

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

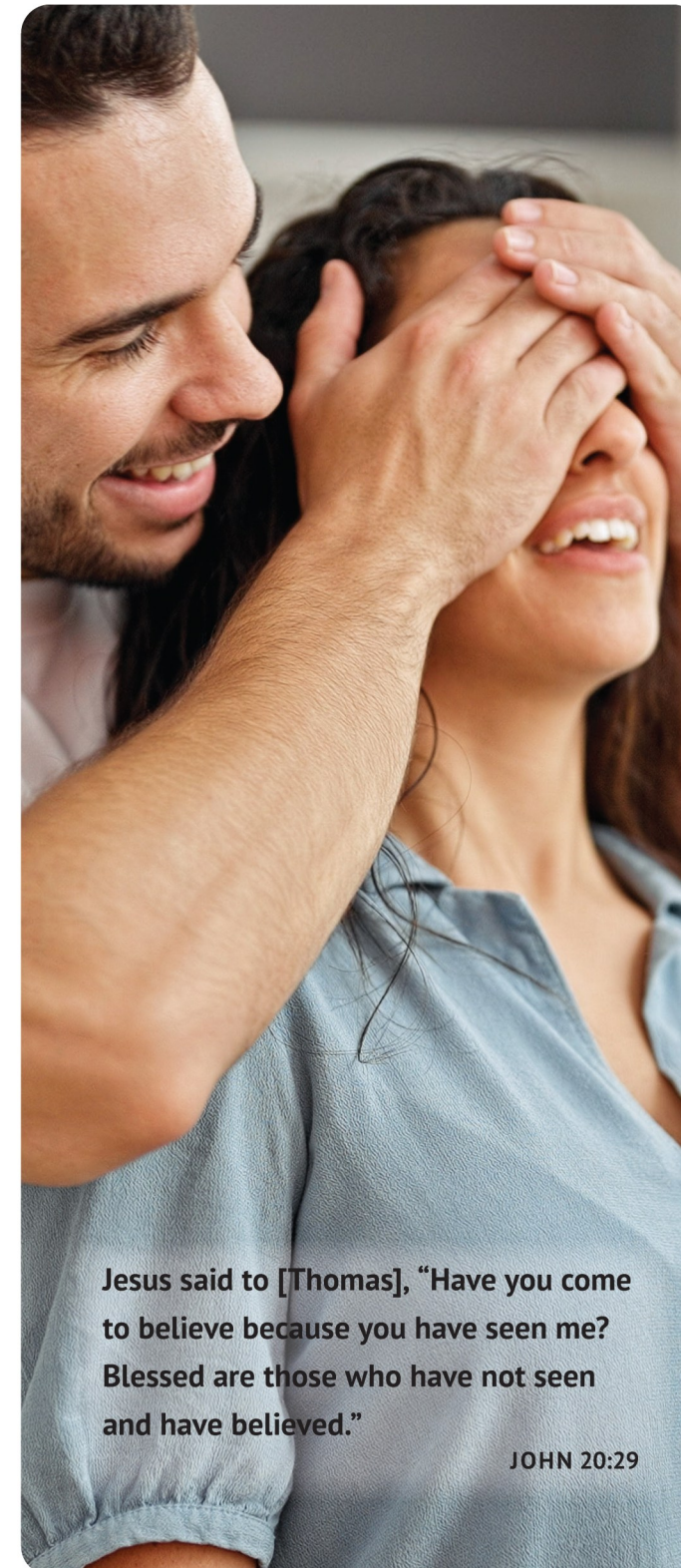
ANN M. GARRIDO

We 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. ●



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



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

Monday

April 13
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:23-31
Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday

April 14
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:32-37
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday

April 15
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:17-26
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday

April 16
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:27-33
Jn 3:31-36

Friday

April 17
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:34-42
Jn 6:1-15

Saturday

April 18
Easter Weekday
Acts 6:1-7
Jn 6:16-21

Sunday

April 19
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22-33
1 Pt 1:17-21
Lk 24:13-35

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Reflect

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



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

2nd Sunday of Easter
April 11 & 12, 2026



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Parish Announcements

Welcome New Members

Congratulations to the newest members of St. Paul Catholic Church, Emmie Vickery and Steve Lawson. Welcome to our faith community. Thank you to our leaders and sponsors for your support and guidance. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their faith journey.

Anointing Mass

There will be an Anointing Mass on Tuesday, April 14 at 12:00 PM.

Alumni

St. Paul Parish would like to extend a warm welcome to the alumni of Vicksburg Catholic School who are in town for the Alumni Banquet.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be Sunday, April 12, at 8:00 AM. Breakfast will be served. All men of the parish are welcome.

Farrell Hall Cleaning Day

Join us for a cleaning day at Farrell Hall on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Any time that you can give would be helpful. Supplies will be provided.

Spaghetti Dinner

The 42nd Annual Priest Education Spaghetti Dinner is on Sunday, April 12th at the KC home from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Join us in supporting the education of new priests in our diocese. Dine-In or Carry-Out, plates are \$15 each.

Confession Time Change

Due to an increase of people taking part in confession, the times for confession have been adjusted to accommodate more people. The new times are Saturday, 2:30-3:30 PM and Sunday, 9:30-10:00 AM. Please note that times end 15 minutes earlier than before.

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget.....\$7,700

Online Giving

Mar 30 - Apr 5 \$2,065

Weekend Offertory

Mar 28 & 29.....\$3,319

Apr 4 & 5\$8,825

Apr 11 & 12.....\$, _

Apr 18 & 19.....\$, _

Apr 25 & 26.....\$, _

Special Collections

April 2: Rice Bowl.....\$555

April 3: Holy Land.....\$, _



Sign up for automatic online giving at www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

#Confession 2:30-3:30 PM

Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

#Confession 9:30-10:00 AM

Mass 10:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM

Tuesday 12:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 AM

Thursday 12:00 PM

Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions

APR 13, MON Gery Ewing, Deceased

APR 14, TUES Special Intentions

APR 15, WED

APR 16, THUR Hazel Mascarella, Deceased

APR 17, FRI Special Intentions

APR 18, SAT Vincent Mascarella, Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email, or visit the parish office. Each Mass with no intention is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.

Parish Calendar

APR 12, SUN Children's Church: Led by Ashton Hotard

APR 13, MON Offertory Counters: Pam Melsheimer & Marie Renaud

APR 14, TUES Anointing Mass 12 PM

APR 18, SAT Cleaning Day at Farrell Hall

APR 19, SUN Store House Community Food Pantry collection

APR 22, WED Confirmation 6 PM

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

www.ms-kofc.com/898

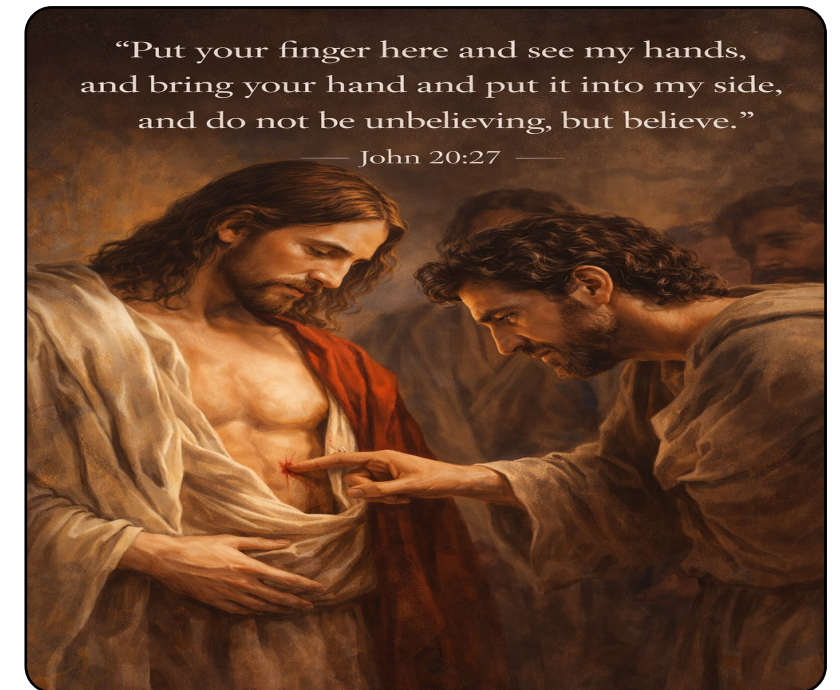
Become a KNIGHT. Scan this QR code to join the Knights today!



APR 14 Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by Recruitment & Retention Social

APR 21 Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by 4th Degree Meeting

APR 14 Rosary @ 6:30 PM followed by Recruitment & Retention



"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."

John 20:27

Today's Readings

Visit bible.usccb.org or scan this QR code to find the readings



Check out our Social Media!



St. Paul Catholic Church

Sanctuary Flowers

Thank you to all who donated towards flowers for Easter and to the Ivy Place for decorating .

Pastoral Care

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or in urgent need of anointing, please call the church office Emergency Ext 106

St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Rusty Vincent Office Manager Ashley Roesch Office Assistant Janis Koestler

Bookkeeper Beverly Connelly Maintenance Charles Hahn Organist Karen Harrison

Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President Travis Thornell Finance Council Chair Bill Fulcher

Bereavement Story Ebersole RCIA Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole Meals On Wheels Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry

Altar Flowers Cynthia Montalbano Homebound Janis Koestler Children's Church Ashley Lawrence

Baptism Prep Barbara Hill

Confirmation Jordan Amborn