



## The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**ill 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.

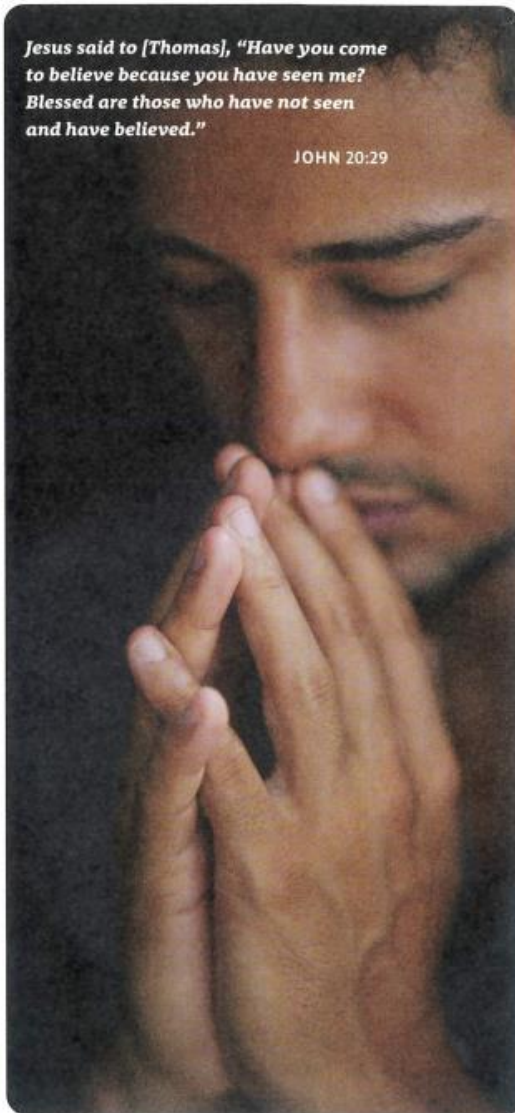
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe,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



## St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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### Second Sunday of Easter (8)

**Divine Mercy Sunday** is one of the Church's most inspiring and comforting feast days. In today's Gospel, Christ's compassion, and love shine when he appeared to his disciples in the locked Upper Room on that first Easter evening after he rose from the dead. Frightened and confused, his friends were shaken following the traumatic events they had just experienced, and they huddled in fear and confusion. They had received a report that Jesus had risen and was alive! What would Jesus say to them now? Would he be angry with their denials, betrayal, and fear? When our Lord appeared to them, he immediately put them at ease with his words of grace, "Peace be with you." He gifted them with the Holy Spirit and gave them the power and mission to forgive sins. Thomas, who missed the first appearance of Jesus, was filled with questions and doubts. Jesus showed much patience and compassion, just as he did with the other disciples, and he continues to do for us. Jesus greeted him with peace and offered Thomas another chance, the experience of touching his wounds to help him believe, which won his heart for Christ. Although Jesus affirms faith without sight, sometimes even the most passionate and faith-filled souls experience fear, doubts, failures, confusion, and setbacks. God's unlimited mercy and love are unstoppable; he will continue pursuing souls and giving them more opportunities to trust in him and experiences to win their hearts. At the heart of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a powerful prayer was offered by Jesus to St. Faustina, which has seen many miracles unfold and brought people to conversion: *Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Jesus, I trust in You.*

#### Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of April 8, 2024

Mon.	Apr	08	4:00 PM	SJ	No Daily Mass
Tues.	Apr	09	5:30 PM	SA	No Daily Mass
Wed.	Apr	10	7:00 AM	SJ	No Daily Mass
Thurs.	Apr	11	5:30 PM	SB	No Daily Mass
Fri.	Apr	12	8:30 AM	SJ	No Daily Mass
Sun.	Apr	14	8:00 AM	SJ	Vincent Venhaus†
Sun.	Apr	14	9:30 AM	SA	Andrew Claymon†
Sun.	Apr	14	11:00 AM	SB	People of the Parish

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Richard Peterson April 10th  
Jason Johnston April 13th  
Marla Kay Stallbaumer April 13th  
Joann Pandorf April 14th

**Happy Anniversary**

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Andre April 8th

## Ministry Schedule

<b>Date:</b> April 14	<b>St. Agnes</b>	<b>St. Boniface</b>	<b>St. John's</b>
<b>Time</b>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Julie B.	Rod & Janel B.	Steve & Cindy F.
<b>Lector</b>	Mary A.	Traci K.	Tara B.
<b>Server</b>		Erin F. & Katie P.	Avery B. & Wyatt D.
<b>EMHC</b>	Charles F. & Con P.	Emily P. & Diane P.	Jim & Kristy O.
<b>Communion to shut ins or Music</b>		David P.	Music: Toby K.

<b><u>St. Agnes</u></b> <b>Our Gifts to God &amp; Church</b> <b>March 31, 2024</b> <u>Total Collection:</u> <b>1208</b> <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> <b>Dollar Goal = \$4014/so far \$2700</b> <b>Donor Goal: 8 out of 16</b> <b><u>This Week:</u></b> <b>Thrift Store</b> <b>Open April 19th from 9AM to 4PM</b> <b>April 10th CCD</b>	<b><u>St. Boniface</u></b> <b>Our Gifts to God &amp; Church</b> <b>March 31, 2024</b> <u>Total Collection:</u> <b>\$2422.00</b> <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> <b>Dollar Goal = \$7306/ so far \$7330</b> <b>Donor Goal: 16 out of 19</b> <b>The dollar goal is REACHED!</b> <b><u>This Week:</u></b> <b>April 10th CCD</b>	<b><u>St. John's</u></b> <b>Our Gifts to God &amp; Church</b> <b>March 31, 2024</b> <u>Total Collection:</u> <b>\$2441.50</b> <u>Diocesan Appeal</u> <b>Dollar Goal=\$5001/so far \$5020</b> <b>Donor Goal: 15 out of 17</b> <b>The dollar goal is REACHED!</b> <b><u>This Week:</u></b> <b>April 10th CCD</b> <u>Future Events :</u> <b>Coffee and Rolls after Mass April 21st</b>
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### Quote of the Day Saint Julie Billiart (1751-1816) Feast day April 8

“However severe God’s guidance may seem at times, it’s always the guidance of a Father who is infinitely good, wise, and kind. He leads us to our goal by different paths.”

Come to St. Robert Bellarmine in Omaha on **April 26 and 27, 2024** to hear friends from EWTN and Catholic Answers speak on **THE EUCHARIST: The Source and Summit of our Faith**. This 2-day symposium will feature: [Fr. Wade Menezes](#), [Tim Staples](#), [Coleen Kelly Mast](#), [Joe Heschmeyer](#), and [Stacy Traganos](#). Jack Williams, General Manager of EWTN Radio, will serve as our emcee as we explore the Eucharist. A bookstore will be open before, during, and after the symposium with a Saturday box lunch available for pre-purchase. *The symposium will be held from 7 - 9:30 pm Friday, April 26, and 9 am - 4:30 pm Saturday, April 27. Tickets are \$25 each. For more info and to purchase tickets, go to [spiritcatholicradio.com/gpn/](http://spiritcatholicradio.com/gpn/)*



# 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](http://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 Heb 10:4–10 Lk 1:26–38	Jn 3:7b–15	Acts 5:17–26 Jn 3:16–21	Acts 5:27–33 Jn 3:31–36	Acts 5:34–42 Jn 6:1–15	Acts 6:1–7 Jn 6:16–21	Acts 3:13–15, 17–19 1 Jn 2:1–5a 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