

Sunday of Divine Mercy

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE!

Most of us have had the misfortune of missing something important simply by being absent, and then hearing about what happened. In today's reading, unique to John's Gospel, Thomas is the only apostle who was not around when Jesus appeared to his friends for the first time after his death and resurrection. They were frightened and grieving, not knowing what would happen to them. Remember, they found themselves to be fugitives, seemingly guilty by association with a criminal executed by government officials. Suddenly, Jesus was with them, beaming peace and mercy to his fragile followers. What joy! What a shock, too!

We will never know why Thomas had left their hiding place. All we know is that he returned to wild stories about Jesus being alive after dying a brutal death. He must have thought that the other apostles in their grief had a shared delusion of what they wished were true. When Thomas finally saw Jesus, he gave what is considered the most profound profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" In his tender mercy, Jesus ministered to Thomas by helping him to see for himself.

WE WALK BY FAITH

But what of us? The early Christian community could only trust the words of these same apostles, the ones Thomas couldn't believe, when they preached Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Who could believe what they said? The Holy Spirit, breathed upon the disciples in that first encounter, emanated so powerfully from them that they were able to convene seemingly utopian communities of faith. Filled with "divine mercy," their lives became an evangelization to the world.

And this is how we too are sent out, like the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit and bearing the Lord's peace and mercy to a troubled, suffering world. The wounds of Jesus are very real today in the needy and broken. May we always work to bind up those wounds wherever we find them.

Today's Readings: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

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DEBISTE HABER ESTADO AHÍ!

Muchos de nosotros hemos tenido la desdicha de habernos perdido algo importante simplemente por haber estado ausente y luego escuchar acerca de lo que pasó. En las lecturas de hoy, solo lo menciona el Evangelio de Juan, Tomás es el único apóstol que no estuvo en el lugar cuando Jesús se les apareció a sus amigos la primera vez después de su muerte y resurrección. Tenían miedo y estaban de luto, sin saber que les pasaría. Recuerda, se sabían que eran fugitivos, aparentemente culpables por estar asociados con un criminal ejecutado por oficiales del gobierno romano. De repente, Jesús estaba con ellos, irradiando paz y misericordia a sus seguidores frágiles. ¡Qué alegría! ¡Qué asombro!

Nunca sabremos porqué Tomás había salido de ese escondite. Todo lo que sabemos es que regresó para escuchar una historia disparatada acerca de Jesús, que estaba vivo después de una muerte brutal. Debí de haber pensado que los otros apóstoles en su duelo tuvieron un delirio colectivo de lo que ellos deseaban fuera verdad. Cuando Tomás finalmente vio a Jesús, él da lo que es considerado la profesión más profunda de fe: "¡Señor mío y Dios mío!" En su tierna misericordia, Jesús sirvió a Tomás al ayudarlo a verlo por él mismo.

CAMINAR CON FE

¿Pero qué hay de nosotros? La comunidad cristiana primitiva pudo solamente confiar en las palabras de estos mismos apóstoles, aquellos a quienes Tomás no podría creerles, cuando ellos predicaron a un Jesús resucitado de la muerte. ¿Quién podría creer lo que ellos decían? El Espíritu Santo sopló sobre los discípulos en ese primer encuentro, emanado tan poderosamente de ellos que pudieron reunir aparentemente comunidades utópicas de fe. Llenos con "la divina misericordia" sus vidas se hicieron una evangelización al mundo.

Y así es cómo nosotros también somos enviados, como los discípulos, llenos con el Espíritu Santo y llevando la paz del Señor y misericordia a un mundo que sufre y que tiene dificultades. Las heridas de Jesús son tan reales hoy con los necesitados y rotos. Que nosotros siempre trabajemos para unir esas heridas donde quiera que nos encontremos.

Lecturas de hoy: Hch 2:42-47; Sal 118 (117):2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pe 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Danny Rae Schexnayder, Sr. | Paul Muñoz, Sr. | Antonio Mendoza |
| Sandra Jean Guerra | Joe Espinoza | Sophie Alonzo |
| Kayla Scott | Virginia & Jose Ponce | Helen Lloyd |
| Maria Langley | Victoria Orosco | Odilion G. Flores |
| Irma Urias | Henry Vidal | JoAnn Almaguer |
| Mary S. Martinez | Hope Esquivel | Diana Calderon |
| Frances Lozano | Victor Cruz | Janie Ramirez |
| Mary Escalera | Tomas Johnson | Liz |
| Maximus James Tobar | Deacon Jesus Rodriguez | Ana Garcia |
| Suzanne Gutierrez | Rosalinda Esparza | Gina |
| Terry Moreno | Daniel Rodriguez | Pedro Maldonado, Sr. |
| Sarah Contreras | Rosie Flores | Sandra Garza |
| Jose Flores | John Ruiz | Elena Gonzales |
| Frances Ramirez | Jessica Diaz | Roxanne Joseph |
| Marty Carrera Tobias | Robert Campos | Matthew Reyna |
| Jesse R. Diaz | Gloria Martinez | For All Afflicted with |
| Celina Herrera | Carlos Guardiola, III | Coronavirus |
| Kevin Ryan Martinez | Joe R. Martinez | |
| David Santoyo | Baby Sophia | |

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

April 5—12, 2020

- Good Friday** - \$ 230.00
- Easter Offering** - \$1,132.00
- Rice Bowl** - \$ 312.00
- All Masses** - \$2,745.00
- Mail In / Drop In** - \$5,076.00
- Online** - \$1,525.00
- TOTAL** \$11,020.00

2020 GIFT OF GIVING

- Contributions 4/5- 4/12/2020** \$ 9.00
- RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL** \$ 6,510.77

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com



Saturday, April 18

10:00 a.m. † Luis Duran Sr—Wife & Family
 † Petra Chavez—Sisters
Gift of Life Richard Diaz—Brother

Sunday April 19

10 a.m.
Live Stream † Eddie A. Vasquez—Mother
 † Mr. Guadalupe Trevino—Nora Trevino
 † Ryan Sanchez—Family
 † Daniel Arzola—Familia
 † Paul Salinas—Grace Salinas
 † Gloria Lloyd—Children

Monday, April 20

Tuesday, April 21

12:00 p.m. † Socorro Reyes
 Anniversary Anthony & Sharon Rodriguez—
 Rodriguez Family

Wednesday, April 22

12:00 p.m.
Gift of Life Aurora Velasquez
Gift of Life Joeray & Max Castillo

Thursday, April 23

12:00 p.m. † Aurora Teneyuca

Friday, April 24

12:00 p.m. † Maria Guadalupe Medina

Saturday, April 25

10:00 a.m. † Jose & Juanita Castillo—Family
 † George Hernandez

Sunday April 26

10 a.m. † Mr. Guadalupe Trevino—Nora Treviño
Live Stream † Daniel Arzola—Familia
 † Ryan Sanchez—Family
 † Josue Hid—Wife
 † Micaela Vargas—Family
 † Paul Salinas—Grace Salinas
 4th Wedding Anniversary Sarah & Richard Sustaita

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The empty tomb is a reminder that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Death will never have power over him and we become Easter people and Alleluia is our song. As we enter the empty tomb of our lives, devastated by COVID-19 corona pandemic, to seek the Lord, may we be raised with him to new life.

When Jesus rises from the dead, he appeared to Mary Magdalen and the other Mary, including Peter, John and other disciples whom none recognized him. He even had the capacity to enter the house when all doors and windows were locked. He walked with his disciples on the way to Emmaus without being recognized. He has become a transformed person and revealed to us the glory of God.

This particular passage and many others that describe the risen Lord to his followers as to some a stranger and to others even as a ghost. Jesus appears to be different. That explains why the disciples could not recognize him. As I reflect a upon these passages, it leads me to a powerful conclusion. The resurrection is a transformation of oneself to the risen Lord. It means that the empty tomb has to impact us and bring the best out of us for our fellow human beings. Our actions and way of life have to impact people around us. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 Let us not allow fear, doubt, discrimination, selfish, racism, gossip, jealousy, lack of empathy and uncertainty blind us from recognizing the Risen Lord who is within our midst.

Our community has shed that light during this time of COVID-19 Corona pandemic. I have witnessed volunteers come together to help those in need. We have formed an Emergency Task Force Committee to assist those in need especially the elderly by providing them with groceries, gift cards even offering to bring food to their homes. Many of you have offered monetary donations for the need of the community and also to help the church meet its financial obligations. We have collected a total of \$7,450 in donations. Volunteers have shared their talents, time and resources to sustain the church at this difficult time. My parishioners have been faithful in bringing their envelopes and donations to the office. Some of you have mailed in your donations or donated through apps created by the parish. We come together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist Tuesday thru Sunday and pray the rosary every single day at 6:00 in the evening. Many of you participate through live stream on face book. I am inspired by your generosity, faith and commitment to St. John Berchmans. You are Easter people and Alleluia is your song!

As we confront this invisible and dangerous enemy, I invite you to remain vigilant, attentive to the CDC guidelines and to always be guided by the risen Lord.

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" 1 Corinthians 10:31

Please continue being generous by kindly bringing in your envelopes to the church, mailing it or making a donation through different apps that have been created. We need your monetary donation to meet our financial obligations and continue to spread the Good news of salvation for the glory of God. Here is the financial break down for Holy Week:

Good Friday:	\$230.00
Easter Offering:	\$1,132.00
Rice Bowl:	\$312.00
All Masses:	\$2,745.00
Mail/ Drop in	\$5,513.00
On line:	\$1,525.00
Totals:	\$11,020.00

Thank you, again, for your continued generosity. Let us remain calm and vigilant as we face this trying time together.

"The people who walked in the darkness have seen a Great Light" Isaiah 9:2

God bless you always.

Fidele Dikete,
 Pastor

In Loving Memory

We pray for the souls of our dearly departed who have passed from our parish community:

† Corona Virus Victims

Sanctuary Light

† Graciela Trevino



Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).

Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading — God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-9).

Gospel — The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts (John 20:19-31).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20
Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

Events of the Week ~ April 19—26, 2020

Sunday, April 19

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Prayer Service—Church
6:00 p.m. Rosary—Church

Monday, April 20

6:00 p.m. Rosary—Church

Tuesday, April 21

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church
6:00 p.m. Rosary—Church

Wednesday, April 22

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church
2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Coffee Break with Father Fidèle—Facebook Livestream
6:00 p.m. Rosary—Church

Thursday, April 23

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church
6:00 p.m. Rosary—Church

Friday, April 24

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church
6:00 p.m. Rosary—Church

Saturday, April 25

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church
6:00 p.m. Rosary—Church



Divine Mercy Prayer

You expired, O Jesus,
but the source of life gushed
forth for souls
and an ocean of mercy
opened
up for the whole world.
O Fount of Life,
unfathomable Divine Mercy,
envelop the whole world
and empty Yourself out upon
us. O Blood and Water,
which gushed forth from the
Heart of Jesus as a fount of
mercy for us, I trust in You.
Amen.

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL

As we reflect on the Resurrection of our Christ Jesus, we are reminded of the beauty that lies within each of us. During this time of COVID 19 we stand with our faith community and our community leaders to encourage safe social distancing and prayer. Be safe and stay healthy.



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Easter
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy);
Julian Calendar Easter
Tuesday: St. Anselm; Yom Hashoah (Holocaust
Remembrance Day)
Wednesday: Administrative Professionals Day;
Earth Day
Thursday: St. George; St. Adalbert
Friday: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen;
National Arbor Day
Saturday: St. Mark



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Temporarily, all requests must be sent by email to stella.rico@stjohnberchmans.com and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidèle. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner at St. John Berchmans Church, please contact our Parish Office at 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.

Segundo Domingo de Pascua (o de la Divina Misericordia)

www.stjohnberchmans.com

¡BÁJENSE DE LAS NUBES!

Los que nos felicitamos por ser “realistas” en este mundo podemos escuchar la primera lectura de hoy y decir, “¡bájense de las nubes!” cuando oímos el relato de Lucas sobre los primeros días ideales del movimiento cristiano. Todo parece color de rosa, se obran muchos prodigios, todos comparten sin egoísmo, comen juntos “con alegría” y el Señor aumentaba el número de creyentes. ¿Cómo no sentirse atraído a un grupo semejante? Desde el viento que llenó el cuarto en la planta alta durante Pentecostés así como el Espíritu de Dios sobre las aguas en Génesis, y el fuego que apareció sobre cada discípulo, como la luz que apareció en el albor de la Creación, la intención de Lucas en Hechos es mostrar una nueva creación, una restauración de la bondad original de la Creación por la obra del Espíritu Santo. Es el Espíritu quien continúa formándonos en el Cuerpo de Cristo. En ciertas ocasiones, así como Tomás en el Evangelio, decimos ¡bájense de las nubes!” pero la última realidad es que el Espíritu obra continuamente para hacer que nuestra comunidad cristiana sea una nueva creación, una en que los demás encontrarán el gozo y la belleza de Dios.

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LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Todos los creyentes vivían unidos y compartían todo cuanto tenían (Hechos 2:42-47).

Salmo — Den gracias a Dios porque es bueno, su amor es eterno (Salmo 118 [117]).

Segunda lectura — Dios nos concedió renacer a la vida que esperamos por la resurrección de Jesucristo de entre los muertos (1 Pedro 1:3-9).

Evangelio — Felices los que creen sin haber visto (Juan 20:19-31).

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Segundo Domingo de Pascua (o de la Divina Misericordia) 19 de abril de 2020

“Dichosos los que creen sin haber visto”.

— *Juan 20:29b*



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LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Hch 4:23-31; Sal 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8
Martes: Hch 4:32-37; Sal 93 (92):1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
Miércoles: Hch 5:17-26; Sal 34 (33):2-9; Jn 3:16-21
Jueves: Hch 5:27-33; Sal 34 (33):2, 9, 17-20;
Jn 3:31-36
Viernes: Hch 5:34-42; Sal 27 (26):1, 4, 13-14;
Jn 6:1-15
Sábado: 1 Pe 5:5b-14; Sal 89 (88):2-3, 6-7, 16-17;
Mc 16:15-20
Domingo: Hch 2:14, 22-33; Sal 16 (15):1-2, 5, 7-11;
1 Pe 1:17-21; Lc 24:13-35

LIBERTAD

Los verdaderos líderes deben estar dispuestos a sacrificarlo todo por la libertad de su pueblo.

—Nelson Mandela

MIRA

La pena mira hacia atrás, la preocupación a los alrededores y la fe hacia arriba.

—Anóni

Oración de la Misericordia Divina

Expiraste, Jesús, pero Tu muerte hizo brotar un manantial de vida para las almas y el océano de Tu misericordia inundó todo el mundo. Oh, Fuente de Vida, insondable misericordia divina, anega el mundo entero derramando sobre nosotros hasta Tu última gota de sangre. Oh, Sangre y Agua que brotaste del Corazón de Jesús, manantial de misericordia para nosotros, en Ti confío. Amén.

SAN ANSELMO (1033-1109)

Anselmo nació en una familia cortesana, en Italia. De niño abrigó la idea del sacerdocio, pero la vida cortesana le hizo olvidarlo. No obstante, su madre le recordó que la felicidad estaba en el cielo. A la muerte de su padre buscó a un líder espiritual de su tiempo llamado Lafranco y posteriormente decide ser monje benedictino. Ahí desarrolló una amistad profunda con Lafranco sucediéndole, años después, como abad del monasterio. Como tal se distinguió por su virtud y conocimientos intelectuales, además de ser un gran maestro. Posteriormente, el rey Guillermo de Inglaterra lo nombró Arzobispo de Canterbury, pero se negó arguyendo que los nombramientos sólo los hace el Papa. Finalmente, por pedido del Papa aceptó, aunque en lo sucesivo enfrentó muchos conflictos con el Rey porque éste quería apoderarse de la Iglesia y nombrar obispos. Debido a su fidelidad al Papa sufrió el destierro y, posteriormente, con el sucesor Enrique I vivió las mismas dificultades. Hasta la fecha es conocido por la profundidad de sus escritos y por tal motivo fue declarado Doctor de la Iglesia en 1720.

—Miguel Arias, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.