



Fr. Noel Danielewicz
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Second Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

From the Acts of the Apostle we read—

“They devoted themselves to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers...they were together and held all things in common. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

Throughout the Easter Season, St. Luke offers us a snapshot of the post—resurrectional Church. From the Acts of the Apostles, Luke paints a rather idyllic portrait of the **‘early Christian community’** that modelled well a need to treat one another with great charity and generosity, as they lived life sharing all things in common. Each community, whether from Jerusalem to Antioch, Rome to Alexandria practiced this common sharing of goods and property as they achieved a **“simplicity of life”** among themselves for the purpose of reaching out to those struggling and in need.

Sisters and brothers, with the psalmist, we acknowledge that Jesus is the LORD of all creation and we owe God the praise, the honor and the glory, as we gather today on **the Sabbath of the Lord**....yes, the “day of **the Resurrection of Christ!**” As you and I journey forward into this 40 day season of thanksgiving and gratitude....we recognize how God delivers Jesus from the grasp of the grave and raises him from the dead. It is in this **“paschal mystery”** that we profess our FAITH ~ *“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.”*

Historically, the ‘early Christian community continued to keep the Sabbath in the synagogue on Saturday and would gather in the larger homes of Christians on Sunday for **“the Breaking of the Bread—of Eucharist.** Their intent was to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord on **the new-- Sabbath,** Sunday. Over the past year, as we have applied social distance to keep us from spreading the corona virus, it has had a tremendous impact upon our worship, stewardship and ministry.

As we move from the Acts of the Apostles to the Gospel of John, we find ourselves once again in the Upper Room with the Eleven and the other disciples. **The doors of the Cenacle are locked** as a result of the fear of being arrested and being prosecuted. Jesus appears on that Easter Sunday night and says—*“peace be with you!* As he breathes upon the Eleven He says: **“Receive the Holy Spirit...the breath of God.”** *“whose sins you shall forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you shall hold bound are held bound.”*

Jesus extends to his apostles and their successors the authority to forgive sin in his Name. The Sacrament of

Penance is instituted as a perpetual sign of **God’s love: HESED** - that is always **unconditional, ready to forgive** and **open to mercy.** Today, we celebrate as a Church, **“Mercy Sunday!”** Sisters and brothers, it is time to step—up to the plate and admit our sinfulness and seek God’s forgiveness. Am I, are we ready to **admit our sinfulness** and seek Jesus’ welcome **invitation to forgiveness and healing.**

John 20: 19-31 as we acknowledge that this Sacrament is a critical encounter with God and with our own humanity. Yes, we are essentially good, but have chosen to do evil....commit sin and turn away from the Lord and his Church. What is preventing us from receiving the Sacrament of Penance with greater frequency? *Are we locked in denial or indifference* that keeps us from admitting that we need the Lord and the grace of the sacrament to become holy.

Admitting that we are sinners is the first step on the road to spiritual recovery. The second is **calling down the Holy Spirit** to identify our sins and have the courage to confess them with honesty and integrity. The third step, is to pray with **a heart of sorrow** that we are ready **to lay down our sins and receive God’s forgiveness.** And the fourth step, is to avoid these sins with the best of our ability and with the strength of the sacrament.

The official name of the sacrament is **PENANCE.** Drop the n’s and discover the hidden gift of this Sacrament is **PEACE**....the peace of Christ that passes all understanding. This past March, I prepared for surgery by receiving first the sacrament of Penance followed by the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. The second time, there was no time for Penance, but I was able to be anointed before being driven away to the hospital by the paramedics. Seize the opportunities....

It’s later than you think Church....time is of the essence and how have I and how have we been spiritually diligent in preparing ourselves for total **healing of mind, body and spirit?** There is room for all of us take seriously the invitation to forgiveness and to celebrate well the call to conversion of heart and life through the gift of Penance. Seek forgiveness, and live forgiven!

A fellow—sinner on the road,
Friar Noel

St. Benedict the Moor Church



Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is a Catholic Christian Community that celebrates its African-American heritage and welcomes cultural diversity. Join us at the Table of the Eucharist as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We are committed to grow and diversify the Church through the new evangelization, family, catechesis, young adult ministry and outreach to the poor. In the spirit of the prophet Joshua, we can say:

“As for me and my household; we will serve the Lord.”

April 11, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Divine Mercy Sunday

*“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.”*

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 12:00 noon
Saturday: 8 am
Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm
(Exceptions will be posted)
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy
Room Saturday 8:30-9:30am
or by Appointment

Emergencies:
call Fr.Noel: 410-818-8149
Office: 706- 323-8300

Communications
Address: St. Benedict the Moor
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Columbus, Georgia 31906

Pastor

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Staff

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Deborah Thompson

Director of Religious Education
Gail Buffong
706-536-8468

Director of Outreach
Beverly Casimier

Music Ministry
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

Office Hours:
Pastor: Monday-Friday 10-11:30 am
1:00-3:00 pm

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Columbus, GA 31906
Community Hall/Office
2935 9th St.
Columbus GA 31906

Pastoral Concerns

Church, please pray for my great—niece, **Valentina Nejfelt** (13 yrs.), who has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Her address is: Valentina Nejfelt
1835 Polo Heights Drive
Frisco, Texas 75033

Know my gratitude and prayers.

Adult Catechesis

Throughout the Easter Season, we will be reflecting upon our Faith and sharing our understanding with those who believe as we believe. Today, the Gospel of John situates the experience of the Apostles in the Upper Room on that Easter Night as Jesus appears to them behind locked doors.

- What sacrament did Jesus institute on Easter Sunday evening? (Penance)
- The Gospel of John 20: 19-31 is the Scriptural basis for the gift of **FORGIVENESS**.
- True/False When confessing one's sins, we are focusing on our own spiritual life and the sins I chose to commit.
- T/F It is important to recognize Jesus' power to forgive sins through this sacrament of reconciliation between God and us.
- T/F Today's feast of Divine Mercy reminds us to place our Trust in Him (Jesus).
- T/F Through the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, we find the strength and help from God to live the Christian life.
- T/F Through the sacrament of Penance, we receive forgiveness from our sins and the Gift of God's peace to live the Christian Life.

Rice Bowls

With the culmination of the season of Lent it is time to return your **rice bowls** to the Church. It would be most practical to please count your Lenten Gift for the poor and needy of the world and simply **write a check to St. Benedict the Moor** and note in the bottom left—corner: RICE BOWL. May the Lord Jesus continue to bless your generosity for the least of your sisters and brothers, as we see the face of Christ in the poor.

In Memoriam

In your charity, please remember the soul of our brother, Friar Ken Lucas, who returned to the House of the Father this past week. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, April 10th at the Church of the Assumption in Syracuse, New York. He will be buried in the Friars Plot at Assumption Cemetery.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Mercy Sunday, April 11th 10:30 AM
St. Benedict the Moor Church--Family

Easter Weekday April 12th 12 Noon
+Fr. Vincent Lachendro, OFM Conv.

Easter Weekday, April 13th 11 AM
Valentina Nejfelt healing from leukemia

Easter Weekday, April 14th 12 Noon
Eva Brown healing

Easter Weekday, April 15th 11 AM
Tom Danielewicz, birthday 4-9

Easter Weekday, April 16th 12 noon
Joe Ravalese, healing

Easter Weekday, April 17th 8AM
Sister Mary Romuald, CSSF

Stewardship

Weekly Finance Report: April 4

Offertory: \$4279.00 (Online \$2266.00)

Church Repair: \$12.00 (Online \$10.00)

Priest Retirement: \$270.00

Kitchen Reno: \$1000.00

Easter Flowers: \$20.00

Utilities: \$55.00 (Online \$110.00)

Poor Box (Online \$100.00)

Our online giving has been updated to a new and easier to use platform. Online donations allow you to stay up-to-date and continue your support.

Please go to

<https://osvhub.com/stbenedictthemoorcolumbus/funds> to contribute.

Second Sunday of Easter

READING 1 Acts 4:32-35

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

RESPONSORIAL

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His mercy endures forever."

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.

The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just:

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

READING 2 1 Jn 5:1-6

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

GOSPEL Jn 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail-marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

In Our Prayers

Fr. Noel Danielewicz
Valentina Nejfelt
Sr. Apollonia, cssf.
Sr. Delores Anne, cssf
Helen Bell
Amanda Cole
Mik Cole
Robert Cole
Ola Danielewicz
Robert Dozier
Carl English
Stephanie Findlay
Yvonne Gilberti
Elizabeth Grey
Ginnette Hughes
Cecelia Hyams
Clarence Johnson
Donald Julien
Michael King
Earl King

Elvia King
Lenny Korona
Shirley Labbe
Ida Ruth Lane
Mittie Lewis
Delores McLeod
Ruben Meinhofer & Fam.
Denvey Nelson
Major Nettles
Cordell Parker
Gwendolyn Parker
Debra Pough
Evelyn Pough
Joe Ravalese
Joan Rogala
Lydia Sliva
Madeline Smith
Emi Talbert
Friar Steven Tremier
Dorothy Washington
Friar Carl Zdancewicz