

# ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Weekend of April 6 & 7, 2024

Established 1917



Photo: Chase Sekul

## PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Monsignor Dominick Fullam, Pastor

Robert Wescovich Jr., Deacon

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**Facebook:** [facebook.com/Stmichaelbiloxi](https://facebook.com/Stmichaelbiloxi)

**Instagram:** [Instagram.com/stmichaelbiloxims](https://Instagram.com/stmichaelbiloxims)

### **Mass Schedule:**

**Weekdays**

**Tues-Fri 8am\***

**\*No Masses Apr 2-5**

**Weekends**

**Saturday 5pm**

**Sunday 10am**



venmo



**Confessions:**  
Saturday 4-4:30 pm or by Appointment  
**Office hours: Tues-Thurs**  
**8:30am-3pm**  
**Office Closed April 9th**

# Second Sunday of Easter-Divine Mercy Sunday

John 20:19-31

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

See: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/>

## Ministry News

### Religious Education

Our Confirmation Class Appreciates You!

Thank you for contributing items or money to the blessing bags for the homeless! We were able to make 70 bags! Each parish received bags this week to distribute.

Please pray for our Confirmandi who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend, Sunday, April 7, at 11:00 a.m. at Nativity Cathedral.

Life Teen Plastic Egg Donation -

If you would like to donate plastic eggs that you acquired at various Easter egg hunts, we would gladly accept them and store them for our parish hunts next year. Drop plastic bags of eggs off in the vestibule or parish office for Life Teen. Thank you!

**Stella Maris Explorers** Homeschool group meets most Thursday mornings in the Family Life Center. The Explorers Club is an art, faith, and science enrichment program primarily for PK3-5th graders. Please contact Ashley Rodriguez at 410.693.8825 (call/text) for more information. Or scan the QR code



**Altar Flowers are in memory of those listed in your generous Easter Flower Donations! Full list in vestibule.**

*Collections March 29, 2024  
\$665.70*

*Collections March 30 & 31, 2024  
\$7238.13*

**Next Week's Second Collection is for Catholic School Subsidy**



# Mass for the Intentions Week

Sat, April 6 For the People

Sun, April 7 +Junius & Sylvia Creel

Tues, April 9 +Annie Cosmich

Wed, April 10 +Danny Williams Sr.

Thurs, April 11 Kozlowski Family Intentions

Fri, April 12 +Maria Frances Sauvier Nguyen

## UPCOMING Events

### In Our Parish

**July 7:** Blessing of the Fleet, 11am-5pm, Great Lawn

### In Our Diocese

**First Saturday Devotions-Adoration, Rosary Meditation and Confessions,** first Saturday of each month, St. Mary Church, Woolmarket 9:45am followed by Mass at 11am. All are welcome.

**April 19-Healing Mass Service,** 5pm, Our Mother of Mercy, Pass Christian.

**April 20-Bill Seal Charity Golf Tournament** 8am, The Bridges Golf Club, Bay St. Louis. All funds collected support Catholic education in the Biloxi Diocese as well as local charities. Applications in vestibule or register online on Facebook "Bill Seal Charity Golf Tournament" for more information Call Phyllis Seal 228-860-7556 or see additional contacts on application and in vestibule display.

**April 22-Passover Seder Celebration** 6 p.m. in the parish center gymnasium, St. James, Gulfport, 366 Cowan Rd. Tickets are \$25. Children 10 and under attend and eat free. The Seder includes full dinner, dessert and all ritual foods. Donations to further offset the cost of the Pesach Meal are requested. If you are willing to donate, please contact the parish office at 228-896-6059.

**April 24-A night of Healing with Adoration, Prayers of Deliverance Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and One-on-Once Pastoral Counseling.** 6:30pm, Holy Family, Pass Christian.

### July 17-21-10th National Eucharistic Congress.

Catholics from every corner of the U.S. will be in Indianapolis for this transformative gathering, and YOU are invited to represent our parish at this pivotal moment! Scan the code to learn more about the event and explore the full schedule for each day.



**CSA update:** Goal \$14636, Pledged \$1700, One Time Gifts \$19,895. Total Paid to Date \$20,220

### Lay Leanings

By Deacon Mike Stewart

When I was in the seminary years ago, I served as a hospital chaplain for a summer. One quiet evening I

was summoned to the room of a middle-aged cancer patient who was in the latter stages of her illness. We sat in the dim light of her room, and we talked and prayed for a long while. She was very open about her condition, but on that evening, she just wanted to talk about life and love, and about where God was in all this.

As our conversation drew to a close, I asked her if she had any regrets in life. Surprisingly, she said, "*Only one; and I just can't seem to find peace in it.*" She said that she regretted having spent so many years 'choosing' unhappiness. That left me very curious; what does it mean to 'choose unhappiness?' Her answer was as clear as her prognosis. "*After I found out about my illness, and once I learned that I cannot win this battle, I realized that I was unhappy most of my life. But what's more troubling than that, is that the things I was unhappy about were entirely within my control. I chose to be unhappy. I cannot help but feel like I wasted so much of my life choosing unhappiness.*"

That scene has stayed with me to this day. I don't know what ever became of the woman, I just know that God used her to put a mirror up in front of me, and I suspect others, to not take their gift of life for granted.

I reflect on the scene in Luke's Gospel where Jesus is visiting the home of his friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. While Martha is busy preparing dinner for their special guest, Mary is sitting and listening to Jesus. When Martha becomes annoyed at her sister and complains to Jesus, he corrects her, and points to Mary as having invested her time in that which brings about life.

In my ministry, I am blessed to spend significant time with the elderly, as well as those who are nearing the end of life. They are among the wisest people I've ever encountered in life; all the filters of their lives now rendered meaningless. Much of their time is spent looking back over their life. Ironically, through all these years, I have never encountered a single person who wished they had worked more, gathered more, earned more, or spent more time in the details of life. Instead, I encounter people who regret not having followed the path that God set before them, rather than the path they chose for themselves.

Perhaps someday, as you near the end of your life, someone is going to ask you what you most regret about your life. What would you tell them? It's not too late, you know ... *Let us choose what is right; let us determine among ourselves what is good.* Job 34:4

*In Loving Memory  
of Lusk, Baker, McCaleb,  
Ryan & Aken Families*



*In Memory of Kathy Theriot  
11/27/45-12/28/20  
We love you a bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck. You are forever in our hearts.  
Love, Bubba and your family*



In Loving Memory of  
**Berniece Louise Garner**  
Dec. 8 1932–Dec. 22, 2022  
Truly an example of Amazing Grace.



*In loving memory of  
Nicolas & Loyce Hire  
Oct 2, 1921-Mar 9, 2021  
Feb 10, 1933-Oct 7, 2022  
Together in Heaven*



Established in 1917

*Always in our hearts*

*Stanley "Rook" Kopszywa Sr, Lola Broussard Derouen,  
Victoria "Tori" Felsher, Rogers "Poochie" Broussard,  
Aldo & Anna Caprari, Evorise Boudreaux Broussard  
& Cyrus A. Broussard*



A Prayer for Divine Mercy Sunday

O Lord, our God we place our trust in You, because you are mercy itself. We repent of our sins and turn to You for mercy, we trust You to provide for our every need, according to Your will. Help us to forgive others as You forgive us. We promise to be merciful by our deeds, words and prayers, though we have fears because of human weakness, we rely on Your infinite goodness and mercy. We entrust to You the future of our planet, our Church, our nations, our families and all our needs, with loud cries we implore your mercy on us and on the whole world. Look upon us, created in your image and likeness. form us in the Heart of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit into the living images of mercy. May all come to know the depth of Your mercy and sing the praises of Your mercy forever-



**Never Far From our  
Thoughts**  
**Lola Broussard Kopszywa  
Derouen**  
**10/19/26-4/30/04**



myParish



The App for Catholic Life Every Day™

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