

Good News!

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

Acts 4:32–35/ 1 Jn 5:1–6/ Jn 20:19–31

I Want Proof. Who doesn't? It's not simply that we are children of the scientific age in which proof is essential. Concrete evidence gives us a sense of security; it helps us understand how things work. Even in ordinary human relationships, we want proof.

A tune from *My Fair Lady* demands: "Don't talk of love...show me." It's very difficult to live without a certain degree of surety. Consequently, we should not be surprised at Thomas' insistence: "I want proof." Thomas is often described as lacking faith. This isn't the full story. The reason the other disciples believed was because they had an experience of the risen Lord. Before that experience they were hiding behind locked doors. Thomas was absent; we are not told why. Whatever the reason, he also wanted an experience of the risen Lord. He was not content to base his believing on their word alone. In a sense, more was being asked of Thomas than the others.

Thomas is the patron of all of us whose faith in the risen Lord is based on the word of others rather than on our own unique revelatory experience. Who of us wouldn't want some mystical experience? We are called to believe without seeing. Yet, this isn't strictly true—we can see evidence of the resurrection. The best proof is evident in the lives of millions of people who commit themselves to God and who strive to live with integrity.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Dear Padre

I get a lot of questions from Protestant friends about the Catholic "obsession" (as they put it) with Mary. What should I say to them?

A convert to Catholicism tells the story of a dinner he had with a friend who had a very evangelical outlook. As they talked about the new Catholic's decision to convert, the friend asked hesitantly, "What do you think about Mary?" The new Catholic smiled and said, "I think she's wonderful, don't you?" The friend responded with an embarrassed "Yes, but...."

If Catholics and Protestants can begin with this premise—that Mary is wonderful— it might be possible to step back and consider why. Mary is an extraordinary human being who holds a special place in the Christian faith for two reasons: first, it was through her that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ; and second, she was the first to believe in Jesus' mission and ministry.

All Catholic doctrine about Mary refers to two special relationships. She has a special relationship with God because she bore the "God-man" in her womb. She also has a special relationship with us because she was the first Christian.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR

Scripture readings for the week of April 12-18

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Acts 4:23-31	Acts 4:32-37	Acts 5:17-26	Acts 5:27-33	Acts 5:34-42	Acts 6:1-7	Acts 3:13-15,17-19
Jn 3:1-8	Jn 3:7b-15	Jn 3:16-24	Jn 3:31-36	Jn 6:1-15	Jn 6:16-21	1 Jn 2:1-5a
						Lk 24: 35-48



ST. RAPHAEL, MIKADO  
ST. ANNE, HARRISVILLE

**PARISHES OF THE  
RESURRECTION  
OF THE LORD**

ST. CATHERINE, OSSINEKE  
ST. GABRIEL, BLACK RIVER

SUNDAY OF THE DIVINE MERCY — 11 APRIL 2021

ADMINISTRATOR: Fr. Tyler Bischoff

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From the Priest's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday we celebrate the 8th day of Easter otherwise known as the octave day. We celebrate the octave for the church’s major feast days. It is a reminder to us that we are people of the 8th day. God finished His work of creation and recreation on the 6th day (i.e. Good Friday). He rested on the 7th day (i.e. Holy Saturday). He rose again from the dead on Sunday, the 8th day. We are the people of the 8th day. (PS: That’s why our baptismal font has eight sides.)

St. John Paul II also designated today Divine Mercy Sunday. St. Faustina, a religious sister who lived in Poland in the early 20th century had visions of spreading throughout the world a devotion to Jesus’ divine mercy. I’ve been twice to the shrine of the Divine Mercy near Krakow, Poland. Both times we visited on our way back from a harrowing visit to the Auschwitz Nazi death camp. What divine providence that God would choose a humble nun and a simple parish priest from Krakow who lived a few miles from the death camps of WWII to remind the world of God’s divine mercy through Jesus. How awesome is that?

My retreat last week was very nice. Thank you for all of the prayers. Now the weather ought to be really warming up for the spring. I am ready to get outside and start running, swimming, hiking, and just plain enjoying the outdoors after the winter months. Welcome back to many of our snowbirds who are starting to arrive back home. We’ve missed you!

God bless,

Fr Tyler

St. Catherine Parish Office will be closed April 12—16th. For all inquiries contact Fr. Tyler at the parish rectory at 471-2556.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISHES

SEE ONLINE CALENDAR FOR FULL DETAILS

- Sunday, April 11, Divine Mercy Sunday  
Rosary is prayed half an hour before each Mass  
4:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Raphael  
*Katherine Sufnar & Marta Ostroznik*  
6:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Catherine  
*James Villaire*  
9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine  
*Parishioners of St. Anne, St. Catherine, St. Gabriel & St. Raphael*  
11:00 am Mass, St. Anne  
*Sy, Lorraine, and Nancy Goebel*  
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour, Confession, and Singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. Catherine
- Monday, April 12,  
9:00 am Mass, St. Anne  
*Increase in religious vocations*  
4:15 pm St. Raphael Sodality Meeting  
7:00 pm, St. Catherine/Spruce K of C Meeting  
7:00 pm, K of C Meeting Maria Hall
- Tuesday, April 13, St. Martin I  
9:00 am Mass, St. Anne  
*Special Intention for Mark Zehnder*  
9:30 am Adoration/Confession St. Anne
- Wednesday, April 14,  
9:00 am Mass, St. Gabriel  
*For those experiencing difficult times*  
5-6 pm Adoration/Confession St. Catherine  
6:00 pm Adult Faith Formation St. Catherine  
6:30 pm First Communion/Confirmation Prep. St. Catherine
- Thursday, April 15,  
9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine  
*Bob Boelter*  
9:30 am Adoration St. Catherine
- Friday, April 16,  
NO MASS
- Saturday, April 17,  
1:00 pm St. Catherine Cemetery Work Bee  
3:30 pm Confession St. Raphael
- Sunday, April 18, Third Sunday of Easter  
Rosary is prayed half an hour before each Mass  
4:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Raphael  
*Ronald Frayer*  
6:30 pm Mass, (Saturday) St. Catherine  
*Louis Paviglio*  
9:00 am Mass, St. Catherine  
*Mike Endres*  
11:00 am Mass, St. Anne  
*Steve Smith*

PARISH STEWARDSHIP



“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Pt 4:10). Thanks you for all the sacrifices you make as we all labor in God’s vineyard to bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our neighbors. 10% of everything received is donated to support charities near and far.

	St. Anne	St. Catherine	St. Gabriel	St. Raphael
Needed each week	\$2,144.23	\$2,593.95	\$555.10	\$740.38
Needed year-to-date	\$85,769.20	\$103,758.00	\$22,204.00	\$29,615.20
Actual year-to-date	\$88,232.07	\$102,553.29	\$20,220.52	\$30,140.01
April 4	\$5,297.00.00	\$1,407.00	\$870.00	\$893.65
Rice Bowl Collections:	\$901.52	\$1,338.74	\$350.00	\$373.98

Pray for Our Priests & Religious

- Sunday—Rev. Alfred Pillarelli  
Monday—Rev. Msgr. John Porter  
Tuesday—Rev. Benjamin Rexroat  
Wednesday—Rev. Mitchel Roman  
Thursday—Rev. Richard Schaeffer  
Friday—All Deacons  
Saturday— Rev. Lawrence Sergott

**Projects at St. Gabriel Church:** A video explanation from Fr. Tyler along with detailed information is available on our website. There is a need to replace the windows of the church which are from the 1890s. The biggest issue is the high water level which is causing severe damage to the foundation of the church. We need to dry out the crawlspace in order to save St. Gabriel's foundation. Donations toward these projects will be greatly appreciated. Be sure to mark the donation envelope or check: St. Gabriel Special Project.

Project Updates:

Maria Hall renovation is coming along well. The building plans have been approved and finalized and now contractors are beginning to submit their bids. We have raised \$49,412 in total funding for the project so far (including the seed donation of \$25,000 and \$15,000 in matching gifts. If in the coming weeks we raise an additional \$5,000, we will reach our first goal from the matching gifts. Thank you, everyone, for your amazing generosity!

St. Gabriel crawlspace and window project: To date we have raised \$7,772 toward the projects. Thank you, everyone, for your generosity! The windows are scheduled to be installed at the end of April. The crawlspace work should be starting around the same time.

**Congratulations** to Brenda Johnson and Jeffrey Brackett who entered into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Adult Faith Formation – The Mass

We will be beginning once again our Adult Faith Formation lessons on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at St. Catherine (April 13 – May 12). Fr. Tyler will be walking us through an in depth study of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Have you ever wondered why do we say: “and with your spirit”? Or what does the incense signify? Or why do we use bread and wine and not something else. Fr. Tyler will be going step by step through the Mass and discussing with us its tradition, history, and meaning. All are invited. The classes will continue to be livestreamed. The children will continue to meet during class with their catechist as they prepare for their First Holy Communion and Confirmation at the end of May.

**St. Catherine Cemetery Work Bee:** Saturday, April 17th (with a rain date of Saturday, April 24th) from 1:00—? Please bring rakes and/or other outdoor tools.

**St. Raphael Sodality Meeting:** Monday, April 12 at 4:15 pm at St. Raphael.

**Saint of the Week-Saint Bernadette Soubirous-Feast Day April 16.** As a child in a poor French family in the Hautes-Pyrenees town of Lourdes, Bernadette suffered both asthma and cholera. Uneducated, she had not made her first Communion by 1858, the year she experienced 18 visions of a beautiful lady calling herself the Immaculate Conception and calling for penance and pilgrimage. Bernadette was unchanged by this extraordinary experience, and in 1866 became a member of the Sisters of Charity, taking the name Maria-Bernarda. Chronically ill after 1875 with worsening asthma and tuberculosis of the bones, she died at age 35. When she was canonized in 1933, it was not for being the Lourdes visionary, but for her simple life of prayer, devotion and obedience.