

Dear Friends,

The Second Sunday of Easter is also called the Divine Mercy Sunday, because the church celebrates the Feast of Divine Mercy every second Sunday of Easter. The feast of Divine Mercy reminds us of many parables taught by Jesus emphasizing God's mercy. We remember the three beautiful parables of Luke's gospel: God is like a shepherd who leaves 99 sheep to go in search of the one lost one. God is like a woman who searches the entire house to find the coin she lost. God is like a father who comes out of the house to welcome back his prodigal son and who comes out of the house a second time to invite the elder son to come in and join in the party. God continues to search for us and invites us to that fountain of mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation.

The post resurrection account of Jesus and his disciples is one of the most beautiful stories of faith. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples in his glorified body, a body that defied every physical barrier of space and time. He entered the room they were in, although it was locked, and offered them the most precious gift of life: "Peace be with you" Then he breathed on them. The first time that the Bible says that God breathed on something, the result was momentous: "...man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7) So, here again, when the risen Christ breathed on his disciples, something momentous was about to happen, and indeed it happened: he gave the Holy Spirit, saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." Jesus enjoined his church through disciples to be like him, always ready to forgive the sinner who acknowledged his or her sin. He wants us to be his instruments of reconciliation to our brothers and sisters, his instruments of mercy.

The reaction of the Apostle Thomas, who was not present when Jesus visited, reminds us that some people are more inclined to doubt than to trust in the power of the Spirit. In spite of what the other disciples testify concerning their experience of the Risen Christ, Thomas refuses to be convinced that Jesus is alive. He demands some kind of verifiable proof. His story suggests that faith in the Resurrection was not and never will be a simple human act. For each of us the act of personal faith requires the gift of God's grace. In the account when Jesus appears a second time, the doubts of Thomas disappear. In effect, his profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" was all that expressed the deep transformation from doubting Thomas to believing in Thomas. For us too, we are called to experience that spiritual journey of faith at every Holy Mass, to recognize Jesus in the Eucharist through the eyes of faith.

Have a blessed weekend.

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP

Segundo Domingo de Pascua

En el Evangelio de hoy, los discípulos reconocen a Jesús en la fracción del pan ¿Cómo reconocemos al Señor en medio de los sucesos de nuestra vida? En su exhortación El Gozo del Evangelio el Papa Francisco nos recuerda que una manera importante de ver a Dios en medio de los sucesos de la vida es a través de encuentros personales con los pobres.

Tan importante como compartir nuestros recursos es el compartirnos a nosotros mismos, nuestro tiempo y nuestra presencia con los pobres de manera que podamos tener la experiencia que tuvieron los discípulos – conocer al Señor en la fracción del pan.

Second Easter Sunday

In today's Gospel, the disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread. How do we recognize the Lord in our midst? In his exhortation The Joy of the Gospel Pope Francis reminds us that one important way to see the Lord in our midst is through personal encounters with the poor. As important as it is to share our resources, it is in sharing ourselves, our time and our presence with the poor that we can have the experience which the disciples had – that we know the Lord in the breaking of the bread.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY APRIL 23

10 am Faith Formation Classes

MONDAY APRIL 24

6:30 Gpo de Oracion Meeting-*Marian Rm*

TUESDAY APRIL 25

8 am Men's Group- *OLOG Room*

6:30 pm TNMC- *Parish Hall*

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26

9 am Bible Study- *OLOG Room*

5:30 Faith Formation

THURSDAY APRIL 27

FRIDAY APRIL 28

7 pm Grupo de Oracion

SATURDAY APRIL 29

10 am Adnil Jimenez Baptism

12 pm Jenifer Medina Quinceanera

SUNDAY APRIL 30

10 am First Communion Classes

2-4 pm First Communion Parent/Student

Retreat

Mass Intentions

Sat.	Apr 22	5:30 pm	Don Kohring +
Sun.	Apr 23	9:00 am	Kasia Wlodek
		11:00 am	Diego Mendoza +
Mon.	Apr 24		NO MASS
Tues.	Apr 25	6:00 pm	For the Families of St. Stephen
Wed.	Apr 26	8:30 am	Dave Krause +
Thurs	Apr 27	8:30 am	For the Victims of War
Fri	Apr 28	12:00pm	For the Persecuted Christians
Sat	Apr 29	5:30 pm	For the Parishioners of St. Stephen
Sun	Apr 30	9:00 am	Nicholas Pritchett
		11:00 am	Auxilio Tellez + Juan de Dios Quiroga +

Ministry Schedule for April 22-23, 2017

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers / Greeters	Ministers of Eucharist
5:30 PM	M Reed E Cerda	M Markham E Markham	L Nix C Arnold C Kowaleski	Wade Faulkner Frank Pajestka Jennifer McGregor Tamara Alcozer Larry Simonette
9:00 AM	A Rodriguez J Canales	J Delio A Patton	T Petter T Buckley W Matus	Glenn Pritchett K Cross Jesse Rodriguez D Roberts Robert Michalewicz
11:00 AM	E de la Hoya M Ramos	F Ramirez J Perez M Hernandez K de Jesus	A Perez D Arias D Cortes	Elsa Olalde Rufina Urquiza Nino Martinez Olivia Esteves Carmen Tovar

Monetary Stewardship

Collection Last Week:

Regular: \$6,098.00

Online: \$ 538.36

Total \$6,636.36

remembering the words of the Lord who said, It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).



The Amazing Grace Gift Shop is now officially open after all the masses.

If you would like to help, Please contact Mary Riley for more information. 254-231-8784.

Women's Society News

St. Stephen Women's Society will have their End of Year Luncheon Monday May 8th, 2017 at 12 Noon at Inn at Salado.

\$15.00 per person.

RSVP to Dorothy Dentry at ddentry13@gmail.com; Janice Morin jimmjanmorin@sbcglobal.net; or Barbara Hoelscher.

Reservation deadline May 1st, 2017



GOLF TOURNAMENT



St. Stephen's Parish will be hosting the Fr. Charlie Davis Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament on May 12th at Mill Creek Country Club. Teams can arrive at 12 noon for meals and warmup, with a 1:00 pm shotgun start schedule. The proceeds of the fundraiser will go towards supporting our church youth ministry. Parishioners and members of the community can support this event in the following ways:

- The cost is \$100 per player or \$400 per team (\$500 for team plus hole sponsorship)
- \$100 for family or business hole sponsorship (includes sign with logo or family name)
- \$500 for premier sponsorship (Large sign at clubhouse and announcement to participants)
- Donate funds to support the raffle and prize items
- Donate items to be raffled

For more information please contact Jason Torczynski itorczynski@yahoo.com
Josh Bratton info@johnnysstakesandbbq.com
Michael Carlson mcarlson6450@gmail.com

Faith Formation



Primary	Pre-K-4th Grade.	5:30-6:30 pm
Fellowship Dinner All		6:30-6:45 pm
Intermediate	5 & 6 Grade	6:45-7:45 pm
Junior High	7 & 8 Grade	6:45-7:45 pm
High School	9,10,11 & 12	6:30-8:00 pm

First Communion Parents/ Students Retreat

There will be a retreat on Sunday, April 30th from 2 pm to 4 pm for all those who will be doing their First Communion and their parents

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's group meets every Tuesday morning at 8 am in the OLOG Room. If you have any questions please contact Robert Michalewicz at (254) 760-5307