

April 8, 2018

## Second Sunday of Easter (Of Divine Mercy)



**“My Lord and My God!”**

The Jesus who rose from the dead is the same Jesus who lived among the disciples and died. It is truly his body for the disciples could see his wounds, observe him eating, and watch him cook breakfast on the seashore. Yet it is not the same body. In a dramatic way, it has been transformed, because this risen body can appear and vanish quickly, can go through closed doors.

### MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, April 14

4:30 p.m. Flora & Raymond Giovannini

Sunday, April 15

8:00 a.m. Spec. Intention – Stazy Hajek

### Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Third Sunday of Easter*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19**

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 4**

**Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5a**

**Gospel: Luke 24:35-48**

### Ladies on Pilgrimage to St. Mary’s

We welcome the ladies from St. Peter the Apostle Church, Boerne, who are on pilgrimage to our Church. The pilgrimage is sponsored by The Women’s Faith Council.

### St. Mary’s Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Matıcka Praha



We thank the following for their recent contribution:

*In Memory of Helen Ann Muras*

*Robert Lev - \$10*

*Larry Stryk, Richmond, TX - \$60*

*Helen Ann Muras Family - \$150*

*Eileen & Deacon John McCourt, La Grange, TX - \$20*

To make a tax deductible donation towards *St. Mary’s Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Matıcka Praha* contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

### ST. MARY’S MEMORIAL FUND

*In Memory of Annie Bartos: Elaine & Johnnie Hoffman*

### PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY MAY 6

The Praha Altar Society is sponsoring a breakfast on May 6<sup>th</sup> after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. The Breakfast will be served from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. A free will donation will be appreciated. All are invited.



### ORIENTATION – OCTAVE OF EASTER

Today marks the conclusion to the octave of Easter. It is the eighth day: the day of new creation.



Today is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Sunday of Divine Mercy is a day established by Pope John Paul II as a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face with confidence in divine benevolence the difficulties and trials that humankind will experience in the years to come. In a similar way to Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) or the Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), the Second Sunday of Easter bears the additional title of Sunday of Divine Mercy.

This is not a new solemnity or feast, nor does it celebrate a new or separate mystery of redemption, but rather, it leads into the continuing celebration of God’s mercy during Easter Time. As the Octave Day of Easter, the Lectionary readings for today and prayer texts highlight the mystery of divine compassion that underlies the Church’s Easter faith.

## REFLECTION

### The Outcome of the Resurrection

Today we hear the second post-resurrection appearance story in St John's Gospel. The disciples we are told are living in fear behind locked doors. Jesus' first words to them are "Peace be with you." Those who believe in the risen Christ receive the gift of peace of heart. When Thomas who was absent is told about the appearance, he does not believe it. When Jesus appears the second time he invites Thomas to see his hands. By giving this invitation to Thomas, Jesus is telling Thomas not only that the disciples told him the truth but that the Lord was present with his disciples even when they could not see him. How else would the Lord have known Thomas' reaction?

Having seen the evidence with his own eyes, it seems that Thomas found touching Jesus' wounds unnecessary. By responding, "My Lord and my God!" Thomas has come to full belief in the divinity of Jesus. Before this appearance, Thomas was in the same position as those St. John wrote the story for. They were failing to believe in the presence of the risen Christ unless the Son of Man returned on the clouds of heaven.

Through this story St. John is teaching us that the risen Christ has returned and the risen Christ is with us. For those who like Thomas are looking for the risen Christ Jesus says: "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



April 10 – Rory Lesikar  
April 12 – Alexis Berckenhoff, Barry Jackson,  
Donald Jasek

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



April 8 – Congratulations Margaret & Michael Hanslik  
on your 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

## THANK YOU



We thank Nancy Sivyver for the donation of \$2,864.61 toward the purchase of native wildflower seeds for our Church grounds. As you can see, the approach to the church from the north on FM 1295, which never had flowers, is beautifully adorned with wildflowers. Again, thank you Nancy for all you do for our Church.

## EASTER ACTIVITIES AT ST. MARY'S

Dear friends,

The Spirit of the Risen Lord is evident among us! Our celebration of the Sacred Paschal Triduum was very spirit-filled and well attended. It was wonderful to see so many people actively participating, making it all come together.

**Thursday of Holy Week** (Holy Thursday): The Mass was very touching. Parishioners washing one another's feet. What a great sign of our willingness to serve one another as Church.

**Friday of the Passion of the Lord** (Good Friday): The Liturgy was marked by noble simplicity. It was a way of identifying with the sufferings of Christ, as our savior goes to his death.

**The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night** (Holy Saturday): The service was absolutely beautiful. What an example of full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. The number of people who joined us in prayer was amazing. It was great to see so many participants in the service.

**Sunday of the Resurrection** (Easter Sunday): The Spirit of the Risen Lord was palpable in our midst. The balloons and Easter Egg Hunt with the kids were a big hit. Who thought so many kids would show up in little Praha for Easter. It is all possible. I enjoyed every bit of it all.

While I thank God for the joyful celebration of the three days, I realize that all would not have been possible without the help of many cooperative parishioners.

**The Liturgy** - I thank our Lectors, our Organists, our Choir, our Cantors, our Altar Servers, our Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, and our Ushers who performed their ministry so diligently.

**Other helpers and donors** - Thanks to the many who worked behind the scenes to pull it all together: Preparing for the Triduum – Lori Janecka, Robin Cerny and Georgie Cerny & the Altar Society members; Martin Svatek for cleaning the cemetery; all those who donated canned goods for the needy and monetary donations for the poor and for the seminarians; Good Friday special effects – Jason Bartos; Holy Saturday bonfire – Charlie Bartos; Easter Candle – George Kalisek & Junior Chaloupka; Easter Flowers – all those who donated towards the flower fund; Balloons – Donna & Hannah Perez; Easter Egg Hunt – thanks to Robin & Douglas Branecky, Tracy Holub & James Pfeil, Gertie & Charlie Hajek Jr., Leona Herzik, Lori & David Janecka, Pat Masek, Staci & Scott MacDonald & Family, Barbara & Larry Prause, Deloris Smolik and Kathleen & Martin Svatek for donating the eggs, and to Staci MacDonald & Delia Moeller for organizing the hunt and photographing the hunt (see insert). Lastly, I am very grateful to all of you for your participation and words of encouragement. It is my prayer that the Spirit of the Risen Lord will continue to transform us into witnesses of his presence in our lives.

Peace be with you,

**Fr. Gabriel**