

2nd Sunday of Easter

APRIL 16, 2023



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Acts 2:42-47

Second: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

FOCUS: *The Lord invites us to touch his wounds and encounter the font of all mercy.*

Jesus gives Thomas a great gift when he invites Thomas to touch his wounds. In his wounds, Christ displays his response of mercy to our sinfulness. When we doubt, we can ask the Lord for the grace to touch his wounds through prayer and to receive his mercy for us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In Acts, we hear a description of the early Church as a community of deep faith, shared possessions and continual growth. Saint Peter speaks of the power of faith that endures through adversity. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself twice to his disciples. Thomas would not believe without seeing Jesus.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: George Olsen, Joseph Mongelluzzo, Madalein Ameral Gomes and Frank Valenti

10 a.m.: Frances Hernandez, Julia Torrents, Jose Manuel Alicea and Thomas Carrion, Jr.

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

8 p.m.: 120

10 a.m.: 300

AN EASTER THANK YOU

The energy of a packed church – something not experienced in a couple of years – certainly enhanced our worship on Easter Sunday! And the powerful Vigil service drew almost double the number who regularly attend on Saturday evenings. There were familiar faces, new faces, and once again, myriad moving parts that all came together during Holy Week.

The Art & Environment Ministry – a/k/a Jessica Carpino and Kim Porpora – is responsible for the changes on the altar during the Easter Triduum – culminating with the glorious explosion of flowers on Easter. The Music Ministry elevates our prayer. Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Greeters and behind-the-scenes volunteers also played key roles – as did you with your presence!

DIVINE MERCY MESSAGE

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple:

It is that God loves us – all of us. And he wants us to recognize that his mercy is greater than our sins so that we will call upon him with trust, receive his mercy, and let it flow through us to others.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for his Mercy. God wants us to approach him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking him to pour his mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive his mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as he does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of his mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive. For more information:

www.thedivinemercy.org

A TOAST TO BREAKFAST

French toast is known by many other names worldwide because it isn't French at all. The concept for this hearty breakfast favorite was actually first savored during the Roman Empire. And it was popularized in America because of a grammatical error.

In 1724, Albany innkeeper Joseph French planned to serve his guests French's toast – but forgot the apostrophe "S"!

So come hungry to church on **Sunday, April 23**, because the kitchen crew will be serving up French toast – or French's toast – immediately after Mass. Eggs, hashbrowns and sausage will round out the buffet.

Tickets, \$9 or \$20 for an immediate family, go on sale after the Masses this weekend.



FROM THIS DAY FORWARD ...



Spending 18,250 days with one person rarely just “happens.” Instead, it’s the shining expression of a lifelong commitment to vows pledged – a truly golden accomplishment to be celebrated.

The Archdiocese of New York’s **Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass** will take place at 2:30 p.m. **Sunday, June 4**, at St. Patrick’s Cathedral for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2023. Couples must register through the church office by May 15.

But here at St. Paul’s, we think that spending 9,125 days with the same person is also worthy of celebration. Our Masses the weekend of **May 27** and **28** will honor those marking their 25th anniversaries as well as couples celebrating 50 years together. Let the office know if you’ve reached either milestone.

DIDN’T QUITE MAKE GOAL YET...

At the Parish Meeting in January, the Financial Report – and our deficit position – were discussed. The Finance Council recommended an increased giving campaign – with a twist. Anonymous parishioners had donated \$300 gift cards to be raffled if a monthly goal of \$32,368 was reached by the end of March.

Our March total was \$28,880, 11 percent below goal, or \$872 short per week. April offers a clean slate, and it was decided to **extend the campaign for another month**. (Contributions will be adjusted for the Easter collection.)

Again, If you have increased your donation, thank you very much. If you have not, and it’s not a burden to do so, please consider what you might be able to give.

TREASURER’S REPORT

April 2-9: Totaled \$ 5,804.36

Envelopes: \$ 364.00 – Online: \$ 5,440.36

THANK YOU!

Easter to date: \$4,470.83

CARDINAL’S APPEAL UPDATE

From supporting needy parishes and religious education to mission and charitable works, your generosity makes a difference. As of Friday, April 7, **\$ 37,815.00** toward our goal of \$45,500 has been received/pledged by 98 families. Thank you.



the
CARDINAL’S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

*Sharing God’s Gifts Throughout
the Archdiocese of New York*



BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

They came – parents, children, grandparents – bearing baskets with babka and butter shaped like lambs, kielbasa and cakes, smoked fish, ham, Easter eggs and wine for Deacon Carl to bless.

About 40 people graced the tables accented with symbolic candles and flowers, listening to Deacon Carl bless each individual item – and then the children and their baskets.

And so this tradition that spans the generations continues...



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We are able to keep up with and provide healthier options through our ever-busy Food Pantry because of our partnership with the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, savvy shopping volunteers – and you!

Your donations of **unexpired** and non-perishable foods are appreciated. Almost all our pantry staples are low at this time. Monetary donations are also welcome, and can be made on WeShare, too. Thank you!

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