

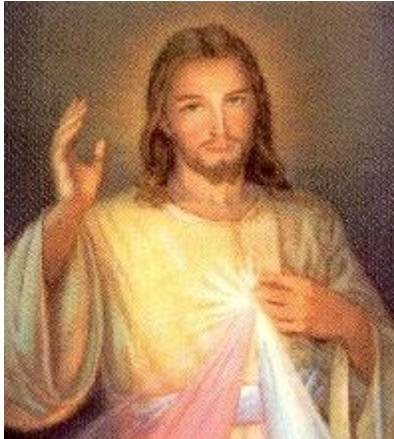
**St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist
Parishes**

(902) 535-2053

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

Second Sunday of Easter April 11, 2021

Divine Mercy Sunday



"I shall sing forever the Lord's mercy." (P s 89 [88]) This Sunday is popularly known as Mercy of God Sunday. Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on April 30, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that Blessed Faustina make a special novena before the Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. Jesus also asked that a picture be painted according to the vision of Himself as the fountain of mercy. He gave her a chaplet to be recited and said that it was appropriate to pray the chaplet at three o'clock each afternoon (the Hour of Great Mercy).

Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday

The Holy Gospel that the Liturgy presents to us on this second Sunday of Easter, is one of the most well known, discussed, and appreciated—the meeting of the Risen Lord with St Thomas. The Fathers of the Church have given us numerous insights into this Gospel text. Likewise, it is has proven the inspiration to the numerous artists who have physically represented the events of this Gospel in order to give us a clear idea of what happened, ‘eight days after’ the first apparition of the Risen One, to the disciples congregated in the cenacle.

Jesus’ response to Thomas, after he recognized Him as ‘*My Lord and my God*’, has a mysterious fascination that must relate not so much to the disciples—those who ‘*have seen*’—but rather to those, like us, who were added to their number afterwards. ‘*You have come to believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*’ (Jn 20:29)

The attention that these words evoke seems yet more paradoxical if we remember that the Lord had proposed, to the same author of the Gospel, what can be justly referred to as the Christian method, ‘*come and see*’ (Jn 1:39). How can we possibly reconcile these two phrases by Jesus that form the ideal setting for the whole of the

fourth Gospel? Perhaps, in the end, the Lord decided to change His method? What do the words *'have not seen'* really mean?

The timely recollection of the 'eight days after,' which is the Sunday after the Resurrection, permits us to tie our reflection to one of the most significant Eucharistic hymns composed by another Thomas, St Thomas Aquinas. In the *Adore Te Devote*, which refers to the Eucharist, we read: *'Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgement of you. But hearing suffices firmly to believe'*. Combining these words with today's Gospel we can justly affirm that the experience *'to see'* was not denied to us, but it is in contrast with the Apostle Thomas' physical experience, who was able to put his own finger into the holes in Christ's hands and side, whilst we can only comprehend it in the faith which is guarded and transmitted by the Church, our Mother and Teacher.

That which we *'have not seen'* is therefore the glorious Body of the Risen One. However, today we have the ability to *'listen'* to the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church and so we can *'see'* the real Body of Christ which is the Eucharist. We can *'see'* His Mystical Body which is the Church. We can *'see'* Him in our lives and in the lives of our many brothers who, after meeting the Lord in a real but mysterious way, are united to Him in His Spirit!

Like Thomas, Christ calls us to fill the holes left by the instruments of the passion in His Body with our own hands so that our lives and the verbal witness that we give proclaim His Resurrection. Our senses could betray us, but we know that we have met the Risen One and we have recognized Him!

The certain hope that Peter, who betrayed the Lord three times for fear of death, proclaims to us with the words, *'rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy'* (1 Peter 1:8), become fully comprehensible because blessed are they that *'have not seen'* the Risen Lord, but seeing the joy of His disciples *'have believed'* in Him!

From the [Congregation for the Clergy](#)

Jesus to Sr. Faustina

On one occasion, I heard these words: "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of



man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.

"[Let] the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy. Write: before I come as a just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice.

"From all My wounds, like from streams, mercy flows for souls, but the wound in My Heart is the fountain of unfathomable mercy. From this fountain spring all graces for souls. The flames of compassion burn Me. I desire greatly to pour them out upon souls. Speak to the whole world about My mercy."

Excerpted from the *Diary of Sr. M. Faustina Kowalska*.

Sacrament of Baptism

please call:

**Rev. John Yake, I.V.Dei
902-535-2231**

Instructors for baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB 902) 535-2699

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please call Fr. Yake six months prior to the wedding date.

Year of 'Amoris Laetitia Family'
March 19, 2021 - June 22, 2022

March 19 was the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the joy and beauty of family love and the start of the year 'Amoris Laetitia Family', a 15-month journey leading to the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome, June 2022.

Read *Amoris Laetitia* on Our Bookshelf:

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/bookshelf/>

Weekday Liturgy

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

HGA 11:00 AM

† Lawrence, Ralph & James Bona

Thursday, April 15, 2021

SJB 4:00 PM
† Emerise Gagnon

Friday, April 16, 2021

SP 9:00 AM
† Mary Ann Marshall

Weekend Liturgy

Saturday, April 17, 2021

SH 4:00 PM
HGA 5:30 PM
† Emerise Gagnon

Sunday, April 18, 2021

SJB 9:00 AM
SP 10:30 AM
† Mary Ann Marshall

April 4, 2021 receipts

St. Peter's (Good Friday)

Envelopes & Loose \$ 560.40
Candles \$ 3.00
Share lent \$ 195.00
Dev. & Peace \$ 20.00

Total \$ 778.40

St. Peter's (Easter Sunday)

Envelopes & Loose \$1005.00
Candles \$ 3.00
Altar Society \$ 10.00
Share Lent \$ 80.00
Cemetery \$ 125.00

Total \$1,223.00

Holy Guardian Angels (Easter Sunday)

Envelopes & Loose \$ 694.00
Church flowers \$ 20.00
Share Lent \$ 25.00
Good Friday \$ 10.00

Total \$ 749.00

St. John the Baptist (Easter Sunday)

Envelopes & Loose \$ 977.00
Holy Lands \$ 262.00
Easter \$ 640.00
Lenten Folders \$ 362.50

Total \$ 2,205.50

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The next St. Peter's Parish Council meeting will be on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM at Eva Landry's house.

Please note: Mass intentions should be arranged with Mary at office. Thank you

Knights of Columbus There will be a general meeting in the basement of the glebe in St. Peter's on April 14th at 6:30pm. This will be an in person meeting. All COVID restrictions will be in effect. See you there.

Correction: Receipts for St. Peter's April 4, 2021 should have read \$ 2,048.60 and not \$20, 486.60

Silver Rose Prayer Service: A Pro-life Celebration

The travelling Silver Rose will be in our area on Tuesday, April 13th. Note that Our Lady filled the cloak of Saint Juan Diego with roses and a single rose is pictured at the entrance of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel at Sacred Heart Church, Johnstown. Note also that the pro-life sign, the one that is erected as one arrives in St. Peter's from Sydney, was vandalized last year. We need to counter the anti-life message with prayer to the Risen Lord of life.

Please join with the Knights of Columbus in honouring Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe to reaffirm our dedication to the sanctity of human life. Holy Mass will be held in Sacred Heart Johnstown at the outdoor shrine (weather permitting) or in the church on April 13th at 3:30 pm and then at St. Peter's Church on April 13th at 6:30 pm.

Due to COVID guidelines for church limitation on numbers it is suggested that you sign at the site where you wish to attend. This, in case the outdoor venue becomes unavailable.



In the Year of St. Joseph ---

Prayer to St. Joseph

(This prayer, now published by the Knights of Columbus in their March, 2021 *Columbia* magazine, is from a Nineteenth Century French prayer book. It has been

recited by Pope Francis every day for more than forty years. (cf. *Patris Corde*, #10.)

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.

Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you,

that they may have a happy outcome (*here make your request*).

My beloved father, all my trust is in you.

Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.

Amen.

A New Online Resource for Celebrating Year of St. Joseph

has been launched by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). The webpage contains Prayers, Litanies, and Devotions, Consecration to Saint Joseph, Church Documents and Catechetical Resources for children, youth and adults. Included are seven short video presentations in English and French, highlighting each of the seven attributes of St. Joseph.

<https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/celebrating-the-year-of-saint-joseph/>

<https://www.cccb.ca/fr/evangelisation-catechese-et-education/celebrons-lannee-de-saint-joseph/>

In the Diocese

**Thank you
from Development and Peace**

When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back. He praised God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him (Luke 17 : 15)

Today we at Development & Peace Caritas Canada find ourselves at the feet of Jesus with a deep sense of thankfulness for the support and generous spirits of our parishioners of the Diocese of Antigonish. Share Love Share Lent would never enjoy success if it wasn't for the kindness of each of you so like the lepers who came back, we too, come back to extend our thanks for your faithfulness to our neighbors in the Global South. May our Loving Creator God bless you abundantly for your generosity and may you be warmed by the love God has for you.

**Antigonish D & P Diocesan Council
Winnie Odo, Chair**