

April 7, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

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

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.

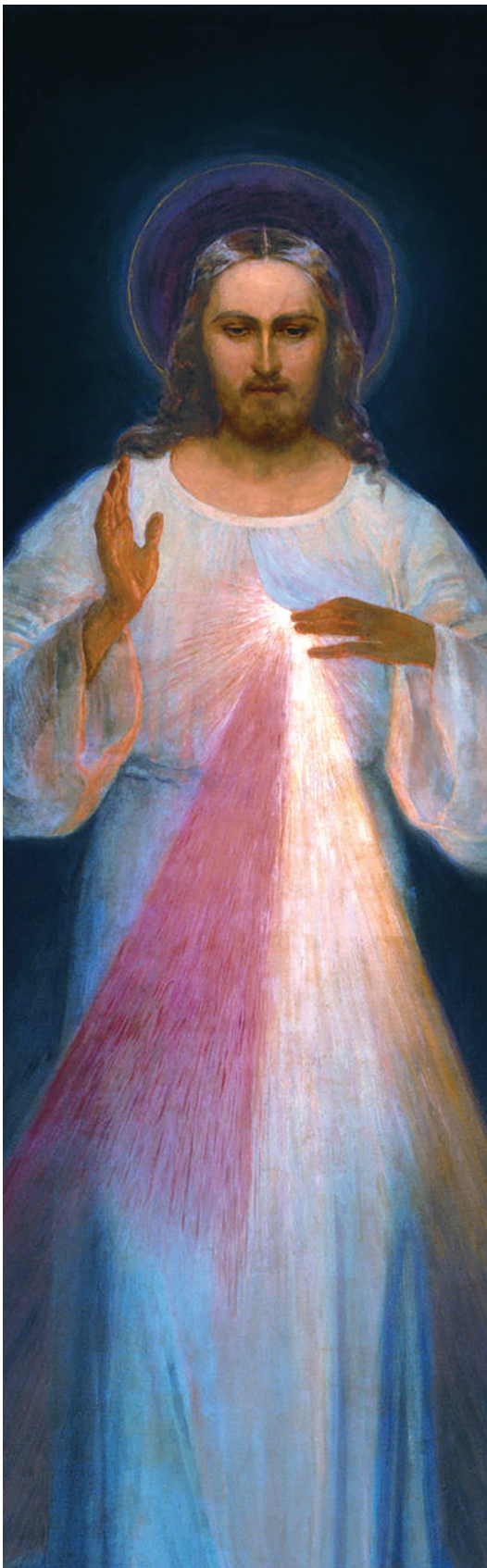
Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California
www.ascensionsaratoga.org
408-725-3939

Mass Schedule
(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Eugeniusz Kasimowski, CCO

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.



Divine Mercy Sunday

In the 1930s, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, and directed her to promote his divine mercy worldwide. Pope John Paul II canonized her on May 1, 2000, then days later decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. In his encyclical *Rich in Mercy*, he offers an extended meditation on the mystery of God's mercy, which he calls "the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God" (*Dives in misericordia*, 13). He returned to this theme throughout his pontificate. Join us in the Divine Mercy devotion this Sunday from 2:30 pm to 4:30pm in church. After the 5:00 pm Mass, you are invited to fellowship in the Hall classrooms.



"Let It Be" - Three Best Words

Annunciation (from Latin, means "to bring news") is the angelic proclamation to Mary of Nazareth that she would be the mother of Jesus. She believed beyond all reason and offered her life in service of God's plan. Her response, "let it be," is the answer of every disciple who trusts in God's word to make all things new. Her "yes" is often referred to as Mary's *fiat* (Latin for "let it be done"). Mary is the model of all Christians. God invites us to believe that we, too, are called to trust in God and be ready to serve him. -*Preparetheword.com*

Solemnity of Annunciation

April 8
This year, March 25, which is the usual day for the celebration of the Annunciation of the Lord, falls on Holy Monday. The weekdays of the Holy Week and the days of the octave of Easter take precedence over solemnities. Therefore it is transferred to the Monday after the Second Sunday of Easter, April 8.



ADA Week 8 Report

Number of pledges to date: 121

Amount pledged: \$85,397

Percent of goal: 114%

Thank you! Surplus funds now go back to Ascension.

WEEKLY OFFERING - MAR 31 (Easter)

-\$8,960 (baskets: \$8,111; online: \$849).

-Collection for Holy Land (Good Friday): **\$1,078.**

Thank you for your generous support.

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 06	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
Apr 07	Sun	07 am	Ann Schleich +
		09 am	Remedios Doria +
		11 am	Brandon Biala +
		05 pm	Kay Lynch +
Apr 09	Tue	08 am	Dana Burley (L)
Apr 10	Wed	08 am	Theresa Stolz +
Apr 11	Thu	08 am	Salena & Gaven Fogle (L)
Apr 12	Fri	08 am	Mary Lucas (L)

Acknowledgments

We give thanks to God for another prayerful Holy Week and Easter Sunday. The Holy Thursday Mass with the Washing of the Feet challenged us to be of service to one another. The somber Passion Service on Good Friday and Soup Supper helped us remember what matters in life. Though no one was initiated or received into the Church this year, we had a beautiful Easter Vigil with the renewal of baptismal promises. On Easter Sunday, children had fun with the Easter egg hunt and families enjoyed treats after the 9:00 am Mass thanks to the Fil-Am community.

We appreciate all who participated with us in these sacred days, especially all volunteers and ministers who gave their valuable time, creativity, and energy to help make our liturgies and environment prayerful and safe, and all who generously donated to the parish.

May the risen Lord continue to bless us this Easter season.

- Fr. Hao

Breakfast Supreme

Sponsored by Ascension Men's Club & Knights of Columbus Council 4981.

A hearty breakfast experience with family and friends!

Sunday, April 28, 2024, 9:30am - 1:00pm in Worner Hall.

Tickets are available after weekend Masses and at the Parish Office.

Adults \$20 | Children 7 and older \$10

Donations support the Men's Club & Knights Charitable Works



Men's Club

Meeting In-Person

Worner Hall/Lounge Room

Friday, April 12 at 6:00pm

Diocesan Pastoral Plan Update

One of the six priorities of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is Worship: To provide reverent and joyful worship experiences that deepen our connection with Christ and his people. Among other things, fostering a welcoming worship environment will help make our liturgies prayerful, lively. Imagine welcoming every person who comes to Mass with joy, warmth, and care. What if each person experienced at least one positive interaction – whether a handshake, a friendly greeting at the door, or simple eye contact and a smile?

The Scripture reminds us, "Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels." (Hebrews 13:2). As you know, this verse refers to Abraham and Lot's radical hospitality to the angels, disguised as humans and underscores the importance of hospitality.

Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

Will you spend an hour with the Eucharistic Jesus?

It's on April 19-21, 24 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church 1385 Michigan Ave, Alviso, CA.

Opening Mass on Friday, April 19 at 7:00 pm.

Closing Mass on Sunday, April 21 at 8:30 am.