

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is the second Sunday of Easter, also call Divine Mercy Sunday. As Catholics, after Mass we may pray a devotion of Saint Faustina Kowalska, known as the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The devotion can include confession, adoration, prayer. The blessings of this devotion is that through his Mercy Jesus grants us indulgences.

The theme of Mercy ties in with today's Gospel about "Doubting Thomas". Thomas is the disciple who did not believe that Christ is risen from the dead. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail-marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." (Jn 20:25)

Throughout the Gospel of John we witness Thomas doubting and questioning Jesus, but he also says some of the most inspirational messages in the Gospel. First, in the story of Lazarus, Thomas and the other disciples cannot believe that Jesus needs to return to Judea, knowing people there will put him to death. When Jesus insists, Thomas says, "Let us also go die with him" (Jn 11:16). Like a true disciple Thomas agrees to follow Jesus no matter what!

Later in the Gospel at the last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples that He must leave them to return to God his Father. To this Thomas interjects his confusion and doubt: "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5).

The last encounter with St Thomas is in today's Gospel. The disciples are in a locked room and Jesus appears to them multiple times. However, during the first time, Thomas is not present. Upon hearing about Jesus appears risen, bearing the marks of the crucifixion, Thomas is extremely doubtful. Jesus through his mercy and understanding of Thomas's doubts and fears appeared and showed Thomas His wounds. Thomas's reply to Jesus is key: "My Lord and My God!" The reply Jesus gave is a lesson not only to Thomas, but to all Christians. "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and believe" (Jn 20:29).

Sometimes we are like Thomas. We doubt God's love for us and that Jesus not only died for us but he triumphed over sin and death for us. God knows that in our humanity we will have times of doubt and despair. Like Thomas he will give us an opportunity to see signs that remind us of God's mercy and love.

The story of "doubting Thomas" also gives another perspective on mercy. Are we like Thomas and don't believe that others are wounded? Do we fail to show others mercy? To be disciples, we must have hearts willing to suffer for others and be willing to be merciful, as Jesus has shown us mercy.

May our faith in the risen Christ give us hope that we will see Jesus face to face and we will rise with him on the last day.

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr Khanh D. Nguyen, Pastor

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

Monday, April 9, Isaiah 7:10-14; 8-10; Gosp Luke 1:26-38 - Mass at 8:45 am

Tuesday, April 10, Acts 4:32-37; Gosp John 3:7b-15 - no morning Mass

Wednesday, April 11, St. Stanislaus, Acts 5:17-26; Gosp John 3:16-21 – Mass at 8:45 am

Thursday, April 12, St. Teresa of the Andes, Acts 5:27-33; Gosp John 3:31-36 – Mass at 8:45 am

Friday, April 13, St. Martin, Acts 5:34-42; Gosp John 6:1-15 – Mass at 8:45 am

Saturday, April 14, Acts 6:1-7; Gosp John 6:16-21 - Mass at 8:45 am

3rd Sunday of Easter, April 15, Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Gosp Luke 24:35-48



a simple meal
with love
is better than
a feast
where there is
hatred.

THANK YOU! Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to say thank you! Don't forget to turn in your Rice Bowl to the Parish Office or donate online at www.seattlearchdiocese.org/ricebowl

ANNOUNCEMENT Jean Cooney will be retiring on June 30 after 50 ½ years of employment at St. Matthew Parish. There will be a retirement party on Saturday, June 16th from 6 to 9 pm in the Community Center. Please save the date.

HONDURAS FUNDRAISER DINNER Tickets are on sale now for the April 28th Fundraiser Dinner featuring pulled pork sandwiches, home-brew and entertainment. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for ages 5-10. There will be a mini-silent auction and a dessert frenzy. ALL proceeds go toward projects our Parish Mission group work on at the Children's Homes with no money going toward participants travel expenses. Tickets are on sale after all Masses as well as in the Parish and School offices.

SAVE THE DATE The 27th Annual Rainbow Heritage Festival will be on Saturday, May 19, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. We welcome your ideas for entertainment, food donations, and crafts. Email Elaine Abarientos at eabarientos@hotmail.com with questions or to volunteer. Thank you.

MARY: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER Every Wednesday through May 23 from 10 - 11:30 am in the Parish Center Library; and from 7 - 8:30 pm in the Community Center Conference Room. Call Sara Lane at 206-334-5350 or sslane5@comcast.net. Suggested donation towards costs including Study Materials is \$30. You may register online at <http://ascensionpress.com/studies/27533/registration/new>.

Sacred Story - Week 26

Choose the time and place for your 15-minute prayer time.

- ♦ We pray with all five meditations this week.
- ♦ Review our commitment to develop a rhythm of prayer that will carry us for the rest of our life.
- ♦ Preview our week and visualize the places and time for prayer.
- ♦ Spend no more/no less than 15 minutes in formal prayer session.

Week 27

- ♦ We repeat our prayer Creation, Presence, Memory, Mercy and Eternity as themes that carry us through our Christian journey.
- ♦ We make an act of faith this week that our openness and God's Grace are a path to profound change.
- ♦ We engage the other disciplines associated with Sacred Story prayer (On Waking; During the Day Consciousness exercises; Journal; On Retiring Exercise).
- ♦ We will enter our prayer time at least once daily.
- ♦ We are developing a practice that will continue beyond the 40 Weeks; a practice that does not end.

Affirmation

"God gives me insight, not because I am better than others, but because I am loved."

Information

- ♦ The next Sacred Story Gathering is May 1 at 7 pm at the Parish Office Library. All are welcome. We share our experience of Sacred Story, support each other and plan for next steps with Sacred Story.

CANNED FRUIT: Our St. Vincent de Paul food bank is in need of canned fruit. This is something healthy we like to include each week in our food bags and we are running low. Thank you for your continued support.

THE RELICS OF ST. PADRE PIO Come to the St. James Cathedral on Saturday, May 5, to venerate the official relics of St. Pio on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death. 9 am Mass; 10 am - 4:30 pm Veneration of the Relics. All are welcome.

NORTH SEATTLE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT Married? Retired or hoping to retire some day? Then this presentation is for you! Rich and Sue Stockinger will present "*Happy Marriage after Retirement*" at our 2nd annual Marriage Enrichment Evening on Saturday, April 14. Join us in the Community Center right after the 5 pm Mass for a light meal before the presentation that will begin at 6:30. Looking ahead, our final date night will be May 5 with presentation by Jack and Karen Baker on "*Building a Foundation of Love*". Register for both events online @ <http://marriageenrichment.info/> or call Mike & Maureen Sloane (206) 419-7695. See the insert in today's bulletin.

St. Matthew School News

Karen Herlihy, Principal, 206-362-2785 ext. 102,

kherlihy@stmattschool.org

Andy Hews, Administrative Assistant, 206-362-2785, ext. 101, ahews@stmattschool.org

"Excellence – Diversity – Community"



Now Enrolling for 2018 - 2019 St. Matthew School is now enrolling for Pre-K, Kindergarten, elementary school and middle school for the 2018-2019 school year. St. Matthew School provides academic excellence and diversity in a community of faith. Come see what we have to offer! Tours available weekly; contact Stacy Pretti at spretti@stmattschool.org or (206) 362-2785, ext. 103.

CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS is a weekly group who meets every Sunday, 11:20 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Office Library. See the insert in this week's bulletin for details.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES ♦ "*Contemplative Prayer*" on Thursdays, April 12, 19 and 26, from 7-8:15 pm; and Saturday, April 14, from 9 am – 12 noon (Chapel) ♦ "*Peace Days for Women: Listening to God's Majesty in the Beauty of Creation*" on Wednesday, April 18, 9:30 am – 2 pm. ♦ "*Reflection Days for Men: Soul Brothers*" on Saturday, April 21, from 9 am – 1 pm. Bring sack lunch; All events are held at the Peace and Spirituality Center, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue.

NORTH SEATTLE CATHOLIC YOUTH SPRING CALENDAR

April 8	<i>no Sunday gathering</i>
April 15	Series 4 begins – Mary as a Disciple of Christ
April 22	Series 4 – Mary as a Disciple of Christ
April 29	Series 4 – Mary as a Disciple of Christ
May 6	Series 4 -- Mary as a Disciple of Christ
May 13	Mother's Day: no Sunday gathering
May 20	Celebration!

Sunday Env/Loose/Holy Days

	<u>4/1/2018</u>	<u>YTD 4/1/2018</u>
Budgeted	\$ 9,680	\$391,596
Collected (basket)	\$ 15,484	\$423,031
Collected (online)	\$ 2,243	↓
Difference	\$ 5,804	\$ 31,435



The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced total stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.