



## ST. DENIS Parish

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**LOVE GOD    LOVE OTHERS    TRAIN DISCIPLES**

### Eucharistic Celebrations :

**Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> - private mass – Sereena Klassen**  
*(Simone & André Lambert)*

**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am Adoration of the blessed sacrament and reconciliation**  
**private mass – August Debusschere** *(funeral collection)*

**Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> private mass – Joseph & Marie-Ange Ricard** *(S & A Lambert)*

Sanctuary Lamp – this week: **Lawrence Allen family**

God's Share April to date: \$535.00 + \$0.00 (loose) + \$220.00 (DD) = **\$755.00**

**Raffle Draw:** The RM is allowing us to change the date of our raffle without having to purchase a new permit. A new date for the bazaar has not yet been chosen but the draw will be made at that time. So continue selling all those tickets whenever you have a chance. It's a bit difficult with the social distancing protocol but we do what we can.

### **Readings for Sunday: April 26, 2020**



Acts 2, 14.22b-33  
1 Peter 1.17-21

Psalm 15 (16), 1-2a.5, 7-8, 9-10, 11;  
Luke 24, 13-35

### **Prayer Intention for April 2020:**

**Freedom from Addiction** - We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

*April 19, 2020*

*Divine Mercy Sunday (A)*

Words from Fr. Peter to parishioners of St. Claude and St. Denis,

Brothers and sisters,

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy. This feast was established on April 30, 2000 by Saint Pope John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina, the apostle of Divine Mercy.

The Lord expressed His will with regard to this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. The most comprehensive revelation can be found in her *Diary* entry 699:

**“My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet...The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy”.**

Flipping the pages of the Holy Scriptures, we see that God's mercy is beyond human sins. There are some parables of the “lost and found,” such as the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son, or the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) that remind us of our Merciful God, who always waits, welcomes sinners and forgives their sins whenever they return to Him with genuine contrition and resolution.

Being created in the image of God, we are his children. We are precious in the eyes of God no matter who we are, no matter how sinful we are. “If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? (Psalm 130:3). God does not remember our past, he just focuses on loving and forgiving our sins. There is a certain hope for those who trust in God's mercy for “every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future” (Oscar Wilde). “The Church is not a museum for saints, but a hospital for sinners”. Yes, before God, we are all sinners but we are not facing the dead end. We always have a second chance thanks to God's love and mercy. What we need to do is to repent by making a U-turn of conversion, returning to Him to begin a new journey. Pope Francis said: **“God never tires of forgiving us. We are the ones who are tired of seeking His mercy”**. Brothers and sisters, return to God, and **remember that God's merciful love is more powerful than our sins**. Like the sunflower always turns to the sun to receive light to grow and bear fruits, we need to turn to God with gratitude, with our contrition of heart to receive his mercy and forgiveness to live in a state of grace with God. When we live in a state of grace, we will have the inner peace.

Trusting in God's love and mercy, we continue our journey of faith knowing that God is present with us in every single moment of our lives. During these times of challenges and uncertainty, more than ever, we need to rely on God's grace and spend more time to pray because “If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action.” (Mother Teresa). With God's grace, it will be easier for us to carry our daily cross to follow Him, with joy, peace and serenity.

We entrust our past to His Mercy, our presence to His love, and our future to His Providence.

**Let us give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” (Psalm 118).**

**Some announcements to share with you as follows:**

- **Ringing of Church Bells:** Archbishop LeGatt invites parishes to ring church bells at noon on Easter Sunday and on every Sunday until Pentecost, i.e. till the end of the Easter season. In St. Claude and St. Denis- Haywood, we will ring the bells to express the joy of Easter, and to express our gratitude to all frontline workers who dedicate themselves for the service of many people during this pandemic. We are invited to show our deep appreciation for all these people and pray for them.
- **This Sunday April 19, the Divine Mercy Sunday:**
  - + **In St. Claude:** Fr. Peter will pray the Chaplet of Devine Mercy and the Expose the Blessed Sacrament at 7 AM.
  - + **In St. Denis,** the Mass will be live streamed on the parish Facebook page at 9 AM.
- You can receive the Holy Communion spiritually by saying this prayer:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

- Our church is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM to allow individuals to come and pray. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will run during the same time. Please contact Fr. Peter if you wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Please follow our parish Facebook page: "Paroisse Saint-Claude Parish" for updated information.
- I am here to serve you, do not hesitate to contact me at parish number 2043792434 or my cell as seen on the parish bulletin.
- The total amount received from our mini Lenten campaign "Love in a Loonie" in both parishes is \$433.25. Fr. Peter, Marcel Lesage and Andre Lambert shared with four families in St. Claude and St. Denis. Together with recipients, we thank you for your contribution.

**I would like to thank all of you for your donations to our parishes during these difficult times. We hope to receive your continued support to keep our pastoral ministries going. May the Lord reward you abundantly for your generosity.**

You are in my thoughts and my daily prayers! May the Lord keep you safe and healthy!

Fr. Peter Le

April 19, 2020

Divine Mercy Sunday (A)

## Thomas's Experience



*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe (John 20:29). Christ's future followers would believe without having seen or touched his wounds. As Thomas was not present when Christ previously appeared to the Apostles, his initial reaction was to doubt his colleagues' testimonies. Christ responded by exceptionally allowing him to reach out and touch his wounds. Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe (Jn 20:27). Jesus provided the ultimate proof to his doubting Apostle who was overcome with joy.*

The liturgies of the seven Sundays following the Resurrection were intended to continue the education of those who were baptized at Easter. These liturgies were designed to accompany those initiated to the Christian faith with the celebration of their Baptism and by their initial and full participation in the Eucharist. This approach to liturgical catechesis is called *mystagogy*, an initiation into the mystery of Christ. Though times have changed, we, as the current faithful, still need to revisit the essentials of our faith. This Paschal season is an opportune time for catechesis, a *mystagogy* for all of us.

The catechesis today begins by recalling the all-encompassing faith of the initial Christian communities who were faithful to the Apostles' teachings, to fraternal life, to the breaking of bread, to prayer, and finally to the sharing of goods. These original initiatives were and remain important. To this extent, St. John's Gospel brings us to the heart of the early Christians' experiences.

Thomas' experience is very significant. It teaches us to manage our doubts and to recognize and name them. Through his experience, Thomas had the rare privilege of touching the Risen Christ which confirmed his belief in the Risen Lord. Faith and confidence are similar in nature. In *Old French*, we find the word *fiance*, from which we derive *fiançailles*. Bringing this term to a further conclusion, it refers to a lasting relationship and confidence in Christ's promise. This is how Thomas experienced the light of faith.

Thomas was overcome with joy as he extended his hand. In our case, our understanding is increased, and our daily liturgy proposes a refrain at communion, an *antiphon* which responds to Christ's invitation. Our response on this Second Sunday of Easter acknowledges Christ and references both Thomas' and our expressions of faith. Christ has reached out to us. *Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe (Jn 20:27).* Today as we extend our hand to receive the Eucharistic bread, our response confirms our faith.

Thomas was joyful and he finally understood. His experience is our teachable moment.

**Father Jacques Houle, c.s.v**  
Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrell