

# *St. Didacus Catholic Community*

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## **DOMINGO DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA**



## **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

***Eight days after Easter, Doubting Thomas has an encounter with the Risen Christ that makes him a believer and even more, an apostle or ambassador who will bring the Gospel to an unbelieving world. That should give us hope that the Risen Christ will do the same with us.***



All the disciples were huddling together behind locked doors, hoping that the authorities would be satisfied with the blood of their master and leave them alone. All but one. We don't know where Thomas was, but all we know is that he missed it. Despite the locked doors, Jesus suddenly appears, glorious in their midst, bringing peace where there had been only fear. Instead of rebuking them for cowardice, He breathes upon them the Spirit of mercy and commissions them to be ambassadors, indeed instruments, of His Divine mercy. At last they are truly "apostles," for they are "sent out," like Jesus, the original Apostle, who was sent forth by the Father for the forgiveness of sins. Sinners, called to bring other sinners the Good News of mercy. Here they are, sinners, called to console others with the same consolation that they have received from the One without sin.

They couldn't believe that Thomas missed this encounter and couldn't wait to tell him the news. But Thomas stubbornly refused to believe that it was anything more than a mirage. For everyone knows that death is final. Never mind Jesus' many puzzling predictions about "raising up this temple in three days." Never mind the fact that all of his fellow apostles save Judas were there and swore they saw His wounds. Thomas proudly insisted on empirical evidence that he could personally inspect to his own satisfaction. So eight days later the Master once again defies the barred doors and appears in their midst. This time Thomas is present. Imagine the look on his face as his eyes meet the eyes of Jesus. Talking about wanting to crawl under the nearest rock! Jesus invites him to sate his appetite for proof and probe His wounds. Thomas decides not to explain, not to defend, but simply to surrender. He is asked to believe that His master is risen. But he rises to the occasion to confess even more—that His master is not just risen Lord, but eternal God. Thomas' confession of Jesus' divinity can be seen as the climax, the punch-line, of the entire Gospel of John, a fitting confirmation of its very first verse: "the Word was with God and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Faith now has overcome fear. It will soon overcome the world.

Faith has this sort of power because it is a supernatural gift. It was the Spirit that Jesus breathed on them that Easter afternoon that had empowered the ten to believe and become ambassadors of faith and mercy. Without that same Spirit, Thomas was powerless to believe. But once the breath of the Risen One unfroze his hard heart, Thomas too could experience the joy of faith and assume his God-appointed task to be one of the foundation stones of the new temple of God, the Church. This temple, formed by living stones, was a compelling testimony indeed. The pagans are reported to have remarked "see how these Christians love one another." For they were a community of people who appeared to have one heart and one mind (Acts 4:32-35). They even shared their material resources so that none would be in need. This unity flowed from their one faith.

Thomas was once known as the doubter. But he and his fellow doubters came to be called "the believers." That should give us hope. If we desire it, the Spirit will strengthen the drooping hands and weak knees of our own imperfect faith to make us effective ambassadors to a skeptical world.

—[www.crossroadsinitiative.com](http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com)

"Peace be with you," said the Lord to his disciples. Jesus knew what his disciples had been through the past days since the last supper until the hours where he died on the cross. More than anything else they needed peace. What they saw with their own eyes, Jesus their master, now fully alive, was beyond belief. It was too good to be true. Thomas, who was not there on Jesus first appearance, wanted more than hearing the good news. He wanted to see and touch Jesus. Indeed, he got what he wanted. Jesus appeared to them again flesh and blood but in a glorified body. Now they wanted to know where the master would be leading them. Jesus had done most of his part. The Holy Spirit would come and would lead the way, on to the road of the mission. Jesus would be sending his disciples to the whole world. It was not an ordinary task. Countless trials would come along the way and these disciples would make disciples and ultimately like the master they too would offer their lives in sacrifice.

"Peace be with You," says the Lord to us too. When our lives and the lives of most people around the world are in danger and the future is uncertain, Jesus says to us, "Peace be with you." It is not just a form of a greeting, but it is what the Lord wants us to be. The Lord assures us that he is in control of everything and we have to put our faith and trust in his Mighty hands. Amen.

Fr. Rick



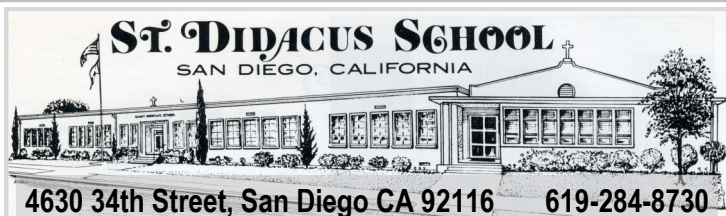
Parishioner, Susan Guenzel sends this Easter message:

***Have a  
Blessed Easter!  
I'm looking  
forward to when we  
can celebrate the  
Risen Lord  
together  
again. Alleluia!***

We invite you to share your Easter greetings by sending us your photo and Easter message to our parish email.







Thank you to St. Didacus school's 7th graders and their families for hosting a virtual Stations of the Cross for Good Friday.

St. Didacus School has been educating children for 80 years. If you were a student, or a parent of a student, and you have pictures or stories you would like to share in our special edition **"80 years of Excellence"** St. Didacus School yearbook, we would love for you to share them with us! Please email them to [christine.dean@stdidacusparishschool.org](mailto:christine.dean@stdidacusparishschool.org)

Individual or group pictures are needed. If possible please label names and years represented. Thank you for sharing!

### Blessed be GOD

**Be careful what you pray for — God is always listening to us!**

Have we not asked "please God give me 5 more minutes in silence?"

Blessed be God— he has given it to us.

Have we not asked "please God please give me a day of rest?"

Blessed be God— he has given it to us.

"Please God can I just work from home and not have to drive in the traffic?"

Blessed be God— he has given it to us.

Have we not asked God "I wish as a parent that I had more time to spend with my children alone?"

Blessed be God— he has given it to us.

Have we not asked for more time to get things done around our homes?

Blessed be God— he has given it to us.

How many of our children have asked God for their parents to give them more video time?

Blessed be God— he has given it to them.

Have we not asked God to have more time to spend with our families?

Blessed be God— he has given it to us.

How many times have we asked God "I wish I could find the time to answer all my emails and respond to them through social media?"

Blessed be God— he has given it to us.

Have we not asked God for our law makers to work together for the good of all our communities?

Blessed be God— he is working on that.

Now that God has answered some of our prayers; it is time to thank God. During the Easter season let's take at least 10 minutes to thank GOD for all the blessing he has given us, ask him to increase our faith and humility and to always help us not to despair during difficult times.

—contributed by parishioner, Helen Anton-Stohrel

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday.....</b>	<b>April 18</b>
.....	People of St. Didacus
<b>Sunday.....</b>	<b>April 19</b>
.....	People of St. Didacus, †Maria Guzman
<b>Monday.....</b>	<b>April 20</b>
.....	†Anna Dorner
<b>Tuesday.....</b>	<b>April 21</b>
.....	†Maria Fielding
<b>Wednesday.....</b>	<b>April 22</b>
.....	†Dominic Colangelo
<b>Thursday.....</b>	<b>April 23</b>
.....	†Carolyn Curiel Hastings
<b>Friday.....</b>	<b>April 24</b>
.....	†Donald L. Stith
<b>Saturday.....</b>	<b>April 25</b>
.....	†Eleanor & Tom Driscoll

**Please note that Fr. Rick continues to celebrate a Mass each day at 6pm for your intentions. Watch it live on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/saintdidacus.parishchurch>**

## Readings for the week of April 19, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20

Next Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

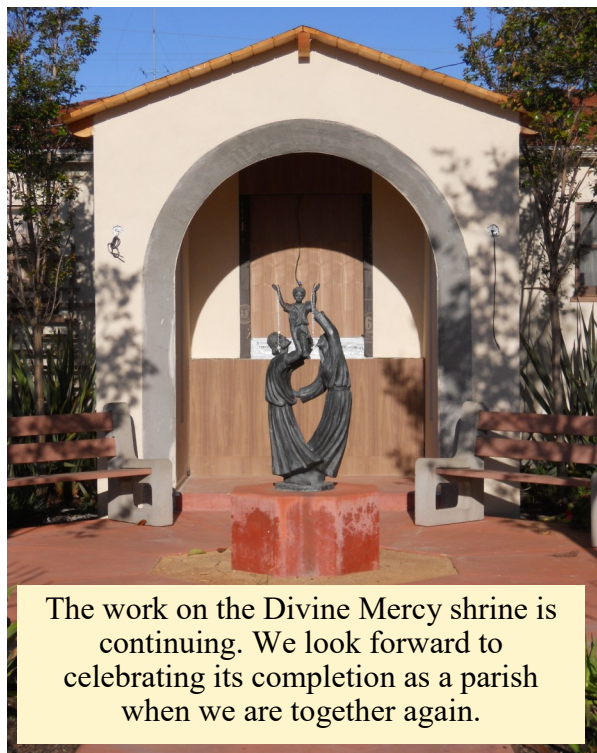
## PRAYER LIST

Tony Allen  
Tessa Anderson  
Diann Bauer  
Dan Bauer  
Martha Becerra  
Bob Bellesi  
Herminia Brignoni  
Gail Cedercrans  
Fred Cepeda  
Irene Davis  
MaryLou De Luca  
Bob Demers  
Josie Demers  
Mick Donahue  
Cecelia Dueber  
Carlita Durand  
Daniel Galvan  
Susan Guenzel  
Anthony Flores  
Tony Flores

Stan Hammack  
Dolores Hansel  
Joseph Hastings  
Jennifer Hughes & Family  
Al Hunt  
Joanne Hunt  
Ponciano Jimenez  
Emily Johnson  
Paul Kasha  
Meri Kerekanich  
Kerekanich Family  
Marilyn Kober  
Elizabeth La Costa  
Irene Lazo  
Juanita Lopez  
Paul Mansell  
Miguel Martinez  
Terrence McCabe  
Emma McPherson  
Dolores Mediano

Peter Napolitano  
Lupita Plascencia  
Judith Pratt  
Antonia Raya  
Betty Rios  
Dolores Robertson  
Victor M. Sanchez  
Shirley Scinocca  
Carol Schmidt  
Beverly Stemper  
Phillip Sturock  
Vaneza Torres  
Maria Winters  
Jean Woody  
Helen Yturralde  
Joan Venverloh

**And the special intentions in our Book of Needs**



The work on the Divine Mercy shrine is continuing. We look forward to celebrating its completion as a parish when we are together again.

## Happy Easter!

For the 50 days of the Easter season we celebrate the joy of Jesus' Resurrection. Try one or all of these 10 ways to harness Easter joy each day:



1. Begin each day by thanking God for all the good things in your life.
2. Give God all of your fears and worries.
3. Offer up the suffering and disappointments your experience.
4. Do something nice for someone.
5. Be a forgiving person. Let go of anger and resentments that drag down your spirit.
6. Take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the emerging springtime.
7. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Learn to laugh at yourself.
8. Find ways to show family members and friends how much you appreciate them.
9. Try to live more simply. Clear out material possessions that are not essential to your happiness.
10. End each day by thanking God for all the good things in your life.

**The Divine Mercy Image of JESUS is not another ordinary holy picture of JESUS.** It is an image that JESUS Himself revealed to St. Faustina and commanded her to have it painted. JESUS promised many graces to those who venerate this image and wanted it made known throughout the whole world.

On February 22, 1931, St. Faustina wrote (Diary Notes 47-48)

*"In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing; the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. In silence I kept my gaze fixed on the Lord; my soul was struck with awe, but also with great joy.*

*After a while, Jesus said to me, 'Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory.'*"

JESUS also told her: "I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy... That vessel is this image with the signature: 'Jesus, I trust in You,' " (Diary Note 327).

Sometime later, St. Faustina's Confessor told her to ask the Lord Jesus the meaning of the two rays in the image, (Diary Note 77). St. Faustina wrote in her note book, *"During prayer I heard these words within me: The two rays denote Blood and Water....The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous... The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls...These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross."*

On another occasion, JESUS told St. Faustina: **"My gaze from this image is like My gaze from the cross. ... Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy."** (Diary Note 299)

Sometime before the first Sunday after Easter – April 1935. JESUS had told her, **"I desire that this image be displayed in public on the first Sunday after Easter..... That Sunday is the Feast of Mercy..... Through the Word Incarnate I make known the bottomless depth of My mercy."**

St. Faustina later wrote in her Diary, *"Strangely, all things came about just as the Lord had requested. In fact, it was on the first Sunday after Easter [April, 1935] that the image was publicly honored by crowds of people for the first time. For three days it was exposed and received public veneration.... during these three days, the Redemption of the World was being celebrated, marking the nineteen hundred years that have passed since the Passion of our Savior. I see now that the work of Redemption is bound up with the work of mercy requested by the Lord."*

On another occasion, JESUS told her : **"Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace."**



We live in one of the darkest ages of great sin, wickedness, cruelty, selfishness and great rejection of the love and the law of God and JESUS has revealed the image of Divine Mercy that bore the wounds He revealed to His Apostles in the Cenacle – Apostles who were fearful of persecution and rejection and who were weak in their faith. **"If you do not believe my words, at least believe my wounds"** (Diary Note 379). He revealed Himself with the signs of His passion – an act of the immense mercy of God, but also one that manifests resurrection and triumph over evil.



Fr. Rick out enjoying the day—with all the protective gear required to go out in public!

He continues to pray for us and celebrate Mass each day. You can join him for Mass on our parish Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/saintdidacus.parishchurch>

Thank you, Fr. Rick!  
May God bless you for all your prayers!



Thank you for turning in your weekly envelopes! Many people have dropped them in the parish mailbox or have mailed them in. We appreciate your donations. They are helping us pay the bills! May God bless you for your continuing support!

## FREE Screening!

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Word on Fire website is offering the opportunity for you to watch their **Pivotal Players** one hour video about

**St. Catherine of Siena: The Mystic** on their website at the address: <https://special.wordonfire.org/stcatherinebook>

through St. Catherine's Feast Day on April 29th!

**St. Catherine of Siena exemplifies the power of a life lived in relationship with Jesus and provides an example of faith that changes the culture. We will have a link on our website for easier access.**

**Hear us Risen Lord,** Our resurrection and our life. O Lord, our hearts overflow with sounds of exultation and victory. We will say it again and again, "Jesus has triumphed! Jesus is exalted!" This is your doing, O God who is our strength and salvation, yours alone, And it is marvelous in our eyes. Behold, you have made your people to dwell in unity, And have given us the blessing, life forevermore. On this day, you have acted; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.



## What does it mean to discern a vocation?

The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vocare*, meaning "to call." A vocation is a calling or invitation from God to serve in a particular way. For Catholics, that calling might be as a priest, sister, or married person. Vocation is the way we respond to the invitation to share in God's grace and witness to God's love in the world.



Discerning a vocation is the process in which we pray for God's guidance. We listen for God's message that is often quiet and unassuming in a world filled with noise and distractions. We look at our gifts and talents, seek the advice of others, examine our motives, and listen to see what God is asking of us. The goal of discernment is to follow what the Lord wills, not what we think is the best idea. Many men enter a seminary to discern if that is their vocation, only to discover that their calling is to marriage. Others have resisted the idea for long periods of time, until finally they could resist no more. Some great saints have described that dilemma. Vocation is a human process of divine origin, and each of us must strive constantly to hear the call of God in our lives.



## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

If you are in need of food, you are invited to come to the Parish Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 3pm. We have non-perishable items from Catholic Charities and it is available to anyone in need.

Also, we have people offering to help the elderly and those unable to get out to the store or to run errands. If you can use help, please call the Parish Office and we will connect you with our volunteers.

We give thanks to God for all the good works that come out of our adversity!



**We look forward to the day when we can worship together! May God bless us all until that time!**



"La paz este con ustedes", les dijo el Señor a sus discípulos. Jesús sabía lo que habían pasado sus discípulos en los últimos días desde la última cena hasta las horas en que murió en la cruz. Más que cualquier otra cosa, necesitaban paz. Lo que vieron con sus propios ojos, Jesús su maestro, ahora estaba completamente vivo, era increíble. Era demasiado bueno para ser verdad. Tomás, que no estaba allí en la primera aparición de Jesús, quería más que escuchar las buenas noticias. Quería ver y tocar a Jesús. De hecho, obtuvo lo que quería. Jesús se les apareció de nuevo en carne y hueso pero en un cuerpo glorificado. Ahora querían saber a dónde los conduciría el maestro. Jesús había hecho la mayor parte de su parte. El Espíritu Santo vendría y guiaría el camino hacia el camino de la misión. Jesús estaría enviando a sus discípulos al mundo entero. No era una tarea ordinaria. Incontables pruebas vendrían en el camino y estos discípulos harían discípulos y, en última instancia, como el maestro, ellos también ofrecerían sus vidas en sacrificio.

"La paz sea contigo", nos dice el Señor también a nosotros. Cuando nuestras vidas y las vidas de la mayoría de las personas en todo el mundo están en peligro y el futuro es incierto, Jesús nos dice: "La paz este con ustedes". No es solo una forma de saludo, sino lo que el Señor quiere que seamos. El Señor nos asegura que él tiene el control de todo y que debemos poner nuestra fe y confianza en sus poderosas manos. Amén.

P. Rick



## CAPILLITA DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA

El grupo de la Divina Misericordia quiere agradecerles a todos los que han donado su tiempo, talento y esfuerzo en la construcción de la Capillita de la Divina Misericordia. **Muchas Gracias., y que Viva el Señor de la Misericordia.**

M. Salazar

Quando la tormenta pase  
Y se amansen los caminos,  
y seamos sobrevivientes  
de un naufragio colectivo.  
Con el corazón lloroso  
y el destino bendecido  
nos sentiremos dichosos  
tan sólo por estar vivos.  
Y le daremos un abrazo  
al primer desconocido  
y alabaremos la suerte  
de conservar un amigo.

Quando la tormenta pase  
te pido Dios, apenado,  
que nos devuelvas mejores,  
como nos habías soñado.

Alexis Valdés



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## Para la revisión de vida...

La historia de Tomás quiere enseñarnos que no era más fácil creer en Jesús por haber sido contemporáneo suyo, y que los que crean sin haber visto serán dichosos. ¿De verdad siento yo en mi vida la alegría de creerlo? ¿Vivo mi fe como fuente de gozo, o la veo a veces como una carga más o menos pesada?



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both the ones who give it  
and the ones who receive it."

- Dr. Karl Menninger ♥

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Reviews and Ratings of both current  
and archived films are available at:

[www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm](http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm)

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