

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Apríl 16, 2023

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Although it may not, in fact, be one of our cultural charisms, I think we Americans at least imagine ourselves to be a bold, self-possessed people. We condition our children to have a "winning attitude," promote the power of positive thinking, and proclaim as part of our national heritage the conviction that any position can be attained and any goal achieved as long as we posses in sufficient quantities that indispensable American virtue, confidence. For those afflicted by self-doubt or even quiet caution, we readily prescribe counseling or assertiveness training, and hope that after these experiences such individuals can attain at least those minimum levels of tenacity and self-assurance which our society demands.

Given this cultural context, it is possible that the gospel proclaimed this weekend could be construed as subversive and quite un-American: for it unabashedly features a doubter at center stage, surrounds him with a timorous group of disciples (who hide behind locked doors even after they have experienced the risen Christ), and presents Jesus unfazed by the skepticism and anxiety which run rampant among his followers. Such a gospel certainly does not serve to strengthen the national will or motivate the faint-hearted, and instead appears to be an unsettling proof text for fear and doubt. Quite frankly one wonders how such a skittish band of disciples ever gave birth to that idyllic, faith-filled community which we heard about in this weekend's first reading.

What this gospel offers us in St. Thomas, however, is probably not an apostolic coward or even a first-rate skeptic, but rather a flesh-and-blood representative of the fledgling church in its pre-Easter faith. Stunned by the arrest of Jesus, and scattered by his trial and death, the early disciples were unquestionably a bewildered, floundering group following that Friday we have come to know as "Good." It is clear, however, that at least initially this eventful day was not good for them, and it appeared to be the definite end to an impressive, but short-lived, success story named Jesus.

Yet it was from the ashes of this apostolic doubt that faith arose. More over, the early community's experience of disbelief was probably an important preparatory step for its future life in faith; for doubting like believing, presumed abandoning human surety in the search from other truths. Consequently, the first disciples needed to surrender much of what they believed about the earthly Jesus, so that, like Jesus himself, these first truths could be transformed through resurrection. It is exactly such transformation which is symbolized in this weekend's gospel story, where brash skepticism yields to unrestrained belief. Ironically, it is St. Thomas dubbed "the doubter" who eventually makes the most explicit profession of faith recorded in the gospel.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	April 18	11:00AM
Ruperto de Rosario		Marcella de Leon
Wed.	April 19	11:00AM
Rosela Villanueva		Lily Militar
Thur.	April 20	11:00AM
Antonio Jacob †		Lacsina Family
<u>Fri.</u>	April 21	11:00AM
Thanksgiving		Jong & Alma
		Arcega
Sat.	April 22	4:30PM
Joseph Noe †		Stella
Sun.	April 23	9:00AM
Marina Alonzo †		Pena Family
Port Costa		11:00AM
People of the Parish		
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Sunday Collection - April 9th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$ <i>TBA</i>
Easter	\$TBA
St. Patrick Mission	\$TBA
Easter	\$ <i>TBA</i>

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

<u>Garage Sale</u>

This year, as part of our fundraising efforts, the Confirmation candidates are going to help us participate in Crockett's Townwide Yard Sale in May. Beginning this month, we will be accepting donations of gently used items every other

Sunday, 4/16, 4/30, from 10:15-11:45_{AM} at the CCD building. If you cannot make those hours, please call the office 510-787-2052.



St. Patrick Mission Celebration

As one of the oldest parishes in our Diocese we are proud to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of St. Patrick Mission this August! With that being said, we need your help. The parish is starting to put together a committee to help plan the festivities, so if you would like to be involved, or know someone that would be, please let us know. Also, we are starting to look for any pictures, memorabilia, etc. to help give a whole picture

of our beloved little church, so please spread the word. All items would stay with their owners, we would just like to scan copies of images and even jot down old stories of activities, priests and anything from the past



Confirmation



Please join us Saturday, April 22nd at the 4:30PM Vigil Mass to celebrate our young Confirmation candidates receiving this sacrament. They have worked for two years to achieve this goal.

<u>RCIA</u>

Congratulations to our RCIA candidate, Noah, who is now more fully part of our Catholic Church and St. Rose/St. Patrick family! Noah worked hard with Father Leo and Julie Buscaglia to achieve this.



Coffee and Canvas

SATURDAY, April 29TH AT 10:10AM!!



Join us for a fun relaxing morning of carefree painting and coffee! Enjoy a light breakfast and lunch while you get the chance to paint a simple canvas, guided by a wonderful instructor from our parish. And of course, there will be coffee!! All of this for \$30, plus your painting to take home as a memento. Set some time aside for yourself; all are welcome!

Sign-ups in the vestibule.



Please remember Fr. Leo in your prayers on Friday April 21st as he celebrates the anniversary of his ordination!



