

# Dear Padre,

**We are told that when we receive the Holy Eucharist, our venial sins are washed away. Does the same thing happen when we receive spiritual communion?**

Yes, and there are many other ways that venial sins can be forgiven. First and foremost is each of the sacraments of reconciliation: baptism, Eucharist, penance, and anointing of the sick. In addition to the sacraments, an Act of Contrition will also suffice, as will a simple prayer of intercession, such as, "Lord, Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Forgiveness of venial sins is directly dependent on one thing: the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit at work in our world and in each one of us. Forgiveness is not merited; it is a gift, and, as a gift, it requires only that we ask and gratefully receive.

It is true that we are all sinful. We are also all blessed. As wonderful as forgiveness is, and there truly is no greater gift of God's love, an equally wonderful gift is gratitude. Perhaps, with every Act of Contrition that we pray, we should also offer a prayer of thanksgiving. It might help us find balance if we remind ourselves not only how we may not have measured up but also that we are blessed and graced. ☺

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org**



MONSTERA PRODUCTION / PEXELS

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (A)

Acts 2:42-47 / 1 Peter 1:3-9 / John 20:19-31



## The Importance of Trust

ANN M. GARRIDO

**W**e can readily understand Thomas' insistence upon seeing things with his own eyes. Would you believe it if someone told you that a friend whose funeral you had attended was now walking through walls?

At some time or other, all of us have been tricked into believing something we later found out was untrue and remember how foolish we felt. Haven't our parents told us not to believe everything we hear? Haven't our teachers taught us to do our own research? Doubt serves a valuable purpose, and we would be naïve to disregard it.

At the same time, we know that doubt can become a way of life, overstepping its usefulness. During the COVID pandemic, for example, some refused to believe even the most knowledgeable medical voices in the nation. Like Thomas, they insisted that unless they'd "done their own research," they wouldn't believe. Such a stance ignores that unless you are a scientist working in a medical lab, even "your own research" will be based on an act of belief that what you are reading of others' research is correct. Doubt is good, but only in combination with a healthy dose of humility. In the end, the world turns on an axis of trust.

At the close of today's gospel, Jesus names as "blessed" those able to discern what is true and believe not only because of what they have seen with their own eyes but also because of what they have heard through their ears from sources worthy of their trust. ☺

### Reflect

**When has doubt served a purpose, and when has it gotten in my way?**



Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

JOHN 20:29

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO / SHUTTERSTOCK

**The Lord shows us his wounds and says: Peace be with you. Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us,**

**too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat.**

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, OCTOBER 1, 2025

<b>Monday</b> April 13 Easter Weekday Acts 4:23-31 Jn 3:1-8	<b>Thursday</b> April 16 Easter Weekday Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36	<b>Sunday</b> April 19 Third Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14, 22-33 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35
<b>Tuesday</b> April 14 Easter Weekday Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15	<b>Friday</b> April 17 Easter Weekday Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15	
<b>Wednesday</b> April 15 Easter Weekday Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21	<b>Saturday</b> April 18 Easter Weekday Acts 6:1-7 Jn 6:16-21	

### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



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Office hours are Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 am—5:30 pm.

If there is an Emergency you may call Corinne at 715-250-2109 or Father David at 920-228-1814. Thank-you.

St Mary's Mass schedule in Black Creek: Saturdays @ 4 PM, Sundays @ 8 AM, Tuesday—Friday @ 7:30 AM

**Father David Greskowiak—Administrator**

**Holy Thursday 4/02/26 Attendance = 20**

**Good Friday 4/03/26 = \$255 Attendance = 47**

**Holy Saturday 4/04/26 = \$289 Attendance = 23**

**Sunday 4/05/26 = \$1,644 Attendance = 88**

**Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27**

**Mass Intentions**

**04/12/26—** Bill Letter by The Letter Family

**04/19/26—** Living & Deceased family member of Tom Weyenberg by Tom & Carol Weyenberg

**Mass Servers –**

**04/12/26—** Jamesen Boerst, Malachi Gray

**04/19/26—** Alex & Reagan Krings, Henry Griesbach

**Ministers of the Word –**

**04/12/26—** Kevin Peeters

**04/19/26—** Sam Krings

**Hospitality**

**04/12/26—** Barb Erb, Charlie Herb

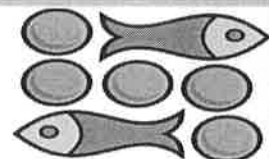
**04/19/26—** Steve & Sheila Hartlaben

**Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**

**Wednesday, April 15 4—6 PM**

**Saturday, April 18 9—11 AM**

*Thank you for all the donations so far this year!!*



Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026:

**October 18, 25; November 26 Deer Hunter's Mass; December 20, 25 Christmas Day, 27, and New Years.** You may contact the office.

**Happy Birthday!**

**April 12** Wyatt Erb, Joey Krings; **13** Darlene Pionek; **14** Gabrielle Seefeldt, Linda Reif, Harper Hill; **16** Jim Hackel, Mary Herb; **17** Isaac Guyette; **18** Aubrey Hartleben; **19** Aaron Peeters, Cloe Zuleger; **20** Mellissa Hutter; **29** Sandy Heinemeyer, Steve Short

**Wine, Beer and Coffee Tasting Event—  
St. Mary's in Black Creek**

**Sunday, 26 April from 1:00-4:00 P.M.—Parish Hall**

The event will include: wine, beer, coffee, soda, water, non-alcohol drinks, food, music, silent auction, and 50/50 drawing. We will also draw names for the winners of the raffle. Admission--\$10, age 12 and under-free with an accompanied adult.

**EVERYONE FROM ST. LAWRENCE IS MOST CORDIALLY INVITED!!**



**2026 Bishop's Appeal  
"Be the Light"**

We invite everyone who is able, to please participate in the Bishop's Appeal. Our parish goal this year is \$14,805.00. As of 9 April we have received 39 gifts of \$9,893.00. Thank you! **We are 67% of our way there.**

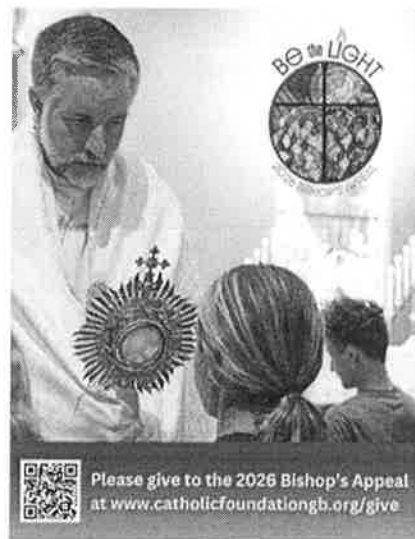
If you have already given, thank you so much. If you haven't given before, please consider making your first gift this year. Every gift makes a difference. Those who are able may want to join the Crozier Society with a gift of \$500 or more, which helps these ministries to reach even more people.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. You may have received a pledge card at home in the mail. If you have not, we have materials at the entrances of the church. You can also visit [www.catholicfoundation.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.org/give).

Thank you for helping St. Lawrence Parish and our Diocese share the light of Christ.

Please bring your Rice Bowls either to Mass or to the parish office.

Thank you for supporting the work of Catholic Relief Services.



Please give to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal at [www.catholicfoundation.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.org/give)



**Religious Education Thank You!!**

We want to thank Lori Mackowiak, our Religious Education Coordinator, for all of her dedicated work, as well as to our teachers and others, both adults and youth who worked at making our program a success this year. We could not have done it without all of you. May God richly bless you all for your love and dedication.



**Reflection on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday**

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: "2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A, Divine Mercy Sunday, Sunday April 12, 2026" found on the "Young Catholics" website—[young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com):

**Peace and Forgiveness**

In the gospel for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A, the disciples are hiding in fear after Jesus' crucifixion. They are scared and uncertain about their future. When Jesus appears to them, His first words are "Peace be with you." This is more than a greeting. It is a message of comfort and reassurance. Jesus offers them peace to calm their fears and remind them that He is with them.

Jesus then shows them His wounds. These wounds are proof of His suffering, but they are also a sign of forgiveness... He forgives them and gives them peace... Divine Mercy Sunday Year A reminds us that Jesus offers us the same peace and forgiveness. No matter what mistakes we have made, Jesus is ready to forgive us. He invites us to come to Him with our fears, doubts, and sins. We don't need to be perfect to receive His mercy. We are also called to share this peace and forgiveness with others...

**Doubting Thomas**

Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared... Thomas wanted proof. He said he would not believe until he saw and touched Jesus' wounds. This moment of doubt is not about weakness but about honest questioning. Thomas wanted to be sure that it was truly Jesus. When Jesus appears again, He invites Thomas to see and touch His wounds. This act of love and patience helps Thomas move from doubt to faith. Thomas then makes a bold declaration of faith, calling Jesus his Lord and God. His doubt leads him to a deeper and stronger belief.

Divine Mercy Sunday Year A shows that doubt is part of the journey of faith. Jesus does not reject Thomas for his doubts. Instead, He meets him where he is and helps him believe. This teaches us that questioning and seeking are normal in our faith journey. Jesus is patient with our struggles and invites us to come closer to Him. Jesus also blesses those who believe without seeing. This blessing is for all of us who have not seen Jesus in person but still believe in Him...

**The Scars Remain**

When Jesus appears to His disciples after His resurrection, He still has the scars from His crucifixion. These scars are a reminder of His suffering and sacrifice. But they are also a sign of victory because they show that He has overcome death. Jesus carries His scars with Him, even in His risen body. This teaches us that resurrection does not erase suffering. Jesus is alive, but the marks of His pain remain... Divine Mercy Sunday Year A reminds us that we, too, carry our own scars. These scars may come from physical pain, emotional wounds, or struggles in life. Following Jesus does not mean our pain is erased. But it does mean that our suffering can lead to new life and hope...

**The Importance of Community**

The first reading and the gospel for Divine Mercy Sunday Year A both highlight the importance of community. The early Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings, fellowship, and prayer. They shared their resources and took care of each other's needs. This strong sense of community helped them grow in faith and in number. In the gospel, the disciples are gathered together in fear and uncertainty. Jesus appears to them as they are united in one place. His presence brings them peace, courage, and purpose...

This shows that faith is not meant to be lived alone. Divine Mercy Sunday Year A teaches us that community is essential for growing in faith. We support each other, learn from each other, and share our joys and struggles. Being in community helps us encounter Jesus in new ways. We are called to build and strengthen our faith communities. This means being present for one another, praying together, and sharing what we have. Divine Mercy Sunday Year A invites us to create communities of mercy, love, and hope, just as the early Christians did.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet**

We will be praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy prior to the start of Mass this Sunday— 12 April.

Please feel free to join in this beautiful prayer.

