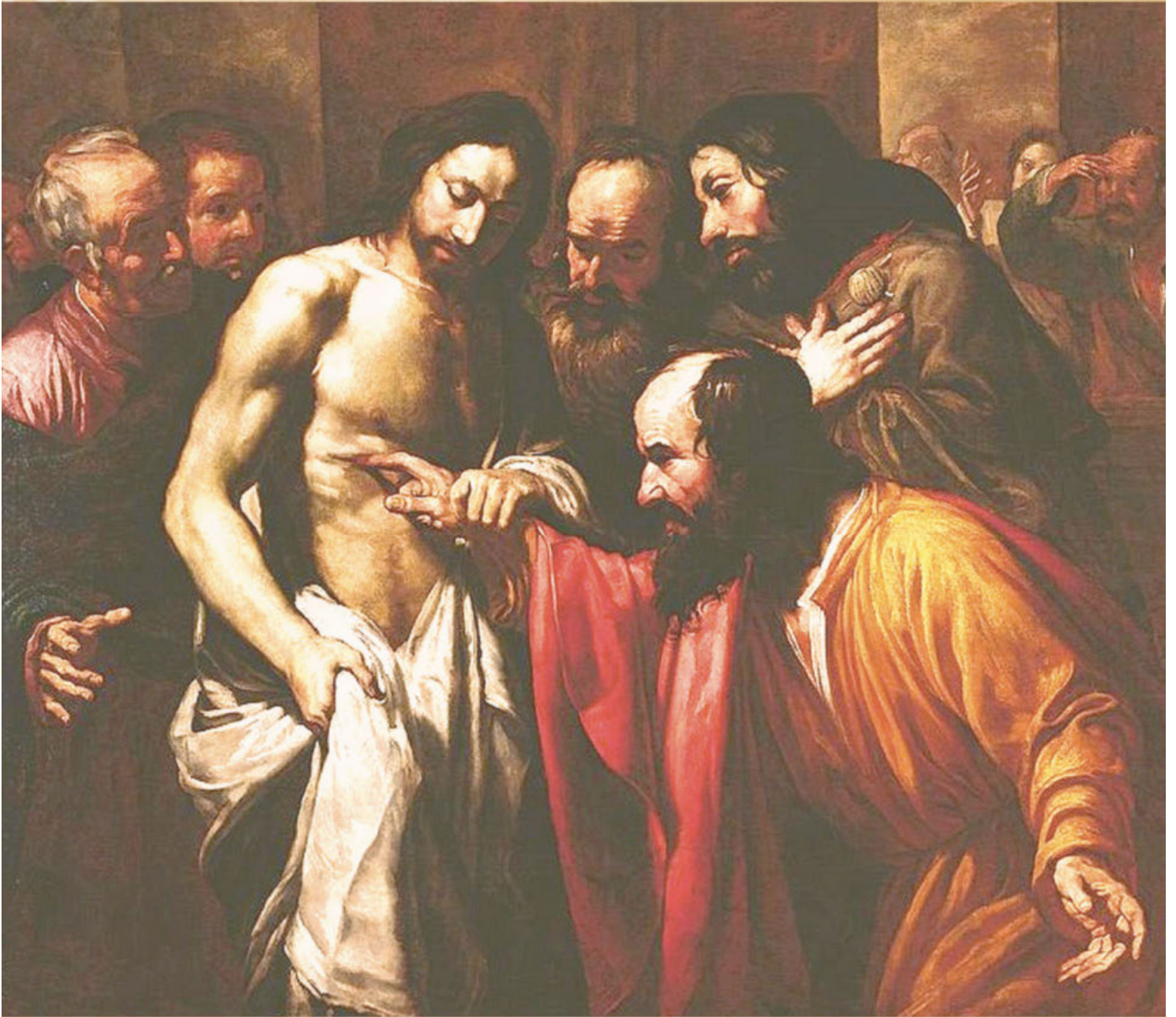


*Our Lady of Peace Church*  
*April 24, 2022*



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus 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." - Jn 20:27



My dear friends,

## Easter shared with the whole world

First of all, a great big **thank you** for the wonderful attendance at our Holy Week services. **Thank you** to Sharon and the Senior Choir, Joe and the Contemporary Ensemble, our lectors and ushers, Donna and the members of the Altar Society, our faithful altar servers. **Thank you** to all who brought Holy Communion and visited our parishioners who could not be with us at Mass. You made it possible to have beautiful, prayerful and uplifting liturgies, and to include those who could not come. **Thank you** from our entire parish Staff for the many cards, gifts and goodies. We are grateful for your untiring support.

Our readings for this **Second Sunday of Easter** help us to deepen our understanding of our Lord’s Resurrection and its impact on the early community. Our first passage, Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16, considers the practical effects of the apostles’ ministry. It begins, “Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon’s portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women were added to them.”

Thus, we are reminded that the first three centuries, when Christianity was illegal, to become a follower of this new Way was dangerous, and many continued to be afraid of outright association with the first Christians. Nonetheless, the Spirit was at work, and the witnesses to Jesus’ Resurrection considered one of their primary responsibilities as evangelization, the proclamation of the Good News and how it could totally transform peoples’ lives. We also find that the disciples were able to continue Jesus’ remarkable ministry of healing, and this added a kind of seal of approval to the apostles’ message. “Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.”

While the Jesus movement began in the north, in the region of Galilee, we find that the new message of eternal life spreads also in the area of the capital. “A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.”

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is the famous story of “doubting Thomas”. The passage begins with the risen Jesus appearing to the disciples, who were behind locked doors out of fear, and wishing them, “Peace be with you.” The narrative continues, “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.’” Thus, right from the start, the role of the Church community is to be sent out into the world to bring the saving message to the ends of the earth, and to announce and effect the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name.

Thomas, you may recall, was absent from the group. When the others tell him that they had seen the Lord, Thomas would not take them at their word. He insisted, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Thus Thomas is a reluctant witness who needs proof positive. A week later, when the Lord appears to the gathered disciples once again, Thomas examines the evidence and gets his proof, proclaiming, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus then focuses once again on the outward mission he is entrusting to the Church. “Jesus said to him, ‘Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.’” All of the Apostles, except one, would indeed proclaim the message of the Resurrection to their dying breath, being executed because they believed and thus broke the law of the state. They had to be convinced of the message because I doubt that many would die for the sake of a lie. Their message: Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed.

### Deanery-Wide Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Divine Mercy Celebration at Blessed Sacrament Church, Greenfield, will be on Sunday, **April 24**. The Service will include Benediction, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Novena Prayer. Confessions will be available 1:45-2:45P. The celebration will begin at 3:00P

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone Number _____</p>	 <p><b>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</b> LT. JOHN J. GALVIN COUNCIL #133</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ \$300.00 Gas Gift Card</li> <li>➤ Restaurant Gift Cards</li> <li>➤ Cape Cod Vacation (3D/2N)</li> <li>➤ Mohegan Sun Mid-Week Stay</li> <li>➤ 2023 KofC Tournament Foursome Entry</li> <li>○ and More....</li> </ul> <p><b>RAFFLE</b></p> <p>DONATION: \$5.00, 5 for \$20.00</p> <p><b>9th Annual Charity Golf Tournament</b></p> <p>DRAWING: MAY 20, 2022</p>
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Tickets are available for the K of C 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament raffle and can be obtained by contacting: Dan Arsenault (413) 774.5258, Lou Grader (413) 774.2848, Bob Wanczyk (413) 774.2465, Paul Doran (413) 522.1800 or Jay Dillon (413-325-5620).



**Saturday, April 23**

4:00P *Agnes Dobosz*  
by Joanna Saunders

**Sunday, April 24**

8:00A *Josie Modzelewski*  
by Michelle Turner

10:00A *Frank Galvis* 5th anniversary  
by Jackie & Mark

**Saturday, April 30**

4:00P *Clarence Allis & Marge Calcari*  
by their family

**Sunday, May 1**

8:00A *Jean Sulda*  
by Paul Prunier

10:00A *Jeff Watroba*  
by the Eichorn family

**DAILY MASS**

**Monday, April 25**

8:00A *Paul Socquet*  
by Margaret Socquet

**Tuesday, April 26**

8:00A *Ted Croteau*  
by Marie & family

**Wednesday, April 27**

8:00A *John Kiley family*

**Thursday, April 28**

8:00A *No intention*

**Friday, April 29**

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



**Our Lady's Window**

**April 26**

*Bob Lapinski*  
by Gladys  
*Rene Richotte*  
40th anniversary  
by his family

**April 27**

*Frank Galvis*  
5th anniversary  
by Jackie & Mark

**Parish Scholarships** are now being offered: 2 for parishioners who are graduating from high school, 4 for those who are already in college. **Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,500.00.** Application forms are in the sacristy, or you may call the rectory 413 863.2585

**Holy Trinity Church**, 133 Main Street, Greenfield, will have a tag, jewelry, linen, toys, raffles and bake sale, Friday, **May 6**, 9:00A-2:00P and Saturday, **May 7**, 9:00A-1:00P.



Listening intently to the meaning of the Easter story



**5 facts you probably do not know about Easter!**

1. The Easter bunny legend originated in Germany.
2. The art of painting eggs is a Ukrainian tradition.
3. The holiday is named after an Anglo-Saxon goddess "Eostre."
4. More than 1.5 million Cadbury Cream Eggs are produced every day.
5. It is illegal to dance in Germany on Good Friday.



Sound of ringing the bells on Holy Thursday filled the church

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