

welcome

we are glad you are here!

to our church

*He is not here;
he has Risen!*

Luke 24:6



Immaculate Conception
Catholic Church

07 April 2024

Today's Readings Pg 145

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Psalm 118:2-24

1 John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Will is a widower, now in his eighties. He calls every once in a while, partly to talk but really wanting to know how he can convince his grown children and grandchildren to come back to church. He tells me they're good people, but he would like them to have faith. It's been a mainstay in his life, he tells me, something that has gotten him through many difficulties. He loves his family but says their life would be so much richer if they had an active faith life. I try to tell Will he can't argue them into faith. At most he can share with them how faith has been a blessing in his life, hoping that it might then spark an interest in them.

The disciples in the Gospel story about "Doubting Thomas" experienced Will's dilemma. They were unable to convince Thomas that the Lord had risen. He insisted that he would only believe when he could put his fingers and hands into Jesus' wounds, which of course is just what happens the next time they are gathered. For Thomas, words were not enough; he needed the experience.

Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe, especially those we dearly love. ●

Reflect

Have you ever surrendered to faith even when you were filled with doubt?

Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

JOHN 20:29



Lord, We Lift Up to You in Prayer...

Joan Rourke, April Hicklin, Mary Lou Weepie,
Lois Wickman, Carma Schmidtke, Charlie Corey,
Pam Miller, Marci Willey, Diana Snyder,
Michael McDonough, Rose Kalb, Dave Chase,
Marisa Davidson, Mary Ellen Youngblut, Karyn Beenken,
Elaine Ernst, Lindsey Ernst, Ron Babinat,
victims of hatred, racism, violence, natural disaster;
terrorism, and all in our parish, our community, and our hearts
who are suffering and in need of Christ's healing touch †
May they know His loving Presence in the eyes, hands and
hearts of those who give them care.

**May our prayers for help and
healing rise like incense
to our God of hope, love and mercy.**



► Communion To Our Sick Or Homebound Ministry:

contact Michelle Weepie 319-635-2428

► I C Parish Prayer Chain Hotline:

Please contact Vivian Rourke at 319-238-3225 (V) or 319-238-2083 (M)

► Sacrament Of The Sick ~ Anointing for the seriously ill or dying, call the Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743, or if having surgery speak with Father Atwood in the Sacristy before or after Mass

► Baptism Class For Parents:

All parents who wish to have their child baptized at Immaculate Conception parish are required to attend a baptism class prior to scheduling the baptism. Please contact Deacon Jim at 319-509-1210 for scheduling details.



► I C Cemetery – contact the parish office

► Funeral Dinners: Group #2 May, June, July,, & August

We provide desserts & serve a catered meal

I C STAFF

~ Fr. Ray Atwood, Pastor ~

IC Parish Office Wednesday Mornings after 8:30AM Mass

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Sacred Heart Rectory 319-283-9577

email: dbq151@dbqarch.org

~ Deacon Jim Patera ~

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Cell phone 319-509-1210

~Glenda Kleitsch IC Secretary/Bookkeeper~

IC Parish Office PH: 319-635-2211

located at 405 Fairbank St

IC Parish Office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8AM – 3PM Closed Friday

Mailing address: P O BOX 505 Fairbank IA 50629

email: icfairbank@gmail.com

[website: http://icfairbank.weebly.com/](http://icfairbank.weebly.com/)

[Archdiocesan website: www.dbqarch.org](http://www.dbqarch.org)

~Kim Weepie, DRE & Youth Ministry~

PH: 319-240-5912 kim.weepie@gmail.com

DRE Office PH :319-635-2211

located in the Parish Center at 405 Fairbank St

Mailing address: P O Box 505, Fairbank IA 50629

Jean Sauerbrei, Facility Rental Coordinator

PH: cell 319-296-8459

or email jmsauerbrei@yahoo.com



DIVINE MERCY

April 7, 2024

The Second Sunday of Easter used to be called “Low Sunday” because it fell at the end of the Easter Octave (Easter was “High Sunday”), and it was a time of less solemn festivity. Pope St. John Paul II, who died on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2005, renamed it “Divine Mercy Sunday.” This feast is based on the revelations of Divine Mercy to St. Faustina Kowalska (+1938). The image of Divine Mercy revealed to St. Faustina features the risen Jesus with two streams flowing from His chest: a white stream symbolizing the water that makes souls righteous and a red stream symbolizing His Precious Blood that nourishes souls.

Divine Mercy Sunday is an excellent occasion to reflect on the works of mercy. In the *Catechism*, we read: “The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are **spiritual works of mercy**, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The **corporal works of mercy** consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity; it is also a work of justice pleasing to God” (CCC 2447).

The *Catechism* quotes Scripture in support of these vital works. “*He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food must do likewise. But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you. If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?*” (Lk. 3:11, 11:41, Jas. 2:15-16; cf. 1 Jn. 3:17).

There are various ways we can put the gift of Divine Mercy into practice right here in the Oelwein/Fairbank area. Examples include making a monthly donation to the Oelwein Kitchen Cupboard, Oran Food Pantry, Helping Hands, and the monthly Peanut Butter drive for Wapsi Valley; writing a sincere letter offering forgiveness to someone who has hurt you, or asking forgiveness of someone you have hurt by word or deed; mentoring a student; volunteering to read to children at the library, or teach catechism to our Faith Formation students (we always need holy helpers!); attending a wake or funeral; offering holy Mass for a deceased loved one; donating clothes to Goodwill or St. Vincent de Paul; visiting one of our fine rest homes or a patient in the hospital; donating to Guiding Star Cedar Valley to assist families; donating cans and bottles to the I.C. can redemption center; and I’m sure you can think of many more ways to show mercy.

Mercy is *not* charity. Divine Mercy is God’s love for sinners; charity is God’s love for us all. The Divine Mercy celebration takes place on the Sunday after Easter because that is the Sunday we hear of Our Lord’s two visits to the Apostles in the Upper Room, His breathing the Spirit, and sharing the power of forgiveness (“*If you forgive men’s sins they are forgiven them, if you hold them bound, they are held bound*” Jn. 20:23). While mercy is vitally important, we must also remember that we are all accountable for our actions, and in justice must atone for them. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy accomplish just that. If we expect mercy from God, we must offer mercy to our neighbor, and make up for the violations of mercy we have done. These works are steps in that direction. Mary, Mother of Divine Mercy, pray for us. **God Bless You!! Father Ray Atwood**

Parish Financial Support

Mar 31- Apr 4

Budget	\$4975
Offertory	\$342
Easter	\$4070
Building Fund	\$10
Stations/Cross	\$500
Good Friday	\$417
Fish Fry	\$65
Prayer Garden	\$10

March 2024	
Online Giving	
Budget	\$1865
Pledge Install	\$10
Easter	\$100
Total	\$1975

March Mollie B Donations \$1545.00

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

April 2024

TODAY

Peanut Butter Sunday

Fairbank Fire & EMS Pancake Breakfast

8-11AM Fairbank Fire station Free Will Donation

Sun Apr 14 ~ Donut Sunday 6th & 10th Grades

Wed Apr 17 ~ Monthly Community Potluck 11:30AM

Fri Apr 19 ~ Hall Rented for dress rehearsal.

Sat Apr 20 ~ Gremaud/Buzynski Wedding 2PM

Apr 21-26 ~ Father Atwood Vacation



Sat Apr 27 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party

Sat Apr 27 ~ Faith & Four-Letter Words – Legion Hall

Sun Apr 28 ~ Colleen Pasnik- speaking at 8:30AM Mass

Mary's Inn Maternity Home

Donut Sunday After 8:30 AM Mass IC Parish Hall

Brief Presentation by Colleen Pasnik

From the Family of Mary Lou Fink

Dear Parishioners at Immaculate Conception

Thank you for the many kind words, thoughts and prayers following the death of our mother, aunt, & grandmother. Special thanks to Father Atwood, the choir, and the help in the kitchen with the wonderful meal after the Mass in honor of Mary Lou.

We appreciate your kindness.

Some Notes to our choir members, your voices weave of Thanks a tapestry of unity and hope.

Thank you for filling our world with song!



to Jason & Christy Kayser, Duane & Carma Schmidtke, and Floral Images for sharing your time and wonderful talents decorating the church for Easter!



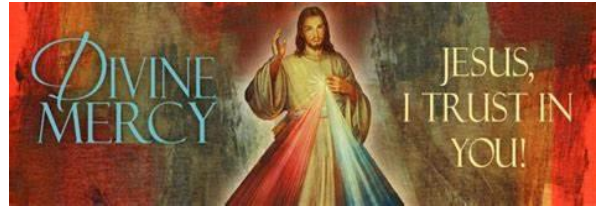
to all who helped in any way for the Fish Fry in the kitchen, cooking, cleaning, serving, at the door, clean up, providing desserts.

IC Fish Fry net profit: \$1,633

Next Exciting Event: Mollie B – June 2, 2024

If you are new to our parish or just visiting- **WELCOME!!!** If you would like officially to claim Immaculate Conception as your Parish Home- we would love to have you!!! Contact the parish office (319)635-2211 for info and to pick up a registration form. You can also go to the parish website to register. Look under the Registration Forms tab to find the form.

<http://icfairbank.weebly.com/>



Sun Apr 7 8:30 AM IC Donny & Thomas Even
EM: Glenda Kane, Kelly Galleger & grandparents †

Altar Server: Jensen Beck, Alivia Weepie

Lector: Brenda Bodensteiner

Sun Apr 7 10:30AM SH Paul & Mary Catherine Bloom †

Mon Apr 8 8:30AM SH Gene Heitz †

Wed Apr 10 8:30AM IC Tom Corcoran †

Thurs Apr 11 8:30 AM SH For the Sick

Fri Apr 12 12:00 Noon SH John Becker †

Sat Apr 13 4:30PM SH James & Rosina Russo †

Sun Apr 14 8:30 AM IC For the People

M: Deacon Jim EM: Lori Beierschmitt

Altar Server: Marshall Weepie, Reagan Szurley

Lector: Jean Bellis

Sun Apr 14 10:30AM SH Bob & Marian Link, Jackie Link Scott †

Apr 21, 2024 8:30 AM Mass

M: Deacon Jim EM: Duane Schmidtke

Altar Server: Rachel Kaufman & Wally Kaufman

Lector: Kell Cummings

April Ushers and Greeters

John W Even, Mitch Sauerbrei, Chad VanDaele

Mark & Donna Weepie, Rick Woods

April Money Counters

Tom Kleitsch, Jean Sauerbrei



We will be holding elections for Pastoral Council in May. We are looking for people who are willing to serve on this council.

80+ Birthday

Apr 5 John Woods

Apr 9 Cleo Joerger

Apr 10 Darlene Hogan

Apr 30 Roberta Clemons

Apr 30 Lenora Ott

50+ Years Anniversary

Apr 17 Brian & Teresa Corcoran

Apr 26 Bob & Kay Frame



Kindness is free

Helping Hands Clothing Closet had 216 client visits during March and our volunteers gave 37.5 hours of their time. We are ready for warm weather at the clothing closet thanks to Readlyn 6th graders and several of our volunteers. Thank you all so much; you all did a great job and we appreciate your help. If you or someone you know needs assistance with their clothing needs; please stop by. Thank you for the many donations of clothing.



Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize him until he spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; he appeared to the disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the disciples could still touch the marks of his Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends his disciples. He gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to his disciples after his death is indeed the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	April 13	April 14
Annunciation of the Lord	Easter Weekday Acts 4:32-37	Easter Weekday Acts 5:17-26	St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr	Easter Weekday Acts 5:34-42	Easter Weekday Acts 6:1-7	Third Sunday of Easter
Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	Jn 3:7b-15	Jn 3:16-21	Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36	Jn 6:1-15	Jn 6:16-21	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48

The flowers for the Easter season have been donated in Loving Remembrance of:

Donnie Brandt, Orville Kleitsch, Tom Corcoran, Pat Rourke, Earl & Mary Bellis, Donald & Regina Beenken, David Beenken, Mike Everding, Orvald Ott, Andy & Beckett Kaufman, Carl & Lori Schneider, Clem & Daphne Rourke, Alvin & Marian Welter, Terry Welter, Pat Miller, Robert & Ruth Kerns, Don, Ramona & Josh Menuey, Emmett Kane, Francis & Evelyn Woods, Carrie Matthias, Colleen Matthias, Jerry & Jake Brehm, Louis & Marie Stevens, Christopher Woods, Howard Meaney, David Trimble, William A Weepie, Carl Klosterman, Liza Frost, Marie Allen Al Matthews Frances Trebon Allen, Ronnie Steggall, Greg Brandt, Wally & Milly Kaufman Joe & Dixie Rubino, Sr, Johnny Wenger Melvin & Bernice Babinat, Donny & Thomas Even & Grandparents, Celia & Adam Buzynski & Family, Anne & Barry Buzynski & Family

Deceased Members of the following Families:

*Galleger/Golinveaux Families Walter Heth Family Laurence Corcoran Family
Beierschmitt & Marrah Families Delagardelle & Destival Families, Brian Wayne Families,
Norbert Schares Family, Jerry Shannon Family, Alfred Recker Families,
Peter & Elizabeth Michels Family*

Easter flowers have also been donated in Gratitude and Honor of:

*Joan Rourke, Ralph & Vera Ehlers, Darold Matthias Family,
Rev Ray Atwood, Fr. Paul, Deacon Jim & Cheryl Patera,
Military, and Police Officers*

