

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - APRIL 18/19, 2020

Let us not give up rather pray earnestly for the mercy and compassion of God

Dear Brothers and sisters, Jesus forgave the Apostles though they had deserted Him on Good Friday. Today Jesus forgives Thomas for his disbelief in the Resurrection despite of reliable eyewitnesses. As all of us know through the Gospels that, Jesus' followers continued to meet after Easter in the Upper Room of Last Supper. Since it was owned by a friend, they could do this easily. St. John is very clear in telling us that, it was the first day of the week. It's because, St. John wanted us to understand that Sunday had already become the Lord's Day. So, our gathering at Sunday Liturgy as a Parish Community is no accident. We have taken our cue from the apostles.

I am sure the disciples were sitting about relaxing and exchanging gossip. Perhaps they had finished celebrating the Eucharist. Suddenly the Resurrected Jesus bursts into their company. You can imagine and I am sure several of them might have fallen off their chairs. One or two might have clutched their hearts and put a Nitro pill under their tongue.

And Jesus said, "Peace be with you!". This must had much more punch than when we say, "Have a nice day." You know a free translation would mean, "May God give you every wonderful good".

But the thing is, St. Thomas who had said, "Let us all go that we may die with Him" was not with them. St. Thomas was courageous, but he was a pessimist. I think, his faith told him that it would be better to die with Jesus than live without Him. Belief and doubt have the nasty habit of co-existing uncomfortably in our selves. If that be our secret problem, let us lighten up. St. Thomas is our main man.

On the Easter Sunday when Jesus appeared St. Thomas was absent. The question is, where was he? Perhaps he was out looking for a job or applying for unemployment insurance or getting drunk. When his fellow apostles reported they had seen the risen Lord, St. Thomas did not say he could not believe but rather that he was not able to believe without physical proof. Sorry, it's not we were the first to say, "I believe only what I see." But you know St. Thomas made one serious mistake. He missed the Eucharist on Easter Sunday. Let us learn from him and never miss our Sunday Liturgy.

St. Thomas was the last person to believe in the Resurrection. But he was also the first to profess absolute belief in the divinity of the risen Saviour. The cry "My Lord and my God" that which still shouts out. St. Thomas began that second Easter Sunday by touching Jesus as friend. But, when he pulled back his hand from the wet wounds, he realized he was in touch with God Himself. Thomas was blown away by the experience. He would never be the same again.

Dear brothers and sisters, his doubt is a further proof to us that the risen Christ is as physical as we are right now. You know all of God's closest friends - Moses, David, Abraham, Job, Thomas, etc. - had doubts. They voiced them publicly. I think expressing doubts is often the next level of intimacy with God.

Easter Sunday the Master forgave the apostles for running away from Him on Good Friday. Today He absolves St. Thomas for his disbelief. He gave them all a second chance. Do we believe that, the resurrected Jesus will also give us a second chance? Forgiveness may be too much for us to receive, but it is not too much for Christ to give. Forgiveness is the vital step to faith. Examining the evidence and asking God's grace, we want to be like Thomas: to say to Jesus, "My Lord and my God."

As we see in today's Gospel the prerequisite for faith is forgiveness. That's why the first thing Jesus says to the disciples is "Peace be with you." Then he breathes the Holy Spirit on them and says, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them..." This refers to the power Jesus gave the Apostles and their successors to absolve sins in his name.

It also indicates our need for forgiveness. We see this during our pandemic. For some it is an opportunity to deepen family bonds, for others intellectual and spiritual growth. But there's one area we all need to look at is that, the reaction of St. Thomas of his anger. Instead of saying, "wow, tell me more", he says "Unless I see...I will not believe." I am sure all of us can understand his resentment when the others told about Jesus' appearance and how he felt. He might have felt that he was left out. How do we react when we get angry? Yes, anger is a natural emotion and it has a good purpose: to motivate us to do something about an injustice. That's good, but anger can quickly become misdirected. That's why St. Paul says, "Don't let the sun go down with your anger." Anger can fester and destroy a person. Anger often harms the people closest to us.

Let us ask God forgiveness for our failures and make a new beginning. Then forgive the failures of others. Today we celebrate Divine Mercy - a perfect moment to open ourselves to mercy and to show mercy to others. Forgiveness is the vital step to faith. Examining the evidence and asking God's grace, we want to be like Thomas: to say to Jesus, "My Lord and my God."

Father Steny

Your Mass Intentions will be offered & prayed for at the private Masses of Father Steny & Father Cannio

MASS INTENTIONS

MON. 20 at 7:30am: +Repose Alec St. John by STA Staff & Students
9:00am: +Repose Alec St. John by Viviana St. John
TUES. 21 at 7:30am: +Repose Felix Tutol by daughter Ellen Matic
9:00am: +Repose Rodolfo Oandasan by Anita Oandasan
WED. 22 at 7:30am: +Repose Matthew by family
9:00am: +Repose Erlinda Balmaceda by Ray & Amy
THURS. 23 at 7:30am: +Repose All Souls in Purgatory by Elizabeth Wong
9:00am: +Repose Virginia Milanesi by son Antonio
FRI. 24 at 7:30am: +Repose Flora Calori by Emma
9:00am: +Repose Silvestra Soriano by Ray & Amy
SAT. 25 at 9:00am: +Repose Joseph Hiep Pham by daughter Rosa Zivarts
4:30pm: +Repose Jacqueline Cowley by Barry & Jackie Callaghan
SUN. 26 at 8:00am: +Repose Serafino Vignone by son Angelo & family
at 9:30am: Spec. Intention Caleb Geue by Barbara Stuart
at 11:00am: +Repose Manuel Canhoto by Ludovina Santos

Dear Brothers and sisters, the Masses celebrated by Fr Steny and Fr Cannio at St. Edmunds are:

Weekday Masses are at 9.30am

If any of you wants to come and pray personally in the Church, please give a call to the office and let us know so that we can open the Church for you.

PLEASE NOTE NO MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

PARISH OFFICE SERVICES ONLY AVAILABLE BY EMAIL OR PHONE

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays – 9am – 1pm & Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 9am – 5pm

ALL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

- Our office is busy this time of year. In addition to registration, classroom attendance is being closely monitored as students continue to participate in virtual classrooms on-line.
- Interim marks have been sent to the BC Ministry of Education so that Post Secondary Schools can begin their process of granting acceptance letters to grade 12 applicants and offering scholarships. It is an exciting time of year. +

CONVALIDATION OF MARRIAGE

If you have been civilly married (not in Church) & would like to convalidate your marriage, please contact either Father Steny or the Parish Office by phone or email.

BAPTISM BIB EMBROIDERY

We need extra hands to do a simple hand embroidery on our baptism bibs. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

Pre-Authorized Giving Plan

St. Edmund's Parish, 545 Mahon Avenue, North Vancouver, BC – V7M 2R7

Phone: 604-988-3211/Email: st.edmunds@shaw.ca/Website: stedmundsparish.ca/

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING PLAN
For Monthly Offertory Contributions

If you wish to make your Sunday offertory contribution through automatic monthly bank withdrawals, please complete the form below and note:

- the amount you authorize will be deducted from your bank account **on the 30th of each month**. This regular monthly amount covers Sunday Offertory donation only.
- To make changes at any time, please call the Parish Office at 604-988-3211

Follow the steps below to calculate and authorize your monthly donation:

CALCULATING YOUR MONTHLY PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

To help determine the amount of one's monthly contribution, multiply your weekly offering by the 52 weeks in a year, then divide this annual contribution by 12. Examples are provided below:

<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Monthly Offering</u>	<u>Weekly Offering</u>	<u>Monthly Offering</u>
\$10/week (\$520/year)	\$43 per month	\$40/week (\$2,080/year)	\$173 per month
\$20/week (\$1,040/year)	\$86 per month	\$50/week (\$2,600/year)	\$216 per month

Note that the amounts above are provided only as examples. Our hope is that Parishioners will contribute an offering that is meaningful, sacrificial, and that honours the abundance with which the Lord has blessed each of us.

AUTHORIZATION FORM

I/we hereby authorize St. Edmund's Parish to debit my/our account **each month on the 30th** as allocated below.

I/we hereby change my/our monthly donation as allocated below:

Offering \$ _____

➔ **Please note** that based on the fees associated with offering pre-authorized giving, a \$25 monthly offering is the minimum that can be processed through this method of giving

ACCOUNT HOLDER/S INFORMATION:

Name/s: _____ (please print)

ADDRESS: _____

Phone/s: _____

Envelope #: _____ Payment Start Date: _____

OFFERTORY DONATION FOR NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE PARISH:

I wish to donate \$ _____ on a **monthly basis on the 30th** for normal operations of the Parish

AUTHORIZATION:

I/We acknowledge that the Authorization is provided for the benefit of the Parish and the "Processing Institution" and is provided in Consideration of Processing Institution agreeing to process debits ("PADs") against the Account with Processing Institution in accordance with the Rules of the Canadian Payments Association.

By signing this Authorization, the family acknowledges having received and having read a copy of this Agreement, and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

I/We warrant and guarantee that the person/s whose signature/s are required to sign on the Account have signed the Authorization.

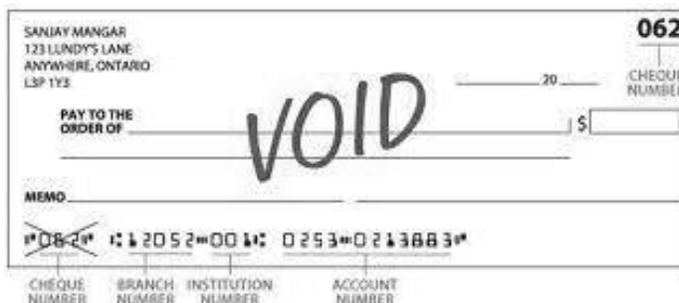
Payor SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Payor SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Return this form to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket in a sealed envelope address to the "Parish Secretary – Confidential", plus attach a **blank VOID cheque and/or provide the following information:**

TRANSIT # _____ INSTITUTION # _____ ACCOUNT # _____

Sample of blank Void cheque ➔ indicating #'s required



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Our Parish Community is asked to pray for the Repose of the Souls of

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Liz Jackson & Jady Li

Our Parish Community is asked to pray for the Special Intention of

Father Jerry



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