



St Anthony Church

409 W. Columbia Ave, Belleville, MI | 734-697-1211 | stanthonybelleville.com

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Divine Mercy Sunday

Jesus I Trust in You!

Fr. K's Korner

Rediscovering Faith Today

There's an old movie called *The Seventh Seal*. In one scene death takes the form of a human person and appears to a knight. A conversation follows in which the knight talks to Death about God. The conversation goes something like this:

Knight:

Why does God hide himself?

Why doesn't he reveal himself?

Why doesn't God stretch out his hand and touch us?

Why doesn't he, at least, say something to us?

Death:

But God doesn't do this, does he?

He doesn't reach out.

He doesn't speak.

He just remains silent.

Knight:

That's right!

He doesn't do a thing.

He doesn't touch us; he doesn't speak to us.

Sometimes I wonder if he's really out there.

Death:

Well, maybe he's not there.

Maybe no one's out there.

Maybe we're here all alone.

Did you ever think about that?

All of us can relate to that conversation. There are times when we seem to be all alone in the world. There are times when we wonder if God's really out there. We long for some sign, some touch, some word to reassure us that he's really there.

This raises a question. Is there any way we can become more sure of what we believe? Is there anything we can do to make our faith stronger? The answer to that question is yes. There's definitely something we can do to strengthen our faith. There's something very practical we can do.

We all know that if we don't use a

muscle, it begins to weaken. In fact, it can become so weak that it will begin to atrophy or die. Something like that can happen to our faith. If we don't exercise our faith, it too can grow weak. It can become so weak that for all practical purposes it dies. Therefore, one very practical way to strengthen our faith is to exercise it, to live it. An example will illustrate:

A man was vacationing alone in a small cabin in the California mountains. He was feeling lonely and depressed. Something was radically wrong with his life. God seemed to have deserted him. His faith was flickering and threatening to go out. In desperation, the man turned to God and promised that he would do anything God wanted if God would give him back his peace of mind. Then something strange happened. God seemed to speak to the man. God seemed to say to him, "Start living the gospels. Start living out the teachings of Jesus, even though you don't understand them." At that moment the man made a big decision. He resolved then and there to live his life according to the teachings of Jesus. That decision turned the man's life around. It wasn't easy at first. He fell back into his old ways again and again. But that one decision made all the difference.

In an article entitled "Living the Word," the man says that his cabin experience taught him a lesson that he never forgot the rest of his life. "I learned," he says, "to hear the word and to act on it."

Consider another example: Blaise Pascal was born in 17th-century France. He was a mathematical genius. By the age of 18, he had designed and built several computing machines, pioneers to

our modern computers. Pascal was not only deeply intelligent but also deeply religious. Commenting on the question of faith, he wrote: "If you want to strengthen your faith, do not augment your arguments but weed out your passions." In other words, the way to strengthen our faith is to live it, to put it into practice in our daily lives. If we do this, we too will experience a turnaround in our life, just as the man in the California cabin did.

One final point should be noted here. Faith is a lot like life. It too has high points and low points. The nature of faith is such that no matter how faithfully we live the word of God, there will be times when our faith will be like the faith of Thomas in today's Gospel (John 20:19-31). It will seem to flicker and threaten to go out on us.

Perhaps this final analogy will help: Our faith is a lot like the sun. Sometimes it's big and bright and clearly visible in the sky. At other times we can't even see it. It has disappeared behind a layer of clouds and seems to have vanished from the sky. We know from experience, however, that the sun is always somewhere in the sky. It's just that we can't see it all of the time. Faith is a lot like that too.

When low points in our faith come, as it has for many during these dark days and weeks, we should recall the words of Peter in today's second reading (1 Peter 1:3-9):

"You may for a time have to suffer the distress of many trials; but this is so that your faith, which is more precious than the passing splendor of fire-tried gold, may by its genuineness lead to praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears."

God bless you!

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Catholic Social Action

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Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-4355
Project Rachel Ministry, 888-722-4355

CYO (Youth Athletics)

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Knights of Columbus

William Alati, 347-0426

Men's Club/Ushers

Leonard Szweda, 699-3519

Natural Family Planning

Rachel Faitel, 395-5624

RCIA

Carol Uhal, 485-7544
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Rachel Faitel 395-5624

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Welcome Team

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Cub Scouts, Misty Myers, 512-3487

Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org

FORMED log in:

stanthonybelleville.formed.org

Regular Office hours:

Monday - Thursday 9 am to 3 pm



Our Friends, Family and Loved Ones . . .

- Margot Shields
- Joshua Lowery family
- Jonathan McKenzie
- Mary Talaga
- Marti Brown
- Betty Kurczewski
- Joan Huziak
- Jim Whittico
- Carol Sobeki
- Carol Luscomb
- Emily Greca Henson
- Gina Simpson
- Jane Atchinson
- Leona Harris
- Theda Conroy

For Those who serve overseas . . .

- Lieutenant Red Powell
- Marine Corps Cody S. Pratt
- Master Sgt, Daniel Babcock
- PFC Michael C. Davis
- PFC Zach Rhodes
- SPC Lawrence J. Maples, Sr.
- SPC Travis Weber
- Staff Sergeant Alejandro Gonzalez
- Staff Sergeant Theresa Gonzalez

*The prayer list is updated monthly.
To continue prayers or to add the names of your loved ones, please contact the parish office.*



We Pray for the Repose of the Soul of

Lawrence J Boc

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to family and friends.



Do you know someone who would like to:

- Learn more about the Catholic Faith?
- Return home to the Church and more actively practice his/her faith?
- Prepare for Baptism?
- Join the Catholic Church community?
- Have other needs, requests or questions addressed?

Or perhaps this describes you?

Every year, the Catholic Church welcomes thousands of new members and returning members through the process of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Call Darrel Recker (572-0157) or Carol Uhal (485-7544) for information about how to get started!

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The Faith Community of St. Anthony Parish, Belleville, open to the Spirit as disciples of Jesus Christ, envision our mission as Proclaiming, Witnessing and Celebrating the Kingdom of God among us through Service, Healing and Reconciling Love.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Teresa Dore

734-699-3373

Divine Mercy Sunday *52 Sundays*

EXPLORE THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Jesus and Thomas John 20:19-31

TAKE TIME TO CHAT

• Go back in time and put yourself in Thomas' shoes. Would you have believed that Jesus was alive if you weren't there to see it with your own eyes? How would you have felt if you were Thomas the second time?

• How would you feel if Jesus appeared to you and said, "Peace be with you"?

• If you were having a party where Jesus was going to appear, who would you invite? Why?

RECIPE OF THE WEEK: Divine Mercy Sunday Sundaes

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, make ice cream sundaes together as a family.

- Get ice cream in the flavor(s) of your choice.
- Prepare toppings of your choice (e.g., caramel, chocolate sauce, strawberries, chocolate chips, kiwi, nuts, marshmallows, bananas, peanut butter cups, or whipped cream).

FAMILY PRAYER: Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Using Rosary beads, the Chaplet begins with the Sign of the Cross, followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

On the Our Father beads: 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.

On the Hail Mary Beads: For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have his mercy on us and on the whole world.

After five decades, conclude by reciting three times: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Fun Facts! The two rays of light coming from Jesus' heart in the image of the Divine Mercy help us recall the graces poured out in Baptism (water) and the Eucharist (blood).

Pax,
Teresa

This Week's Readings

Saturday April 18 th	Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 Mk 16:9-15
Sunday April 19 th Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 2:42-47 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1] 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31
Monday April 20 th	Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d] Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday April 21 st St. Anselm	Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a] Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday April 22 nd	Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a] Jn 3:16-21
Thursday April 23 rd St. George	Acts 5:27-33 Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a] Jn 3:31-36
Friday April 24 th St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen	Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc] Jn 6:1-15
Saturday April 25 th St. Mark	1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2] Mk 16:15-20
Sunday April 26 th 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a] 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35

