



Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021



**SATURDAYS 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS 10:30AM MASS
Watch it live!!**

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**WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAYS AT 5PM
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM**

**DAILY MASSES:
TUESDAYS &
THURSDAYS 8AM**

**RECONCILIATION:
SATURDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM**

**HOLY HOUR:
WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7PM**

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

To be an inspired and holy Catholic community of faith that embraces the challenges of being a vibrant parish in today's society.

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THE PARISH OFFICES ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 10

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: Silvio Nudo
Jay Rubin

Sunday, April 11

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
Anna Cortesi
Margaret Vena
Romano Bacci

Monday, April 12

8:00am: Oscar Arreola

Tuesday, April 13

8:00am: Sonya Lamarr
Jerome Stachniw



Wednesday, April 14

8:00am: Carzoli Family

Thursday, April 15

8:00am: Trogí Family

Friday, April 16

8:00am: Vicenzo & Teresina Sorrentino

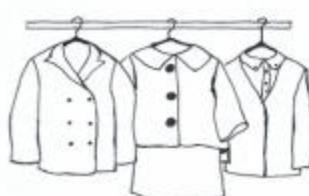
Saturday, April 17

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: Gretchen Callahan
Ray Geraci
Phyllis Roa

Sunday, April 18

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
Otto Cortesi
Dominic Venturi

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PLEASE DONATE:

Your barely used, freshly laundered or dry cleaned men's and women's designer apparel, accessories, fine jewelry, handbags, and shoes to Catholic Charities Encore Fundraiser to benefit Mary's Closet!

Catholic Charities Mary's Closet program offers professional attire and job readiness consultation to men and women in their final steps toward self-sufficiency as they are seeking employment or celebrating other life milestones.

Please mark all donations "ENCORE" and drop-off by April 6:

Catholic Charities
1717 Rand Rd.
Des Plaines

St. Francis Xavier
524 9th St.
Wilmette

Catholic Charities
721 N. LaSalle St.
Chicago

Relevant Radio
145 S. Northwest Hwy.
Park Ridge

SAVE-THE-DATE for Encore, a designer resale event, on April 27 and 28.

Father Mike's Homiletter – April 11, 2021 Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

To begin, I want to thank all those who made our Easter liturgies so beautiful. A number of people responded to our call for additional help for the 8 am Mass on Easter Sunday, some who could only help before or after, and we are grateful for their willingness to step in at the last minute. The Church looked beautiful for the Triduum liturgies, but it took a lot of work on the part of a number of people to set up and rearrange the Church Thursday night, Friday afternoon and evening, and again on Saturday. This year, we also had to deal with sign-up sheets, etc. I am grateful to all the staff, vendors, the “stream team”, ushers and the many parishioners who helped to make our holy days so peaceful and prayerful. Thank you all.

Our readings today continue the Easter story. And in a way, the readings come to us in what might seem to be a reverse order. First, we hear from St. Luke, the author of the Acts of the Apostles, describing the very early Church – an ideal Christian community – in which each person places his resources at the service of the community, which then distributes them on the basis of need. This seems a little bit later than the Easter Sunday narrative. Next we hear from the first letter of St. John, who assures us that if we believe in Jesus as the Christ, we are begotten of God. He seems to be a little ahead of St. Luke in reminding us that if we love God the Father, we will also love His Only-Begotten Son. But John goes on to say we can tell if we love God by whether or not we obey His commandments – in other words, love is expressed in actions, not just words. The Christian community described in the first reading seems to have learned this lesson and put it into effect.

Lastly, we hear from John what happened even earlier, on the evening of Easter Sunday. The disciples – not just the Apostles, though Thomas is reported to be absent – are gathered in a locked room, waiting to see if there was more horror to come – further efforts to obliterate Jesus’ memory and message. Jesus comes into their midst, bidding them to receive His peace, and showing them His hands and His side. He breathes on them, saying “Receive the Holy Spirit,” reminding us of His breathing life into Adam, and of breathing His last on the Cross, and of His promise that the Spirit would bring them understanding. He goes on to tell them that those whose sins they forgive are forgiven, and those which are not forgiven, are retained. While this statement is often associated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we should remember that there were a group of disciples in the room, and the responsibility of forgiving and reconciling seems to have been placed on everyone. That would include us – we too have a responsibility to introduce peace and goodwill among all those we encounter, to let go of injuries, and welcome those who have hurt us back into our good graces. We too must be a source of Divine Mercy.

When the disciples report all this to Thomas upon his arrival, he says he needs to touch Jesus’ wounds in order to believe. It sounds somewhat harsh and skeptical, but I tend to think it reflects Thomas’ sorrow at missing Jesus. He’s not sure what to believe, but he didn’t like being left out, and after all he’s only asking for what Jesus offered the others who were there – He showed them His hands and side. The following Sunday, the octave of the Resurrection which we celebrate today, Jesus again joins the disciples still in their locked room, this time with Thomas present, and right away, Jesus offers Thomas the opportunity to see His wounds. Thomas, who was only longing for the same personal encounter with Jesus that the other disciples had had, makes the ultimate profession of faith “My Lord and My God!” The prior week the disciples had “rejoiced” at Jesus’ presence, but they had not submitted so completely to the truth which the Spirit breathed into them. Thomas now believes with all his being.

Jesus responds “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” – that’s us! Thomas’ doubt, if that’s what it was, brought us the greatest reassurance – the Spirit of Truth has been breathed into us, not just into the gathered disciples. Alleluia! We are the beloved of the Father and the Son and the Spirit. And we are sent on mission to show our love of God and His Son in our actions. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if those actions produced something like that early Christian community? We have just had an example of that in our Holy Week celebrations. What shall we do next?

Peace be with you!
Father Mike

Food for Thought...

As I looked at that man upon the cross...I knew I must make up my mind once and for all, and either take my stand beside him and share in his undefeated faith in God...or else fall finally into a bottomless pit of bitterness, hatred, and unutterable despair.



-S. Paul Schilling, Theologian
from *Prepare the Word*, Truequest Communications



My wife fainted on Good Friday night during the Stations of Cross service, and a group of Good Samaritans (aka parishioners) came to the rescue. I would like to express our gratitude to each and every one of you.

- Mario



CALLING ALL GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS

We are in need of volunteers to help with the Meditation Garden.



The plan is to help beautify and maintain this garden throughout the season. What a great way to bring our IC community together outdoors, observing current restrictions.

Please consider giving your time, resources and gardening talent for this project. You don't have to be a gardener to participate.

All ages are welcome. Confirmation students will have an opportunity for service hours.

If you are interested, please contact Midge Berardi at midgeberardi@comcast.net or 224-619-5864.

Thank you!

Support Your Parish this **EASTER**



Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! Our Lord conquers death and despair and gives us an eternal source of life and hope. Alleluia!

Our Lenten journey together now gives way to an Easter joy that is meant to be shared with the world around us. Just as with the sending forth after every Mass, we are called to go forth as a joyful, loving community that inspires others to seek an encounter with our Risen Lord.

Your Easter gifts are an important part of bringing our parish's mission to life. The contributions of parishioners during the Easter season constitute a sizable portion of our annual budget to fund vital ministries and areas of operation for our parish.

It's not too late to make a one-time Easter gift to ensure that our parish ministries and operations can continue. You can send your gift to our parish office, or online at <https://www.givecentral.org/location/109/event/1294>.

Please know that you are a gift to our Immaculate Conception family. Your presence, whether in spirit or in person, mean more to our local Church than you can imagine.



Thank you to everyone who donated in memory or honor of your loved ones which enabled us to purchase beautiful Easter flowers.

Thank you, as well, to Mrs. Marsiglio for the beautiful altar linen.

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