

*Saint Anthony of  
Padua  
Catholic Church*

**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**(Divine Mercy)**  
April 19, 2020

Today the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday. The central focus is our celebration of the resurrection of Christ and the floodgates of God's mercy being opened upon us, and is based both on Scripture and the revelations of Saint Faustina Kowalski.

Peter says in today's second reading, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Saint John Paul II, in his canonization of Sister Mary Faustina Kowalski,

instituted this day into the Church calendar. In his homily, he said:

“It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called “Divine Mercy Sunday.” In the various readings, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings. Christ has taught us that “man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but also called “to practice mercy” towards others: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Mt 5:7).

That mercy is easily seen in the many healing miracles recalled in the Gospels. In each one, whether physical or spiritual, the power of Christ to renew, forgive, and heal burst into the life of someone and, at times, even

turns upside down the very laws of nature.

In today's Gospel, that specific ministry of forgiveness and mercy is passed to the disciples, when Jesus says, Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them. This is Divine Mercy.

When Thomas, broken and distraught at the death of Jesus cannot, or will not, bring himself to accept the Resurrection, Jesus gently take him from obstinate refusal to a moment of faith. He coaxes from Thomas one of the great confessions of faith: My Lord and my God! In that moment, Thomas is healed and changed – healed of his grief and pain, changed from doubt to belief. This is Divine Mercy.

Having experienced that same forgiveness and healing in their own lives, the disciples now become carriers of these gifts for all who will hear and respond to their preaching. For what they say about the risen Christ is no mere fantasy.

They witnessed his death on the cross, and how they witness with their very eyes and with the touch of their hands that he is fully alive. Divine Mercy.

The need for those gifts of mercy and healing is as great today as it was in apostolic times, as Saint John Paul II noted. Without it, we are lost – still in our sins, unable to be reconciled with God. So as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection, let us each open our hearts to those gifts and then commit ourselves to be conduits of them to others. Divine Mercy.

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(Faith Catholic)

**Third Sunday of Easter**  
(April 26, 2020)

The Gospel tells us today, While he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Immediately, the despair of the two disciples turned to joy; their despondency turned to elation and they

rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples of their encounter with the risen Lord.

It is likely we can identify with these two disciples who were on the road to Emmaus. We have all experienced times of despair and disappointment. We've had dreams dashed and felt overwhelming losses. Perhaps these times have weakened our faith or left us questioning God's plan for us.

Just like the two we hear today, we need something to bring us out of our gloom at time. We need our outlook lifted and our faith reignited. We need God.

We need God, and the Mass gives us what we need. It is not unlike our own "Road to Emmaus." We enter the doors needing to be fed. In the Liturgy of the Word, God speaks to us. The Scriptures feed us, teaching us God's ways and his plan for us. We are nourished again in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Today's Gospel

tells us, He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. This is repeated at every Mass. It is the perfect sacrifice, the perfect meal, the perfect nourishment for our souls. If we open ourselves to all it offers, we, too, can feel the complete joy that energized Christ's disciples to rush out and share the Good News with others.

(Faith Catholic)

### MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup>

Fr. Carlos will remember these scheduled prayer intentions, as well as all parishioners when he celebrates his private Mass every day. If you have any special requests please send them in ASAP to [stanthonybayoublack@htdiocese.org](mailto:stanthonybayoublack@htdiocese.org) so that they can be added to Father's list.

**Sat, 4/18** Paul Fournier, Wayne Riche', June Fischer, Ed Miller (B)

**Sun, 4/19** Harold Cade  
**Wed, 4/22** Dale Lirette  
**Sat, 4/25** Annie Miller (B), Darwin LaFont  
**Sun, 4/26** Donald Burnett  
**Thu, 4/30** Dale Lirette

### WEEKLY READINGS FOR THE WEEK APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup>

**Wed, 4/15** - Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35  
**Thr, 4/16** - Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48  
**Fri, 4/17** - Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14  
**Sat, 4/18** - Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15  
**Sun, 4/19 – Divine Mercy Sunday –**  
Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31  
**Mon, 4/20** - Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8  
**Tue, 4/21** – Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15  
**Wed, 4/22** - Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21  
**Thu, 4/23** - Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36

**Fri, 4/24** - Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15  
**Sat, 4/25** - 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20  
**Sun, 4/26 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter** - Acts 2:14, Luke 24:13-35  
**Mon, 4/27** - Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29  
**Tue, 4/28** - Acts 7:51–8:1a; John 6:30-35  
**Wed, 4/29** - Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40  
**Thu, 4/30** - Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51

### Resources

- The Vatican News website: [vaticannews.va/en.html](http://vaticannews.va/en.html)
- The Vatican News Facebook Page: [facebook.com/vaticannews](https://facebook.com/vaticannews)
- The Vatican News



Youtube  
Channel:  
[youtube.com/c/vaticannews](https://www.youtube.com/c/vaticannews)

**WEBSITE:**

[www.htdiocese.org](http://www.htdiocese.org)

- News & Updates
- Mass Times
- Prayers
- Videos

**Weekday Mass**

There are several priests throughout our diocese who are currently livestreaming daily Masses on their Facebook Pages. Visit our diocesan website for more information:  
[htdiocese.org/coronavirus-masses](http://htdiocese.org/coronavirus-masses)

**EASTER FLOWERS**  
**IN MEMORY OF**

*Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lirette, Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Ashley, Gloria Brewer, & Jean Ashley* by Family

*David S. Spence* by Kim S. Spence

*Audrey & Noe' Breaux* by Arlene Bonvillain

*Ernest, Anna & Gerald Richard, Nan & Billy Fakier, Connie Leonard, Randy Reulet, Bryant DeRoche, Maude Matherne* by Kurt & Cindy Fakier

*Anita Laperouse, Laperouse Family, Marie Vicari, Salvador Vicari, Donna Vicari, Chris Vicari* by Family

*M/M James L. Black, M/M Ernest P. Black, M/M Mart Dugas, Mr. Earl Williams, Sr.* by Mart & Charlette Black

***SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA PRAY FOR US!***

**THE ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

Written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**Email:** [stanthonybayoublack@htdiocese.org](mailto:stanthonybayoublack@htdiocese.org)

**Website:**  
[www.stanthonybayoublack.org](http://www.stanthonybayoublack.org)

**Facebook:** [St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church - Bayou Black](#)

**PARISHIONERS:** Please email the office to update your mailing address, phone numbers, and email address. We are doing as much as we can to keep you informed! If you can get this information to us it will be a big help! It will help reduce cost if we can email you rather than have to mail letters out! Thank you!



## **COVID-19: A PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY**

For all who have contracted coronavirus, We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health

insurance, We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers, We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.

Amen.