

REFLECTION for Second Sunday of Easter 2017

Fr. Don

'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'

A doubting Thomas is a skeptic who refuses to believe without direct individual experience. As we hear today, this is a reference to the Apostle, Thomas, who refused to believe that the resurrected Jesus had appeared to the other disciples until he could see and feel the wounds received by Jesus on the cross.

Thomas has a tarnished image as a saint. He was a doubter. Some of us might view him as weak, as skeptic, a poor example of true discipleship, and as one of Jesus's less dependable followers. Yet, he is much like us.

For scripture scholars, Thomas is a **type**. This means that we should study his words and his actions, and then take from them what is transformative and encouraging to us in our faith's quest to live our lives in Jesus.

We should contemplate walking in Thomas' shoes from the time between Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday.

On Holy Thursday, at the Last Supper, he would have been ecstatic in hope and faith. Jesus had earlier been jubilantly received by the people; they called Him their Messiah. Then on Friday, he and all the disciples, stood at a distance watching their Messiah and friend nailed to a cross and then hung until he died. Everything was falling apart; Thomas' life was shattered, his hopes dashed. On Saturday, he was in a state of shock. On Sunday, being disillusioned, he couldn't join his friends who met to share a meal. Yes, he is much like us.

Is it any wonder that he refused to believe that Jesus had risen.?

No, for he was human like us and like those men on the road to Emmaus; our reaction would be the same. If we look back at our lives with honesty, we have behaved no differently than Thomas at times.

In our humanity, we oftentimes doubt Jesus' love, compassion, even His presence. This is especially so when life goes bad for us; as it did for Thomas. We cry out: *'where is Jesus when it hurts.'*

We demand proof of our Lord and Savior when a loved one gets seriously ill, when we feel abandoned and alone, when a family member suffers some crisis. It's only natural to doubt. Thomas was expressing his human weakness; all of us have such moments of weakness. The challenge is to remain open to the promises of Jesus; to be ready and willing to let Jesus act in our life. If we have the courage and faith to persevere, to wait, then like Thomas, we will experience that eureka moment when we can confidently say, *'My Lord and My God.'*

That marvelous exhortation by Thomas says it all. Jesus is the answer for us, maybe not in any miraculous way, but He has made us very much aware that He does exist.

Where do we find Him?

We find Jesus in our everyday walk through life. Sometimes we see His humility on a street corner in the shape of a homeless man, sometimes we see Him walking with us in our garden, pointing out the first signs of spring or the pretty fall colors of red maples. Sometimes he picks us up and carries us.

As church, as a parish community of believers, we must find Him amongst us. He seeks discovering.

We must find Him in the love we exchange in various ways. We must find Him in the Scriptures at Mass, in the words of the homily, in the communion line when we take and eat and drink the Body and Blood, and in others when we go out the church doors.

As Church we preach the Good News, spread the faith, not simply by the saying of our Creed, but in living daily what we profess. That is how hope can be transformed into belief. It is at the altar that we are united with Jesus in his dying and rising. The risen Christ is our sanctification through participation in the life of God.

The work of the Holy is vital; the Spirit creates faith in Jesus. To create faith, the Spirit works in a mind that is searching for truth, and is willing to accept it, and submit to it. Be thirsty, my friends! Be thirsty!

Thomas experienced the Spirit firsthand and we believe because of him. Hopefully, we can become a **type**.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

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Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wed, Thurs at 7:00 pm, Friday at 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Marriages: Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

April 23, 2017

2nd Sunday of Easter

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (April 15,16)	
Collection	2040.00
Bldg. Fund	45.00
Parish Insurance	10.00
Votive Candles	60.00
Good Friday Collection	915.00

MASS INTENTIONS

April 24	No Mass
April 25	No Mass
April 26	Deceased Gallant Family
April 27	Bernadette &Anthony George
April 28	Betty Caines
April 29	Brian Griffin
April 29+	Mary Wheeler
April 30	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (April 29, 30)

READERS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Lynette Taylor	Joan Penney, Eileen Moore,
Linda Tarbett	Marie Byrne
<i>Communion to the Sick</i>	Joan Penney
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Debra Allen	Wayne Dicks, Amelia Dicks
Janet Jackson	Anna House

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all those who worked so hard to make our Easter celebrations so sacred, solemn, and special. We hope that all who attended were inspired by the solemnity of our services.

MASS INTENTIONS

For your information, Sunday Mass is to be offered for our parish community. Masses for private intentions are celebrated the rest of the week. Even so, our private intentions for Saturday are repeated in our Intercessions on Sunday morning. Just a reminder that we do not have any Mass Intentions at present. We encourage you to request Masses for loved ones.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

We need a few more teams of altar servers for our weekday masses; with hopes they will go on to

serve on weekends. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. We sure would like to see some young people come forward.

PASTORAL PLANNING

The Diocese has sent us another questionnaire. Its purpose is for parishes to re-evaluate their vitality. How are things going, what changes are taking place, how can we make our parish more vibrant and active? Copies of this questionnaire have been given to Parish Council members and will be discussed at our May meeting.

In mid-May, we will have our General Parish Meeting. At that time, we will consider the health of our parish. To allow your full participation in this meeting, copies of the questionnaire are available at the back. Please take one, answer the questions from your point of view. Then, come to our Parish Meeting and share your thoughts.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

This Sunday, April 23, has been proclaimed as Divine Mercy Sunday. There is a service of praise for this devotion scheduled for this afternoon at 3 pm in All Hallows Church. Please come and profess with others- *Jesus I Trust in You.*

BIBLE STUDY The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, April 24 at 7 pm.** We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.'

SUMMER STUDENT

The Parish has been approved for a summer student position by the Federal Government Summer Employment program. Work, which primarily is digital input, begins in late June.

MAINTENANCE PERSON

Still no one has come forward seeking this position. It requires working 50 hours per month and being open to working hours in accordance with our Mass schedule. Is there anyone interested? Please contact the Office.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION This notice will serve as a reminder to you to try to bring a food item to Mass with you. There is a collection box at the back in which to put them. There is a list of preferred items posted as well. Remember, alms-giving is an Easter priority. We give to others because of God's abundant blessings we have received.

PURCHASE OF DEFIBRILLATORS FOR CHURCHES

Knights of Columbus will be holding a giant merchandise bingo to raise funds for the purchase of defibrillators for Holy Redeemer, All Hallows, and Sacred Heart Parishes. We are asking parishioners to help by donating prizes, either merchandise or monetary. The bingo will take place at Immaculate Heart of Mary School on Tuesday, May 9th at 8 pm. Please contact Bill Peddle (639-9900), Maurice McDonald (634-6000), Garry Parsons (632-2231), or Mike Leonard (634-3261).

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Please remember that next week is the last Sunday of the month. The Society will be taking up a special collection after Mass. There are envelopes at the back if you wish to use them. Please support them.

CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER

Our Ladies Group is now selling tickets on a prize of \$1000! Tickets are \$1 and the winner will be drawn on June 4th. Please take some to sell to your friends. And to show support for our parish

K of C Scholarship

The deadline for applying for the Knights scholarship is May 31. Any student graduating from high school this year is eligible. For information see the K of C website.

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER

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. For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen

FROM POPE FRANCIS

'Following Jesus means learning to come out of ourselves to go to meet others, to go to the outskirts of existence, to be first to take a step towards our brothers and sisters, especially those who are most distant, those who are forgotten, those who are in most need of understanding, comfort and help. There is such a great need to bring the living presence of Jesus, merciful and full of love- to do this is Divine Mercy.'

JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

EASTER is for Fifty Days

Did you know that, in the Catholic Church, Easter is not just one day but is a full season? The Easter Season continues for fifty days, until the feast of Pentecost. During the Easter Season, the Sunday readings focus on the appearances of the Risen Christ. The Old Testament readings are replaced by readings from the Acts of the Apostles, which focus on the growth of the early Church and how our faith spread throughout the ancient world. Easter is a time of joy and hope, because Jesus has overcome death by His Resurrection, which allows us to hope for our own Resurrection and eternal life with God.

