



# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY) ✠ APRIL 7, 2024



- Sat. Apr. 6 4:00pm **VIGIL-SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Frances Knowles Litts by Mary Knowles
- Sun. Apr 7 9:00am **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Arlene Bobnak by George Bobnak  
10:30am Angelo Negri by Diane and Bruce Negri
- Tues. Apr 9 9:00am **SECOND WEEK OF EASTER**  
Richard Meckes by Jeanette Meckes
- Thur. Apr 11 9:00am **SAINT STANISLAUS, BISHOP, AND MARTYR**  
Joseph Rivello by Ralph and Janet Rivello
- Sat. Apr. 13 4:00pm **VIGIL-THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Gloria Doyle By Mary Knowles
- Sun. Apr 14 9:00am **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Charles Volpe by Tom and Carol Volpe  
10:30am Frank Gubbiotti by Ann Marie and Jerry Ceccoli



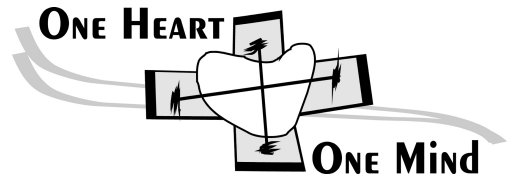
Parishioners who are sick and in need of prayers can be added to our prayer list by calling the parish office at 570-842-4995. Please pray for: Margaret Adamiac, Josephine Amato, Joanne Arredondo, Chelsey Barto, Michael Bota, Rose Bremer, Reilly Canas, Tony Cannella, P.J. Cappola, Jane Colwell, Dennis Corbisiero, Jim Dantis, William Delahanty, Barbara Derrenbacher, Carole Dougherty, Linda & Bob Earthy, Dan Edwards, Lisa Fay, Mary Ann Flaherty, Kealy Ford, , Kyle Gemberling, Tyler Hanson, Pat Henes, Donald Hughes, Marge Imperatrice, Jaime Jantz, Mary Knowles, Betsy Kressler, Susie LaFave, Viviana Lewis, Donna Jean Marabella, Stephanie Martino, Roland Matthews, Alice McAfee, Ellie McCauley, Tim McGovern, Carol McKnight, Donald Migliorato, Richie Morrison, Paul Natoli, Tom Natoli, Judith Neelans, Gioia Palmerio, Victor Panzella, Ben Pickarski, James Pilosi, Ruth Pilosi, Frank Quattro, Jennifer Quinn, Howard Rife, Steve Rish, Anthony Romaro, Lisa Sarnicola, Michael Sawko, Mary Schaub, Beth Schuil, Larry Shock, Duane Sprovach, Millie Stoia, Luke Stricker, Jason Scott Taylor, Dana Thorne, Skyler Thorne, Jack Tizio, Gregory Tobin, Pat Topar, Marivita Williams, Helen Zerbe, and all the sick of the Parish. **Please call the Parish Office if someone should be taken off the list.**



### Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary

If she has not yet visited your home and you would like information or to sign up to have the Statue visit your home, please call Pat Manago at 570-848-2284. This is where the statue will be traveling in the weeks to come:

**4/7 Natoli Family                      4/14 OPEN**



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

This passage describes the actions of the first community of Christians. They were of “one heart and one mind.” They had no rich or poor among them, for they shared all necessary items with one another.

### Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

John explains that we become God’s children by believing in Jesus. When we love God and concern ourselves only with pleasing God, our faith is strong enough to conquer the evil in our world.

### Gospel: John 20:19-31

Jesus appeared to the disciples despite locked doors, breathed on them so that they could receive the Holy Spirit, and gave them the power to forgive sins in his name. Thomas, who was not present, refused to believe without seeing Jesus for himself. Jesus appeared again when Thomas was present, and told him, “Blest are they who have not seen and have believed.”

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### Sunday

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

### Monday

Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

### Tuesday

Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15

### Wednesday

Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

### Thursday

Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

### Friday

Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

### Saturday

Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21



***Sacrificial Giving***

**WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH**

**God's Plan for Giving 03/24/24.**

<b>Sunday Offering</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$ 315.00</b>
<b>Easter Offering</b>	<b>\$ 1175.00</b>
	<b>\$2490.00</b>

**Diocesan:**

<b>Rice Bowl</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Care &amp; Ed</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
<b>Holy Land</b>	<b>\$ 222.00</b>
	<b>\$ 237.00</b>

**TOTAL: \$2727.00**

**Mass Attendance**

**Holy Thursday-36**  
**Good Friday----35**  
**Sat: 7:00PM---36**  
**Sun: 9:00AM---52**  
**10:30AM---51**



Easter Flowers donated in memory of: D/M Tobin & Coghill Families, D/M Jantz & Stetz Families, Julia & Douglas West, Douglas & Helen West, Robert & Rose West, John & Nora West, Anna & Peter Crehan,

MaryEllen McAfee, Conchetta & Charles Volpe, Emma & Robert Guidetti, Thomas Volpe, Paul Guidetti, Joseph & Marie Paolino, Wolodymyr & Catherine Baran, Joe Tierney, Jean Tierney, John & Eleanor Drykos, Karen Smoyak Hoffman, M/M Steve Smoyak, M/M Ron Scheiner, Deacon Neil & Dr. Shirley Smoyak, Marj Takkula, D/M Snyder & Tizio Families, Elden & Margie Nawrocki, Paul McCauley, Vincent Chiodo, D/M Tizio Family, D/M Chiodo Family, Robert Condran, D/M Manago Family, D/M Pohopin Family, Ann Caruso, Rose & Tom Collins Sr, Hazel & Chris Meyers, Tom Collins Jr, Herbert Meyers Jr, John Boruta, Antoinette Boruta, David Boruta, Elden & Margie Nawrocki, Alice Giordano, Marcia & Clinton Hegeman, Anthony Stigliano, Paul Ballard, Kim McAdams, Marie Albright, Mary Ann & Robert Lybarger, Marianne & Stephen Proch, Vince Doyle Jr. & Sr, Charles Hensel II, Edward Olechna



**Father Rawel's Corner**

We have a church full of doubting Thomases. As St. Thomas later became a great missionary and martyr, so these doubting Thomases today are called to renew the face of the earth in the power of the Holy Spirit. However, they must first be transformed from having little faith to having strong faith.

We have a church full of fearful disciples. These Christians acknowledge that Jesus is risen. However, because these disciples are locked in fear, the doubting Thomases of the Church find it difficult to believe the fearful disciples. Fear feeds doubt, and doubt makes us more susceptible to fear, which makes our doubt worse, trapping fear and uncertainties.

Jesus broke this most vicious cycle by personally challenging Thomas' doubt and leading him to faith. When Thomas cried out, " My Lord and my God", he prepared the reception of the Holy Spirit by Jesus' disciples at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is not a spirit of fear, but fear of faith. Thus, after fully receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were fearless in leading others to faith. Fearlessness feeds faith.

Because you are alive, you are either in a cycle of fear and doubt or a cycle of fearlessness and faith. On this last day of the Octave of Easter, come to the Risen Jesus. He will put you in the cycle leading to Eternal life.

Have a blessed Easter season!

**HEALING MASS FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE**

*Celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera*



**Thursday, April 11 at 12:10 P.M.**  
**Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton**

**Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube Channel and social media platforms**

The month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is a time to recognize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. The month of April gives us all a chance to recommit ourselves to creating safe environments in our parishes, schools, and related institutions.



## Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle B

### First Reading

*Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35*

The first Christian community shared their possessions, and no one was needy.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24*

The Lord's mercy endures forever.

### Second Reading

*1 John 5:1-6*

Those who love God keep his commandments.

### Gospel Reading

*John 20:19-31*

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary

cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.—Loyola Press



## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

**“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions were his own, but they held 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.”**

As we live the joy of the Easter season, let's pause and take a test. I ask myself if our Parish can identify with the description of Saint Luke of the first followers of Jesus. Do I recognize that everything I have is a gift God has given me? He wants me to use it for the benefit of someone else. Maybe I am the person in need, and I will discover how I can contribute it to our parish community, or small group with whom I share? Whatever gift or talent I possess is not for me, but to be brought and used for the benefit of someone else. The corporal works of mercy are the perfect way to begin: an invitation to someone to return to the sacraments, a donation for the food pantry or a gift card to the supermarket, a get-well card or phone call to a homebound person, a prayer intention - how important yet easy. As I do my part, the community of the Acts of the Apostles becomes mine - food pantry or gift card. My need is to do something. This is divine mercy in action.

### HIS WORD TODAY

BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

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A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON  
THE SUNDAY READINGS

