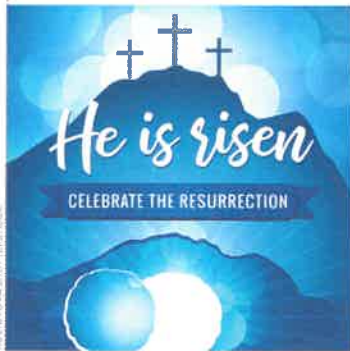


# Dear Padre,

**A friend of mine always makes such a big deal of the time after Easter. What is this Easter season all about?**

**T**hese days and weeks after Easter are indeed significant. We Christians are an Easter people. The resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith. Without the belief that Christ conquered death and our hope that we will share in that same victory over the grave, our faith is pointless. We celebrate with great fanfare that we are a redeemed people in Jesus Christ.



Every year our forty-day Lenten preparation of fasting and penance leads us to the feasting and joy of the fifty days of Easter. This unbelievable news that the risen Christ is in our midst draws us into a festival that cannot be contained in a single day. “The fifty days from Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one ‘great Sunday’” (*The Roman Missal*, “Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and Calendar,” 22).

Part of the challenge of Easter is learning again how to celebrate a fifty-day feast. Most Catholics do not think of Easter as an extended feast. We tend to see Easter, the ascension, and Pentecost as three separate, independent feast days, each with its own themes. The truth of the matter is that they are all part and parcel of the other, intertwined and borne of the same glorious fact of Christ’s resurrection. This is a perfect time to remind ourselves of that joyous and significant connection.

—Fr. Joseph Ring  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

## WORD FROM Pope Francis



*To us also, on this Sunday, which St. John Paul II wished to dedicate to divine mercy, the Lord shows us, through the Gospel, his wounds. They are wounds of mercy... Jesus invites us to behold these wounds, to touch them as Thomas did, to heal our lack of belief. Above all, he invites us to enter into the mystery of these wounds, which is the mystery of his merciful love.*

—HOMILY, APRIL 12, 2015

## Calendar

**Monday**  
APRIL 20  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 4:23–31  
Jn 3:1–8

**Tuesday**  
APRIL 21  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 4:32–37  
Jn 3:7b–15

**Wednesday**  
APRIL 22  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 5:17–26  
Jn 3:16–21

**Thursday**  
APRIL 23  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 5:27–33  
Jn 3:31–36

**Friday**  
APRIL 24  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 5:34–42  
Jn 6:1–15

**Saturday**  
APRIL 25  
St. Mark,  
Evangelist  
1 Pt 5:5b–14  
Mk 16:15–20

**Sunday**  
APRIL 26  
Third Sunday  
of Easter  
Acts 2:14, 22–33  
1 Pt 1:17–21  
Lk 24:13–35



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

**April 19, 2020**  
Second Sunday of Easter  
(Sunday of Divine Mercy) (A)  
Acts 2:42–47  
1 Pt 1:3–9  
Jn 20:19–31

## I Doubt It

**S**kepticism is a characteristic of a critical mind. Some claims are just too fantastic to trust: no salve can relieve you of all pain; no investment is certain to double your money; no politician can keep all promises; no one comes back from the dead. Who of us can fault Thomas for his initial skepticism?

Thomas has been known through history as “the doubter.” However, he might be considered the patron saint of all of us. Because of his absence when Jesus stood in the midst of the community, Thomas was expected to believe on the word of others. Like Thomas, we are torn between believing because of an experience of Jesus, and believing on the word of others. We all would prefer a direct, profound experience. However, that’s not what we’re offered.

But within the community we can indirectly experience Jesus—his goodness, his unselfish service to others, his desire to bring people together in peace and harmony. The first reading provides a glimpse of such a believing community devoted to “the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Like our patron Thomas, we might be skeptical at first, but it is within a family or community of kindness and generosity that we can have our own experience of the risen Jesus.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## FOR Reflection

- ★ Where in your family do you experience devotion to others, forgiveness, and courage? Where do you bring these attitudes?
- ★ How might you strengthen the bonds of your community so that others can recognize the presence of the risen Jesus?



*Jesus said to [Thomas],  
“Have you come to believe  
because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have  
not seen and have believed.”*

JOHN 20:29



*St. Joseph Neier*  
*Father Tom Wissler, Pastor*

April 18 & 19, 2020

**Saturday:** 5:00pm

**Office:** 636.583.2806

**Sunday:** 8:00am & 10:00am

**Website:** [stjosephneier.com](http://stjosephneier.com)

**Confessions – Saturday**

**Email:** [parishoffice@stjosephneier.com](mailto:parishoffice@stjosephneier.com)

4:00pm – 4:40pm

**Sarah's Cell:** 314.808.0337

**Josh's Cell:** 636.584.9898

From Fr. Tom,

The Second Sunday of Easter is called Divine Mercy Sunday. When asked to define God as best he could, Fr. Thomas Merton answered this way: "God is mercy, within mercy, within mercy." In my own life, I can't count the times mercy has come my way. Many of those times, I didn't realize it until much later. How many times have we "gotten away with something" or looked back in time and wondered just how lucky we were that things didn't turn out worse for us. It is true that God is more generous with His mercy than what we ask for. Divine Mercy should never be taken for granted nor assumed.



**Please pray for those who are sick in our parish:**

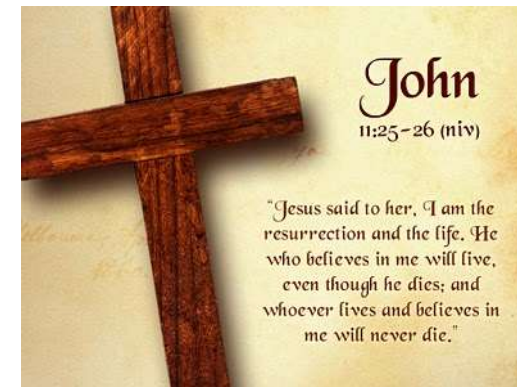
- Anna Marie Brueggemann
- Olivia Jasper
- Zachery Goosage
- Henry Tobben
- Christine Grus
- Bill Greife
- Brandon Huels
- Betty Bean
- Marisa Shollenberger
- Ryan Elbert
- Cynthia Faust
- Sheri Zambruski
- Jean Oldani
- Shirley Beckman
- Karen Waters
- Jacob McMullin
- Bill Feth
- Andrew Hellebusch
- Edward Henke
- Ashley Shelton
- KJ Frost
- Eugene Salvino
- Kelly Arrington
- Irene Krause
- Dorothy Eckstein

**Please also pray for those Serving our Country:**

- Matthew Blankenship
- Taylor Donner
- Jamie Brueggemann Murphy
- Luke Stuesse
- Michael Murphy
- Blake Van Leer
- Andy Davis
- Sam Smith

Please review the Parish Prayer lists above and call the office for any changes. Thank you!!

**Please pray for everyone who is affected by the Corona Virus.**



## Thank you for your generosity!

<u>Collection for</u>	<u>4/12/2020</u>
Regular Offering Envelopes:	\$1,820.00
Cemetery Offering:	\$ 82.00
Easter:	\$1,135.00
Partners in Child Development:	\$ 100.00
Online Giving:	\$ 285.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,422.00</b>



## Thank you for your generosity!

### Archdioceses Special Collections

<u>Collection for</u>	<u>4/12/2020</u>
Holy Land:	\$ 125.00
Catholic Home Mission Appeal:	\$ 67.00
Retired Religious:	\$ 260.00
Rice Bowl:	\$ 65.00

### Ways you are still able to donate while we are not able to celebrate Mass:

- Mail your envelope to: St. Joseph Church, 2401 Neier Rd, Union, MO 63084
- Drop your envelope off at the rectory – Monday – Thursday; 8am – 4pm
- Set up an account for Online Giving (more details below)

Please visit <https://stjosephneier.weshareonline.org/>, if you would like to enroll in Online Giving. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call the parish office at **636.583.2806**.

## Neier News

☺ **Live Streaming Mass on Facebook Live – Every Saturday at 5pm!**

### To be able to view Fr. Tom for Mass:

- Log into Facebook any time before Mass starts.
- Go to the St. Joseph's Neier Parish, Union MO page to view the live Mass each week.
  - Please refrain from making comments or sending emoji's during Mass. Thank you!



### How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

**O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! (3x)**

On rosary beads, begin:

- + **Our Father**
- + **Hail Mary**
- + **The Creed**

On the Our Father beads, pray:

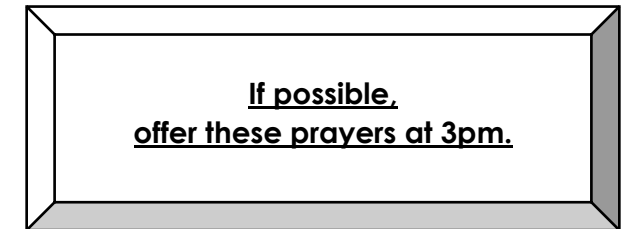
- + **Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul, and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.**

On the Hail Mary beads, pray:

- + **For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

In conclusion, pray three time:

- + **Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.**





## Confirmation Update

Because of the Corona Virus cancellations of Confirmations at the Cathedral Basilica including ours, Archbishop Carlson has granted permission for pastors to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in their own parishes. We will do this after all the “distancing mandates” have been lifted. I will be in touch with a specific date as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding. I am looking forward to this! ~ Fr. Tom



## First Communion Update

If the “social distancing mandates” are lifted at the end of April, I would like to celebrate First Communion on the originally scheduled date of May 10<sup>th</sup>, during the 10:00am Mass. If the mandates are still in effect after April we will simply pick another Sunday. Thank you so much for your understanding. ~ Fr. Tom

### **PSR News**

Classes are cancelled for the rest of this year. With the untimely and unfortunate death of Mrs. Fink, I've made some changes to our PSR program for next Fall. First of all, I would like to change the time for classes from Sundays in between Masses to Tuesday evenings from 6pm till 7:15pm.

The reasons being there are other events that sometimes go on in the hall while PSR is in session and are distracting for the students and teachers alike. Also,

- Reception of sacraments for PSR students can be done taking the proper time and not “rush through them” between Masses.
- I will be able to spend MUCH more time with the students.
- We will be able to keep the hall entrances locked during class time.
- Drop-off and pick-up will be easier since there will be no Mass traffic.

This time change will require some adjustments from everyone so let's plan ahead so we can make it as easy as possible. Tuesday evenings will be dedicated to our PSR program!

Finally, we welcome Mrs. Kristina Unerstall as our new PSR Director! She directs the PSR program at St. Ann in Clover Bottom and is very familiar with our program here. Thank you for your patience this spring with all the strange things going on.

God bless you. ~ Fr. Tom