

**FATHER MARK SCHULTE**  
**HOMILY**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**  
**APRIL 12, 2026**

**“True Peace”**

My Brothers and Sisters, after His resurrection from the dead Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene and then He appeared to His Disciples. They were together in one place with the doors locked out of fear of the Jews (Jn 20:19-31). A sense of peace was far from their minds. And so, when Jesus appeared to them, He said, “Peace be with you”. Jesus proclaims His peace upon them. This is the same proclamation that the priest makes in the Communion Rite. He says, “The peace of the Lord be with you always”.

True peace is a priceless commodity. A person can have an abundance of this world’s goods and many acquaintances but still lack peace in their lives. Jesus is the source of all true peace. He is the Prince of Peace. Where the Will of God is occurring there is peace and where His Will fails to take place there is ultimately chaos and a lack of peace (Is 9:6) (\*).

After Jesus extended His peace to the Disciples He breathed on them thus bestowing upon them His Spirit (Gen 2:7) (Ez 37:9-10). With His Spirit now having anointed them He bids them to forgive sins, to determine which sins can be forgiven and which cannot. In doing so He bestowed upon His Apostles, the first Church His own authority as God to forgive sins. He gave his Church the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When an ordained priest, through the authority of Jesus Christ grants forgiveness to a person in the Sacrament of Confession, the Peace of Christ floods into their Soul. A peace that only God can give (CCC 1422-1490).

Jesus returns to His Apostles a second time and this time Thomas is with them. Thomas would not believe that Jesus had risen from the grave unless he had physical proof. Jesus grants Thomas that proof when Thomas touches the wounds of Jesus. Jesus said to Thomas, “Stop your unbelief, and believe”. Belief and faith are two sides of the same coin. Without faith there can be no true peace in a person’s life. Like Thomas, how often do we put conditions on our faith? Are we like Thomas who refuse to believe until we are given proof? The words of Jesus apply to all of us. “Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed.” If we want true peace then we must have faith, we must believe.

The Holy Eucharist is at the core of our faith life. When Thomas finally touched the flesh of Jesus, he proclaimed, “My Lord and my God”. We make the statement of faith that was made by Thomas our own statement of faith when we are in the presence of the Holy Eucharist. When the priest elevates the consecrated bread and wine during Holy Mass, now becoming the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, we, like Thomas can say “My Lord and my God”. When the priest presents the host to the communicant, he says “The Body of Christ”. The communicant responds “Amen”, which means, “I believe”.

Once again, true peace comes from Jesus, a peace that comes from having faith. Acquiring knowledge about our faith helps to substantiate our faith. Saint Augustine encouraged his new catechumens to profess the Creed every day to help strengthen their faith (\*\*). The Creed is a prayer to God telling Him that we have faith in Him and all He has done for us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives a full explanation of the Nicene Creed. Scripture says, “he without knowledge will perish”, that being the right kind of knowledge, spiritual knowledge (Hos 4:6).

We are now into the Easter Season. This season is meant to support everything that we did during the Season of Lent. It is a good practice to continue in some form our Lenten observances throughout the year. These practices strengthen our faith and bring us that priceless commodity of peace. If you are not at peace it is probably because you do not have command over your personal life. Continue to fast; keep Fridays meatless; cut back on treats and unnecessary food; go to confession monthly or even weekly; attend daily Mass when you can and don't miss a Sunday; pray your rosary daily, for Mary is the Queen of Peace; and fast from your cell phone, T.V. and computer. If we practice these simple things the grace of God will flow upon us in all of its abundance (\*\*\*) .

Jesus came to bring His people peace and peace is the product of a deep faith. Let us do all that we can to foster that faith.

CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church

(\*) Litany of the Holy Name (of Jesus)

(\*\*) St. Augustine, Sermon 58:15

(\*\*\*) Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Litany of Loreto)