



SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

Divine Mercy Sunday—April 12, 2026

John 20:19-31

Gospel

**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.**

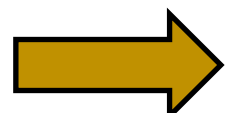
So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”

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

The Inexhaustible Depths of Divine Mercy

Divine Mercy Sunday (Year A)

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. John 20:30–31

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through that belief you will inherit eternal life? Belief begins with an intellectual assent but must continuously deepen. The belief Saint John speaks of in today’s Gospel is one that draws us deeper into the mystery of Christ’s Paschal Mystery—His Life, Death, and Resurrection—so as to receive the gift of His abundant and transforming Mercy.

Today is the eighth day of Easter. The Church, in Her wisdom, celebrates the most important days of the liturgical year for eight days. Historically, there were a number of feasts celebrated with octaves: Easter, Epiphany, Corpus Christi, Ascension, All Saints, and in some locales, the Sacred Heart and various Marian feasts. After Vatican II, the Church focused on two—Christmas and Easter—so as to give greater emphasis to the core of the Paschal Mystery.

In the year 2000, the Octave of Easter took on a new focus when Pope John Paul II instituted the Solemnity of Divine Mercy on the eighth day of Easter. This was done in response to Jesus’ personal request, communicated to the



Church through a humble cloistered Polish nun. Canonized in 2000, she is known as Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.

Between 1931 and 1938, Sister Faustina received numerous mystical visions that she recorded in six notebooks, now referred to collectively as Divine Mercy in My Soul: Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. Almost two years before her death, Sister Faustina recorded the following entry in her diary:

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).

When we reflect on this beautiful private revelation in the light of today’s Gospel, we are invited to consider that even though the Gospels present us with all we need to know in order to come to faith in Christ and share in the new life He bestows, the treasure of His Divine Mercy is inexhaustible. Just as “Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book,” so also the depths of His ongoing work, His Divine Mercy, will only be seen in Heaven.

Divine Mercy Sunday is a day on which we are to profess our belief in this Mercy. To do so, we must ponder these inexhaustible treasures, probe their depths with the aid of Saint Faustina’s private revelations, and then allow our Lord to reveal them to us within the depths of our souls.

Reflect today on the infinite and inexhaustible treasures found in the Person of Christ and His Divine Mercy. His Mercy draws us into countless unrecorded and glorious graces that we are called to receive and rejoice in. Believe in His Mercy. Be open to it. Call upon it today, and receive it more abundantly.

Most Merciful Jesus, Your mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, I pray that You will pour out Your Mercy upon me and on the whole world. Fill us with the grace You won through Your Paschal Mystery so that all people will come to believe in You as their Lord and God. Jesus, I trust in You.

Trust

Reflection: An octave has passed. Yet we're still huddled in that Upper Room with fearful disciples, trying to absorb the incredible. The Easter octave has been an invitation to spend eight days pondering the meaning of trust. What will it take for you and me to place our full reliance on God and take this story out that door?

The first disciples were personally summoned by Jesus. They were privileged to walk with him for years, to hear his teaching, to witness his miracles, and to listen as his prophecies were explained to them. Did it arouse such faith that could move mountains? The answer is no, a hard no. The disciples cowered behind a locked door with no clear game plan for the future.

No wonder you and I, also personally summoned, who've been companioned by Jesus through decades of holy sacrament and sacred story, still find ourselves struggling with the same bald issue of trust. Even when we know which path to take, we may find ourselves in doubt that God will really meet us on the open road once we're out there.

As I write this, I can glance up at shelves that are loaded with books on Scripture. The shelves behind me hold more on church teaching, saints, and history. Yet the study of a lifetime doesn't guarantee that I will practice trust in God any more heroically than a fresh believer.

Trust doesn't require much knowledge. It's about a deep relationship willing to speak a few simple words: *Wherever you go, I will go.* And then, of course, we have to get a move on.

Meditation: Ruth's words to Naomi (Ruth 1:16-17) about following her mother-in-law into an unknown future form one of the most remarkable standards of trust in the Bible. Old Testament figures like Abraham, Moses, and Ruth demonstrate what relying on God is like, what it involves, what it costs. Heading into the unknown future is a given. How much movement has your faith already demanded of you? How much farther are you willing to go?

Prayer: Dear Lord, I am afraid of what I can't see and don't know. Even if I have no faith in an unknown future, please help me to put my trust in you.

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!

SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

*Give thanks to the
LORD for he is good,
his love is everlasting.*

PSALM 136:1

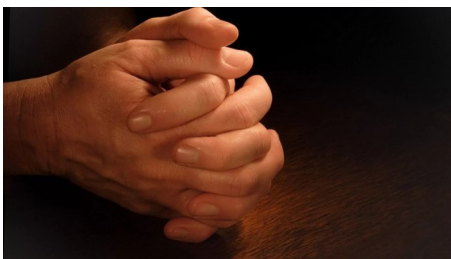
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If you have any personal intentions you would like to add they will be added to our list, contact Tom 546-7980 or tbrefka@clementmanor.org:

Prayer Intentions:

- For those residents who are sick: May they feel the healing presence of God
- For the Church, that she may boldly proclaim the message of Divine Mercy and be a source of healing and reconciliation for all people
- For those burdened by sin, doubt, or despair, that they may encounter the risen Christ and trust in His infinite mercy
- For our world, wounded by division and violence, that hearts may be softened and peace restored through the power of God's mercy
- For our Clement Manor Community, that we may be instruments of Christ's compassion—offering forgiveness, kindness, and hope to all we meet



ALL ARE WELCOME!!

You are welcome to join us in person for any of our chapel services. If you have family or friends visiting, you are welcome to invite them to join you!



GOD OF LOVE:

In the glory of Easter,
we behold a new world.

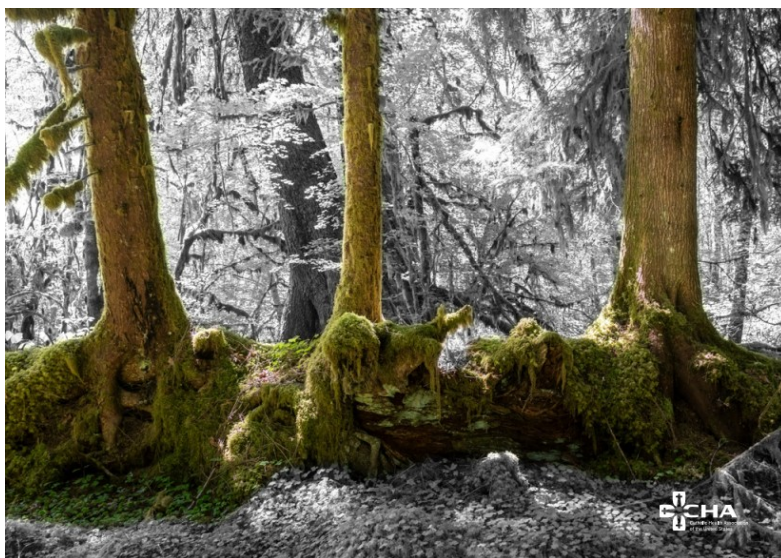
Our hearts exalt: "Rejoice, O earth,
in shining splendor, radiant in the
brightness of Your King!"

Fill us with Easter joy, and make us a people
of justice and peace, of compassion and
hope, of kindness and inclusion. Let our
Alleluia be an anthem of humble service,
drawing all people to know Your love.

Let us walk together in unity, and
fill us with reverence and awe for every
person and all creation.

We ask this through Christ our Risen Lord.

AMEN.

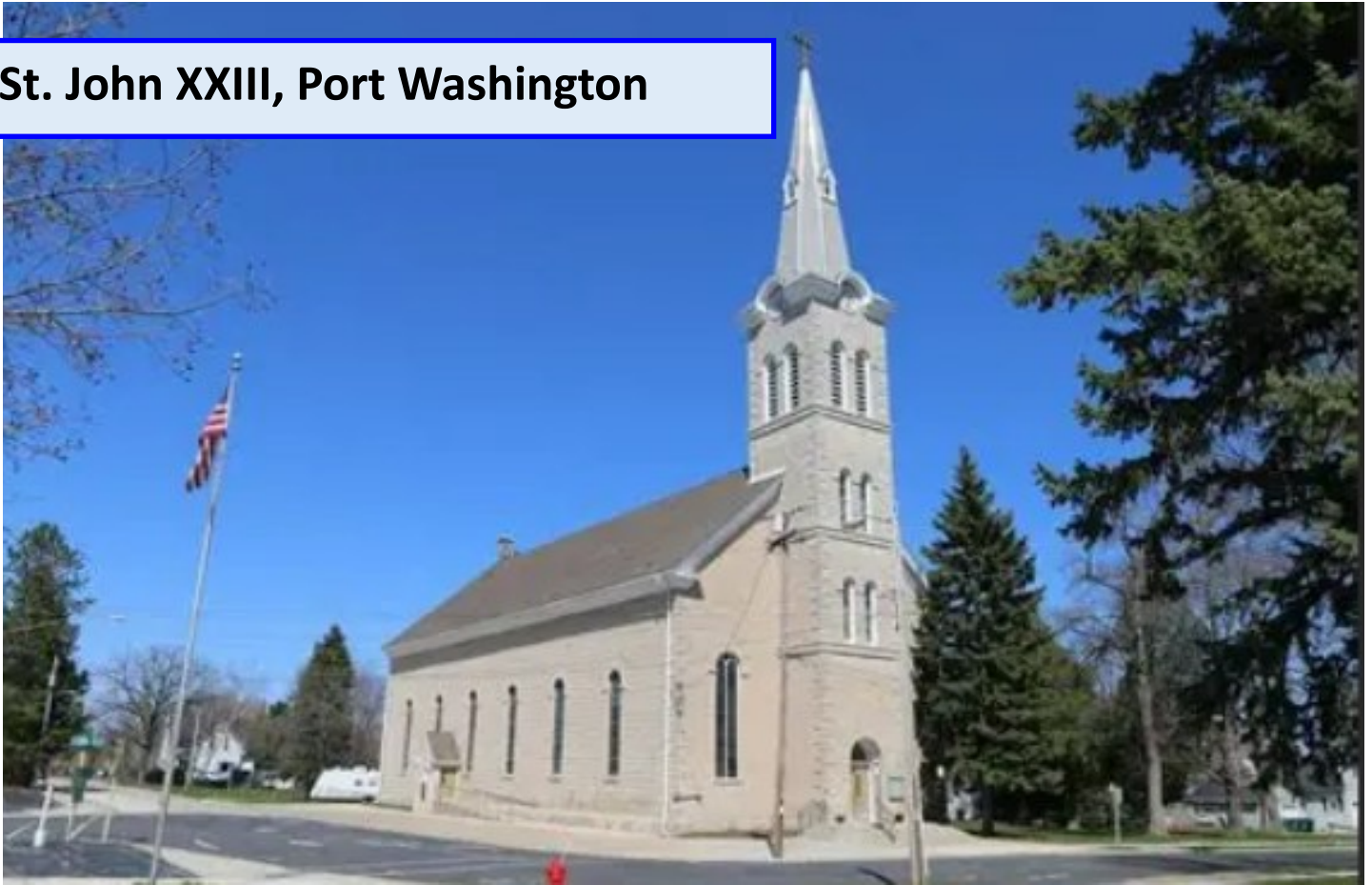


Holy Father's Monthly Intention April 2026

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

St. John XXIII, Port Washington



Loving and merciful God,

You have called your priests to serve Your people with generous hearts. In moments of crisis and doubt, draw near to them with Your healing grace. Strengthen their spirits, renew their hope, and remind them of the beauty of their vocation. Surround them with compassionate companions who listen, support, and guide them gently back to Your peace. Inspire our communities to embrace them with understanding, patience, and prayer. May Your Holy Spirit restore their courage and deepen their trust in You, so they may continue to shepherd Your people in faith, love, and truth. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for

Sunday April 12, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 2:42-47

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

Gospel, John 20:19-31

Reading 2, Peter 1:3-9



Daily Reading for

Monday April 13, 2026

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 April 17, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 5:34-42

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

Gospel, John 6:1-15

Daily Reading for

Tuesday April 14, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 4:32-37

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

Gospel, John 3:7-15

Daily Reading for

Saturday April 18, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Gospel, John 6:16-21

Daily Reading for

Wednesday April 15, 2026

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 April 19, 2026

Reading 1, Acts 2:14, 22-28

Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

Gospel, Luke 24:13-35

Reading 2, Peter 1:17-21

Daily Reading for

Thursday April 16, 2026

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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