

## Second Sunday of Easter: April 12, 2026

### Holy Father's Intention for April: 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.

### **“Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them”**

Today, on the Second Sunday of Easter, we complete the octave of this liturgical season, one of the two octaves together with Christmas that remain in the liturgy renewed by the Vatican Council II. For eight days, we contemplate the same mystery and try to deepen our understanding of it in the light of the Holy Spirit.

By the design of Pope Saint John Paul II, this Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. It is something that goes far beyond a particular devotion. As explained by the Holy Father in his encyclical *Dives in Misericordia*, Divine Mercy is the loving manifestation of God in a history wounded by sin. In Latin “*Misericordia*” (which means “mercy”) comes from two words: “*miser*” (misery) and “*cor, cordis*” (heart). God puts our unhappy situation due to sin in His Father's heart, which is faithful to His plans. Jesus Christ, dead and risen, is the supreme manifestation and action of Divine Mercy. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16) and sent Him to death so that we might be saved. "To redeem the slave, He sacrificed the Son," we proclaimed in the Easter Vigil. And once resurrected, He made Him a source of salvation for all who believe in Him. Through faith and conversion, we receive the treasure of Divine Mercy.

The Holy Mother Church, which wants her children to live the life of the Risen One, commands that we receive Holy Communion and do so in the grace of God at least during the Easter season. Indeed, the Easter season is the opportune time for paschal fulfillment. It is a good time to confess our sins and to receive the forgiveness of our sins through the faculties that the risen Lord has conferred on his Church, when he said only to the Apostles: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:22-23). Thus, we will go to the sources of Divine Mercy. And let us not hesitate to bring our friends to these sources of life: the Eucharist and Penance. The risen Jesus counts on us.

### **Announcement**

On Sunday, April 26, 2026, the Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM) will celebrate its 30th Anniversary at the 10:00 am liturgy in bilingual. Everyone is cordially invited. Please note that there will **NOT** be 9:00 am liturgy. There will be two masses to be celebrated: 7:30am and 10:00 am.

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

**Today's 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 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.



### **“For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven”**

Today the Church invites us to celebrate the mercy of the Lord that immense and tender love of God, who loves us even though we are so little. Throughout Holy Week we have contemplated how far our misery can reach and, above all, how great and merciful the love of God truly is. In today's Gospel we find another sign that His love wants to reach even the darkest corners of our hearts. We see how Jesus Christ desires to forgive sins through His disciples: “Receive the Holy Spirit; for those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven” (Jn 20:23). God loves us so much that He always desires to forgive us. He wants to be present in our whole life and in our history; He wants to descend into the depths of our sin in order to love us and transform us completely, in everything that touches our person. Pope Leo XIV, reflecting on Holy Saturday, said: “It is the day in which heaven visits earth most deeply. It is the time in which every corner of human history is touched by the light of Easter. And if Christ was able to descend all the way down there, nothing can be excluded from his redemption. Not even our nights, not even our oldest faults, not even our broken bonds. There is no past so ruined, no history so compromised that it cannot be touched by mercy.” Such is the love of God: a love unlike any other, a love that embraces our misery and wants to forgive us in order to restore us always to the light. And He wants to do this in an even more surprising way: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (Jn 20:21). That is to say, He wants to do it through the Church, by means of other men the priests who are also sinners, like the one who goes to confession, yet called to be witnesses and instruments of His mercy.

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### Receiving and Sharing Merciful Love

In 2000, when Pope John Paul II was canonizing St. Faustina, he declared that the Second Sunday of Easter will be called Divine Mercy Sunday for the entire Church. This Sunday, let us reflect on Jesus who longs to forgive us and to shower His love and mercy on us. We should never tire of running to Him for healing. St. Therese of Lisieux says “even though I had on my conscience all the sins that can be committed, I would go, my heart broken with sorrow, and throw myself into Jesus' arms, for I know how much He loves the prodigal child who returns to Him.”

As good stewards of Christ we should first accept the mercy of God in our lives and then share it with others through our acts. Some spiritual works of mercy we can begin to cultivate are to “instruct the ignorant” and “counsel the doubtful” by helping with parish catechesis ministries. We can also “forgive offenses” and “pray for the living and the dead” through personal prayer as well as by joining various prayer groups within the parish. Some corporal works of mercy we can adopt is to “feed the hungry” and “clothe the naked” by taking part in parish organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul society. We can also “visit the sick” and “visit the imprisoned” by seeking ministries that care for the sick and elderly.

This Divine Mercy Sunday let us seek to be filled with God’s mercy. Let us then let His mercy overflow into our deeds within the parish so that we may become stewards of God’s merciful love.

Summary As good stewards of Christ we should first accept the mercy of God in our lives and then share it with others through our acts. Some spiritual works of mercy we can begin to cultivate are to “instruct the ignorant” and “counsel the doubtful” by helping with parish catechesis ministries. Likewise, some corporal works of mercy we can adopt is to “feed the hungry” and “clothe the naked” by taking part in parish organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul society.



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### Offering for April 05, 2026

**Total Sum. Collection \$7,696.00**

Capital Improvement \$ 75.00

World market \$ 400.00

### Second Sunday of Easter

Uplift your Priest week starts April 12th Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are sent to share the peace of Christ. Is God inviting you to live the gift and mystery of being sent as priest, sister or brother to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ?

Vocation Office at  
(603) 663-0196 or email:  
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Fr. Peter Son Le, SVD, Parochial Vicar**

## Second Sunday of Easter: April 12, 2026

**Baptism:** Arrangements must be made one week in advance.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sunday from 8:30 am to 9:00 am or by appointment.

**Marriage:** Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to plan date of wedding.

### Mass Schedule & Mass Intentions

**Sun 4/12:** \* Louis Canh by Holly Le

\* Joseph and Maria by Hong Au

\* Joseph Anh Dung by family

**Mon 4/13:** \* Peace for family by Hong Au

**Tues 4/14:** \* Louis Canh by Holly Le

**Wed 4/15:** \* All souls by Hong Au

\* Andrew, Thomas, Ann, Paul, Maria & intention by Luan

**Thus 4/16:** \* Joseph and Peter by Quyen Nguyen

\* Andrew by 1 person

**Fri 4/17:** \* John the Baptist and Maria by Lot Uyen

\* Thanksgiving by family

**Sat 4/18:** \* Joseph and Martha by Khiet Loan

\* Peter by Vu Mai