April 23, 2017
Sunday of Divine Mercy

A SEASON OF JOY

“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). This first line of today’s first reading sets the tone as this fifty-day celebration of Easter opens before us. Today we listen to the teachings of three apostles—Luke, Peter, and John—who remind us that even though we have not seen Christ, we nonetheless are filled with joy as we place our belief in his saving death and resurrection. Each week during the Easter season we will gather as a community of faith to find strength and support from our God and from one another. Each week we will gather to break bread and offer the great prayer of thanksgiving, actions that will manifest the very presence of the risen Christ in our midst. Let us be open to the wonders of this season of joy.

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Sunday of Divine Mercy
April 23, 2017

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”
~ John 20:29b

Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle A
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy)
Sunday, April 23, 2017

First Reading
The first community of Christians grows as its members meet to pray and break bread.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24
God’s love is everlasting.

Second Reading
1 Peter 1:3-9
We have new hope because of Jesus’ Resurrection.

Gospel Reading
John 20:19-31
Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus’ Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John’s Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke’s Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn’t recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion.

From readings such as today’s Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas’s doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus’ appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas’s human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples. We are among those who are “blessed” because we believe without having seen.
RESURRECTION CALENDAR

ALL events take place in the Parish Center unless otherwise stated.

Adoration, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Bereavement & Beyond Ministry, Mondays, 10:00 a.m. For more information call Alouise 481-8168
Coffee & Donuts, Sundays after 10:30 Mass
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00 p.m., Sept. - May
Men’s Gospel Forum, Fridays 8:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Sundays, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass, for info, 482-6883
Rel. Ed., September - May
Resurrection for Life, for info, call Judy at 287-1237
Resurrection Prayerline Ministry, call Deanna Latell 481-1170.
Rosary, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30 p.m., church
Rosary Makers, 3rd Thursdays  Oct. thru May, 9-11 a.m.
St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 pm. For SVDP assistance call 239-600-6749, or email, svdp@resurrectionch.org
Teams of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30 a.m. Sept. - May

WEEKLY OFFERING

April 9, 2017
Offertory: $28,105.00
Rice Bowl: $5,656.00
Latin Mass: $615.00

April 16, 2017
Easter Offertory: $53,917.28
Easter Education: $25,596.00
Holy Lands: $5,657.00
Latin Mass: $1,262.00
SVDP: $1,847.00

Thank You

Online Giving for March 2017
Offertory: $10,060.00
Education: $443.00

St. Vincent DePaul Distributions March 2017
Through your gift to SVdP you are helping your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless and frightened to know they belong to God
Rents $1,448.53
Mortgage $497.61
Electric $1,331.52
Water $366.40
Prescriptions $200.00 (assisting those at Salus Care)
Bus Passes $90.00
Gas Vouchers $140.00

We are so blessed with generous food donors, we have been able to assist other St. Vincent councils. We gave $400 in vouchers to our thrift shop for furniture, clothing and shoes. Gift cards for gas, McDonalds and Publix along with bus passes have become highly requested items.

Be assured of our prayers!

This week’s Sanctuary Candle: for

Frank Perciaspere
by wife, Anna

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS:

When admitted to the hospital please register as Catholic and notify the parish office immediately, 481-7171. Resurrection priests visit the hospitals daily.

To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission.

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by St. John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973
Calling All Moms…
You are invited to share in a new ministry for mothers!

SWF Catholic Moms: Where mothers are nourished, strengthened and cherished, and families are celebrated!

Come join fellow Moms……
Every first and third Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 in the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall

For more information contact Amanda Gavini at:
239-222-0452 or girlyamanda@yahoo.com

Don’t Delay Register Now!

When: June 13-16, 2017 (Tuesday thru Friday)
Time: 9am—Noon
Where: Resurrection Parish Center
Who: Kids from Pre-K thru 5th grade
Cost: $30 for 1 child
$50 for 2 children
$65 for 3 children
(Discount applies to Siblings only)

Building Faith and Friendship!

Calling All Moms…
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Catholic Chamber of Commerce meeting is Tuesday, April 25th at Church of the Resurrection.
11:30A.M.-1:00P.M Light lunch. We invite all Catholic businesses and ministries. Free to attend. No membership required.
Being a member is a great way to witness our beautiful Catholic faith. Only $25.00 a year to join.
This includes listing in business directory and web site, networking /fellowship meetings throughout the year, and e-newsletters. Please look for your free Florida Catholic Chamber Business Directory at your church entrances. Check us out at www.floridacatholicchamber.com For more information contact: Angela at 239-980-0921 or RSVP to toni@floridacatholicchamber.com
Please join us here at Resurrection Parish for a special Mass for “A Greater Respect For Life”
April 25, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

All are encouraged to attend

Resurrection for Life

Please join us at the Abortion Clinic at 3900 Broadway, Fort Myers every 2nd Saturday (after the 8:00 Mass) for the Rosary.

Celebrate Mass on the 25th of each month from the Annunciation to Christmas for a greater respect for all human life.

See the schedule of Masses throughout the Diocese of Venice at www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife.

Diocese of Venice Respect Life
1000 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34285
941-441-1101

Save Up
When saving for old age, be sure to lay up a few pleasant thoughts.
—Anonymous

Jesus Is Lord
Prayer Group
Please join us every Wednesday night from 7-8:30 PM in the Parish Center for prayer, praise and faith sharing.

Pray
I will commit to pray this prayer every day for 9 months from now until Christmas:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

A Meditation from the Diary of St. Faustina, entry 1485 -
Jesus: I am your strength, I will help you in the struggle.
Soul: Lord, I recognize your holiness, and I fear you.
Jesus: My child, do you fear the God of Mercy? My holiness does not prevent Me from being merciful. Behold, for you I have established a throne of mercy on earth - the tabernacle - and from this throne I desire to enter into your heart. I am not surrounded by a retinue or guards. You can come to me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace.

Eucharist
Please join us each 1st Friday for Adoration immediately after the 8:00 Mass

Jesus Is Lord
Prayer Group

Spiritually Adopting an Unborn Child

Please join us at the Abortion Clinic at 3900 Broadway, Fort Myers every 2nd Saturday (after the 8:00 Mass) for the Rosary.
“Thank you” to the Resurrection Women’s Guild for the $1,500.00 donation to the 2017 Catholic Faith Appeal!! The generous gift will go a long way toward paying our assessment.

Books change our lives!

Sometimes all it takes is the right book at the right time...

REDISCOVER JESUS
The topics in this book help you experience God’s presence in new and significant ways!

After you read it, pass it along...
Everyone is called to Spread the Good News!

FREE BOOK IS AVAILABLE IN PARISH CENTER OR THE GIFT SHOP

“Ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” Matthew 7:7
Wondering about becoming Catholic?

Who are the people who show God’s love to you?

Is something missing in your life?

Are there spiritual things you hunger for?

What questions surface for you at this time?

Will you join us to inquire???

“Seeking and Finding”
April 30 - 10:00am - 11:00am
Resurrection Parish Center
You are invited to reflect, discuss and discover …
Come and See! Continental Breakfast included.
Call Joanne - 481-7171

Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosk
Check out one of our newest CD’s:

BORNS AGAIN? FAITH ALONE?

In one of his most focused talks to date, Stephen Ray discusses salvation, the authentic biblical understanding of being "born again", and how we are saved by faith, but not "faith alone". With great humor and doctrinal depth, he goes all the way back to Abraham to show that we are saved by faith and obedience to all that Christ demands of us.

Parishioner Comments
"The best talk I've ever heard on being 'born again' and on salvation!" - Gary Michuta

So full of insight! Stephen gives a fantastic explanation of how disobedience is the opposite of belief, and all according to scripture!
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