



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday, April 27, 2025**

**Gospel**

**John 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.”**



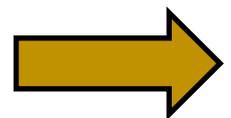
**Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,  
was not with them when Jesus came.**

**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 that through this belief you may have life in his name.**



**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 Christ, the Son of God,  
and that through this belief you may have life in his name.**

**The Divine Mercy**

**Divine Mercy Sunday (Year C)**

**Today is the Feast of all Feasts! It is the Feast of Mercy! This Feast originated from the private revelations given to Sr. Maria Faustina Kowolska, a Polish cloistered nun who died in 1938. In the year 2000, she was canonized by Saint Pope John Paul II, and the Feast of Mercy was instituted as a universal Feast of the Church. To better understand this Feast, let’s read some of the private revelations Jesus gave to Saint Faustina:**

**“Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment” (Diary #300).**

**“This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies” (Diary #420).**

**“On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flows are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My**



**Mercy” (Diary #699).**

**“Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to our neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to absolve yourself from it” (Diary #742).**

**“Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity” (Diary #965).**

**“I want to grant complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy” (Diary #1109).**

**In addition to the above quotes about the celebration of the Feast of Mercy, below are some quotes revealing more about The Divine Mercy itself:**

**“Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy” (Diary #300).**

**“My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy” (Diary #367).**

**“I desire trust from My creatures. Encourage souls to place great trust in My fathomless mercy. Let the weak, sinful soul have no fear to approach Me, for even if it had more sins than there are grains of sand in the world, all would be drowned in the unmeasurable depths of My mercy” (Diary #1059).**

**“Tell all people, My daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them within itself, but radiates them to other souls” (Diary #1074).**

**“My daughter, write that the greater the misery of a soul, the greater its right to My mercy; urge all souls to trust in the unfathomable abyss of My mercy, because I want to save them all” (Diary #1182).**

***Reflect, today, upon God’s infinite and unfathomable Mercy. The Divine Mercy is especially for those who struggle with sin. Jesus says, “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy” (Diary #723). The Divine Mercy is the very tenderness and compassion of God. Run to Him, trust in Him, open your soul to Him and allow Him to pour forth an ocean of Mercy on this holy day.***

**Most Merciful Lord, I desire to receive the superabundance of Your Mercy poured forth from Heaven today. Please open my heart so that I will turn to You in my need. I am a sinner, dear Lord, but for that reason I am in most need of You in my life. Help me to trust in You with all my might. Jesus, I do trust in You!**

If you have any personal intentions you would like to add they will be added to our list, contact Tom 546-7980 or [tbrefka@clementmanor.org](mailto:tbrefka@clementmanor.org):

### Weekly Prayer Intentions:

- **For the Sick:** May those residents who are sick feel Your healing presence.
- **For a deeper faith in the Risen Christ:** That we may recognize His presence in our daily lives and bear witness to His resurrection with joy.
- **For those struggling with doubt or despair:** That the light of Easter may bring them hope, healing, and renewed trust in God's mercy.
- **For the Church around the world:** That filled with Easter joy, she may boldly proclaim the Gospel and serve as a beacon of peace and love.



LET US PRAY

O God of time and eternity, Christ has risen from the grave,  
Unleashing healing, wholeness, and flourishing like sunbeams across all creation.

May we now soar where he has led;  
May we be energized by every Alleluia!  
May we be renewed by bulbs once buried now bursting from the ground, and may hope sprout with every green blade rising.

Strengthened by this springtime ritual, send us to be the strength, support, and healing presence to every life in our care this day. We entrust our prayer to your great glory, now and forever

AMEN.



### *Pastoral Care Staff*

Tom Brefka 546-7980  
[tbrefka@clementmanor.org](mailto:tbrefka@clementmanor.org)  
Fr. Bob Fictum 546-7383  
[bfictum@clementmanor.org](mailto:bfictum@clementmanor.org)  
Karyl Daluga 546-7336  
[kdaluga@clementmanor.org](mailto:kdaluga@clementmanor.org)  
Sharon Hanson 546-7982  
[shanson@clementmanor.org](mailto:shanson@clementmanor.org)  
Sister Nancy Sell, OSF  
546-7037  
[nsell@clementmanor.org](mailto:nsell@clementmanor.org)  
Ed David



## Remembering Pope Francis

### Prayer for the Light of Faith

**(Lumen Fidei, #60)**

**Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call. Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise.**

**Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith.**

**Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature.**

**Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One.**

**Remind us that those who believe are never alone.**

**Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!**

**Loving God,**

**We give You thanks for the life and ministry of Pope Francis. In him You gave us a man of humility, one who valued listening to the voices of the voiceless, compassion for the undervalued, mercy for sinners and justice for the oppressed.**

**You gave us a pastor who led through the example of his love for your people and your creation, who was not ashamed to smell like his sheep. Comfort all who mourn his passing, and may the angels now lead him to paradise with you to rest in your peace for eternity.**

**May your Spirit guide the future successor to your servant Francis to continue the work You have begun through him, for the good of the Church and the world.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Jubilee Prayer**

**Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the  
whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.**

**May that same grace spread**

**the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.**

**To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.**

**Amen**



*Franciscus*

**Pope Francis' April 2025**

**Monthly Intention: For the use of the new technologies**

**Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.**



**St. Stephen, Oak Creek**

**Lord of Life and Love,**

**As we celebrate the resurrection of Your Son, we turn to You with hearts full of gratitude and hope. We thank You for the gift of technology that connects us, offers new possibilities, and supports the work of Your Kingdom. Yet, in this fast-paced world, we pray that these advances do not replace the richness of human relationships, nor diminish the dignity of each person You have created.**

**Guide us to use these tools wisely, so that we may lift each other up, deepen our bonds, and navigate the crises of our time with compassion and care. May we always choose the path of love and understanding, ensuring that technology serves, not replaces, the human spirit.**

**Through the power of Christ's resurrection, may we find strength to face the challenges ahead, always remembering that You are the source of all true connection and life.**

## Divine Mercy Sunday

Mankind's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the twentieth century, when civilization began to experience an "eclipse of the sense of God," and therefore, to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In 1931, Jesus appeared to Sr. Faustina in Poland and expressed his desire for a feast celebrating his mercy. The Feast of Mercy was to be on the Sunday after Easter and was to include a public blessing and liturgical veneration of His image with the inscription "Jesus, I trust in You."

This promise of mercy has been affirmed by the Church, which has made Divine Mercy Sunday an occasion for receiving a plenary indulgence, "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven" (CCC, no. 1471). The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (Confession, Eucharist, prayer for the intentions of the pope, and complete detachment from sin, even venial sin). The faithful may either take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy in any church or chapel or recite the Our Father and Creed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus.

There are many aspects of the Divine Mercy devotion, including the Chaplet, the Divine Mercy image, and the "hour of great mercy" (3:00 p.m.). The popularity of these devotions, focused on the Lord's infinite mercy, has grown rapidly in recent decades. Regarding the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina wrote that Jesus said to her, "At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person" (Divine Mercy in My Soul, no. 811). ~[usscb.org](http://usscb.org)



**Easter Season**

**Alleluia! Blest be God!**

**In this Easter season, we know the depth of Your love.**

**May we remember our baptismal call**

**To conversion of heart,**

**And love of our neighbor.**

**Grant us the grace of faithfulness**

**Through Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.**

**AMEN, Alleluia!**

**EASTER, WEEK TWO**

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

**JOHN 20:29**



## THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

**Sunday April 27, 2025**

Reading 1, Acts 5:12-16

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Gospel, John 20:19-31

Reading 2, Revelation 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19



Daily Reading for

**Monday April 28, 2025**

Reading 1, Acts 4:23-31

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 2:1-3, 4-6, 7-9

Gospel, John 3:1-8

Daily Reading for

**Friday May 2, 2025**

Reading 1, Acts 5:34-42

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14

Gospel, John 6:1-15

Daily Reading for

**Tuesday April 29, 2025**

Reading 1, Acts 4:32-37

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 93:1, 1-2, 5

Gospel, John 3:7-15

Daily Reading for

**Saturday May 3, 2025**

Reading 1, First Corinthians 15:1-8

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5

Gospel, John 14:6-14

Daily Reading for

**Wednesday April 30, 2025**

Reading 1, Acts 5:17-26

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Gospel, John 3:16-21

Daily Reading for

**Sunday May 4, 2025**

Reading 1, Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Gospel, John 21:1-19

Reading 2, Revelation 5:11-14

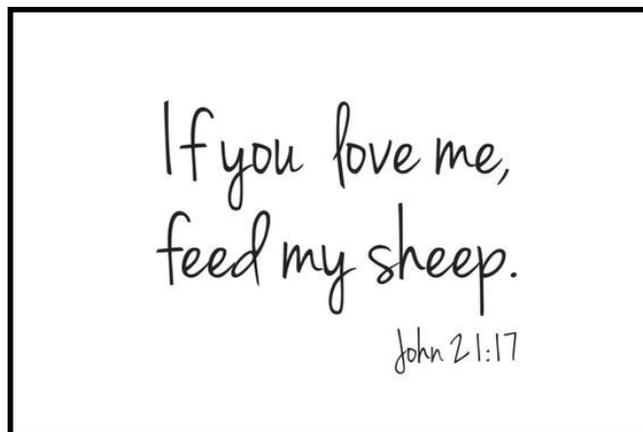
Daily Reading for

**Thursday May 1, 2025**

Reading 1, Acts 5:27-33

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 34:2, 9, 17-18, 19-20

Gospel, John 3:31-36



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