

# Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

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**Fr. Tom Liebler, Pastor**

**Rectory:** 618-377-6519; **Cell:** 618-409-7444; **Email:** [tliebler@aol.com](mailto:tliebler@aol.com)



## SECOND SUNDAY OF

# Easter

(OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 19, 2020

### BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION

The readings today describe how life was lived in communities formed not long after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Their focus is on communal life and the teachings of those who knew Jesus best, his apostles. The readings from First Peter and John both remind us that even among the apostles there is a tension between believing and seeing the reality of the resurrection. John tells of an apostle, Thomas, who refused to believe in the risen Christ until he had seen and touched his wounds. Jesus offers him the chance to do just that. Most of us are not in a position to demand such tangible proof from Jesus. But these stories are written so that we, who cannot see Jesus as his apostles did, can still come to believe and through that belief have life.

### SEEING IS BELIEVING

In today's passage from Acts we read of an idealized version of what the first communities were like. People are devoted to the community, to teaching, breaking bread, and sacrifice. Many signs and wonders were done. First Peter offers a more realistic picture because time has passed and believers are still waiting. Faith is being tested by the passage of time and the suffering that is a part of life. In the Gospel, the disciples are consumed with recent events. That is all they can talk about. Poor Thomas misses the latest revelation, that is, the visit by the risen Jesus to the disciples in the locked room. He is angry and refuses to share in the excitement or even to believe it happened. So Jesus appears again, this time when Thomas is present. Jesus tells him to touch and feel the wounds so that Thomas can believe. Jesus then reminds Thomas and us that there is something more to believing than just the physical reality.

### OR IS IT?

Too often we are more like Thomas than we might like to think. We are disturbed when we can't directly see or experience the results of our faith. We want some evidence for all the years of faith and struggle when there seems so little to show for our faith. The mistake that Thomas made and that we make is thinking that if we could just see some evidence that our faith makes a difference, then it would be easier to have faith. But it is not the evidence that makes faith possible. Thomas does not gain his faith because he puts his hands in Jesus' wounds. Thomas gains faith because Jesus comes back. Jesus comes back again and again and again. Jesus returns every time we ask for his presence in our life because Jesus never really leaves. Thomas had only to ask. We need only ask.

### TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Father Tom is available for Confession by appointment.

## COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Currently suspended.

## HOSPITAL VISITS/ SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

Call parish office to request a hospital visit or the Sacrament of Anointing by Fr. Tom.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Call the parish office to request a meeting with Fr. Tom.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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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

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## PARISH OFFICE

Temporary Hours:

Tues. & Thurs., 8:30 am—4:30 pm

(Closed 12-1 for lunch)

Email: [church@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:church@olqpbethalto.org)

Website: [www.church@olqpbethalto.org](http://www.church@olqpbethalto.org)

Office Manager: Terri Zyan

Secretary & SCRIP Coordinator: Bea Albarado

## PARISH SCHOOL

Mrs. Eve Remiszewski, Principal

618-377-6401, Fax: 618-377-6146

Email: [eremis@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:eremis@olqpbethalto.org)

Elaine Withers, School Secretary

E-mail: [ewithers@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:ewithers@olqpbethalto.org)

Website: [www.olqpbethalto.org](http://www.olqpbethalto.org)

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Sat., April 18</b>	<b>Easter Saturday</b> Rudy Papa
<b>Sun., April 19</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b> For the Parishioners
<b>Mon., April 20</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Virginia Metzger
<b>Tues., April 21</b>	<b>St. Anselm</b> Steve & Virginia Ostanik
<b>Wed., April 22</b>	<b>Easter Weekday</b> Paul Gehrs
<b>Thur., April 23</b>	<b>St. George, St. Adalbert</b> Ray Matthews
<b>Fri., April 24</b>	<b>St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen</b> Helen Friedel
<b>Sat., April 25</b>	<b>St. Mark</b> Zita Zimmerman
<b>Sun., April 26</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> For the Parishioners

**Prayer Requests**

**The sick:** Conor Vogel, Jim Friedrich, Keita Salantai, Mary Wagner, Bob Schley, Charlie Mattingly, Noah Rogers, Becky Gray, Marguerite Hufker, Nelson Gregory, Dan McRae, Mary Overton, Don Laird, Maxine Calhoon, Gloria Matthews, Dianne Morin, Mary Friedel, Vi Perkhiser, Derek Trent, Jane Rood, Bev Randolph, Linda Leverich, Richard Swift, Virginia Forehand, Lee Bernt, Alex Kallal, John Richter, Tim Zacha, Brenda Wieneke. **Send requests to Marie at [rejoy128@gmail.com](mailto:rejoy128@gmail.com)**

**PreSchool News**

Enroll your child now in our Preschool classes for next year by calling the school office, 377-6401. Messages are checked daily and we will call you back.

**PARISH OFFERINGS**

**We thank everyone** who continues to send in your parish contributions. They are greatly appreciated! **There is a mail slot** on the outside of the office door for anyone who would like to drop their donation off. We are in the parish office on Tuesday and Thursday. Also, you can **make donations on-line** by setting up an account at [www.givecentral.org](http://www.givecentral.org) Click on 'Find Your Charity' and enter 62010. Once you set an account up, you have complete control of every donation you make. You can start and stop at any time.

<b>Week 40 &amp; 41</b>	<b>Apr. 4/5 &amp; 11/12 (2 weeks)</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
<b>Loose Envelopes</b>	\$170.00	\$24,312.30
<b>On Line Giving</b>	\$16,677.00	\$407,327.69
<b>Young People</b>	\$3,861.00	\$77,385.00
<b>Total</b>	\$0.00	\$575.37
	\$20,708.00	\$509,600.36
<b>Operating Budget</b>	\$27,820.50	\$570,320.25
<b>ACSA Budget</b>	\$3,033.96	\$62,196.18
<b>Difference</b>	(\$10,146.46)	(\$122,916.07)

Envelopes received: 126 of 798  
 Building Maintenance Fund Donations:\$60.00  
 Other Charitable Donations: \$900.00

**Dear Parishioners,**



This past Holy Week was a joy and also a heartache. The joy came on Palm Sunday when I was handing out the palms in the parking lot. It was a joy and a blessing to see so many of you come by to pick up your palms. The old saying about absence makes the heart grow fonder is absolutely true. I pray that this enforced absence will come quickly to an end, but until it does let us keep each other in our daily prayers. The heartache came on Easter when I had to say the masses without any of you present. The church is you...the people of God...and not just a building. The building needs you...the faithful...to bring it alive in the Spirit of God. However, in all situations the message of Easter must still be proclaimed. Christ has risen from the dead. He has died for our sins. He has opened the gates of heaven for all people of faith. He calls us to newness of life. This message of Easter is one that I hope motivates us to live lives of true holiness and faith. That message of faith and love is beautifully proclaimed in one of the readings of Easter that is in the Liturgy of the Hours, and I would like to share part of it with you.

“We should understand, beloved, that the paschal mystery is at once old and new, transitory and eternal, corruptible and incorruptible, mortal and immortal. In terms of the law it is old, in terms of the Word it is new. In its figure it is passing, in its grace it is eternal. It is corruptible in the sacrifice of the lamb, incorruptible in the eternal life of the Lord. It is mortal in his burial in the earth, immortal in his resurrection from the dead...The Lord, though he was God, became man. He suffered for the sake of those who suffer, he was buried for those who lie in the grave; but he rose from the dead, and cried out; *Who will contend with me? Let him confront me.* I have freed the condemned, brought the dead back to life, raised men from their graves. Who has anything to say against me? I, he said, am the Christ; I have destroyed death, triumphed over the enemy, trampled hell underfoot, bound the strong one, and taken men up to the heights of heaven; I am the Christ...I am your forgiveness. I am the Passover that brings salvation. I am the lamb who was immolated for you. I am your ransom, your life, your resurrection, your light, I am your salvation and your king. I will bring you to the heights of heaven. With my own right hand I will raise you up, and I will show you the eternal Father.”

May this Easter message fill our hearts and minds with the hope that all things are possible with God, and may that hope never die, but may it spring eternal.

**In The Risen Christ,**

*Father Tom*

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*“Let nothing perturb you, nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything.”*

*St. Teresa of Avila*

**April 12, 2020**

### **Please Note**

**Parish Office:** We will be open on Tuesday and Thursday of this coming week.

**Church Hours:** Our church is unlocked every day by 8:00 am and locked by 7:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to go in the church for private prayer, just keeping your social distancing, if others are there also.

**Sacrament of Confession:** Father Tom is available by appointment for Confession. Call 377-6519 or his cell phone, 409-7444.

### **Bulletin by Email**

We are currently emailing our weekly bulletin to all parishioners who have given us email addresses. If you are not currently receiving it by email and would like to be added to our list, send us an email at:

[olqpbethalto.org](mailto:olqpbethalto.org)

### **Attention Men of the Parish**

Fr. Tom's Steak, Scotch and Cigar night will be May 31, 2020 this year. This is a fun night and ALL the proceeds go to Father Tom to help for people from our Parish in Financial need. This is money for Father to dispense, Without Approval from anyone. Please donate \$100.00 per Person. IF you are not able to donate \$100.00 to Fr. Tom's fund Donate what you can. However, please keep in mind the cost per person for this event is \$45.00, so please donate \$45.00 or more. Dinner will include Black Angus Steak, Castelli's salad with bread and Castelli's pasta, please bring your favorite Scotch (or other beverage) to share, beer will be furnished, starting time is 5:30 P. M. The event will be held at Rich and Sue Hayes home at 668 Monaco Drive in Holiday Shores (Edwardsville) we are limiting this to 20 people. To reserve your place please e-mail [richardhayesllc@gmail.com](mailto:richardhayesllc@gmail.com) or text Rich at 618-407-5400 please do not use our land line it is there ONLY to support our computer service.

### **Job Openings**

#### **Father McGivney Catholic High School**

**Seeking qualified athletic coaches:** For the following coaching positions for the 2020 – 2021 School Year:— Boys Head Basketball Coach —Dance Team Coach  
Qualified applicants should send a cover letter, resume and two letters of reference to Father McGivney Catholic High School Athletic Director, Jeff Oller, [joller@mcgivneygriffins.com](mailto:joller@mcgivneygriffins.com) on or before May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Seeking Director of Faith Formation:** Qualified applicants for the Director of Faith Formation for the 2020 – 2021 School Year. This is a full – time position. Candidates must demonstrate experience and ability in youth ministry and spiritual counseling. Have a background in religious education, i.e. theology, catechesis and / or apologetics. Demonstrate ability to work with the President and/ or Principal at the administrative level to ensure the Catholicity of the school. Coordinate all aspects of our House model and faith formation of students, staff and parents. All qualified candidates should send on or before May 15<sup>th</sup>, a cover letter, resume and three letters of reference to Father McGivney Catholic High School Principal, Joseph Lombardi, [jlombardi@mcgivneygriffins.com](mailto:jlombardi@mcgivneygriffins.com). 7190 Bouse Road, Glen Carbon, Il. 62034

### **Tuition Assistance—2020-2021**

Families who wish to apply for financial assistance for the upcoming school year are asked to do so as soon as possible, on line at: [online.factsmgt.com/signin/3glyj](http://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3glyj)  
Please note that all applications are kept in the strictest of confidence. If you have questions/need assistance, call parish office, 377-6519. (Tuition assistance is offered to active, contributing members of the parish.)

### **Attention School Parents Using FACTS**

If you are in a position of financial hardship where you need to request an adjustment to your April payment date, FACTS has implemented a plan to offer you several options. You may reach us in the parish office on Tuesday and Thursday. If you are unable to do so, you may contact FACTS directly at 866-412-4637.

### **Catholic Resources Online**

Listed below are links to Catholic websites that offer Masses daily, devotions, articles, prayers and more:

[dio.org](http://dio.org) <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>  
[www.beginningCatholic](http://www.beginningCatholic.com) [EWTN.com](http://EWTN.com)  
<https://stmarysalton.com/> <https://www.archstl.org/>

### **Parish Italy Trip Update**

Ciao Roma will be our travel agency for this trip. Check-out [ciaoromatravel.com](http://ciaoromatravel.com) for more info. PJ Anderson (our tour guide) will update information on the site about our trip. Contact Amy Frisch 618-444-7715 to sign up. Exact date hasn't been selected yet, but will be Sep-Oct 2021 timeframe. Costs approx \$4200 that includes everything.

### **A Breath of Reconciliation**

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22*

The disciples were hiding in a locked room when Jesus approached them, bearing the wounds of his crucifixion and offering his greeting of peace. He then sent them to be forces of reconciliation in the world. He breathed the Holy Spirit upon them, so that whose sins they forgive are forgiven.

What does it mean to me, as a disciple of Jesus, that he would come to me in the midst of my anxiety and fear, breathing peace? He says to go out from the locked room—wherever I hide from problems and discord—and make peace.

Peacemaking is a dance of relationship. It is conversation leading toward understanding. It is both an offering and a receiving of Jesus' peace. Not everyone wants to be moved in this way. Sometimes I become impatient with it too.

Jesus, breathe with me in this movement of reconciliation.

*Elizabeth Duffy  
Living Faith  
April, May, June 2020*



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