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Paschal Candle Illustration: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch, 2008. Photo: Petrán Sedmáková, mosaic. © James Spink, Place, London/Adobe Stock

Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."

JOHN 20:19

APRIL
19
2020



SECOND
SUNDAY OF
Easter

Most of us have had the misfortune of missing something important simply by being absent, and then hearing about what happened. In today's reading, unique to John's Gospel, Thomas is the only apostle who was not around when Jesus appeared to his friends for the first time after his death and resurrection. They were frightened and grieving, not knowing what would happen to them. Remember, they found themselves to be fugitives, seemingly guilty by association with a criminal executed by government officials. Suddenly, Jesus was with them, beaming peace and mercy to his fragile followers. What joy! What a shock, too!

We will never know why Thomas had left their hiding place. All we know is that he returned to wild stories about Jesus being alive after dying a brutal death. He must have thought that the other apostles in their grief had a shared delusion of what they wished were true. When Thomas finally saw Jesus, he gave what is considered the most profound profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" In his tender mercy, Jesus ministered to Thomas by helping him to see for himself.

WE WALK BY FAITH

But what of us? The early Christian community could only trust the words of these same apostles, the ones Thomas couldn't believe, when they preached Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Who could believe what they said? The Holy Spirit, breathed upon the disciples in that first encounter, emanated so powerfully from them that they were able to convene seemingly utopian communities of faith. Filled with "divine mercy," their lives became an evangelization to the world.

And this is how we too are sent out, like the disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit and bearing the Lord's peace and mercy to a troubled, suffering world. The wounds of Jesus are very real today in the needy and broken. May we always work to bind up those wounds wherever we find them.

Today's Readings: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;
1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
PERMANENT DEACON:
Rev. Mr. Leonard "Len" Sanchez

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM
Tues, Thurs & Fri: 9:00 AM
Wednesday: 5:00 PM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday: 45
minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

Welcome Visitors!

We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home." Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

1612 S. FM 2869
Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765

Church Phone: 903-769-3235

Fr. Mike Snider
Cell Phone: 903-490-3883

www.holyspirthollylake.com
holyspirit2@yahoo.com

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Patricia Guy. Jacob Stephens. Randy Burris. Albert Hernandez. Karina Hawkins. Mike Fleming. Frankie Durst. Susie Strickland. Doug Lawson. Dana Moffatt. Emly Walker. Eva Corrigan. Francis Young. Mike Brown. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Ester Coronel. Diane Stanley. Chase Larson. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Rose Kennedy. Judy Fazzio. Marsha & Marty Blahitka. Carolyn Edwards. Joshua Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda Stephens. Wanda Thompson. Kathryn Allen. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month. **We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially: Cameron, grandson of Rocky & Maria Moore.**

Please pray for the men and women active military service

from our parish community: 2LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Airman First Class Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Ensign Gary Buchanan; 2ndLt. Blake Gaughan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). E-3RJames Morgan (SonInLaw of Kathy & Dale Boman) Paul Moreno USCG (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (brother of Jeff & Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

GET REAL!

Those of us who flatter ourselves that we have a "realistic" view of the world may listen to the first reading today and say, "Get real!" when we hear Luke's account of the early, Elysian days of the Christian movement. All seems to be rosy, lots of wonders are performed, everyone shares selflessly, they eat together in "exultation," and the Lord added to their numbers? Well, who wouldn't be attracted to a group like this? From the wind that swept through the upper room at Pentecost as the Spirit of God blew over the face of the waters in Genesis, and the fire that appeared over each disciple as the light appeared at the dawn of creation, Luke's intent in Acts is to show a new creation, a restoration of creation's original goodness through the working of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who continues to make us into the Body of Christ. We may occasionally, like Thomas in the Gospel, say, "Get real!" but our ultimate reality in the Spirit is to work continually to make our Christian community a new creation, one in which others will find God's joy and beauty.

POPE'S UNIVERSAL INTENTION FOR APRIL

Freedom from Addiction

That those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Fr. Mike's Private Mass—Intentions

Sun 4/19 Rusty Anderson+ (Ruddie)

Tue 4/21 Carlos Gallardo+ (M/M Ryan)

Wed 4/22 Parishioners

Thurs 4/23 Joyce Klutts+ (Bob & Anna Parker)

Fri. 4/24 Carlos Gallardo+ (M/M Ryan)

PARISH SUPPORT

Required Weekly Funds \$ 3,962

Offerings April 12th \$ 6,935

April 26th Second Collection: "Catholic Home Missions".

Due to the suspended public masses amid the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), collections will be posted on a weekly basis.

Our expenses are continuing while all these decisions with the COVID-19 Virus is impacting significantly our financial situation. Please remember to support our Parish financially by mailing in your contributions. Now, might be the time to set up automatic bill pay with your bank on a weekly/monthly basis.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading— All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).

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

Second Reading— God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-9).

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

EASTER

It is the hour to rend thy chains, the blossom time of souls.

Katharine Lee Bates

FIRE

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.

St. Catherine of Siena

Dear Parishioners,

Last month we thought we temporarily lost our normal life due to COVID-19. Until, Apr. 12th, Easter Sunday around 6:45pm. Straight line winds from a cold front hit our area, then we lost large trees, damage to homes, businesses, and electricity. The biggest majority of us lost electricity from 12 to 62 hours. Now you feel scared, anger, sadness, and disappointment. Until you realize you still have faith and a roof over your head, food on the table, neighbors, friends and family step up to help or give a call on your cell phone just to check in to make sure you okay or need anything. Don't forget God is always with you and waiting for your prayers.

We definitely have the best parishioners in the Diocese of Tyler. I sincerely appreciate your efforts in keeping up with your tithing during these challenging days.

To all who contributed, packed and delivered the **Easter food boxes**. Thank you for your generosity from the Knights of Columbus. Twenty boxes were distributed on Monday, April 6th. A \$15.00 Brookshire gift card was given in place of a ham or turkey with each box.

Confessions, time change for Tuesday, Apr. 21st & Thursday, Apr. 23rd from 9:00—10:30am. Confessions rain or shine, cold or hot weather. I will be parked in front of the double glass doors that you enter into the Narthex, under the overhang, seated in my front seat of my car. Please drive up and park your vehicle 6 feet from my vehicle and stay in your vehicle. Roll your window down, turn motor off and start your confession. After, your confession, you may drive around to our meditation garden, to say your penance.

COVID-19 email scams: Be aware that plenty of folks are jumping on the bandwagon of creating malware websites, phishing emails, etc., pretending to be the CDC, banks, hotels, animal rescue, feeding the elderly, and many other things. PLEASE be extra vigilant before opening any email and certainly before clicking any link. Always take just a moment and HOVER your mouse cursor over a link to verify that it is actually going to a legitimate website. Verify that the website address is not misspelled. For example, AustnBank.com is fake and will cause your computer trouble as opposed to the real AustinBank.com. If you have any doubt about a link, please don't click it. It's always better to be safe than sorry! Remember also that law enforcement, the IRS, attorneys, etc., will not request personal information via email or send you links to click. If these folks want to contact you for a legitimate purpose, they will mail you a letter or knock on your door.

I hope this past month our resources that we share with you have helped. Just remember we cannot gather for our sacred, sacrificial banquet, the Eucharist, we must keep Sunday, the Lord's Day, holy through prayer. You are especially invited to reflect on the daily Mass scriptures (<http://usccb.org/>), make a spiritual communion (see below), and even consider watching Mass which is available on our **diocesan web site:** <https://www.dioceseoftyler.org/en/> and <https://stphilipinstitute.org/> or **EWTN** Channel on tv. If you have a cell phone you can add the **Laudate app** for daily readings and prayers, etc.

Please call me if you need help or you just need to talk to someone. I'm always available to each and everyone of you. Let us continue to pray for one another, united in God's love.

Rev. Fr. Michael Snider
Cell# 903-490-3883

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. *Amen.*

Or

Oh Jesus, I turn toward the holy tabernacle where You live hidden for love of me. I love you, O my God. I cannot receive you in Holy Communion. Come, nevertheless, and visit me with Your grace. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto Your own. *Amen.*

Guidance for Churches Under Stay-at-Home/Shelter-in-Place-Orders
Fr. Mike is expected to fully observe the local orders for Wood County

1. **Chancery and Parish Office closed.** You may call and leave a message on the office # 903-769-3235 and Bridget will be checking messages through out the day and will return your call as soon as possible. Or, call Fr. Mike cell# 903-490-3883 and leave a message. You may also, send an email to Bridget's personal email address Bridgetarich@Live.com
2. **Baptisms** are suspended. Where there is a real danger of death, call Fr. Mike 903-490-3883.
3. **Funerals** are suspended. Call Fr. Mike's cell# 903-490-3883 and he will coordinate with family and funeral directors. Especially, when the family request the rites proper to funerals. Graveside services may be still permitted, depending on our local provisions and provided those who attend observe proper social distancing.
4. **Fr. Mike will continue to celebrate private Mass except on Saturday and Monday.** Along with Mass Fr. will fulfill Mass Intentions.
5. **Confessions are Tues., Apr. 21st & Thurs., Apr. 23rd from 9:00—10:30am (see second page for details)**
Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (*cf.* CCC, no. 1452).
6. **Anointing of the Sick** for those in dire need of the sacrament Fr. Mike will performed the sacrament on your front porch of your home. Call him on his cell 903-490-3883.

Update on Measures to Keep the Diocese of Tyler Safe: April 1

On March 17, 2020, I issued a decree suspending the public celebration of Mass and enacting other measures in support of the effort to keep our communities safe and prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease. I also noted that I would provide a brief, general update to the diocese on April 1.

Because we must continue to remain isolated and do our part to slow the spread of this terrible disease, and following the guidelines and orders from our local, state, and national leaders, the measures taken in the March 17 decree remain in effect until further notice.

All of our priests feel a great sorrow that our communities cannot be together for our public worship, especially for the special celebrations of the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection during Holy Week. Yet, we know that on Easter morning, in our homes, we will celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death and that this is our source of joy even now.

Please continue to be comforted knowing that priests here in the diocese are praying for you and celebrating Mass for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Let us remain united in the love of Jesus, praying for the sick, the lonely, and for those who are working to keep our communities safe, particularly the doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals.

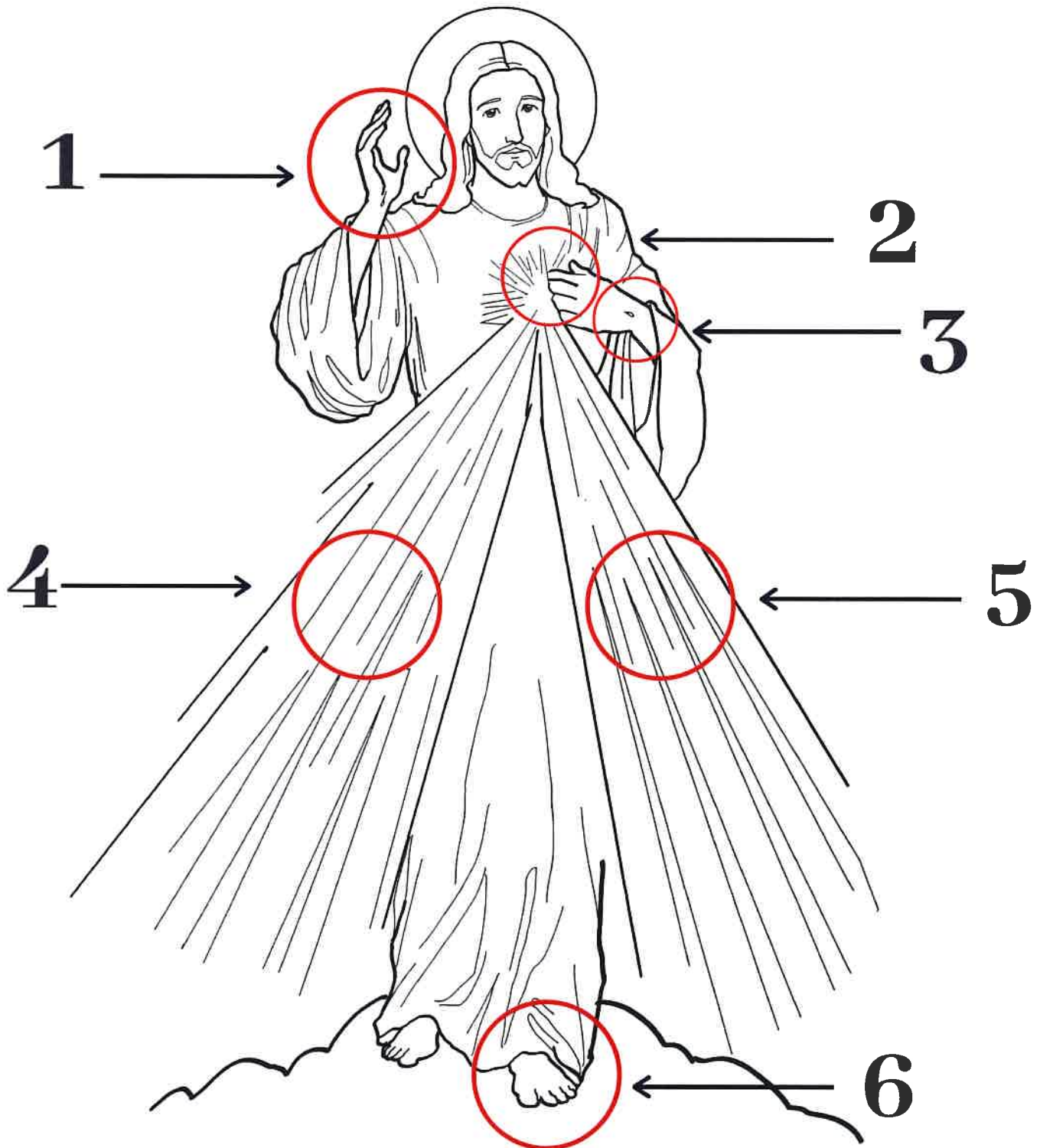
Finally, I once again strongly encourage everyone in the Diocese of Tyler to listen to and follow the directions of our state and local authorities. Our president has told us that tough days are ahead. It is our behaviors that will change the course of this pandemic. Whether you are sick or not, please stay in your homes except for essential needs. In doing this, combined with our prayers, we will be helping to bring this crisis to an end so that we can once again come together.

Bishop Joseph Strickland

THE IMAGE OF DIVINE MERCY



*Do you know what the numbered details in the image mean?
Take some time to reflect as you color or study the image.*



Jesus, I trust in You

Below read the symbolism of the numbered details and spend some time reflecting on the questions and/or discussing with your family.

1. Jesus is extending his right hand as if blessing the world. How has God blessed you? Do you thank God for his blessings? How can you bless others?

2. Jesus' left hand is pulling away the garment revealing his heart. How has God shown you his love and mercy? What are some ways you can show God's love and mercy to others?

3. The wounds in Jesus' hand show us that suffering will happen, but Jesus offers redemption. How can suffering help you to become more like Jesus? What struggles are you going through right now and what can you learn from Jesus through this suffering?

4. The red rays represent blood, which gives life to souls. Christ saves us by his death and gives us life in the Eucharist, which is his Body and Blood. How do you sacrifice for and show love to God and others? How can you better prepare to receive the Eucharist?

5. The blue or white rays represents water which makes souls righteous or clean. Did you know that the sacraments of baptism and reconciliation make us clean through God's grace? Plan time with your family to go to confession and look at pictures from your baptism. What are some ways you can grow in righteousness and be more like Jesus ?

6. Jesus is stepping towards you and the whole world. Jesus doesn't just wait for us to make the first move, he comes to us. What can you do to step towards Jesus? What are some ways you can step towards those around you and be like Jesus to them?



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