**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 6-7th, 2024**

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

**Gospel reading**

Jn 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

[Jesus] said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.”

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

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

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book.

But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

**Intercession**

That, moved by the unending mercies of God, our parish will generously make our Diocesan Ministry Appeal a success.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

Jesus did not waste time. While the disciples were still reeling with amazement at his resurrection, Jesus introduced them to their mission: *“As the Father has sent me, so I send you”* (John 20:21).

The Father sent Jesus into our world to bring hope. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, God’s mercy is the greatest hope our broken world has ever known.

We have been sent, and it is our job to spread the message. In the coming days, our neighbors need to see our Resurrection joy and be moved by our witness so that they wonder, “Where do they get it?” The answer is, “Jesus.” Please support our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, so that we can make more people curious about Jesus-until His Kingdom comes again in glory. May He bless you and help you know Divine Mercy like never before.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Jesus did not come back from the grave to frighten those who abandoned him. His first word was, “Peace.” He returned with a message of mercy.

Please support our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, so that our parish can help others find hope in the reality that God did not condemn but save us. He does not hold a grudge! Help us spread the news with your generous gifts.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: The Divine Mercy image (“Jesus, I trust in you”) OR a long road or someone’s feet

Text: *“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”* – John 20:21

Copy: Christ sends all of us into the world to proclaim His love. We have been sent – let us go forth, to love and serve the Lord!