

## Divine Mercy: The Risen Christ Who Never Ceases to Give

By Deacon Doug Wigton

This coming Sunday, April 12, 2026, the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast that draws us deeply into the mystery of what truly changed the world: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter was not simply a victory over death; it was the opening of an inexhaustible flood of mercy. From the pierced Heart of Christ flows a love that does not diminish with time, a mercy that continues to reach into every age, including our own.



The roots of this celebration stretch back through the life of the Church, echoing in the early Christian communities of Rome and the Holy Land, where the Octave of Easter was always marked by profound reflection on forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life. The modern emphasis given through St. Faustina only deepens what has always been true: God's mercy is not a side note in salvation history, it is its very center.

The readings for this Sunday bring this truth vividly before us. In the Gospel (John 20:19-31), we find the disciples gathered behind locked doors, paralyzed by fear and grief. Everything they had hoped for seemed lost. They had witnessed the horror of the Cross, and now they sat in darkness, unable to imagine what could possibly come next. Then, suddenly, Jesus stands among them. .... "Peace be with you."

These are not merely comforting words. They are the first fruits of Divine Mercy. The One whom they abandoned, the One who was crucified, returns not with condemnation, but with peace. He shows them His wounds, not as accusations, but as signs of love fulfilled. Mercy is not the absence of justice; it is justice transformed by love.

And then comes the astonishing moment: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." Here, the Risen Christ entrusts His mercy to the Church. Forgiveness is no longer distant or abstract, it becomes sacramental, tangible, real. Yet even in this moment of overwhelming grace, there is doubt.

Thomas, absent at the first appearance, cannot bring himself to believe. His grief has hardened into skepticism. "Unless I see... unless I touch... I will not believe." How human that is. How familiar. And yet, eight days later, Jesus comes again, this time for Thomas. There is no rebuke, no rejection. Only invitation. "Put your finger here... do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas responds with one of the most profound professions of faith in all Scripture: "My Lord and my God!"

Divine Mercy meets even the greatest doubt. The Lord does not abandon the skeptic; He pursues him. And in doing so, He speaks directly to us: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

This is where we live. We have not seen Him with our physical eyes as the apostles did. And yet, as the Second Reading (1 Peter 1:3-9) tells us, "although you have not seen Him, you love Him... you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy." This is the miracle of faith, a gift born not of proof alone, but of grace. The Resurrection has changed everything. Mercy now fills the space where despair once ruled.

The early Christian community described in Acts (Acts 2:42-47) lived this reality. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to prayer. They lived as people transformed, because they were. Mercy had touched them, and it overflowed into their lives.

And so it must be for us. For the mystery did not end 2,000 years ago. The same Jesus who stood in that locked room... the same Jesus who showed His wounds to Thomas... the same Jesus who conquered death... continues to give Himself completely to us in the Most Holy Eucharist.

Here, in the quiet of the Adoration Chapel, the mystery continues to unfold. He is not distant. He is not silent. He is not absent. He is here!

The Eucharist is Divine Mercy made present. The Heart that was pierced on Calvary is the same Heart that beats with love in every tabernacle. The Body given on the Cross is the same Body given to us in Holy Communion. His gift is total, unreserved, and ongoing.

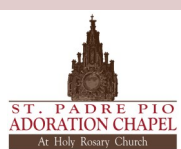
And yet, like Thomas, we are invited to move beyond doubt, not necessarily the doubt of denial, but the doubt of distraction, of complacency, of forgetfulness. Do we truly believe He is here? Do we recognize the infinite love poured out for us?

There are many in our world today who struggle to believe. Some doubt out of pain, others out of pride, still others because they have never truly encountered Him. But Divine Mercy assures us of this: God, in His providence, reaches every soul. Each person is given the opportunity to see, not always with physical eyes, but with the eyes of the heart.

The question is not whether God reveals Himself. The question is whether we are willing to receive Him.

In this sacred season, and especially on this great feast, we are invited to lay aside whatever prevents us from seeing clearly. Pride, fear, distraction: these are the locked doors of our own hearts. And yet, just as He did with the apostles, Jesus passes through them effortlessly.

He stands before us and says: "Peace be with you." May we, like Thomas, fall before Him in faith. May we, like the early Church, live transformed lives. And may we, even without seeing, love Him, rejoicing with a joy beyond words.



### St. Padre Pio Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Located in the Old Convent Building at HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
6982 S. Schomberg Road \* Cedar, MI 49621 \* 231-228-5429 \* mail@holyroarycedar.org

For more information about Adoration, contact: Dosie Kermodé, 231-632-7834

Submissions for the Chapel Insert, contact: Carol Tondreau, 231-590-5598

*Faithfully  
Praying since  
June, 2012*

# HOLY ROSARY PRAYER CORNER

Prayer feeds our lives. Prayer is a gift. It is a gift because Christian Prayer is based on knowing the Lord Jesus, and having the Holy Spirit stir and move through us in prayer. Please keep these intentions in your prayers.

## Pray for those that are not able to attend Mass with us

Jill Anderson - Home

Ted Bodus - Woodside Assisted Living \* Betty Flaska - Pavilions

John King - Home \* Loraine Kulanda - Home

Kelly Priest - Lansing Area Asst. Living \* Ruthie Popa - Orchard Creek.

Eunice Novak - French Manor \* Joyce Novak - Maple Valley

*Please call the office to correct & update this list.*

## PRAY FOR FIRST SACRAMENTS CANDIDATES

Maria Parshall

Elara Thorne

Beatrix Praasterink

Annabelle Weinrich

Alan Quintanilla

Veronica Weinrich

Jacob Ratajczak

Henry Weinrich

Hannah Rethoret

Edith Altman

Adilyn Miller

(Confirmation only)

Pray for the Vocations in our Diocese



### Seminarians:

Jake Belanger

John Mawby

Mark Steck

David Witkowski

### Candidates for

#### Diaconate:

Jason Maday

Neil Witkowski

### Religious Life:

Sister Philomena

Marie of Christ Crucified

(Gianna Belanger)

Margaret Foster

Christopher Witkowski

*O Lord Jesus Christ, lead our Seminarians & Diaconates in Your unerring footsteps; so that they may serve as models of purity, possessors of wisdom and heroes of sacrifice. Teach them generosity and service; but above all, teach them to know You and to love You. ~ Amen*



## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT & THEIR FAMILIES

- Ken Artz – US Air Force
- Isaiah Belanger – US Navy
- Charles Berninger – US Coast Guard
- Nicholas Bryan – US Army
- John Bunek – US Navy
- Curtis Bunek – US Navy
- Keith Castle – US Marines
- Matthew Culver – US Navy
- Timothy Fisher – US Army
- Peter Freundl – US Coast Guard
- Daniel Guilday – US Navy
- Joshua Harris – US Coast Guard
- Bridget Kohler – National Guard
- Jesse Kohler – MT National Guard
- Jacob Kunde – US Air Force
- Austin McQueer – US Marines
- Collin Platts – US Army Nurse Corp
- Ryan Tondreau – US Army
- Andrew Turner – US Coast Guard
- Leif Vanderwerf – US Marines
- Capt. Daniel Weber, DO – US Army
- Sam Wigton – Law Enforcement
- Tim Wigton – MI National Guard
- Andrew Zeits – US Army

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Recent Prayer Intentions

Shannon Chapman & Family - Loss of Husband & Father Pete

Ann Marie Popa - Fall Injury Recovery \* Loren Wilson - Back surgery Recovery

Nancy Scott - Diabetes & Kidney Issues \* Bill B. - Cancer / Hospice Care

Claire - Undergoing Chemo for BC While Pregnant - Baby due May 1

Shannon August \* A.T. - Miscarriage \* Kayla T.

Young Family - Facing Divorce - Husband Wants to Reconcile

Christian - Serious Injuries from Rock Climbing Accident

Sabastian - Serious Injuries from Snowboarding Accident

~ ~ ~ CONTINUED PRAYERS NEEDED FROM PREVIOUS MONTH ~ ~ ~

Loren Wilson - Back Surgery Recovery \* Rosemary Hejka - Hospice

Mary Dezelski - Shoulder Surgery Rehab \* Jason - Addiction

M & R - Serious Family Issues \* G - Health Issues \* Eunice Novak

Donakowski Family - Judith & Monica Health Issues \* Kathy Darga

## For the Recently Deceased & Their Families

\* Geraldine (Gerri) Galla \* Al Lala \*

\* Peter Chapman \* Vic McCarty \*

\* Elk Rapids couple - unknown causes \*

### Cancer Patients:

Ben \* Kristen Bauer \* Claire - Breast Cancer

Brecklyn Couturier - age 5 - Leukemia \* Karol Czyka Ted Fleis - Pancreatic

Kelly Winowiecki Florip \* Peter Freundl \* Martin Gallagher \* Jan

Joe Garvin \* Jaclyn Herman - BC \* Kip Hewitt \* Steve Johnson

Tim Keilty \* Marilyn Lane \* Margaret Ockert Lewis \* Cynthia Leiby

Merleen Mattis \* Christopher McGlynn \* Heidi Sedlacek Musser \*

Stephanie Klumpp Maeder \* Jan Novak

Steve Packer \* Francis Rosinski \* Therese Rosinski \* Tom Savage

Gordon Solomon \* Craig Stallman \* Herbie S. \* Tina VanderWulp

Bill B. \* Christi \* Danielle - Breast Cancer \* Dan S. \* Julia

Gabby - Melanoma \* Kelly \* Kathleen \* Lori \* Marissa

Patricia - Lung \* Randy \* Steve

### \* Ongoing Prayer Intentions \*

\* Chris Berkey - ALS \*

\* Mike Buell (GTACS) - Ongoing Health Challenges \*

\* Brittany C. - Brain Aneurysm Complications / Stroke Recovery \*

\* Delores (Ditto) Couturier - Stroke Recovery \*

\* Toddler Henry Gauthier - Cont. Progress in Mobility & Normal Development \*

\* Lucas P. - teen - serious food allergies and EOE \*

\* Conor Rigan - age 6 - Continued clear brain cancer screenings \*

\* Hailie Tondreau - Hypermobile Syndrome, POTS, Autonomic Dysfunction \*

\* Randy W. (Buckley) - Parkinson's \*

\* Rich Zywicki - Continued Healing - Serious Head Injuries \*

## PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Call Rita Wilson 231-499-3214 \* Judy LaCross 231-883-1212