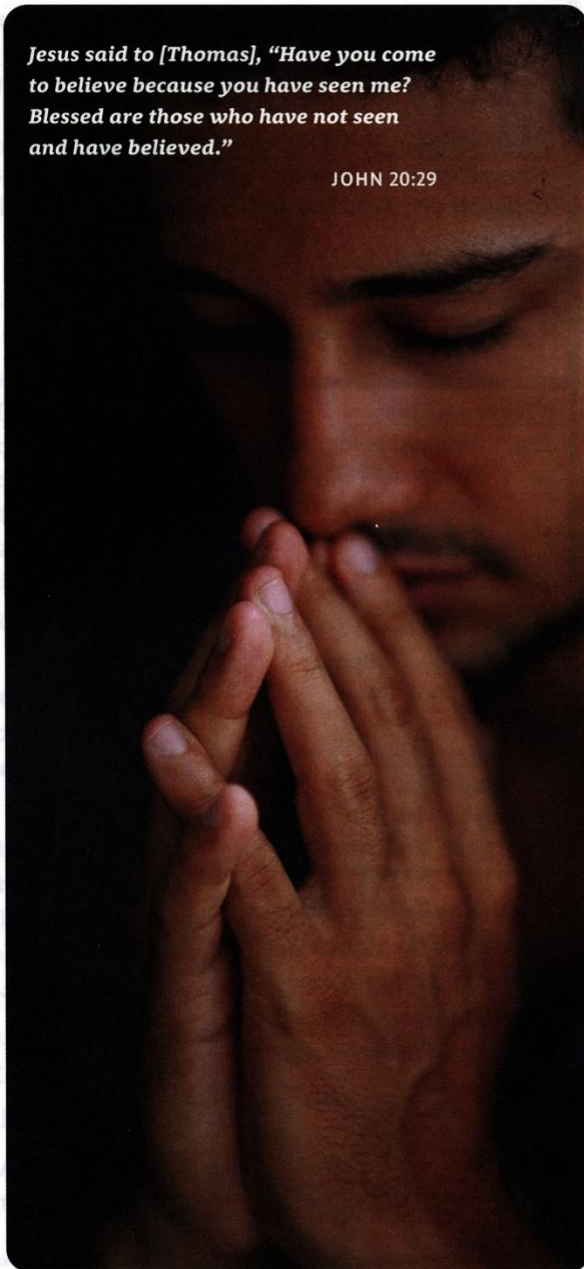
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe,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



**Saint Benedict Catholic Church  
336-272-0303**

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**Website: [stbenedictgreensboro.net](http://stbenedictgreensboro.net)**

**Email: [Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org](mailto:Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org)**

**Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday**

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.**

**Rev. James Duong, Pastor**

**Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator**

**Weekend Mass**

**Sat.** Miraculous Medal  
Novena at 4:45pm  
Mass at 5:00pm

**Sun.** 8am & 11am

**Confessions**

Weekday before 12:15pm  
Saturday 4 - 4:30pm  
and by appointment

**Weekday Mass**

Monday - Friday  
Rosary at 11:45am

**No MASS on Thursday**

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***Weekly bulletin requests***

***must be in the Parish***

***Office by 12:00pm on***

***Wednesday, ten (10) days in  
advance of the weekend of  
publication.***

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

**HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS:** If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:** All classes from Pre-K to High School are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

**RCIA:** Please call the parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

**APRIL 7, 2024**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

May the infinite mercy of our Divine Savior reach all who are suffering from participation in abortion and transform them with His healing, hope and peace.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

4/6	Saturday	5:00 PM ....
4/7	Sunday	8:00 AM .... 11:00 AM
4/8	Monday	12:15 PM ....
4/9	Tuesday	12:15 PM ....
4/10	Wednesday	12:15 PM ....
4/11	Thursday	NO MASS
4/12	Friday	12:15 PM ....
4/13	Saturday	5:00 PM ....
4/14	Sunday	8:00 AM .... 11:00 AM ....

**INTENTIONS**

	For the Parishioners
+	Deceased of the DeGuzman Family In honor of Divine Mercy
+	Trudy Chavis
	Eric Hofer - conversion
	Room at the Inn
+	Felisa Layug
	For the Parishioners
+	Deceased of the Layug Family
+	Carl Hagerstrom Sr.

**Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers**

Capt. John Brock	Mohammad Karim
Mark Bracich	Michael Knudsen
Cpl. Kevin Bryan	Danny McGranahan
Lt. Andrew Chess	Capt. Kyle Payne
Maj. Timothy Chess	Jose Rodriguez
Jason Davidson	Christopher Simmons, E3
Aaron Gaither	Sgt. Bryanna Spade
C. Grubey, PFC	Sgt. Kyle Spade
Sgt Tony Grant	Fred Todd
Maj. Russel Henderson	Kharll Skycer Villarín
Richard Hughes	Sgt. W.R. Williams III
	Stephen Zenbileski
	Maj. Russel Henderson

**Sick and Shut-In**

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers and at Mass:

Richard Collings, Martha Eakes, Bill Kalbaugh, Angie Kuklinski, Bill McCutcheon, Bonnie McIntyre, Angela Miller, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel, Manny & Laura Rodrigues, Anne Sopp, Vivian Speetjens, John & Bunny Stuart, Teresa Thu Tran, Beth Wilson, Brian Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Jean Wilson

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory ....	\$ 6,259.00
Spring Seminarian Education Fund ....	\$ 215.00

## THANK YOU

## MINISTER SCHEDULE: April 13 and 14, 2024

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
5 PM	Bob Nutt	Cindy Nutt	
8 AM	Trudy Menzzentto	Leslie Brown	
11 AM	Pat Nolan	Laura Rosic	

## REFLECTION



*“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...” - ACTS 4:32*

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren’t really owners of anything; we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

The decision to give has not so much to do with calendars and budgets. Rather, the decision to give is really a matter of putting your life with God into perspective.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

In what way do I notice the gift of God’s mercy today? To whom do I need to extend mercy?



# PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN  
SUPPORT  
APPEAL 2024**

**ONE** *Body in* **CHRIST**

## DSA 2024 DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA)

We are now ten weeks into the Diocesan Support Appeal campaign, and *as of today 29 of our parishioners have contributed.* We need each of you to help us reach our goal of \$28,753.00. Thank you.



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** is today, Sunday, April 7. On this day, we reflect on God's love for us and the whole world. We will have the Divine Mercy liturgy with adoration, Divine Mercy chaplet, and benediction at 2:30 p.m. Let us come to pray together and give thanks for the gift of God's love for us.

**SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend, April 6 and 7, is for the Maintenance Fund. Thank you for your generous support.

**RICE BOWLS:** Please return your Rice Bowls this week. You may place them in the containers found at the back of the church. Thank you for your contributions.



**LADIES DINNER** will be on Tuesday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at Mimi's Café, 3322 W. Friendly Ave. All women of the parish are invited to attend. No reservations necessary. Come and enjoy fellowship with other parishioners.



**REST IN PEACE** With sadness, we note the death of Martin J. Lawlor, father of Kimberly Lawlor, who passed away on March 9. Please join us to pray for Mr. Lawlor and the Lawlor family.

## ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

- \*\*\* Justo and Chris Nunez
- \*\*\* Victor and Selena Garcia and their children,  
Bailey and Ezra
- \*\*\* John C. Macner



This week let us say **Happy Birthday** to:

Lizzy Williams (4/6), Tom Rempel (4/6), Carlos Perez (4/6),

Ina Boston (4/8), Rebecca Olmos (4/9), Mary Ray (4/11)



## **FAITH FORMATION**



**Faith Formation will resume this Sunday, April 7.**

*Sunday School 2024 is for those age 3 through high school from 9:15 am to 10:30 am every Sunday in the parish hall.*

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Post-Abortive Healing 2024** Are you or a loved one seeking healing from the effects of a past abortion? The Respect Life Program of the Diocese of Charlotte offers multiple retreats each year to foster healing from abortion. Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat creates a healing environment of prayer and forgiveness. The retreat helps men and women begin their healing journey and reconnect individuals to themselves, their friends and family, and to realize God's ever-present love. The upcoming retreats in our diocese are April 12-14 & November 1-3. Please contact Jackie Childers: 980-241-0251 | [Jackie.childers1@gmail.com](mailto:Jackie.childers1@gmail.com) or Jessica Grabowski: 704-370-3229 | [jgrabowski@charlottediocese.org](mailto:jgrabowski@charlottediocese.org) to learn more and to register.

### **The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling at the Catholic Conference Center**

On Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Catholic Conference Center

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602

\$15 per person (includes lunch) – Checks payable to Catholic Charities

To Register send your name, address, phone number, parish affiliation and payment to:

Attn: Sandra Breakfield, Program Director Elder Ministry

Catholic Charities Diocese of Charlotte

1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Registration deadline: Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>



Evangelina Kucharska, CCO

April 7, 2024

## Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 4:32-35 | 1 Jn 5:1-6 | Jn 20:19-31

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

We tend to beat up St. Thomas for his doubt, when what is really most amazing in the scene from today's Gospel is his understanding, and the first public pronouncement of, Jesus Christ's divinity. He *gets* it. And he proclaims it without hesitation: "My Lord and my God." I think about what Thomas' face might have looked like at that moment, and I imagine a countenance of conviction alongside humility – joyful tears in the eyes that reflect awe and wonder. The truth behind his realization and understanding is that God is faithful, God is loving, God is merciful. Of course, *knowing* that with our heart and mind needs to be translated into *doing* with our every action. The early Christian communities seemed to have lived this well, happily sharing their possessions and selling what they didn't need. Not because they had been forced to, but because the "commandments [were] not burdensome" for those who loved God. God loved us first, and by his grace, and his mercy, we are commanded and empowered to love one another.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

God is merciful – Divine Mercy. And that is what we celebrate today, in addition to the second Sunday of Easter. The first Divine Mercy Sunday observance occurred in the year 2000, when St. John Paul II canonized Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska. The Polish sister received private revelations from the Lord about his great mercy in the 1930s, and she outlined these in a diary she kept at the instruction of her confessors. A passage from her diary says: "The graces of my mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is — trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." (1578) The apostles in today's passage told Thomas that they had *seen the Lord* – the resurrected Lord. They trusted that Jesus' messages to them were true and that they indeed need not fear. The message of Divine Mercy should likewise comfort us and also provide a model for our actions. In the same way the apostles helped Thomas to trust and come to deep knowledge and understanding, let us strive to be "of one heart and mind" with our fellow disciples and love them as we have been loved by God.

**PRAY** The words of St. Faustina's diary have been used to create the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This prayer is said using a rosary, but with some differences in the prayers. Once you know the words, the chaplet is a simple prayer to recite, and it is traditionally said at 3 p.m. in remembrance of Jesus' merciful act of dying on the cross for us. If you have never recited the chaplet, try praying it this week.

# 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. ●

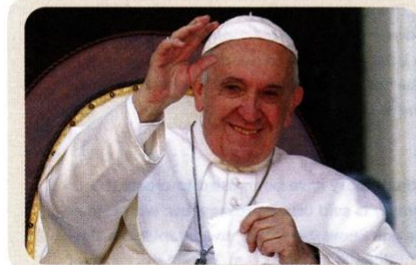


[The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org](http://TheRedemptorists/DearPadre.org)

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

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