

**April 23, 2017**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace be with you! We hear this exceptional greeting in today's Gospel. These are the first words spoken by our Lord to His disciples, after the resurrection. Before He gives any instruction or explanation, Jesus first sends His peace upon the disciples who were huddled together in fear and bewilderment. If we really think about it, peace is what we are all striving for. Not peace in the popular sense of the word, but the kind of peace that emanates from the Risen Christ. Peace is more than just the cessation of violence and hostility. It is more than just a description of the time between wars. The peace that we seek can only be given to us through our faith and trust in God. To understand this peace that we seek, it might be helpful to first discuss what it is not.

Peace does not mean that life will be perfect. I think we are all experienced enough to understand that perfection is something that will not be attained in this life. Peace does not mean that we will be free from disappointment, sorrow, or pain. It doesn't mean that we will always be happy and filled with joy. Again, we all know that life just doesn't work that way. Life has a way of kicking us around sometimes. Life has a way of sending Good Fridays our way.

Peace means that we are tranquil and content. Tranquil in the knowledge that we are loved by a God who emptied Himself to become one of us and who died for us in the ultimate expression of this love. Content that God is indeed with us and will not abandon us, even in our darkest moments. Peace means that no matter what life throws at us, we can face it with the confidence that somehow, some way, God's Will will prevail. If we are following God's Will and doing our best to truly live the Gospel, Christ's peace will be ours. Following

the Gospel can be rough stuff, but if we are giving it our best effort we cannot help but experience peace because we know that Jesus is there with us constantly offering us His Grace to help and strengthen us. Even if we are experiencing great sadness, we can still be at peace if we place our trust in God; if we trust that our Good Friday will be transformed into an Easter Sunday.

I suspect that Jesus was at peace while He carried His cross to Golgotha. He was at peace because He knew that He was doing His Father's will. He knew that his suffering and pain would end in glory; so too the pains and sufferings of this life. When you find Christ's peace, you will know it. When you find it (and I know many of you have) do whatever it takes to nurture it and strengthen it, through prayer and sacrament.

May God bless you and may His peace always rest upon you,

Monsignor Hurley

**2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

*"Their Eyes Were Opened and They Recognized Him"*

The 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal will be conducted in parishes throughout the diocese next weekend. Once a year, our Bishop asks each of us to make a commitment to support the work of diocesan programs and ministries that provide services that no one parish can offer on its own. Your gift helps bring Christ to those who seek His presence - the poor, the sick, the distressed, our children and our elderly.

As parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle, we are proud to be part of the Church of Wilmington. As members of the diocese, it is important for each of us to serve others by sharing our resources. Just as we are one in the body of Christ, we are also one with other parishes and with our diocese.

Our parish target is \$31,500. Your financial support of the Appeal also provides funding for

our parish since 100% of monies collected above our target will be returned for our own ministerial needs.

Please give prayerful consideration to your resources and the needs of those served by the Appeal. Kindly decide ahead of time the contribution you wish to make this year and come to church next week prepared to complete your pledge to offer your support.

### **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

Marriage Moments: Over the years people develop little quirks and annoying habits. In healthy marriages both partners learn to overlook a lot and do little favors to accommodate the other.

Parenting Pointers: God so loved us that he gave us his only Son. The gift was not pain-free, however, as we know from the crucifixion. When your child becomes a cross to you, remember Jesus words, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

### **ANNUAL MALVERN RETREAT – APRIL 28**

Join our men of the parish the weekend of April 28 for our annual Malvern retreat. To learn more about our retreat, the Arch Bishop Fitzmaurice Group, or any other group, call Ray Worrall at 302-239-9897 or John Grieshaber at 484-888-6228. For information for all retreats for men, women, married couples and families, visit the website at [malvernretreat.com](http://malvernretreat.com) or call 610-644-0400

### **LITURGICAL NOTES FOR EASTER**

The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one "great Sunday." These are the days above all others in which the Alleluia is sung.

### **LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY**

**\$2, 207.00**

**Easter - \$5, 257.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

### **Monday, April 24**

6:00pm – Joseph J. Facciolo

### **Tuesday, April 25**

8:00am – Sharon Dougherty

### **Wednesday, April 26**

8:00am – Gertrude Kastner

### **Thursday, April 27**

8:00am – James T. Skilling

### **Saturday, April 29**

5:00pm – Mass for the People

### **Sunday, April 30**

8am – Mary Jane D'Antonio

10am – Joann Street

The first eight days of Easter Time constitute the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord.

Especially during Easter Time, instead of the customary Penitential Act, the blessing and sprinkling of water may take place as a reminder of Baptism.

The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time, and lit for all liturgical celebrations.

### **VOCATION REFLECTION**

Today's first reading reminds us that the early Christians "devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers." Christians today are called to the same tasks; some live out that calling as religious sisters

and brothers, as priests or as deacons. What about you? Might God be calling you to a life of service to the Body of Christ? If you think so, call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113; [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org)). Be sure to visit our website: [www.cdow.org/vocations!](http://www.cdow.org/vocations!)

### **BAPTISM**

For parents who wish to have their babies baptized the next class will take place on Tuesday, May 9, at 7:00pm in the church. For further information and to register, please call the rectory office at 658-5131.

### **GOD IS ON THE AIR**

You are invited to listen to the Catholic Forum podcast. A new podcast is posted every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at [cdow.org/communications](http://cdow.org/communications) or search "Catholic Forum" on iTunes or iHeartRadio podcasts. Next Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi from the Archdiocese of Washington will discuss his new book, "Meeting God in the Upper Room: Three Moments to Change Your Life." For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcast links, and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicforum](http://www.facebook.com/catholicforum). Catholic Forum is a production of the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Wilmington.

### **SPRINGTIME IN PARIS CONCERT TO BENEFIT CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

The enchanting music of Wilson Somers' "Springtime in Paris" will fill the air on April 30<sup>th</sup>! The concert will support the community outreach of Catholic Charities! Emmy Award winning jazz composer and pianist Wilson Somers with his jazz trio and guests, including soloist Annie Fitch, will lead us on a magical tour of "Springtime In Paris" at 7:30 pm on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at The Tatnall School's Laird Performing Arts Center. The concert is presented by Mass for the Homeless, Inc. as part of its "Music with a Mission" series. For tickets visit [www.bit.ly/Springtime\\_In\\_Paris](http://www.bit.ly/Springtime_In_Paris). All seats are \$20.

### **BIRTHRIGHT OF DELAWARE ROSE SALE**

Birthingright of Delaware is holding its Annual Rose Sale at our parish on Mother's Day weekend, May 13 & 14. Please support Birthingright's pregnancy services by purchasing roses after Masses on Mother's Day. Roses cost \$2/one, \$5/three, \$18/Dozen and \$35/twenty five. Your help will truly make a difference! Thank you.

### **FRANCISCAN NIGHT**

Join the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia at Franciscan Night, an evening of fun, food, games of chance, and raffle baskets, to benefit the sisters' retirement fund. Saturday, May 6, 2017, 7pm-10pm, (doors open at 6:30 P.M.) Our Lady of Angels Convent, 609 S. Convent Road, Aston, PA 19014. To register or learn more about the event, go to the sisters' website: <http://osfphila.org/support-us/foundation-event/> or contact Terri Gamble at (610) 558-6143.

### **STOCK THE PANTRY**

Catholic Charities again asks you to "Stock the Pantry" by contributing nonperishable food goods in order for the agency to meet the continued high demand for food assistance. Donors can drop off food, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and grocery store gift cards at all Catholic Charities locations during regular business hours. To find out more about Catholic Charities food assistance program, or for the closest location to you, call the main office at 302-655-9624, or visit Catholic Charities website at [www.cdow.org/charities](http://www.cdow.org/charities).

### **MEMORIAL BRICK**

If you wish to purchase a Memorial Brick honoring a loved one or special occasion please call the Rectory or visit the St. Thomas the Apostle website at [www.sainttom.org](http://www.sainttom.org)

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy | John 20:19-31

After His Resurrection, Jesus greeted His disciples in the locked room saying, "Peace be with you". Then He said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them". Thomas was not present, but Jesus came a week later when he was there and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands... and do not be unbelieving, but believe". *John 20:27*

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# Believe...

in the mercy of God

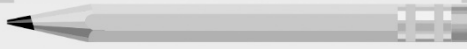
### Jesus wants us to...

- 1) Receive Penance during Lent, our preparation time.
- 2) Receive Communion on this day.
- 3) Venerate or respect the image of Jesus.
- 4) Perform deeds of mercy/acts of kindness for everyone out of love for Jesus.
- 5) For this, Jesus will grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishments.



### BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.



"Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed." *John 20:29*

- Divine
- Mercy
- Jesus
- Appears
- Disciples
- Locked
- Room
- Overjoyed
- Peace
- With
- You
- Receive
- Holy
- Spirit
- Forgive
- Seen
- Believe
- Blessed
- Messiah
- Everyone
- Complete
- Respect
- Image
- Acts
- Kindness
- Deeds
- Saint
- Faustina

P	E	A	C	E	J	E	S	U	S	T	C	A
H	O	L	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	J	E	I
S	T	O	V	E	R	J	O	Y	E	D	Y	M
E	V	I	E	C	E	R	D	I	V	I	N	E
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L	T	I	P	A	E	I	E	L	Y	V	O	Y
P	C	R	A	U	S	G	S	Y	O	E	M	D
M	E	I	M	S	S	E	N	D	N	I	K	E
O	P	T	E	T	D	E	S	S	E	L	B	K
C	S	M	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	C
K	E	T	D	N	E	G	A	M	I	B	D	O
Y	R	A	N	A	P	P	E	A	R	S	F	L