

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe[b] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Mass Intentions

Saturday RIP
April 18

This Weekend

Johanna
By: Laura Rounds

Divine Mercy Sunday
April 19

RIP Michael Shaughnessy
By: Rich & Lee Boucher

Daily Masses

Monday April 20	RIP	Constance Brodeur
Tuesday April 21	RIP	Alice E. Dunn
Wednesday April 22	RIP	Robert W. Fowler
Thursday April 23	RIP	Lee Piluski
Friday April 24		

Next Weekend

Saturday RIP
April 25

John Westfall
By: Jane Westfall

Sunday RIP
April 26

Moe Kelly
By: Brian Kelly

Thank You all of our Donors who gave for the Easter flowers this year.

Readings for the Week of April 20, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parish Support

<i>Offering by Mail</i>	\$ 799.00
	\$ 799.00

Last Year's Offertory Collection

A Directive from Bishop Christopher J. Coyne

Effective Friday, March 20, all regularly scheduled public Celebrations of the Catholic Mass, sacraments and devotions are suspended until further notice. Priests of the Diocese of Burlington will continue to celebrate Mass privately for the intentions of their community and the Church.

Baptisms, funerals and weddings may take place but will be strictly limited in attendance to immediate family members.

I have taken this course of action following the advice of local public officials and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to limit gatherings to 10 people. While this is a difficult time for the faithful, we must all do our part to ensure the health and well-being of the larger community by helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary.

Plans are moving forward to "live-stream" a local celebration of the Mass daily beginning with this Sunday, March 22 at 10 AM. Please check the Diocesan website at <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/covid-19/> for all TV Mass options, resources to keep Sunday Holy and the latest updates.

DIVINE MERCY

The Divine Mercy is a devotion to Jesus Christ associated with the apparitions of Jesus to Faustina Kowalska. The venerated image under this Christological title refers to what Kowalska's diary describes as "God's loving mercy" towards all people, especially for sinners. Kowalska was granted the title "Secretary of Mercy" by the Holy See in the Jubilee Year of 2000. Kowalska reported a number of apparitions during religious ecstasy which she wrote in her diary, later published as the book *Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul*. The two main themes of the devotion are to trust in Christ's endless goodness, and to show mercy to others acting as a conduit for God's love towards them.

Pray for Healing and Comfort

Especially for: Constance Burns, Deacon John Blicharz, Doreen Aldrich, Mary Frances Branch, Warren Peschl, Daniel Bryant, Monica Luedtke, Lois Woodard, Joseph Marion, Jr. Fr. Al Dagnoli, Paul Desruisseaux, Betsy Bashaw, Betsy & Bob Anderson, Frances Gallagher, Mary Damon, Grace Shelc, Tom Shelc, Ed Hindes, Maria Coyne, Mary Grippo, Madison Bills, Robert Brown, Mary Folsom, Peggy Lafave, Lorraine Reynolds, Bob Hanold, Marilyn Lemoine, Patrick Barry, Robert Fogg, Bernie Hindes, Nick Deistler, Ted Waryas, Peter Bodner, Ellah Williams, Fred Waryas, Maybelle Long, Joseph Mitchell, Heather Rodger, Patricia Jones, Frances Hackett, Colleen Paquet, David Robarge, Kathy Mcarthy, Tom Burns, Mary Lou Fogg, Jim Nyberg, Cheryl Elyse Garrett, Ed Atkins, Conner Glover. **Please contact the rectory (463-3128) if you wish Father Maria Lazar to make a sick call or bring Holy Communion to someone who is unable to attend Mass.**

PLEASE follow us on facebook: Charles Church
<https://www.facebook.com/stcharleschurchbfvt>

Or our website: stcharles.vermontcatholic.org

If you would like to get the bulletin via email, please email the parish Office at stcharlesrectory@comcast.net, and we will add you to the email list.

If anyone is in need of last sacraments, please call the parish office, anytime night or day 802-463-3128.

Guidelines and Safety measures from the CDC, about the COVID-19 Virus

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

USCCB Prayer for healing and protection from COVID-19

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen. (Copyright © 2020 Loyola Press. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission. www.loyolapress.com)