

1st Reading: Acts 5:12-16
Responsorial: Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
2nd Reading: Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

The Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

The Easter Season began last Sunday, and will continue through the next 50 days, ending on Pentecost Sunday. During these fifty days, we place ourselves in the post-resurrection events. The Sunday readings as well as the daily Mass readings are all focused on the New Testament. All things are made new!

So let's look at this Sunday. Let us join the disciples in the upper room, locked away from the crowds as they are sad and afraid. They are also feeling remorse as they realize they had deserted Jesus in the hour of his passion and death. As we place ourselves in that same room, we can ask reflect on those times that we too may have been afraid, filled with remorse, and overwhelmed with anxiety. At those times we may feel disconnected from Jesus, but in that room of despair, Jesus enters to be with the disciples. He enters in our "upper rooms" as well. The first gift of his resurrection that Jesus offers to the disciples, and to us, is peace. Jesus breathed on them, charging them with the ability to forgive and retain sins. In that moment of breathing the Holy Spirit on the Apostles (except Thomas who was not present), divine mercy was experienced. How beautiful this passage is as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday today.

We can experience this mercy much like the apostles, but sometimes we can identify with Thomas, who wasn't there, and we can't always understand fully the love and mercy Jesus gives as gift to us. But Jesus gives the same blessing to Thomas, "Peace be with you," and though not having received the breath of Jesus, believes what he has seen. Then Jesus points out that we may not have that concrete experience as Thomas did, and reassures us that, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believe."

On this Divine Mercy, believe in the peace Jesus longs for you to have. **"Jesus, I trust in you."**



St. Mark, the Evangelist
Feast Day: April 25
Symbol: Winged Lion
Death: April 25, 68 AD
Learn More: Catholic.org

Links for More Resources, Ideas and Activities

- Youtube.com : Spiritual Works of Mercy | Catholic Central (Teens)
- Youtube.com : Corporal Works of Mercy | Catholic Central (Teens)
- Catholicclimatecovenant.org: Tree Planting Prayer for National Arbor Day, April 29
- ncregister.com: 9 Things You Need to Know About Divine Mercy Sunday
- teachingcatholickids.com: How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy • Prayers for Catholic kids
- catholiccuisine.blogspot.com : Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, April 29 - Recipe: Pasta Santa Caterina



Use the url or QR code below to access the digital content on your computer or smartphone for the digital version with hyperlinks: Links are curated for families to continue to grow and learn together! Faith can be fun!

bit.ly/thisweekathome



Catholic Kids Homilies
2nd Week in Easter Cycle C

Youtube.com



St. Catherine of Siena
Feast Day: April 29
Doctor of the Church

St. Catherine of Siena is usually seen with a book and lilies. Lilies are a symbol of purity.

Learn more about her:
anastpaul.com

Celebrate St. Catherine at home!



Make these beautiful paper Handprint Lilies with all the members of your family. Place them in a vase and pray with St. Catherine!

Onelittleproject.com - Handprint Lilies

