

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, April 19

Second Sunday of Easter

(Divine Mercy Sunday)

Live Stream Mass at 9:00am

Monday, April 20

Monday of the Second Week of Easter

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Tuesday, April 21

Tuesday of the Second Week of Easter

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Wednesday, April 22

Wednesday of the Second Week of Easter

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Thursday, April 23

Thursday of the Second Week of Easter

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Friday, April 24

Friday of the Second Week of Easter

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Saturday, April 25

Feast of St. Mark, evangelist

Live Stream Mass at 8:00am

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Adoration/Benediction at 12:00pm

Sunday, April 26

Third Sunday of Easter

Live Stream Mass at 9:00am

**ALL WEEKEND AND DAILY
MASSES ARE CANCELED
UNTIL April 30th (inclusive).
Follow us on Facebook as we
Live Stream our Masses**

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection

4/6 – 4/12

Sunday Offering	\$ 0.00
Weekday	\$ 0.00
Easter Sunday	\$ 0.00
Coffers	\$ 0.00
Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 0.00
Total Offertory	\$ 0.00

Other Collection

Repair & Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Mass Intention	\$ 0.00
Devotional Candles	\$ 0.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 0.00
Others (Gallery, Outreach, etc.)	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 0.00

Living the Liturgy

- This Sunday is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a commemoration of the mercy Christ's death and Resurrection poured on us. The themes in the readings focus on mercy, trust, and forgiveness of sins and we are encouraged to practice mercy and charity to celebrate this. With your family or a group decide on a practice you could do together. You might help at a local pantry, collect items for a shelter, or plant flowers in your neighborhood. There are many ways in which we can act in gratitude of God's mercy and love.
- The disciples in the Acts reading shared what they had with those in need. Bake something to share or make a meal for someone who might need help or is alone, such as a college student, homebound person, or family with a new baby.
- Pray this week using these words from Psalm 118: "God's love endures forever" (Psalm 118:2)

Sharing Faith

- What does it mean to break bread as a sign of unity and a way to continue to live out Christ's mission?
- What words would you use to describe God's mercy in your life? When have you been particularly aware of God's mercy and love?
- How is Jesus Christ the cornerstone of your life?

*The stone the builders rejected / has become the
cornerstone. / By the Lord this has been done; / it
is wonderful in our eyes. / This is the day the
Lord has made; / let us be glad and rejoice in it
(Psalm 118:22 – 24).*

April 19, 2020 – 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Acts 2:42-47 | Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 | 1 Peter 1:3-9 | John 20:19-31

Rejection to triumph, sin to redemption, despair to new life, death to resurrection — all of these are themes that resound during this Easter season. Today's psalm, a hymn of thanksgiving, expresses confidence in the love of God, which we trust will last forever. The New Testament interprets the rejected cornerstone as descriptive of the death and Resurrection of Christ. It is fitting to rejoice in the Christ who has become the cornerstone not only for the early community of believers, but also for us as we attempt to be faithful followers.

In today's Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples after his Resurrection and offers them peace, just as he did at the Last Supper. Jesus tells them he is now sending them forth just as the Father sent him. Breathing on them, he gives them the Holy Spirit so they might carry out his mission of peace, healing, and forgiveness of sins. This part of the Gospel will be proclaimed again on the solemnity of Pentecost as we celebrate the gift of the Spirit upon the Church.

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Next Sunday's Readings: "Third Sunday of Easter"

Acts 2:2-14-22-33 | Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 | 1 Peter 1:17-21 | Luke 24:13-35

From the Desk of Fr. Pascual

My Beloved Parishioners of the Cathedral Basilica,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

The words quoted above are the remarks of Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples when he encounters the Lord. He only came to believe that Jesus rose from the dead when he touched Him and saw the marks on His hands and touched His pierced side. He remarked the words "my Lord and my God" to claim his belief in Him. Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

This second Sunday of Easter presents to us a story of faith. It is the faith of the apostles believing in the Risen Lord. How blessed were the disciples for they were able to see Him after all that they witnessed from their Master? He endured so much pain despite the many good works He had done. All these He did for He is full of mercy, Divine Mercy that saves the world.

When Jesus appeared to His disciples the first time, Thomas missed the opportunity to witness the Risen Lord as presented by the evangelist John. When the other disciples told him that they had seen Him, he became skeptical about the news. He claimed to himself that he would only believe if he would be able to see and touch Him. When the disciple gathered again after a week and Thomas was with them, Jesus appeared. In all humility, he dismissed his unbelief and claimed his faith in the Lord.

Easter is so much filled with mystery. The whole event in Jesus' life had been enveloped with all goodness that included His suffering and death. We have so many questions to ask and answers to uncover. We may not be able to grasp all of them, but in the eyes of faith, we come to understand everything because of God's immense love for all of us. He wanted us to reform our lives, turn hatred into love, sadness into joy, and suffering with Him into a means of salvation. Even in these uncertain times, we are all experiencing brought about by the coronavirus, these experiences can bring our fears into courage, and desperateness into hope. Let the eyes of our faith in the Lord be our source of power to get us through this pandemic. Although we may not have real experience like the disciples did, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." He is referring to you and me, all of us, who come to believe in the Risen Lord. When we do that, then we receive the Easter Gift, PEACE!

The celebration of Easter is a celebration of faith and life. It also brings about the wonder of His Divine Mercy to all. When we celebrated Easter Sunday last week spiritually within the confines of our homes, it does not imply that the celebration is over. We continue to cherish the gift that the Lord has given to us. Let us draw inspiration to His Divine Mercy and share this with our families and to all our brothers and sisters around us.

God's peace and blessings to you all!

Fr. Pascual