

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

April 27, 2025

Once I was dead, but now I am
alive forever and ever.

-- Revelation 1:18a



Daily Mass

Week of April 28th – May 2nd

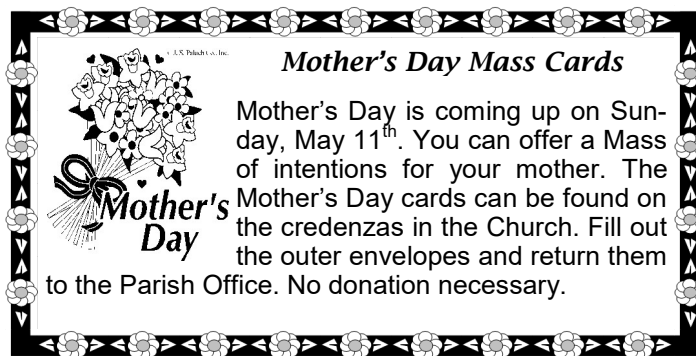
Monday: 8:00 Verna Marie Van Deusen+
Tuesday: 8:00 Richard Smith+
Wednesday: 8:00 Intentions: Denis Chaix
Thursday: 8:00 Helene Schulze+
Friday: 8:00 Constance Chaix+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Marian Flandick, James Breen, Janet Laurent, Mike Abell, Michael Carter, Anil Siu, Peggy Delson-Rini, Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Weekly Collections

Plate - April 13, 2025	\$9,853.00
Holy Land/Good Friday	\$1,228.00
Easter	\$33,592.00



Mother's Day Mass Cards

Mother's Day is coming up on Sunday, May 11th. You can offer a Mass of intentions for your mother. The Mother's Day cards can be found on the credenzas in the Church. Fill out the outer envelopes and return them to the Parish Office. No donation necessary.

Blessed are those who



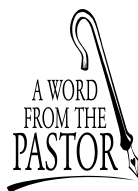
Today's Readings

First Reading -- A large number of people gathered, bringing the sick, and all were cured (Acts 5:12-16).

Psalm -- Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading -- Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives (Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19).

Gospel -- The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts (John 20:19-31).



My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The death of Pope Francis leaves you and me with bitter sweet feelings. We grieve at his passing, but we are also grateful for the blessing he was for us during his pontificate.

Pope Francis embraced the foundational truths of our Catholic Faith. Mercy rather than judgment, humility rather than arrogance, forgiveness rather than condemnation, courage rather than fear and most importantly, compassion rather than indifference.

Pope Francis reminded us that some of the reforms promulgated at the Second Vatican are still unfinished. His vision of a synodal Church will hopefully one day be the guiding principle of our self-governance.

Pope Francis' legacy is highlighted in two passages from Saint Matthew's Gospel:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:34-40)

"What you do for the least of your brothers and sisters, you do for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Providentially, this weekend our Universal Church Family celebrates the Divine Mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I can't think of a more appropriate way for you and I to commemorate the life of Pope Francis than to come together in celebration of his life.

Love, Fr. Leo



Do Not Be Afraid!

Did you notice? Today is called the "Second Sunday of Easter," not the "First Sunday after Easter." Our celebration of Easter is not over. These Sundays of Easter continue to present the mystery of Jesus Christ's victory.

The readings begin with the "signs and wonders" abounding in those earliest days. Sick people lay in the street, hoping that at least Peter's "shadow might fall on one or another of them." Then, in a powerful passage from the book of Revelation, the visionary falls down "as though dead" upon seeing the victorious Christ. But Christ extends a gentle touch: "Do not be afraid . . . once I was dead, but now I am alive forever." In the Gospel, that same Christ appears and breathes on the disciples, and gently leads Thomas to believe. This Christ -- more powerful than any evil force, victorious over death itself -- touches us and whispers, "Do not be afraid."



Treasures From Our Tradition!

An ancient title for this Sunday is *Domini-ca in Albis*, or "Sunday in White." During the Easter Vigil, the newly baptized are invested with a white garment, a sign that they have put on Christ. At one time, the garments were worn for a full week of celebration and reflection; and on this Sunday, the newly baptized would appear in their robes again in their new place among the faithful for Eucharist.

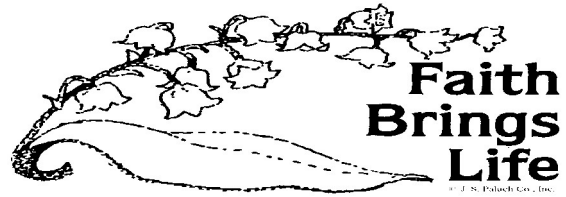
In later centuries, the energy of new life at Easter was largely forgotten, and this Sunday was renamed "Quasimodo Sunday," or "Low Sunday." In recent years, with the recovery of the insight that Easter is the privileged time for celebrating and renewing baptism, there is nothing "Low" about this Sunday. At a week's distance, the beauty and grace of our Easter celebration is sustained by joyful alleluias, the blessing and sprinkling of holy water, and the comfort of the Lord's presence to us. He is risen and he summons us together, opening up the scriptures for us, breaking the bread, filling us with new life.

Concert at St. John's Church!

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and School in El Cerrito will host Grammy nominated, singer-songwriter Sarah Hart, Bay Area native Jesse Manibusan, and Hallowed featured artist and speaker, Steve Angrisano in concert on Friday, May 16th, at 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at: www.sjtbc.us and also at the door. All are welcome!

Called To Be Witnesses!

Thomas probably would be a good man to have in your corner in a modern-day courtroom. Even though he was willing to follow Jesus to death (John 11:16), he's not going to go out into the world now and attempt to give witness to the risen Christ when all he has at his disposal is hearsay evidence from the other apostles. No, he wants immediate evidence, a hands-on experience of Christ risen and present. The risen Christ ultimately provides Thomas with the experience and evidence he needs. Many of us when we struggle with our faith or our belief, can identify with Thomas. But even when our faith is in relatively solid shape, we encounter people who are a bit like Thomas, who won't believe unless they are given credible experience of the risen Christ. We then are called to be witnesses. Like Christ, we cannot be ashamed to show the woundedness of the Body of Christ, the Church. We must even allow others to probe and examine the wounds. But, we must also greet them with "Peace" and know that, in the glorious everlasting life of Christ risen from the dead, our wounds are not our final destiny. Our final joy is life transformed for eternity.



Readings For The Week April 28th -- May 3rd

Monday: First Reading Acts 4:23-31;
Psalm 2;
Gospel John 3:1-8

Tuesday: First Reading Acts 4:32-37;
Psalm 93;
Gospel John 3:7b-15

Wednesday: First Reading Acts 5:17-26;
Psalm 34;
Gospel John 3:16-21

Thursday: First Reading Acts 5:27-33;
Psalm 34;
Gospel John 3:31-36

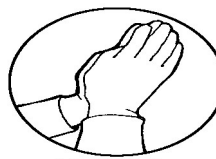
Friday: First Reading Acts 5:34-42;
Psalm 27;
Gospel John 6:1-15

Saturday: First Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-8;
Psalm 19;
Gospel John 14:6-14

Effortlessly,
love flows from God into man,
like a bird
who rivers the air
without moving her wings.
Thus we move in His world
one in body and soul,
though outwardly separate in form.
As the Source strikes the note,
Humanity sings --
the Holy Spirit is our harpist,
and all strings
which are touched in Love
must sound.

-- Mechthild of Magdeburg

Words and Deeds!



When people hear us speak God's word, they marvel at its beauty and power; when they see what little impact it has on our daily lives, they laugh and poke fun at us.

-- Second-Century Christian