



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration
6:00 pm Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (APRIL 8TH - APRIL 9TH)

Donation	\$5,846.00
Donation Online	\$2,330.00
Maintenance Fund	\$35.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$8,211.00



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**DIVINE MERCY
CELEBRATION**
with Fr. Jim
Northrop

**April 16, 2023 at
3:00 PM**

**St. Thomas Parish
4415 S 140TH ST
Tukwila, WA 98168**

† Eucharistic Adoration
† Sung Recitation of the Chaplet
† Message on Divine Mercy

All are Welcome, please join us!



**THURSDAY, April 20th
at 7:00 pm**

**Pray the Rosary
at St. Thomas in the
Daily Chapel**



Hosted by Knights of Columbus



The Ultimate Revelation of God's Mercy

Homily by Father Joseph Vu

Why is today Divine Mercy Sunday?

- On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized the Polish nun who had received from Christ the amazing revelations of the Divine Mercy in the early years of the twentieth century, Saint Mary Faustina Kowalska [koh- VAHL-skuh].
- During that ceremony, the pope fulfilled one of the requests that Christ had made through those revelations: that the entire Church reserve the Second Sunday

of the Easter Season to honor and commemorate God's infinite mercy.

Where do we see this mercy revealed in today's Readings?

First of all, we see it in the reaction Christ shows to those men, his chosen Apostles, who had abandoned him just two nights before.

- They had abandoned Jesus in his most difficult hour, but Jesus wasn't going to abandon them.
- He passes through the locked doors, passes through their fears, regret, and guilt, and appears to them.
- He hasn't given up on them. He brings them his peace. And he reaffirms his confidence in them by reaffirming their mission: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

We also see God's mercy in Christ's reaction to the men who had crucified him.

- Does he crush them in revenge? No.
- Instead, he sends out his Apostles to tell them - and to tell the whole sinful world, the world that had crucified its God - that they can be redeemed, that God has not condemned them: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

And then, just to make sure that the Church is fully armed to communicate this message, Jesus gives the ultimate revelation of God's mercy - he delegates to his Apostles his divine power to forgive sins: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

This is the explicit institution of the sacrament of Confession, the sacrament in which the limitless ocean of God's mercy overwhelms the puny ocean of our misery.

It was the ultimate revelation of the Divine Mercy.

Spreading that Mercy

We are all children of this God whose mercy, goodness, and power are boundless, persistent, and untiring. And children should be like their parents.

We have had the grace to experience God's mercy - through the sacraments, through prayer, through being taught the Good News about Jesus Christ.

But there are many people around us who haven't had that grace, or have forgotten about it.

I can think of nothing that would please God more than if we all made the commitment to spread that mercy this week, even just a little bit.

- We all have relationships that are not exactly marked by mercy.
- We all know of relationships that marred by indifference and envy and resentment.
- This week, why not take the first step towards reconciliation, with prayer, words, or actions?
- Why not follow in the footsteps of Christ, not waiting for others to take the first step, but doing so ourselves, just like Christ [here you can make reference to the illustration you used: e.g. just like the priest who invited that old soldier to breakfast; just like Jesus who held out his hands to Thomas], showing them by our courage and humility the face of Christ, our merciful Lord?

In his conversations with St Faustina, Jesus promised to unleash on the world a flood of mercy.

- He has been doing so, and he wants to continue to so.
- The flood hasn't yet reached every heart.
- This week, let's be conscious channels for that flood, clear pipelines for that mercy to refresh someone's shriveled and dried up heart.

If in today's Mass we put ourselves at Christ's service for this purpose, I am sure he will give each one of us plenty of opportunities to carry it out.

All we need to do is keep ever on our lips that prayer that he himself taught to St Faustina: Jesus, I trust in you.

Worship & Meditation



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A young, engaged couple sat on the couch in front of me as we chatted about their upcoming marriage. The young lady was struggling to trust her future husband. She told me her father had been unfaithful to her mother. She said of her fiancé, "I want him to prove to me that he won't cheat on me." The young man looked at me helplessly, raised his eyebrows and shrugged his shoulders. What evidence could he possibly give to validate such a proof? Nothing. All he could do was invite her to trust him.

We all are wounded by experiences of imperfect love. We also are tempted to demand from God proof of His fidelity and goodness. We are like St. Thomas the Apostle who, on that second Sunday of Easter, demands proof of the Lord's resurrection. **"Unless I see the mark of the nail ... I will not believe."** Our science, technology and mathematics can indeed prove a great deal. But there are some things that require trusting another person. We prove promises of love only by trusting.

St. Thomas indeed saw the wounds of Jesus and believed. But there is an even greater blessing for us who simply trust Him — and all the truths the Church proclaims — because of the trustworthiness of the Risen One who speaks. This week let's trust Jesus without seeing him.

— Father John Muir

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Do children need to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before their First Communion?

Answer:

For centuries the Catholic Church has taught that a person needs to be in a state of grace (free from mortal sins) in order to worthily receive the Eucharist. To that end, Catholics should make an effort to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation any time they recognize the need for the sacrament (and in keeping with the precept of the Church that asks that we celebrate this sacrament at least once each year).

In the case of children preparing for their First Communion, the Code of Canon Law is very clear that they should also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving the Eucharist for the first time: "It is the responsibility, in the first place, of parents and those who take the place of parents as well as of the pastor to see that children who have reached the use of reason are correctly prepared and are nourished by the divine food as early as possible, preceded by sacramental confession" (Canon 914).

While some might question the significance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation — especially in the case of children who might not fully understand the reality of sin or the meaning of the sacrament itself — a child's "First Confession" can be a wonderful time for families to reflect together on the quality of their relationships, how they put their faith into practice, and, when it is possible, to celebrate the sacrament as a family. In the end, the celebration of these two sacraments marks important moments in the spiritual journeys of children and we hope their "First Confession" and "First Communion" help instill in them a love of the sacraments of the Church.

