



Our Lady of Hope

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday: Vigil 4:00pm
Sunday: 11am
Monday, Tuesday &
Friday 8am

CONFESSIONS:
Saturdays 3:00 p.m. or
anytime by appointment.

BAPTISM: For
information, please
contact the Rectory at
440-232-8166 during
office hours.

MARRIAGES: Limited
to registered parishioners
only. Arrangements for
date and time must be
made six months in
advance. Final
preparations should be
made five weeks before
the wedding date.

**SACRAMENT OF
HOLY ORDERS
(PRIESTHOOD/
DIACONATE):** For
information please contact
the Diocese at 216-696-
6525. .

**PARISH SCHOOL OF
RELIGION:** Please call
Rectory office.

REGISTRATION: If you
are new in the parish,
please register at the
rectory or online at our
website. If you moved out
of the parish, please notify
the rectory.

APRIL 19, 2020 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

400 CENTER ROAD, BEDFORD,
OHIO 44146-2296

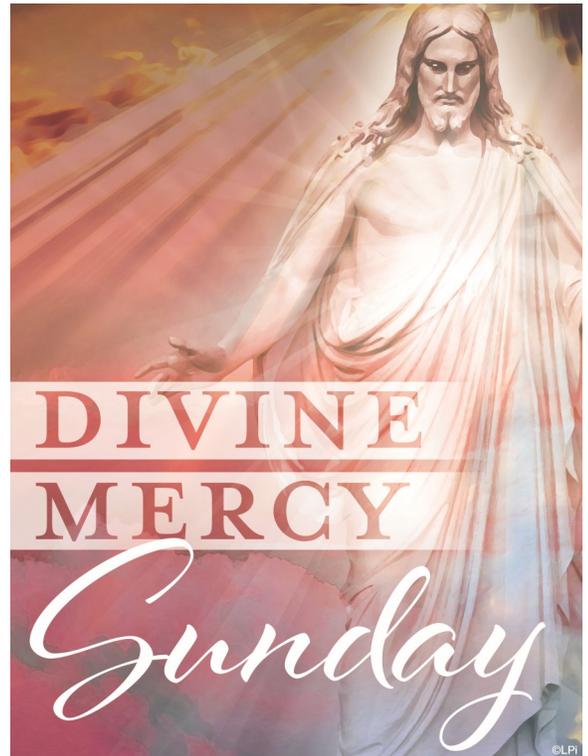
Fr. Joe Seebauer—Pastor
—jseebauer.ccofbedford@gmail.com
Fr. Isidore Munishi—Pastoral Associate
—216-394-7374
Rev. Mr. Bill Starkey—Deacon
—wstarkey@ourladyofhopebedford.org
Louise Martin—Pastoral Associate
Verna J. Hudak—Secretary
Bob Vano—Business Manager
Bob Cooke—Maintenance Coordinator
Loretta Gardner—Office Volunteer
Chris McGilton—Music Director

Office—(440) 232-8166
Office Fax—(440) 786-9929
Parish Website:

www.ourladyofhopebedford.org

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays,
8:30am –12 noon and 12:30—2:30pm.
Anytime for emergencies.



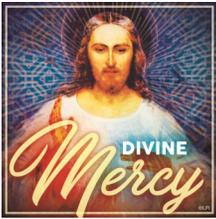
A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, “I am here on purpose and I am loved!” Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation’s grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don’t-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person’s soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn’t require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn’t matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The “my Lord and my God” responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The “my Lord and my God” affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. “Peace be with you.” Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

Readings for the week of April 19, 2020



Sunday, April 19

Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday, April 20

Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday, April 21

Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday, April 22

Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday, April 23

Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36

Friday, April 24

Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday, April 25

1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20

Next Sunday, April 26

Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

SUNDAY & WEEKLY MASSES

The Diocese of Cleveland presents a television Mass at 6 a.m. every Sunday on Fox 8 and at 11:30 a.m. Sundays on Cox Cable channel 45. For more links to livestreamed, taped, television or radio Masses, go to www.ourladyofhopebedford.org.

OLH & SM WEEKLY BULLETINS

until Mass is resumed, we will have copies of both Our Lady of Hope and St. Mary bulletins available in the foyer outside of Our Lady of Hope office if you want to receive a hard copy.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Right now it is difficult for people to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If anyone feels that it is urgent that they receive this sacrament, please call the office and leave me a voicemail, and I will call you back to set up an individual appointment to go to confession. Pope Francis spoke about this situation recently since it affects the Universal Church. The Pope said: "Do what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says (CCC 1452). It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly to God, your Father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this..... Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart. Make an act of contrition and promise God, 'I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to a state of



We extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to the family & friends of our recently deceased—

Mary Lou Heil

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED . . .

Please remember in your prayers all of the sick in our parish and families, especially: Jim Waple, Virginia Vitale, Mary Emling, Daniel Baran, Berta Ugucini, Carmen Whaley, Bernie Sylvester, Lil Kalal, Andy Mizesak, Matthew Reeve, Albert Finn, Alan Parker, James Smith, Harold Fischer, Ronald Richnavsky, Joe McElhone, Laverne Krempasky, Paul Melzer, Patricia Zak, Matthew J. Zamiska, Daisy Darus, Gerry Lantos, Louise Dragan, Ken Hudak, Maria Spears, Veda Wagner, Shirley Holmes, Frank Richnavsky, Eileen Salupo, Jim Goersmeyer, Shirley Manning, Albert Zak, Joseph Homa, Joanne Stewart, Anthony Sava, Dolores Hustack, Thomas Wagner, Florence Cartellone, Rosalie Skocaj, Jim Tench, and all those affected by the coronavirus throughout the world...

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Unfortunately the parish devotions, bible studies, and other events had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus. The Diocese of Cleveland, in conjunction with the Augustine Institute, is offering an online program called Formed that provides religious and spiritual content free of charge for the next 40 days. You can stream religious movies, view online bible studies, learn about the sacraments, along with many other catechetical opportunities. A link to the sign-up page for Formed can be found on the parish website. You will need to supply your name and your email address.

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Coronavirus has caused considerable economic difficulties for many of us. If you are able, Our Lady of Hope asks you to continue giving your regular weekly offertory. You can give online through the parish website, you can drop your envelope off in the mailbox at the office, you can mail in your envelope, or you can bring your envelopes to church once the public celebration of Mass is resumed. Thanks for your generosity in keeping our parish operational and vibrant.

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Easter Collection—\$1,834.00

Recent Collections thru April 12, 2020

Weekly Collection.....	\$8,438.00
Envelopes used.....	223
Comfort the Needy.....	\$1,424.00
Parish Improvements.....	\$862.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!!

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.bedfordoh.gov gives information on Bedford city services during this Coronavirus pandemic.

www.coronavirus.ohio.gov gives the latest directives related to the Coronavirus, including closures and eventual re-openings in the State of Ohio.

Dear Parishioners,

Thanks to all of you who sent cards or called on the phone to extend Easter greetings to me. That certainly made the day more special. Spending Easter alone and celebrating private Mass throughout the three days of the Sacred Triduum was most unusual. I'm sure watching the Mass online or on television left you wanting for more. Mass is meant to be celebrated with the faithful present; we long for human contact as well as Divine presence. That's why Jesus told his disciples: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Mt 18:20). That scripture quote notwithstanding, even if we live alone, God is still present with us. We have the Divine fire inside our hearts by merits of our baptism; something we are reminded of often during this Easter Season.

As I celebrated the Easter Vigil and prayed all the prayers and did all nine scripture readings, one of the lines of the Exsultet really struck me: "Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples." My small adoration chapel in the rectory was certainly not shaking, nor did I hear a single voice of the people, other than my own. I missed all of your voices and faces! The feeling of isolation that many of us felt throughout the Triduum was shared by the Apostles after Jesus' death. We need to recognize that all of the Apostles abandoned Jesus during his Passion and doubted the resurrection.

The ten Apostles who were in the upper room Easter night with the doors locked were cowering in fear and isolation when Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Since Jesus' death on Good Friday, none of the Apostles had been out proclaiming the resurrection and preaching the Gospel. While Thomas was singled out in today's Gospel as the doubter, one must remember that all of the Apostles doubted. At this point in history, the Jews didn't believe in Heaven, so how would Thomas or any of the Apostles have known where Jesus was going when he died. They didn't even understand that Jesus had to die the horrible death that he eventually suffered. We don't know why Thomas was absent from the upper room on Easter Sunday night; the scriptures don't tell us. For all we know he was the only one courageous enough to leave the room and obtain provisions of food and water for his brother disciples who were hiding.

When Thomas did return to the Upper Room, the other disciples told him about their encounter



the risen Jesus. Thomas decided that their account was too good to be true. Thomas demanded proof and wanted to put his finger in the nail marks and his hand into Jesus' side. Later when Jesus did stand in front of Thomas, Thomas did not attempt to put his finger into the nail marks; rather he said, "My Lord and my God." Those few words that Thomas said were words of great faith, not that of a doubter. Thomas' confession demonstrated a depth of understanding in regard to who Jesus really was. Jesus was truly human and also divine. Jesus was God. It took the Church Fathers until 325 AD at the Council of Nicaea to start formulating the doctrine that Jesus was truly God.

The story of Thomas tells us that it's alright for us to have doubts, and do we have a lot of them during this Coronavirus pandemic. When can we go back to church and celebrate Mass together? When can we go back to work? When is our unemployment check coming? When can we visit our family again? When can we find a roll of toilet paper or hand sanitizer in the store? And the questions go on and on. The Apostles had doubts about Jesus after he rose from the dead, and some doubt remained even after Jesus sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Doctrines of the Faith that we profess in the Creed each Sunday cannot be explained scientifically. That's why they are called Doctrines of the Faith and not Doctrines of Scientific Certitude.

None of us have stood before the risen Lord and said, "My Lord and my God." Jesus went on to say, "Thomas, have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Doubt seems to come upon us in proportion to the amount of stress and suffering that we experience in our lives. When things are going smoothly in life, faith seems to be present in great abundance. However, when the going gets tough in life, like it is now, we can doubt the presence of the Lord. I've heard many times in conversations with people that they feel their faith has been lost. It's nearly impossible to totally lose our faith, but there are times in our lives when the doubt can get pretty intense. For the Apostles, the events in life couldn't have gotten much worse than they did during the Passion and death of Jesus, so obviously the disciples' doubt would have been at its apex. But even so, Thomas mustered the courage to say, "My Lord and my God." May we do the same as we celebrate God's divine mercy.

Easter Joy and Peace,
Father Joe