

April 27, 2025: 2nd Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday

Background on the Gospel 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 exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on 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 body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this resurrected body, the disciples could still observe the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. 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. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed.

MARY'S KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS:

May month is Sacred Heart Parish's turn to help with Mary's Kitchen. We need 4 Volunteers, at least two desserts to be provided, plus a few hours of your time. If interested, please sign the volunteer sheet at the back of the church. SSVp thanks you for your help.

April 27th, 2025
2nd Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday
Sacred Heart Parish
A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Fr. Lee Lainey

Office Administrator: Roseann Janes

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

e-transfers:
sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com
Password "Church"
Note: include your envelope #

Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday to Friday 10a.m.
April 29 to May 2, only evening mass at 7pm

Daily mass is cancelled & Office Closed any day schools are closed due to bad weather.
Lohnes Complex* First Friday of each month - 2 pm Only - No morning mass.
Bible Study: To be determined at a later date.
Holy Hour of Adoration: Postponed until further notice.
Reconciliation: By request.
Marriages: Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.
Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.
Family Connections: At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.
St. Vincent de Paul: To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS Apr. 5 - 6

Regular Sunday	1590.00
Loose Offering	491.45
Parish Dues	20.00
Building Fund	20.00
Lenten Folders	420.00
Votive Candles	20.00
Living with Christ	6.00
Mass Stipends	20.00
Development & Peace	35.00
Good Friday (Holy Lands)	1180.00
Flowers in Memory	300.00

MASS INTENTIONS April 29 – May 4

Apr. 29	The Late Mary Power
Apr. 30	The Late Brian Griffin & Mary Wheeler
May 1	The Late Alexis Dunphy
May 2	Lohnes Complex – 2pm only
May 4	The Late Theresa Joyce Special Intention

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

May 3 – Saturday	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Linda Tarbett	Art Hall
May 4 – Sunday	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Sherri Lynn Brake	Bernadette Stone
Communion to the Sick: Barbara Neville	

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED:

We have had to reschedule the next meeting for **Wednesday, May 7th**, at 6:30pm in the church meeting room at Sacred Heart. Thank you for your patience.

SACRED HEART BINGO:

Our bingo is today **Sunday, April 27, 2025**, at Sacred Heart Elementary School cafeteria. Doors open at 1:00pm. Bingo will start at 2:00pm. See you there!

IN MEMORY - EASTER FLOWERS:

In Memory of:

The Late Hutchings & Boland Families,
From Coleen Boland & Family.
The Late Byrne & Musseau Families,
From Catherine Musseau & Family
The Late Brake & Companion Families,
From David & Dorothy Brake
The Late Edith Leonard,
From Mike & Linda Leonard
The Late Laila Brake,
From Stephanie Brake

MOUNT PATRICIA CEMETERY (AGM):

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Greenwood Inn on Wednesday **April 30, 2025 @ 6PM**. The agenda will include the presentation of Annual Reports, including the Audited Financial Statements and the election of officers and directors for 2024 – 2025. If you are a member of any of the church congregations of the Bay of Islands Ministerial association and would like to attend the AGM please call the MPCA office at 709-634-4774 or email us at: info@mountpatriciacemetery.com
Letter from: Maxine Park, General Manager

THANK YOU:

Thank you to Anna House for all her efforts in getting the Blessed Sacrament Statue ready for the Easter Season. We are very grateful for all your creative work that you do on behalf of our Parish.

PILGRIM CROSS & ROSARY:

From **April 29th to May 2nd**, we will be having **evening mass at 7pm**, there will be no morning mass as the **Pilgrim Cross** will be at Sacred Heart Parish.

Rosary will be held on those days at 6:30pm.

On **May 2nd** after evening mass, we will be having **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**.

SSVP POOR BOX COLLECTION:

The POOR BOX collection will take place during this weekend during masses of **April 26 - 27**. Members will be located at all entrances to accept your donations. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and support.

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING:

The Corner Brook and District Labour Council will hold a National Day of Mourning **Wreath-laying Ceremony** this year. It will be held at the Holy Redeemer Cathedral, Mt. Bernard Ave. **Monday, April 28th at 2:00 P.M.**

The National Day of Mourning Monument with engraved names on it, will be provided to accompany those wishing to lay a wreath. It is open to the public. For further information, or if you wish to lay a wreath on behalf of a loved one or organization, please contact Jim O'Neill at (709) 634-3695 or by email: jloneill@nf.sympatico.ca

GIFT CARD TREE:

Tickets are now available at the office. If you would like to volunteer to sell them at the stores, please call the office. Remember the draw date is Father's Day June 15th, 2025. Thank you for all the donations and your help.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL MASS: POPE FRANCIS

A special memorial mass will be celebrated for Pope Francis on Thursday May 8th at 7pm at Sacred Heart Parish. All are welcome to attend.

THE ROOF FUND PLAQUE:

Under direction of Parish Council, we will be honoring Father Jim Robertson's wishes from 2022, to have a plaque made for the church. It will be a plaque for those donors that donated over \$1000 towards the roof and it will be In Memory of a loved one.

We have most of the names, but please contact the office or Tony Griffin, to re-confirm your names and the name of the person you want on the plaque.

Reflection: Cease doubting and believe

While Jesus was alive Thomas was as strong as an oak. But when Jesus was put to death, he became a reed shaking in the winds of doubt.

The truth was, though he didn't realise it at the time, that it was the Master who was the oak. He was a mere sapling growing in his shade.

When the oak fell he was defenceless. All of us are shaken by the winds of doubt. We need to look at the Lord's wounds, and hear his gentle voice saying to us:

“Cease doubting and believe.”
Then with Thomas we shall make bold to say: “My Lord and my God.”