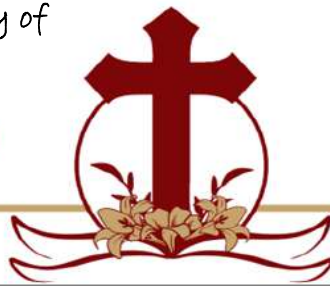


Second Sunday of Easter: Sunday of  
Divine Mercy

April 27, 2025

**St. Joseph**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



300 S Cleveland Street  
Fayette, Missouri 65248  
(660)248-2439

**WEBSITE:** [stjosephfayette.diojeffcity.org](http://stjosephfayette.diojeffcity.org)



St. Joseph's Catholic Church



[stjoecatholicchurch](https://www.instagram.com/stjoecatholicchurch)

**Email:** [stjosephfayette@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephfayette@outlook.com)

## **ST. JOSEPH PARISH STAFF:**

**FATHER JOSHUA DUNCAN**

*Parochial Administrator*  
[jduncan@diojeffcity.org](mailto:jduncan@diojeffcity.org)

**JULIA PARKER**

*Secretary*  
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**KAYLYNN HILDERBRAND**

*Bookkeeper*  
[parishoffice@stmarysglasgow.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysglasgow.org)

**AMY NATION**

*Director of Religious Education*  
[dre-sjf@outlook.com](mailto:dre-sjf@outlook.com)

## **ST. JOSEPH HOLY MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM** *People of St. Joseph & St. Mary*

**Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM** *Tom Thomas*

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM** *+ Pope Francis*

### **Confessions:**

**St. Joseph** – Tuesday: 5:15 to 5:45 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM

**St. Mary** – Saturdays: 4:00 to 5:15 PM

### **St. Mary, Glasgow, Holy Mass Schedule:**

Saturday (vigil): 5:30 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM

Wednesday: 8:00 AM

Thursday: 8:00 AM

Friday: 8:00 AM

## **PARISH COUNCILS:**

PASTORAL COUNCIL

*Beth Lammers, Chair*

FINANCE COUNCIL

*Father Duncan, Chair*

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

*Roger Dorson, Chair*

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

St. Joseph – Wednesdays 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

St. Mary – Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

### **Adoration:**

St. Joseph – First Tuesday-2:00 PM to 5:45 PM

St. Mary – First Friday after AM Mass to 11 PM

### **Holy Rosary:**

St. Joseph – Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 7:00 AM

St. Joseph – Sunday morning at 7:40 AM, before Mass

St. Mary – Saturdays 5:05 PM

**Mission Statement** – St. Joseph Catholic Church seeks to be an actively visible faith community that works to make disciples of Jesus Christ through our hospitality, education, sacraments, & service.

**Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick:** If you know of anyone needing the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or Last Rites, please let Father know. If it is an emergency, please call the office phone or send Father an email. If a family member is in a neighboring hospital (Columbia, etc.) and it is an emergency, please let your doctor or nurse know to contact a Priest – they have priests on-call every day of the week at the larger hospitals. If it is not an emergency but you'd like Father to visit in the hospital, please talk to him to arrange a time for a visit.

**Sacraments of Baptism or Marriage:** a preparation process is required before either of these Sacraments is celebrated. Please contact Father or Parish Secretary at least 6 months before a wedding is planned or as soon as the pregnancy is known so that proper arrangements may be made for the spiritual preparations.

Bishop McKnight's **April prayer intention** for our Local Church: For all who have suffered abuse, that they may experience healing and restoration. That we may be ever-vigilant in protecting the vulnerable and ensuring our parishes remain places of safety, love, and respect. We pray to the Lord.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Marjorie Koenig*	Mike Vroman
Linda Wallace*	Eula Kempf*
Amy Shook (cancer)	Terrie Young
Tom Boss	Lance Quinlan
Adrienne Thies (healing)*	Steve Kempf (cancer)*
Steven John (cancer)	Wilma Liley
Carolyn Polson*	Lou Thompson (healing)*
Becky Streff (cancer)	Jane Weiland (healing)*
Blake Wies (healing)	Jim Ray Kluck (healing)
Jennifer Jex	John Heitz (healing)
Johnny Sulltrop	Chuck Thompson (healing)*
Jayden Gordon (healing)	
Joe Bonnema (B. Sullivan's uncle)	
Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis	

\* = Parishioner of St. Joseph

Keep St. Joseph kids that are preparing for First Communion and/or Confirmation in your prayers: Finley Asher, Cayle Ballew, Mathias Cole, Abigail Crowley, Cayden De La Torre, Karolyn De La Torre, Miller Hilderbrand, Elliot Parker, Raylee Stockhorst, and Talon Stockhorst.

**Pray for our Seminarians –2024-2025 school year**

We currently have nine seminarians studying in our Diocese. Please pray for an increase in Holy Vocations to the Priesthood so that the Sacraments & Holy Mass may continue in our parishes:

Jacob Hartman	Gage Neisen
Shane Kliethermes	Gabriel Eckstein
Bryce Smith	David Cahill
John Paul McGuire	Samuel Cramer
Luke Dalton	

**Birthdays**

Brittany Sullivan	April 27
Mae Gerlt	April 28
Becky Nolke	April 28
Marjorie Koenig	May 01
Adrienne Thies	May 02
Austin Stockhorst	May 09

**Anniversaries**

Dean & Brenda Fuemmeler	April 29 (19 years)
David & Elaine Smith	May 02 (44 years)
David & Sheila Wallace	May 06 (36 years)
James & Becky Kurtz	May 09 (44 years)

**Items for the April 4<sup>th</sup> bulletin need to be turned in by Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.** If you have items for the bulletin, send to secretary email: [secretary-sjf@outlook.com](mailto:secretary-sjf@outlook.com).

**St. Joseph Parish Tithing Stewardship**

April 6, 2025	\$ 2,940.00
April 13, 2025	\$ 2,336.00
April 20, 2025	\$ 2,611.00
April 27, 2025	\$

(below – accrued totals for the month)

<u>ACH Deposits / Blackbaud</u>	\$ 3,138.00
Total for month	\$ 11,025.00

<b>Weekly Goal / April 2025</b>	<b>\$3,100.00</b>
<b>(*24-25 Budget Goal) / April</b>	<b>\$15,500.00</b>

<i>Offertory Goal</i> YTD	\$129,300.00
<b><i>Offertory YTD Actuals</i></b>	<b>\$116,673.78</b>
<i>Surplus/(Shortage) YTD</i>	<b>\$ (12,626.22)</b>

**Calendar of events**

Sun. April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship after Mass
Sun. April 27 <sup>th</sup>	PSR after Mass
Tues. May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Adoration from 2 – 5:45 PM
Tues. May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pastoral Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM

**FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY** – Please join us after Mass today for Fellowship Sunday at the parish hall.

**ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament is Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** from 2:00 pm to 5:45 pm. Benediction and Mass will follow. We would like at least two people to be in the church at all times with the Blessed Sacrament. There are sign-up sheets at each entrance of church. Times are broken down in hour increments, but please know that you may come and spend any time with the Blessed Sacrament.

**THANK YOU** – Thank you to everyone who participated in our Holy Week and Easter services. Thank you for helping with the yard work, getting the church set up for services and the beautiful decorations in the church. Your help and Stewardship helped make this a most Blessed Easter Season in our Church. Thank you to everyone that generously provided for the flowers and decorations for this Easter season!

**In honor/memory of:** Cris Roberts (**Kenneth Roberts, James V. Roberts, Pio Baculo, Pisia Nacario**), Larry & Colleen Wies (**Mildred & Jake Johnmeyer**), Jim & Becky Kurtz (**Bob Hayes**).  
**Given by families:** Suann Cole, Steve & Eula Kempf.

**TURN IN RICE BOWLS** – Please turn in your rice bowls in the offertory baskets. As our Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl journey comes to an end may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more information.

**YEAR OF JUBILEE** - As we embark on this year of Jubilee, there are numerous opportunities to experience grace, including by participating in special Jubilee Masses or joining a pilgrimage. Five locations in our diocese have been designated as Jubilee pilgrimage sites. See the church entrances for a Jubilee passport.

## Parish Stewardship – Liturgical Ministries

**April Eucharistic Ministers:** Roger Dorson, Benji Dorson, Susan Thomas

**May Eucharistic Ministers:** Sandy Dorson, Steve Wies, Mary Hrdina

### Sunday, April 27 –

**Lectors:** Jennifer & Brian Spielbauer;

**Gift Bearers:** Roger & Kathy Dorson;

**Servers:** Charlie Niemeier, Finley Stallo;

**Music:** Kellie Asher, Glenn Ludtke;

**Sacristan:** Mary Hrdina;

**Greeters:** Jerry & Karen Ebbesmeyer;

**Ushers:** Roger D., Quincy D., Dick W., Brian S., Cris R., John G.

### Sunday, May 4 –

**Lectors:** Carrie Araiza, Frank K Flaspohler;

**Gift Bearers:** C. Wies Family;

**Servers:** Gracie Flaspohler, Zavier Barton;

**Music:** Sheila Wallace, Becky Kurtz, Elaine Smith, Becky Nolke;

**Sacristan:** Roger Dorson;

**Greeters:** Z. Niemeier Family;

**Ushers:** Roger D., Quincy D., Dick W., Brian S., Cris R., John G.

**Ministers taking Communion to shut ins:** Week of April 27 (Beth L.) Week of May 4 (Susan F.)

**Church cleaning:** April 27 to May 3 (Kathy & Roger D.) May 4 to May 10 (Sally & Jerry C.)

\*\*\*\*\*

### EASTER STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Oh Blessed Lord! Oh Risen Lord! We look through the crosses we have carried and give you thanks for the awe-inspiring hope that Easter brings. We give you thanks for calling us your friends and allowing us to share in the sacrifice of your of your body and blood, which is poured out for many. Oh merciful Lord, redeemer and teacher, by the power of the Holy Spirit give us the patience and insight to listen to you during this time of uncertainty. Give us the wisdom to find creative ways to put the Eucharist into action; and give us the courage to bring your Easter message of hope to a world that desperately needs your love. To you be glory and honor forever and ever. AMEN.

**CURSILLO ULTREYA, THURSDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 7:00 PM** – Cursillistas, or those interested in attending a future Cursillo Weekend, please join us for our Mid Missouri Cursillo Ultreya on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM in Flanagan Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Columbia, MO. Ron Dunn's Saturday morning group will be facilitating. Any questions? Call Marcia Doll, your Mid Missouri Ultreya coordinator, at (573) 999-5066. Cursillo meetings are Thursdays at 5:15 PM in St. Mary's church basement. Everyone is welcome!

**CURSILLO SCHOOL OF LEADERS, SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FROM 8:45 AM – 11:00 AM** – Mark your calendars! The next gathering for the Jefferson City Diocese School of Leaders will be May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church activity building (105 Waugh Street, Columbia, MO). All Cursillistas are invited to join us in this spirit filled gathering of a Cursillo community growing in their love for Christ and striving to do His work.

The advertisement is a flyer for summer youth opportunities. It features three columns of information. The first column is for 'Joyful community & faith' and 'Camp Lolek FOR JUNIOR HIGH', with dates for boys (June 8-12) and girls (June 15-19). The second column is for 'Adventure Sisterhood | Brotherhood Leadership' and 'Camp Maccabee FOR YOUNG MEN', with Session 1 (July 13-18) and Session 2 (July 20-25). The third column is for 'Camp Siena FOR YOUNG WOMEN'. At the bottom, it says 'DIOCESE OF Jefferson City' and 'DIOJEFFCITY.ORG/YOUTH-CAMPS'.

### SUMMER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese is pleased to offer our parish families the following summer opportunities:

- **TOTUS TUUS:** Held *at St. Mary Parish*. -- **June 8 to June 14, 2024**. Open to kids in grades 1 to 12. The morning session will be for *grades 1-6* and the evening session will be for *grades 7-12*. **The cost is free!** Save the date and plan to attend this great summer opportunity held **locally!**
- **CAMP LOLEK:** for Jr. High students (incoming 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>).
- **CAMP MACCABEE:** 5-day adventure camp for (High School) incoming Freshman to incoming Senior guys.
- **CAMP SIENA:** 5-day adventure camp for (High School) incoming Freshman to incoming Senior women.

**VOCATIONS - DIO JC - ORDINATION** Please join us for the ordination of one of our seminarians! Jacob Hartman will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on **Sat., June 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral in Jefferson City, Missouri**. Please come and celebrate this great gift to our local Church.



## DIOCESE OF JC VOCATIONS PRAYER

Almighty Father, You have created us for some definite purpose. Grant us the grace to know the path You have planned for us in this life and to respond with a generous "Yes." Make our diocese, parishes, homes and hearts fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations. May our young people respond to Your call with courage and zeal. Stir among our men a desire and the strength to be good and holy priests. Bless us with consecrated religious and faithful husbands and wives, who are a sign of Christ's love for His Church. We commend our prayer for vocations through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ST. MARY SCHOOL NEWS

- + **SCHOOL START TIME** *Reminder* - The school day begins at 7:50am. The students are to be in their classrooms by this time. On Mass days, we are to be at church before Mass begins at 8:00. In order for students to use the restroom and get their bookbags unpacked, they need to be here before 7:50am. This allows them time to go over to church with their class. Thank you!
- + **RE-ENROLLMENT PACKETS** Packets for the 25/26 school year have been sent home. The return date is May 9.
- + **EASTER BREAK** We will return to school on Monday, April 28. We hope everyone has a relaxing break!
- + **MAY CROWNING** We are planning for our annual May Crowning and Art Show for Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:30pm. This involves the whole school and is one of our closing events of the school year. After the event, we have a reception and art show in the cafeteria. Please keep this date open on your calendar. If your student is unable to attend, please send a note to school as soon as possible as we will begin assigning parts for May Crowning.

## OPEN TEACHING POSITIONS

- \* St. Mary has a **3<sup>rd</sup> grade** teaching position open. Thank you to Allie Schulte for teaching this semester. She will be missed!
- \* St. Mary also has a **preschool aide** position open. Thank you to Morgan Kaylor for her service with our preschoolers!


### 4. DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

We celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on the **second Sunday** of Easter.

Jesus himself expressed His desire for a feast celebrating his mercy and told Sr. Faustina that it was to be the Sunday after Easter.


"Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium."  
— St. John Paul II, Divine Mercy Sunday Homily, April 22, 2001

churchpop.com



## Divine Mercy Sunday

*Eternal Father,  
I offer You the Body and Blood,  
Soul and Divinity of Your  
dearly beloved Son,  
Our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
in atonement for our sins  
and those of the whole world.*



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

			 <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Phone (660)248-2800 Sunday 11:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday - Wednesday 11:00 am to 9:30 pm Thursday - Saturday 11:00 am to 10:00 pm</p>
<h2 style="margin: 0;">GEHA REALTY</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">John Geha and Joe Geha 573.424.3300      573.289.8902 john@johngeha.com      www.geharealty.com</p>			
	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">2531 Main Street Boonville, MO 660-882-2055 Open Daily 6am – 2pm All you can eat: Breakfast Bar – Saturdays Lunch Buffet – Sundays Come join us!</p>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>SPONSOR A SPACE IN OUR BULLETIN!</b> <i>Support St. Joseph Parish!</i> Contact the Parish Office 660-248-2439</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Banking Made for You!</p>  <p style="margin: 0;"><b>EXCHANGE BANK OF MISSOURI</b> ebmo.com   info@ebmo.com 24 hr voicemail 866.642.4144</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Member FDIC</p>
	 <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">707 n. mulberry st.      telephone 660-248-3151 CONTRACTING • HEATING • AIR CONDITIONING</p>	 <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><i>Pray the Rosary</i></p>	

# Encountering THE SEASON

Easter for the Family

Second Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 5:12–16  
Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19  
John 20:19–31

## Dear Family:

Read the reflection about God’s mercy, and discuss the “Ponder and Pray” questions and prompts, thinking about how Our Lord is calling you to act. Then, consider the challenges of the “Live It” section, and have fun with the family activities.

## Radical Mercy

Divine Mercy Sunday reveals the scandalous depth of God’s love and forgiveness. Justice demands that we receive what we deserve, but mercy offers something far greater—the love and grace we desperately need. The story of Rudolf Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz, illustrates the transforming power of God’s mercy. Responsible for millions of deaths, Höss lived a life seemingly beyond redemption. Yet in his final days, he sought confession, received absolution, and encountered God’s mercy through the sacraments.

This story challenges us to reflect on the radical nature of Divine Mercy. If God’s love could reach even someone with sins like those Höss committed, how much more can it transform our lives? Mercy is not about excusing sin but about opening our hearts to God’s grace, allowing him to heal our

““ *These [signs of Jesus] are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.* ””

—John 20:31



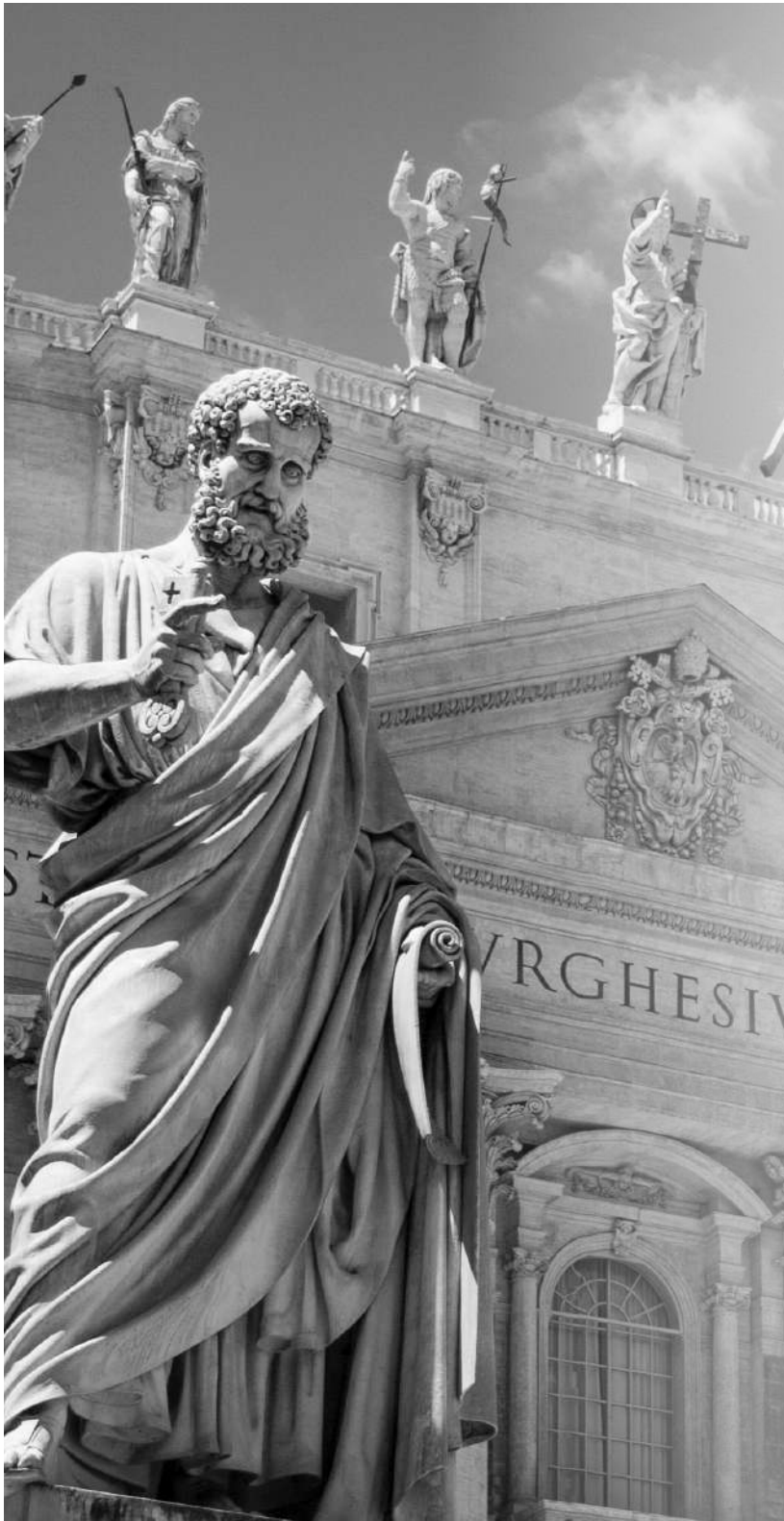
deepest wounds and break through our hardest defenses.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, ask yourself, *Are there parts of my life where I feel unworthy of forgiveness?* Remember, God’s mercy knows

no limits. Trust in his love, seek reconciliation through confession, and allow his mercy to flow through you to others. The choice before us is clear: Will we accept the justice we deserve or the mercy we need?



# *A Quick* **STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE** to How a Pope Is Elected



**U**pon the death of a pope, the world turns its attention to the Vatican. The Church enters a period of mourning before the process of choosing a successor begins (no sooner than 15 days and no later than 20 days after the pope's passing). Cardinals from around the world gather in Rome to prayerfully discern and elect the next leader of the Catholic Church—a process that is rich in history, tradition, and faith. But how does this election take place? Who is involved in the decision, and what are the key steps in selecting the next pope?

## **Prayer for the New Pope**

*O God, Eternal Shepherd,  
who governs your flock with unfailing care,  
grant in your boundless fatherly love  
a pastor for your Church  
who will please you by his holiness  
and toward us show watchful care.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

### Step 1:

## The Cardinals Gather

It all starts when the pope's seat becomes vacant. The cardinals from all over the world meet in the Vatican for what is called "General Congregations." This is the time to pray, discuss, and prepare for the election, which is known as the conclave.

### Step 2:

## The Cardinals Celebrate Mass and Pray for the Holy Spirit's Guidance

Before the process begins, the cardinals celebrate Mass together in St. Peter's Basilica, asking the Holy Spirit to guide them.

### Step 3:

## The Cardinals Enter the Conclave and Secrecy Begins

The voting cardinals—those under 80 years of age—now process into the Sistine Chapel while chanting *Veni Creator Spiritus*, calling the Holy Spirit. They take an oath of secrecy, and then comes a dramatic moment: The Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations announces "*Extra omnes*"—which means "All out!" Only the voting cardinals remain.

### Step 4:

## The Cardinal Electors Discuss Potential Candidates

Technically, any baptized male Catholic is eligible to be elected as pope. You don't have to be a cardinal! However, the pope is almost always chosen from among the College of Cardinals. The cardinals weigh all the important qualities carefully, keeping in mind the Church's needs. This process involves both prayerful discernment and practical considerations to select a leader who will guide the Church effectively in the years to come.

### Step 5:

## The Voting Begins

When it is time to vote, each cardinal writes the name of his choice on a ballot, folds it, and places it in a large chalice. Then, they count the votes. A pope must receive two thirds of the votes from the electors present to be chosen.

### Step 6:

## Black Smoke Means No Pope

If no candidate reaches the required two-thirds majority, the votes—and any notes the cardinals took during that round—are burned. If no pope is elected, a special mixture is added to make the smoke black.

### Step 7:

## A Cardinal Receives Two-Thirds Majority

Rounds of voting continue (four rounds each day) until a candidate finally reaches a two-thirds majority.

When this happens, he is asked if he accepts. He can say no. If this were to happen, the voting would resume—but if he were to accept, he chooses a papal name and dresses in white for the first time.

### Step 8:

## White Smoke Means We Have a New Pope

Now the world gets the big news. We have a new pope! They add a special mixture to the papers and ballots used during that round of voting to produce white smoke. As the smoke rises from the chimney, bells can be heard ringing across Rome.

### Step 9:

## *Habemus Papam!*—"We Have a Pope!"

The senior cardinal deacon—called the cardinal Protodeacon—steps out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and announces, "*Habemus Papam!*" ("We have a new pope!"). The newly elected pope is presented to the world for the first time from the balcony.

### Step 10:

## The *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing

What is the first thing the new pope does? He blesses the city of Rome and the whole world with the *Urbi et Orbi* blessing.

Join us in praying  
for our new pope:



# Remembering POPE FRANCIS

1936—2025

## Biography

Pope Francis—born Jorge Mario Bergolio on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina—was elected Supreme Pontiff, the 266th pope of the Catholic Church, on March 13, 2013. He is the first Jesuit pope and the first pope from the Americas. Before his election, he served as Archbishop of Buenos Aires and was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 2001. As pope, he emphasized pastoral care, evangelization, and the centrality of God’s mercy.



## Papal Motto

Pope Francis’ motto, *Miserando atque eligendo* (“by having mercy and by choosing”), comes from a homily by St. Bede on the call of St. Matthew. This phrase held deep personal significance for Pope Francis as he experienced a profound encounter with God’s mercy on the Feast of St. Matthew in 1953, which led him to his vocation.

## Prayer for Pope Francis

*O God, who in your Divine Providence chose your servant Pope Francis to be counted among the shepherds of your Church, grant, we beseech you, that through your mercy he may receive the reward of a faithful steward and enjoy forever your presence in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

Join us in praying a novena for Pope Francis:



## Three of Pope Francis' Favorite Devotions

We call the pope the “Holy Father,” highlighting his paternal role in guiding us toward Christ through the riches of the Catholic Faith. One way the pope accomplishes his work as a father and teacher is by imparting to us the wisdom of our Faith and enriching our spiritual lives with devotionals. Here are some special devotions that Pope Francis held:



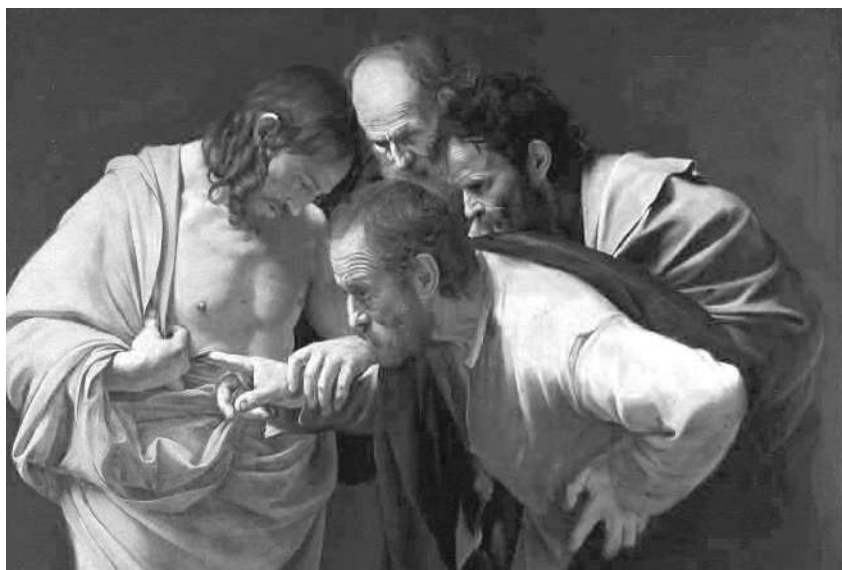
### Pope Francis' Devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots

“We pray to you, Holy Mother, untie the knots that oppress us materially and spiritually, so that we may joyfully bear witness to your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.” —Pope Francis (Recitation of the Holy Rosary, Vatican Gardens, May 31, 2021)

### Pope Francis' Devotion to Sleeping St. Joseph

“I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! ... when I have a problem ... I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so he can dream about it! ... I tell him: pray for this problem!”

—Pope Francis (Speaking to families in Manila, Philippines, January 16, 2015)

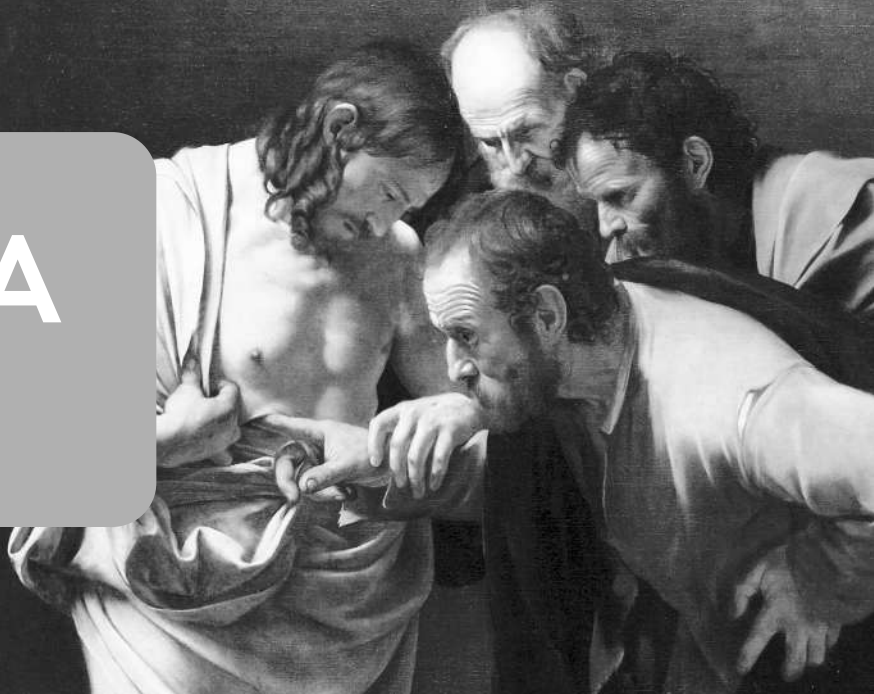


### Pope Francis' Devotion to the Five Holy Wounds of Christ

“Lest we go astray on our journey, let us stand before the cross of Jesus: the silent throne of God. Let us daily contemplate his wounds, the wounds that he brought to heaven and shows daily to the Father in his prayer of intercession. Let us daily contemplate those wounds. ... Because there, where we are most vulnerable, where we feel the most shame, he came to meet us.” —Pope Francis (Ash Wednesday Homily, February 17, 2021)

# Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus



## CONNECTING THOMAS TO MERCY

### What is Divine Mercy and what does it have to do with the Gospel today?

The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. What is it? How does it connect to the Easter season and specifically to today's Gospel about St. Thomas? Caroline Harvey addresses these questions in an article about Divine Mercy.

#### Put Your Finger Here

Jesus instructs Thomas to touch the wounds of the crucifixion on his hands and place his hand in his side. Beyond proving to Thomas that he did rise from the dead, Jesus meets Thomas in his suffering of disbelief, confusion, and pain, showing his disciple that he has taken that suffering upon himself. Jesus knows his pain intimately and does not dismiss or punish Thomas for it. In making it his own, Jesus recreates Thomas' heart, filling him with new life.

### Devotion to Divine Mercy

This encounter between Jesus and St. Thomas is most fitting for the Feast of Divine Mercy. This feast on the Second Sunday of Easter is relatively new for the universal Church. It was inaugurated by St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Maria Faustina on April 30, 2000. St. Faustina was a Polish religious sister who received many revelations and commands from Jesus to spread devotion to Divine Mercy. The famous painting of Jesus with white and red rays coming forth from him, with the inscription *“Jesus, I trust in you.”* was painted from a vision St. Faustina received. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the feast itself were both requests from Jesus to St. Faustina. His words and the moving story of her life are recorded in her diary, which is worth reading many times. St. John Paul II was deeply devoted to spreading the message of Divine Mercy.

The Divine Mercy celebration as the culmination of the Easter Octave is not to be overlooked. Easter is the highest-ranking, holiest feast of the year. It is so holy that it takes us eight days to fully celebrate the glory of this one day. And as the crown of the octave stands the Feast of Divine Mercy. Jesus desired to make abundantly clear that he died out of love for us, and he forever showers that love upon us. He says to St. Faustina:

“If souls would put themselves completely in My care, I Myself would undertake the task of sanctifying them, and I would lavish even greater graces on them. There are souls who thwart My efforts, but I have not given up on them; as often as they turn to Me, I hurry to their aid, shielding them with My mercy, and I give them the first place in My compassionate Heart” (*Diary*, 1682).

These words bring to life the interaction between Jesus and St. Thomas. Jesus showers Thomas with mercy and even greater graces than had he first believed. This is hard to comprehend! How is it that God, who is perfect, can be just and superabundantly merciful?

## Ponder and Pray

- How do you personally relate to St. Thomas and his doubt?
- Is it easy to put yourself completely under Jesus’ care?
- Is Jesus the Lord and God of all the aspects of your life?



## Make It Your Own

Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy this week. You can use your rosary. Take a few minutes before to list some intentions that you are entrusting to Jesus’ mercy. Scan the QR code for instructions on how to pray the chaplet or go to:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/divine-mercy-chaplet>

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## Tip of the Week

God’s plan from the beginning was for all of us to be in communion with him. Our sin did not thwart his plan. Rather, it allowed for God’s mercy and love to be known in greater depths than ever imaginable.

## Dive Deeper

Scan this code to listen more:

Or go to: <https://media.ascensionpress.com/2020/04/18/unfathomable-divine-mercy-and-the-doubting-thomas/>

