

Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday, April 7

Acts 4:32-35
Ps 118:2-4,13-15,22-24
1 Jn 5:1-6
Jn 20:19-31

Monday, April 8

Annunciation of the Lord

Is 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps 40:7-11
Heb 10:4-10
Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, April 9

Acts 4:32-37
Ps 93:1-2,5
Jn 3:7-15

Wednesday, April 10

Acts 5:17-26
Ps 34:2-9
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday, April 11

St. Stanislaus

Acts 5:27-33
Ps 34:2,9,17-20
Jn 3:31-36

Friday, April 12

Acts 5:34-42
Ps 27:1,4,13-14
Jn 6:1-15

Saturday, April 13

Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19
Jn 6:16-21

Divine Mercy Sunday is one of the Church's most inspiring and comforting feast days. In today's Gospel, Christ's compassion and love shine when he appeared to his disciples in the locked Upper Room on that first Easter evening after he rose from the dead.

Frightened and confused, his friends were shaken following the traumatic events they had just experienced, and they huddled in fear and confusion. They had received a report that Jesus had risen and was alive! What would Jesus say to them now? Would he be angry with their denials, betrayal, and fear?

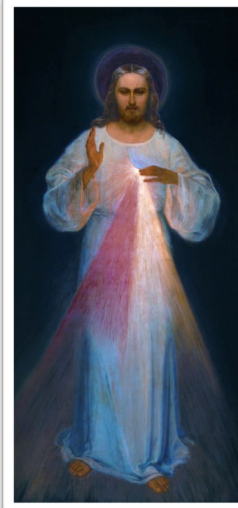
When our Lord appeared to them, he immediately put them at ease with his words of grace, "Peace be with you." He gifted them with the Holy Spirit and gave them the power and mission to forgive sins.

Thomas, who missed the first appearance of Jesus, was filled with questions and doubts. Jesus showed much patience and compassion, just as he did with the other disciples, and

he continues to do for us. Jesus greeted him with peace and offered Thomas another chance, the experience of touching his wounds to help him believe, which won his heart for Christ.

Although Jesus affirms faith without sight, sometimes even the most passionate and faith-filled souls experience fear, doubts, failures, confusion, and setbacks. God's unlimited mercy and

love are unstoppable; he will continue pursuing souls and giving them more opportunities to trust in him and experiences to win their hearts. At the heart of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a powerful prayer was offered by Jesus to St. Faustina, which has seen many miracles unfold and brought people to conversion:



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. **Jesus, I trust in You.***

Reflect & Discuss:

- † Do you only feel at peace when things are going the way you want them to? How do you feel God's peace in difficult times?
- † Is there someone who needs mercy and forgiveness from you?
- † How does society's tendency towards lack of faith affect *your* faith and inner peace?
- † How do the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist give you the peace of Christ?
- † How can you offer the peace of Christ to others?