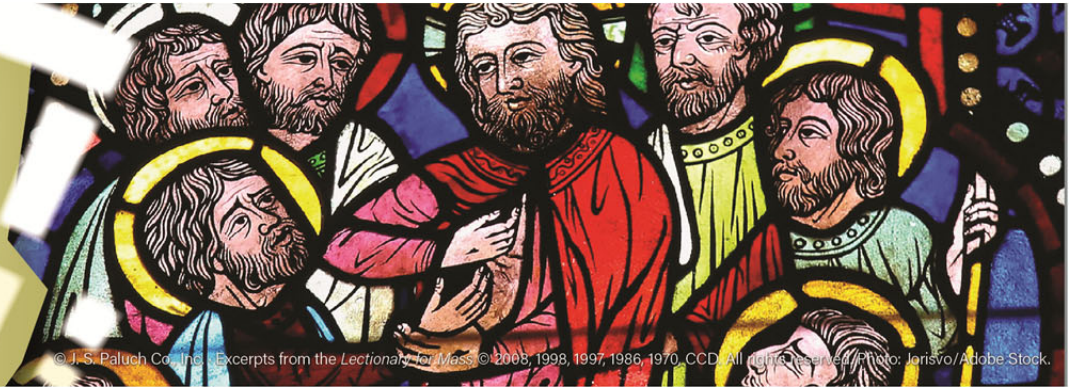


“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

JOHN 20:29



SECOND SUNDAY OF
EASTER
(OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 11, 2021

FAITH

What a difference faith makes! The faith of the early community of believers led them to rise beyond the selfishness that so many of us struggle with as they grew in communion with Christ and one another. Their selflessness was a living sign of the impact of their faith in Jesus Christ. They did not find the commandments burdensome, but rather centered their lives on the love of God and neighbor that Jesus taught through his life, death, and resurrection. It is good for us to remember that faith is a gift. The journey of faith is not always straightforward and is often marked by doubt and moments of weakness. The apostles' faith grew as they experienced the risen Jesus. Jesus surely knew they needed the peace he offered and the presence of the Holy Spirit, as do we who have not seen the Lord and yet have come to believe in him.

FROM DOUBT TO BELIEF

The apostle Thomas will forever be remembered as the one who doubted. It is good that his experience is recorded in the Gospel of John. We all doubt sometimes, and “Doubting Thomas” shows us how to move from doubt to belief, knowing that the risen Jesus will be with us through it all. Thomas did not keep his doubts to himself, but instead voiced them aloud to his trusted companions. We can only imagine the conversations that took place between Thomas and the other disciples as they described the peace that they felt following Jesus' time with them. Thomas' doubts were put to rest once and for all when Jesus offered him physical proof of the Resurrection. We do not have the sort of physical evidence that was shown to Thomas, but we can perceive Christ's presence in the Eucharist, in the words of sacred scripture, and in the presence and actions of others.

LIVING FAITH

The journey of faith often ebbs and flows, with times when our relationship with the Lord is the guiding force in our lives, and times when we are tempted to turn away from all we know to be true, good, and beautiful. In those moments when we find ourselves struggling with doubt or temptation, we can follow Thomas' lead and turn to trusted companions, faithful and faith-filled family and friends, who will support us and show us the way from doubt to living faith. Like the disciples who were in the room when Jesus came among them, we too have received the Holy Spirit. Today, let us consider where we are on the journey of faith, turn to trusted companions and the Holy Spirit to strengthen us on the way, and know that the Lord is with us as we live and grow in relationship with Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 4:32–35
Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24
1 John 5:1–6
John 20:19–31

Immaculate Conception Parish

Immaculate Conception Church & St. Joseph Church

Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward • Deacon: Mr. Jack Mroz

Immaculate Conception Rectory: 570-325-2791 • iccjt@ptd.net • www.iccjimthorpe.org
St. Joseph Rectory: 570-325-3731 • stjosjt@ptd.net • www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org
St. Joseph Church side entrance is open daily for private prayer

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesdays after 8 a.m. Mass, & Wednesdays, 6:30pm @ ICC;
Thursdays after 8 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph Church

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC Direct Phone: 800-791-9209; Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS Phone: 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204; If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

Second Sunday of Easter ~ Divine Mercy Sunday

Sat. April 10

4:30 pm (ICC) **Linda Brown** (Husband & Children) / **Frank Jacobs** (Patti & Tim Herman)

Sun. April 11

9:00 am (SJC) **Tracy McElmoyle** (Mary Aillis) / **Thomas Sheehan** (Louise Goldman)

Mon. April 12

(private)

All Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased / Earl Ohl (Lisa & Bob Schaninger)

Tues. April 13

8:00 am (ICC)

Lucille Novak (son, James) / **Mark Kelley** (Patricia Heaney)

Wed. April 14

(private)

Margaret McClure (Sarah) / **Mary Agnes McElmoyle** (Susan Schatz)

Thurs. April 15

8:00 am (SJC)

Joan Ament (Gloria Kehrl) / **Rev. William Dermott** (Pat & Darlene McHugh)

Fri. April 16

(private)

Eleanor McNealis (Salli, Sarah, & Jake) / **Elizabeth O'Donnell** (Jean Engler)



Third Sunday of Easter

Sat. April 17

9:00 am (SJC)

Rosary for Life

4:30 pm (ICC)

Rita Shanfelt (Shanfelt Family) / **Francis O'Donnell** (Tom Brogan)

Sun. April 18

9:00 am (SJC)

All Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased / Alice Rita Mulligan (Mary Mulligan)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~ GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD, HIS LOVE IS EVERLASTING.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH CANDLES

SANCTUARY: In Loving Memory of *Gordon Holland, Sr.* (Requested by Wife & Sons)

SAINT JOSEPH: In Loving Memory of *Anna C. Rehrig* (Requested by niece, Kitty)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: 3/21/21: \$ 6,018.72
Thank you for your continued support & generosity.

CONFESSIONS will continue to be held on Wednesday evenings at ICC, at 6:30pm, as well as following the Tuesday and Thursday morning masses. Confessions are also available anytime upon request. Please call Immaculate Conception Rectory to schedule.



WE WELCOME, Nolan James Wernett, son of Mr. & Mrs. Kevin & Natalia (Klecha) Wernett, who was baptized last week into our Parish community. Please pray for him and his family as he begins his faith journey in Christ.

SAINT JOSEPH ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY:
@ 6th & North St. will be open Wed., April 21 & Sat., April 17 from 9am-11am.

GARAGE SALE: We will have our first Garage Sale of the year on Saturday, April 24 from 9am-1pm behind SJC church. Stop by and browse the hundreds of items from lamps, pictures, knick knacks, children's toys, dishes, glassware, furniture pieces, a kitchen table and so much more!



LOOKING FOR HELP! Mother Pauline's Thrift Shop is looking for an extra set of hands to help carry boxes up & down stairs on Mondays or Wednesdays for about an hour, anytime between 9am-1pm. If you can help, please call Rita at 570-732-4130.

MEN'S MISSION: You are making a difference with your donations!! You are invited to be part of our mission to help the children of Tanzania with food, uniforms, & the expansion to existing buildings. The collection cans will be at the doorways to St. Joseph Church on Sun., April 18.

DRIVE-IN GIFT CARD BINGO: Marian Catholic High School Parent Ambassadors will be hosting a drive-in gift card Bingo on Sunday, April 18th. Lot opens at 12pm and games begin at 1pm. Event is rain or shine! \$25 package (15 regular games & 5 specials). Park in the rear lot, purchase your package, and play from your car! Hot food & Bake Sale- delivered to your car. Please contact Mary Milosh, mmilosh@mariancatholic.org or 570-467-3335, ext 116 for more info.



DOUBT: The desire to be able to prove the existence of a divinity has troubled humanity since human consciousness first became aware of the divine. To this very day we are fond of saying that any number of things—from sunsets to hot fudge sundaes—are “proof that there is a God.” We get so

caught up in the story of “doubting Thomas” that we fail to notice that today’s Gospel gives us John’s account of Pentecost, the bestowing of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples following the Resurrection. Thomas, evidently, missed out not only on seeing the Risen Christ, but receiving the Holy Spirit as well. This is not to be taken lightly and, perhaps, makes Thomas’ disbelief a bit easier to comprehend. It also makes his professing that Jesus is his Lord and God—the only time the New Testament explicitly refers to Jesus Christ as “God”—more remarkable. © J. S. Paluch Co.

YEAR OF THE REAL PRESENCE

Bishop Alfred Schlert has announced that the Diocese of Allentown will celebrate a “Year of the Real Presence” beginning today, Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11, concluding June 19, 2022.



The Year of the Real Presence will be a special time in parishes and schools across the Diocese. It will celebrate the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and will enable parishioners to rejoice in the gift of being present with their brothers, sisters and clergy at Mass. The celebration will coincide with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese.

“This year will be an opportunity for all of us to rededicate ourselves to Christ’s Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist, the center of our diocesan life,” said Bishop Schlert. *“In addition, as the pandemic slowly lifts, it will be a time for people to return to Mass to be ‘really present’ with their family, friends, parishioners and clergy.”*

A special website, www.YearOfRealPresence.org will contain information about events during the Year, & resources for people to learn more about the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

By dying on the Cross, Jesus sacrificed Himself for our sins. Through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the altar, we are joined to that sacrifice in an unbloody way, and receive its benefits. At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and said, “This is my body.” He took wine and said, “This is the cup of my blood.”

The power and strength of the Real Presence is Jesus’ promise that He is truly present at the altar, and He is present to us in a very intimate, personal way when we are ‘really present’ for Mass and consume the Holy Eucharist.

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him” (John 6:56)

MANY THANKS to all those who assisted during the Holy Week Liturgies: Lectors, Readers, Music Ministry, Decorating teams and the Church Cleaners!! Your time and talent is appreciated by all!



Week at a Glance Events @ St. Joseph

Tues, 4/13: Adoration, 9am-5:30pm

Fri, 4/16: 1000 Hail Mary's, 9am-4pm

Fri, 4/16: Flame of Love, 1pm- School Cafeteria