

# Dear Padre,

I get a lot of questions from Protestant friends about the Catholic “obsession” (as they put it) with Mary. What should I say to them?



**A** convert to Catholicism tells the story of a dinner he had with a friend who had a very evangelical outlook. As they talked about the new Catholic’s decision to convert, the friend asked hesitantly, “What do you think about Mary?” The new Catholic smiled and said, “I think she’s wonderful, don’t you?” The friend responded with an embarrassed “Yes, but....”

If Catholics and Protestants can begin with this premise—that Mary is wonderful—it might be possible to step back and consider why. Mary is an extraordinary human being who holds a special place in the Christian faith for two reasons: first, it was through her that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ; and second, she was the first to believe in Jesus’ mission and ministry.

All Catholic doctrine about Mary refers to two special relationships. She has a special relationship with God because she bore the “God-man” in her womb. She also has a special relationship with us because she was the first Christian.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSsR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*[The disciples] had abandoned the Lord at his passion and felt guilty. But meeting them, Jesus did not give a long sermon. To them, who were wounded within, he shows his own wounds. Thomas can now touch them and know of Jesus’ love and how much Jesus had suffered for him, even though he had abandoned him.*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020



## Calendar

- Monday**  
APRIL 12  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 4:23–31  
Jn 3:1–8
- Tuesday**  
APRIL 13  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 4:32–37  
Jn 3:7b–15
- Wednesday**  
APRIL 14  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 5:17–26  
Jn 3:16–21
- Thursday**  
APRIL 15  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 5:27–33  
Jn 3:31–36
- Friday**  
APRIL 16  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 5:34–42  
Jn 6:1–15
- Saturday**  
APRIL 17  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 6:1–7  
Jn 6:16–21
- Sunday**  
APRIL 18  
Third Sunday of Easter  
Acts 3:13–15, 17–19  
1 Jn 2:1–5a  
Lk 24:35–48

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 11, 2021  
Second Sunday of Easter  
(Sunday of Divine Mercy) (B)  
Acts 4:32–35  
1 Jn 5:1–6  
Jn 20:19–31

## I Want Proof

**W**ho doesn’t? It’s not simply that we are children of the scientific age in which proof is essential. Concrete evidence gives us a sense of security; it helps us understand how things work. Even in ordinary human relationships, we want proof. A tune from *My Fair Lady* demands: “Don’t talk of love...show me.” It’s very difficult to live without a certain degree of surety. Consequently, we should not be surprised at Thomas’ insistence: “I want proof.”

Thomas is often described as lacking faith. This isn’t the full story. The reason the other disciples believed was because they had an experience of the risen Lord. Before that experience they were hiding behind locked doors. Thomas was absent; we are not told why. Whatever the reason, he also wanted an experience of the risen Lord. He was not content to base his believing on their word alone. In a sense, more was being asked of Thomas than the others.

Thomas is the patron of all of us whose faith in the risen Lord is based on the word of others rather than on our own unique revelatory experience. Who of us wouldn’t want some mystical experience? We are called to believe without seeing. Yet, this isn’t strictly true—we can see evidence of the resurrection. The best proof is evident in the lives of millions of people who commit themselves to God and who strive to live with integrity.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

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



## For Reflection

- \* Who are the people who taught you your faith and who live it themselves? Thank God for them.
- \* Who looks to you as an example of one who believes that Christ is alive today?



St. Mary's Church  
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church  
Bridgeport, NE 69336

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Sacred Heart Church  
Bayard, NE 69334

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

The readings for this Sunday are about God's mercy, the necessity for trusting Faith, and our need for the forgiveness of our sins. The opening prayer addresses the Father as "God of everlasting Mercy." In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat several times, "His mercy endures forever!" God revealed God's mercy, first and foremost, in sending God's only-begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord through His suffering, death and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments, instituted to sanctify us.

The first reading, taken from Acts, stresses the corporal acts of mercy practiced by the early Christian community before the Jews and the Romans started persecuting them. Practicing the sharing love, compassion and the mercy of God as Jesus taught, this witnessing community derived its strength from community prayer, "the Breaking of the Bread" and the apostles' teaching read at the worship service. The second reading taken from John's first Letter, deals with practicing both corporal and spiritual works of mercy by obeying God's Old Testament commandments and focusing on Jesus' commandment of loving others as He loves us, with selfless, sacrificial, agape love. Loving others as Jesus loves us also demands that we treat others with God's mercy and compassion. Today's Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of Divine Mercy. The Risen Lord gave his apostles the power to forgive sins with the words, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:19-23). Presenting the doubting Thomas' famous profession of Faith, "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28), the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed Divine mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of Faith.

Let us ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and that leads us to serve those we encounter with love. Living Faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each one our loving service. The spiritual Fathers prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic faith of St. Thomas the Apostle: a) First, we must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible. b) Next, we must strengthen our Faith through our personal and community prayer. c) Third, we must share in the Divine Life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) presents it this way: "If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action."

Yours in Christ Jesus,

**Fr. C. P. Varghese**

Pastor

**SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
04/12	Monday	No Mass Today		
04/13	Tuesday	No Mass Today		
04/14	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
04/15	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Albert & Mary Lou Weitzel
04/16	Friday	No Mass Today		
04/17	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	For the grandkids of RJ & Kate Waite
04/18	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	For all Catholics to return
04/18	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Oneva Lummel

**ALL SOULS**  
**617 P STREET**  
**BRIDGEPORT NE 69336**

**Stations of  
the Resurrection**

**April 18, Sunday,**  
**5.00 PM**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$500.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$929.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1429.00
RICE BOWL	\$55.60
EASTER	\$895.00
HOLY LAND	\$10.00
TOTAL	\$2389.60
HEAT/AC	\$100.00
BUILDING FUND	\$833.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3615.00
BALANCE	\$2,431.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SACRED HEART**  
**1003 AVE B**  
**BAYARD NE 69334**

**Stations of  
the Resurrection**

**April 25, Sunday,**  
**5.00 PM**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$230.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$206.00
SUBTOTAL	\$436.00
RICE BOWL	\$14.50
EASTER	\$575.00
HOLY LAND	\$65.00
TOTAL	\$1090.50
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$2915.00
BALANCE	\$1,992.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SAINT MARY'S**  
**718 FRANCIS ST**  
**DALTON NE 69131**

**Stations of  
the Resurrection**

**April 24, Saturday,**  
**5.30 PM**

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$640.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$52.00
SUBTOTAL	\$692.00
MASS STIPEND	\$20.00
EASTER	\$970.00
RICE BOWL	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$1732.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6434.00
BALANCE	(\$298.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

