



The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Will 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.

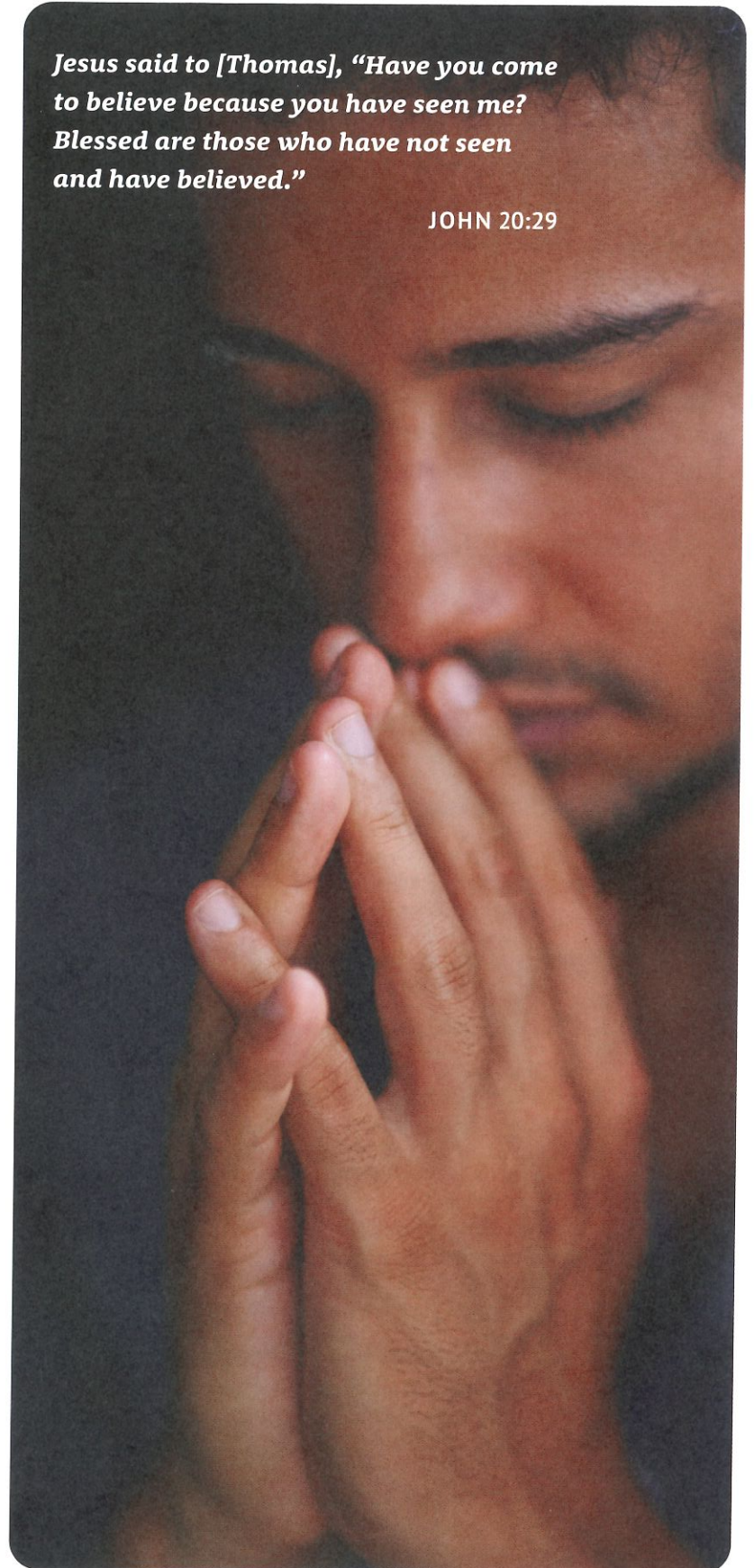
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe,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

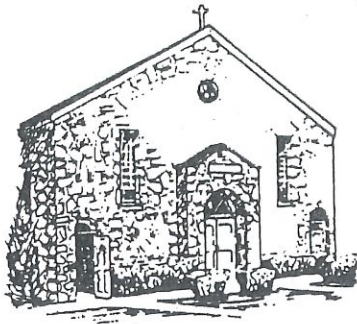


Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

Rev. William Pifher

419-446-9288



Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel
Pat Eisel
Ray Hollstein
Mike Burkholder
Traci Maginn
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.
Archbold, OH 43502

MASS SCHEDULE

1st Saturday of month 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150
email-stpeter@rtexpress.net

Religious Ed

Deb Herring

Parish Council President

Stephen Bernath

OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429
Fayette, OH 43521

Phone: 419-237-2441

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday

PARISH STAFF

Secretary: Sherry Renner

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Bookkeeper

Tami Baker

OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Youth Leader/CRE

Anita Van Zile

OLOMCre@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Website (bulletin online)

stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- * **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- * **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions **starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.**
- * **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- * **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- * **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- * **RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon.** Please either call or email at

OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

Sunday of Divine Mercy

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, we will be praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet immediately after the Rosary.

BFF BREAKFAST

There will be a BFF Breakfast after Mass today. It will be the Altar Rosary Society fund raiser breakfast. Please join us for Breakfast – Friends – Fellowship.

CONFIRMATION

Please keep Brendan Woenker in your prayers as he is preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Peter, Archbold, OH on April 13, 2024.



PREVIOUS WEEKS BULLETINS

For your convenience, the previous weeks bulletin will be on the back table.

THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"Your accumulated offences do not surpass the multitude of God's mercies: your wounds do not surpass the great Physician's skill." - St. Cyril of Jerusalem

33 Days to Eucharistic GLORY – Matthew Kelly

WHAT MAKES CATHOLICISM UNIQUE?

"There are 45,000 different denominations of Christianity in the world. What is the one thing that makes the Catholic Church unique?"

"It's not just one thing," some people will argue, "Many things make Catholicism unique." They are right. But what one thing differentiates Catholicism more than anything else? What is the principal differentiator between the Catholic Church and the churches on every other street corner?

The Eucharist. Jesus Christ – the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Alpha and the Omega – truly present – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – in the Eucharist. He is the difference."

ST. PETER NEWS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

"LIVE A LIFE OF NO REGRETS"

Robert Rogers – Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. – see flyer on bulletin for more information

Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.

FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

- April 7 – Fayette Opera House Sunday dinner & Concert – 12:30pm
- April 16 – CPC Women's Health Spring Benefit
- April 27 - Fayette Opera House – Down Home At the Opera House 7pm
- May 17 – Fayette Opera House – Mr. Magic – Tom Patton – 7pm

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at vanzilein@hotmail.com or call Pat Eisel at 419-737-2163.

Privacy Issues for Parish Office: IMMEDIATE FAMILY – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.

April

Our Lady of Mercy

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rel. Ed 6:45 p.m. Elem. & HS			
	8	9	10	11	12	13
Divine Mercy Sunday BFF after Mass			Rel. Ed 6:45 p.m. Elem.			Confirmation @ St. Peter - 4:30 pm
	15	16	17	18	19	20
BFF after Mass			Rel. Ed 6:45 p.m. Elem. & HS Finance Council meeting 5:45 p.m.			
	22	23	24	25	26	27
Youth Breakfast			Rel. Ed 6:45 p.m. Elem. & HS			
	29	30				
1 st Communion OLOM 8:30 am						

Saints of the Day (www.morningoffering.com)
Week of April 7 – April 13

Sunday, Apr. 7– St. John Baptist de la Salle - St. John Baptist de la Salle (1651-1719) was born in Rheims, France, to a noble family. He was pious and smart, and his parents took great care over his moral and intellectual training. He entered seminary and was ordained at the age of twenty-seven. In St. John Baptist's era, only the noble and wealthy classes had access to a good education. His work among the poor led him to establish a home and school for rough and illiterate orphaned boys. The institution was successful and soon a second was established. St. John Baptist then dedicated his life to the cause of education, giving his wealth to the poor and resigning his respectable position as canon at Rheims. He recruited and trained men to teach in free schools he founded for the poor, which grew into a brotherhood of young men who were attracted to a life of service in teaching and catechesis. This became the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, or Christian Brothers. They took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, but not Holy Orders. The Christian Brothers expanded, and in many parts of France parish priests sent young men to be trained by St. John Baptist to serve as schoolmasters in their villages. Although he was initially opposed in his innovative work, both inside and outside the Church, St. John Baptist's foundations and methods soon became the standard for education in France and spread internationally. St. John Baptist de la Salle is the patron of schoolteachers. His feast day is April 7th.

Monday, Apr. 8 –St. Julie Billiart - St. Julie Billiart (1751-1816) was born in Cuvilly, France, to a large and prosperous farming family. By the age of seven she knew her catechism by heart, and would gather her playmates together and teach it to them. Her spiritual progress was so remarkable that her parish priest allowed her to make an early first communion at the age of nine, at which time she took a vow of chastity. As a teenager she already had the reputation of being a living saint. When financial ruin struck her family she worked in the fields alongside the reapers. At the age of twenty-two she became paralyzed and remained a bed-ridden invalid for the next twenty-two years. However this did not prevent her from having an active life. She received Holy Communion daily, made altar laces and linens, catechized the village children from her bedside, and spent many hours in contemplative prayer. When the French Revolution erupted she gave aid to priests in her home, and soon after was smuggled to safety while hidden in a hay cart. She took refuge in the home of a countess, and due to her sanctity soon had a company of young, noble ladies gathered around her bed to whom she taught the ways of the interior life. From this St. Julie founded and led the Institute of the Sisters of Notre Dame dedicated to the Christian education of girls and the training of catechists. After making her vows in 1804, she was cured of her paralysis. For the next twelve years she made over a hundred journeys as she founded fifteen convents of her order. St. Julie Billiart's feast day is April 8th.

Tuesday, Apr. 9 – Blessed Katarzyna Celestyna - Bl. Katarzyna Celestyna (Catherine Celestine) Faron (1913-1944) was born in Zabrzez, Poland. At the age of five she was orphaned and raised by pious, childless relatives. Desiring the religious life, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate in 1930. She served in the community as a kindergarten teacher and catechist. After the breakout of World War II she became the leader of her religious house, ran an orphanage, and helped the poor. She was eventually arrested by the Gestapo, charged with conspiracy against the Nazis, and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp on the feast of Epiphany in 1943, where she was assigned to manual labor digging ditches. She praised God in all her suffering and resigned herself to following His will. Due to the poor conditions she developed typhoid fever and tuberculosis. Because she completed the nine First Fridays devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she trusted that she wouldn't die without Holy Communion, as Our Lord promised. On December 8, 1943, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, she received Holy Communion as viaticum which was secretly brought to the camp by a prisoner priest. While on her deathbed she prayed intensely for various intentions on a rosary made of bread. According to witnesses she offered her sufferings for the conversion of a priest who had fallen away from the Church, who did eventually return to the true Faith. Bl. Katarzyn finally died from her illness on Easter morning. She is one of the 108 beatified Polish Catholic Martyrs killed during World War II by Nazi Germany. Her feast day is April 9th.

Wednesday, Apr. 10– St. Bademus - St. Bademus (d. 376 A.D.) was a wealthy and noble citizen of Bethlapeta in Persia. Desiring to give himself completely to God, he gave away his wealth and founded a monastery where he led a life of prayer and austerity. His sanctity was known to all, and he trained his monks to progress in devotion, virtue, and love of God. One day he and seven of his monks were abducted during the Christian persecution by King Sapor of Persia. He was chained in a dungeon for four months and whipped daily for his faith. He suffered his tortures for Christ and triumphed over them with patience and joy. One day a Christian prince named Nersan was also put into the dungeon, and, seeing the torments he would endure, apostatized from the faith in order to be released. To prove his conversion, the king ordered Nersan to slay St. Bademus on the spot.

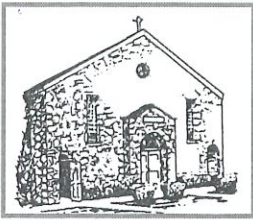
(St. Bademus cont.)

Bademus, after declaring his willingness to die for Christ, also warned Nersan of the account he would have to give to God for his actions. Nersan, timid and fearful, then killed Bademus with several awkward and misplaced blows. The pagans who were present admired the abbot's holy and resigned death, while abhorring the king's cruelty. St. Bademus' feast day is April 10th.

Thursday, Apr. 11– St. Gemma Galgani – St. Gemma Galgani (1878-1903) was born in Italy, the fifth of eight children born to a prosperous pharmacist. When she was young, Gemma's mother and three of her siblings died of tuberculosis. When she was 18 her father died as well, leaving Gemma to help care for her younger siblings. She rejected two marriage proposals and became a housekeeper while trying to enter the religious life as a Passionist. She was rejected due to her poor health, and later became a Tertiary member of the order. Gemma developed spinal meningitis but was miraculously healed, which she attributed to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Throughout her life she united herself with the Passion of Christ and experienced great suffering as a result, but not without receiving many remarkable graces as well. She experienced many mystical visions and was often visited by her guardian angel, Jesus, and the Virgin Mary. For this she was known as a great mystic, and, according to her spiritual director, developed the stigmata at age 21. After a selfless life of love given to God for the conversion of sinners, she died on the Vigil of Easter at the age of 25. She is the patron saint of pharmacists, loss of parents, back illnesses, temptations, and those seeking purity of heart. Her feast day is April 11th.

Friday, Apr. 12– St. Teresa of Jesus – St. Teresa of Jesus (1900 – 1920), also known as St. Teresa of the Andes, was born in Chile to an upper class family. She was a pious child with a profound spirituality and a deep devotion to Jesus and Mary. Yet she was also stubborn and self-centered, defects which she diligently set herself to overcome in preparation for her First Holy Communion at the age of 10. Inspired by reading the autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux, and confirmed by prayer, at the age of 14 she decided to become a Carmelite nun. Five years later her desire was realized. In May of 1919, at the age of 19, she entered the Carmelite monastery of Los Andes where she lived a life of prayer and sacrifice. She also took to writing letters through which she shared her remarkable spiritual life with the outside world. It was revealed to her in prayer that she would die young, which she accepted with happiness and confidence. A few months after her entry she contracted typhoid fever, from which she died in April of 1920 during Holy Week. Before her death she was permitted to profess her vows. She was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in 1993, the first Chilean and the first Discalced Carmelite nun outside of Europe to be declared a saint. Her feast day is April 12.

Saturday, Apr. 13 – St. Margaret of Castello – St. Margaret of Castello (1287–1320) was born to noble Italian parents who were awaiting the birth of the child of their dreams. Instead, they bore a daughter who was blind, dwarfed, lame, and hunchbacked. Margaret's parents were horrified by the physical appearance of their newborn child, so they hid her and kept her existence secret. A servant had her baptized and named her Margaret, meaning, "Pearl." When she was six years of age she was nearly discovered, so that her father confined her to a cell inside the wall of a church with her necessities given through a window. The parish priest took it upon himself to educate Margaret. She lived in this way until age sixteen, when her parents took her on pilgrimage to a shrine famous for miraculous healings. There they prayed earnestly for their daughter to be cured of her deformities, which they loathed. When no cure came, her parents abandoned her in the streets and returned home, never to see her again. Margaret begged for food and was helped by the town's poor who took turns sheltering her in their homes. She became a Dominican Tertiary and took up the work of serving the sick, dying, and imprisoned. Margaret was known for her great joy, sanctity, and profound mystical experiences. She died at the age of 33, and hundreds of miracles were credited to her intercession both before and after her death. Her body is incorrupt. She is the patron against poverty, and of the disabled, handicapped, and unwanted. She was beatified in 1609. In 2021, recognizing her life of heroic virtue, Pope Francis declared her a saint through an equippollent canonization. Her feast day is April 13.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

APRIL 7, 2024



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. April 7	8:00a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin Mike & Joyce Dwyer
	10:30a.m.	SP	For the People
Tues. April 9	7:00 p.m.	SP	Cathy Warner
Wed. April 10	9:00 a.m.	SP	For the People
Thurs. April 11	9:00a.m.	OLM	Joy Short
Fri. April 12	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Sat. April 13	8:00a.m.	SP	NO MASS
	4:30p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun. April 14	8:30a.m.	OLM	Eddie Tidwell
	10:30a.m.	SP	Tom Stierwalt Sharon Gigax

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Apr. 7 – BFF after Mass
- Apr. 10– Rel. Ed. – Elem.
- Apr. 13 – Confirmation – St. Peter
4:30 p.m.
- Apr. 14 – BFF after Mass
- Apr. 17 Finance Council meeting –
5:45 p.m.
- Apr. 21– Youth Breakfast
- Apr. 28 – First Communion

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for March 31, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (9 envelopes)	\$ 591.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$ 247.00
BUDGET	\$ 1,747.00
Over/(Under)	(\$ 909.00)
OTHER COLLECTIONS	
CPC Jar	\$ 20.00
Votive Candles	\$ 5.00
Holy Land (Good Friday)	\$ 293.00
Easter	\$ 420.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS (Sunday & Other)	\$ 1,576.00

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

April 14, 2024

Greeters/Gifts	Ron & Pat Eisel
Reader	Anita Van Zile
Servers	Evan Beauregard Will Maginn Kennedy Kunkle
Ushers	Ron & Pat Eisel
Ministers of the Eucharist	Until further notice
Money Counters	Phil & Tami Baker Jerry Van Zile

Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

DOUBT – to feel uncertainty as to something; be undecided in opinion or belief

“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

John 20:25

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

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to 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	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
Heb 10:4–10	Jn 3:7b–15	Jn 3:16–21	Jn 3:31–36	Jn 6:1–15	Jn 6:16–21	1 Jn 2:1–5a
Lk 1:26–38						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