

April 12, 2026

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Acts 2:42-47 | 1 Pt 1:3-9 | Jn 20:19-31

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

Can you imagine being Thomas and finding out that while you were gone from the Upper Room, the resurrected Jesus appeared to the other disciples? And then, according to the evangelist John, it was a full week later when Jesus returns to that room. If I were Thomas, I would probably be consumed with thoughts about how unfair the situation was – that I was being asked to believe without seeing while the other disciples were able to see the glorified Christ. And, of course, we don't know how Thomas reacted, except that he demanded to see and touch the wounds of Christ. We do know that when Christ returns he does not admonish Thomas, but offers his hands and his side to his disciple to touch. Christ responded to Thomas with mercy – inviting him into an encounter in a way that will draw him into deeper faith. And Christ also comes to us again and again and again, mercifully inviting us into relationship with him regardless of what we demand or how often we fall away.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We do not have a right to God's mercy. Humanity willingly and intentionally turned away from God in the Garden of Eden, and we continue to do so today when we choose to sin and turn away from God. But God extends mercy to us as an undeserved gift, and he calls us to be merciful to others. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells us that the first Christians devoted themselves to the love of God and others, and they forged an avenue for mercy to be made present as they cared for one another by dividing their material goods "according to each one's need." We, too, are called to be merciful. We are called to look beyond what someone should be able to do on their own and be open to responding to their need in love. And as we show mercy to others, we remind one another of our dignity and worth. As with Thomas, Jesus does not focus on what we lack, but instead generously offers what is needed to draw us into relationship.

RECEIVE

It can be just as hard to receive mercy as it is to extend it. In receiving mercy, we must admit that we are not capable of healing ourselves of all that keeps us from full communion with Christ. This week, pray for the grace to fully receive the mercy that God so lovingly offers, trusting that he desires to meet us where we are and draw us closer to himself.

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a
Confessions: (Sat) 4p-4:45p

The Quality of Mercy

The Church named the Sunday after Easter Divine Mercy Sunday to celebrate the devotion to the mercy of Jesus as revealed to Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who died in 1938 and was declared a saint in 2000. God's bountiful mercy to us calls us to show mercy as well. Saint Faustina prayed, "I want to be completely transformed into your mercy and to be your living reflection, O Lord. May . . . your unfathomable mercy pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor." Why not make today a time to rededicate yourself to showing mercy, love, compassion, and forgiveness to all those you encounter? *-Takefiveforfaith.com*

Divine Mercy Devotion - April 12

2:30pm: Spiritual Message by Fr. Maurice

3:00pm: Holy Hour with Eucharistic Exposition, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary, Confession, Benediction, Blessing of Oil, Image Veneration.

4:00pm: Refreshments in Classrooms.

Interested in Stephen Ministries?

Stephen Ministers are lay members of the church trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. If you are interested, call 408-725-3939.

Upcoming Special Collections

-Catholic Home Missions Appeal (April 19)

This fund sustains essential pastoral programs in financially challenged dioceses in the US.

-Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund (April 26).

Your gifts support the needs of aging priests who often rely on limited Social Security. This fund helps cover medical expenses, housing, and care for retired priests, many of whom continue to serve parishes in their later years. Thank you for your generosity.

WEEKLY OFFERING - Apr 5

-Sunday: \$4,091 (\$1,095+ online: \$2,996. Goal: \$6,800.

-YTD Sunday: **\$275,308**. Budget: \$265,200.

-Easter offering: \$10,206 (\$9,684 + online: \$522)

-Holy Thursday: **\$250**.

-Holy Land (Good Friday): **\$2,043**.

-Flowers: **\$210**.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 11	Sat	05 pm	Maxine Stice +
Apr 12	Sun	07 am	Agatha Pao +
		09 am	Khiem Maria Bui +
		11 am	Khiu Zi Xian (L)
		05 pm	Kay Lynch +
Apr 14	Tue	08 am	Sr. Marie-Eloise Rosenblatt +

The Risen Lord Is Our Destination

The Lord is the destination of our journey. Without his love, the voyage of life would become a wandering without a goal. The Risen One guarantees our arrival, leading us home, where we are waited, loved and saved. *- Pope Leo XIV*

40 Hours for Vocations

April 24-26

WHY: "Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer, and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." – Pope Francis

WHO: Catholics of all ages

WHAT: Spend time with Jesus, asking for Him to bless our Diocese with many more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life

WHEN: Silent adoration for 3 days by Parish on their scheduled time at Our Lady of Refuge Parish right after Opening Mass on April 24 until before Closing Mass on April 26.

Adoration time for Ascension:

Saturday, April 25, from 6:00pm-7:00pm.

Details & Sign-up: QR code above.



Capital Campaign & ADA Report

Pledged to date: **\$435,263** (76% of goal).

Thank you to our generous donors!

The **ADA 2026** is part of the "Sowing Seeds of Faith" **Capital Campaign** this year.

We have met the ADA 2026 goal (\$74,000), and currently, **\$180,631**, or 50% of what we have raised so far for the Campaign, returns to Ascension.

The Capital Campaign supports the Pastoral Plan at Ascension and all parishes.

Our parish will contact families with more details and invite their participation.

You may get a call from Fr. Hao, or one of our **campaign ambassadors**: Jim Scherffius, Tony & June Stolz, Charlie Nguyen, Gene Plevyak, Nick & Kathy Fedeli.

Support Our Retired Priests

As our diocesan priests advance in age, they often require more comprehensive medical care, including regular treatments, medications, assisted living, and, in some cases, long-term care.

The financial burden on the Diocese increases as these costs continue to rise significantly each year, and more priests reaching retirement age while fewer active priests available to support them directly.

The **special collection on April 26** helps sustain a stable support system for our retired clergy.

Thank you for your generosity.

