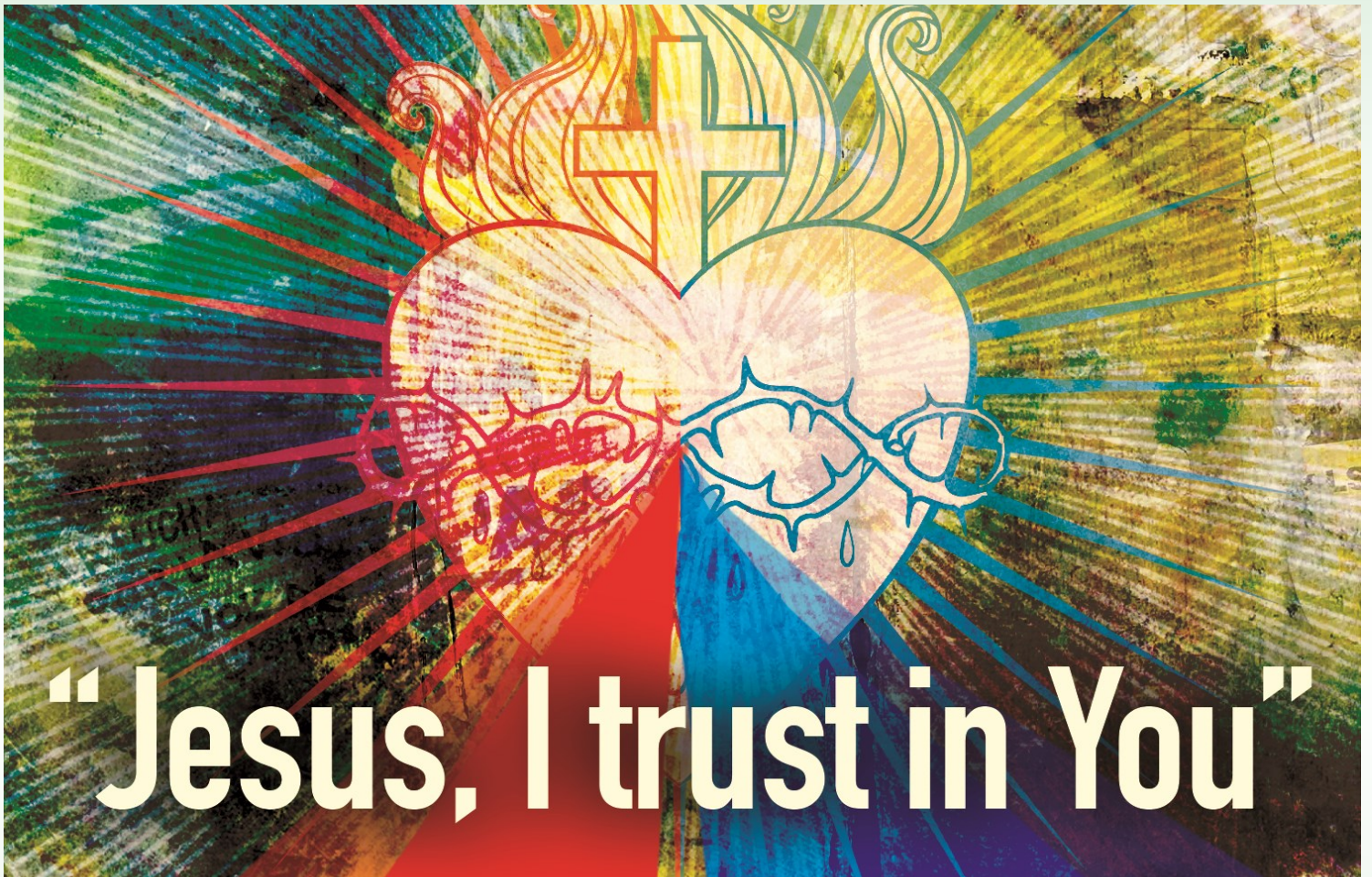


God with us
EMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
God is With Us
EMMANUEL
WELCOME TO OUR PARISH HOME

15700 S. MILITARY TRAIL, DELRAY BEACH, FL 33484

P:561.496.2480

F:561.496.5755



PARISH INFORMATION

02 | PARISH FAMILY | GOD IS WITH US



OUR MISSION

Emmanuel Catholic Church which means, **God is with us**, is a faithful community of believers dedicated to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Roman Catholic Church through word, sacrament, and service. As a parish family of God, we live by faith, truth, and love as we value the sanctity of life in all its stages and make the Holy Eucharist the center of our lives. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the consultation with our parish ministries, we desire to be witnesses of God's presence as we share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with God's Family.

CLERGY

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Gaudioso Zamora

Parish Vicar

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ihedoro

In Residence

Rev. Fr. Joseph Papes

Weekday/Weekend Associates

Rev. Fr. Timothy Canaan

Rev. Fr. David Carr

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

PARISH STAFF

Director of Finance

Tanya Kuppamala Ext. 1001 tkuppamala@emmanuelcatholic.church

Secretary

Stella Sadolfo Ext. 1007 secretary@emmanuelcatholic.church

Parish Pastoral Program Coordinator

Joella Anastasi Ext. 1002 janastasi@emmanuelcatholic.church

Property Manager

Edward Shannon Ext. 1006 maintenance@emmanuelcatholic.church

Receptionist

Rose Marie Baldonado Ext. 1000 receptionist@emmanuelcatholic.church

PARISH MINISTRIES

OCIA & Sacramental Preparation

Deacon Anthony Cuseo

Religious Education

Jean Krokus | Ext. 1005

religiouseducation@emmanuelcatholic.church

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Lectors

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Hospitality / Ushers

Bob Bonney & Chuck Dolce

Music

Linda Coz, Ree Joy Baldonado, Clanaven Baldonado & Men's Choir

Altar Flowers

Bella Simbajon & Filipino Community

Altar & Clergy Vestments

Maryann DiBiase, Carol Chapman, Nancy McDonald,

Homebound / Hospital Ministry

Fr. Theo Ihedoro | Ext. 1004

Giftshop

Josephine Joan | Ext. 1009

Blood Drive

Patti Gomez | 561-293-9761

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Guild

President Carol Chapman

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight Luke VanHove



PARISH REGULAR SCHEDULE

TAIZÉ PRAYER

Every Friday at 6:30pm–7:30pm (after 6:00pm Mass) except for First Fridays.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Every Thursday after the 8:30am mass or call the parish office

BAPTISMS

Sundays at 1:00pm. Schedule one month in advance. Contact Parish Office.

WEDDINGS

Contact Deacon Tony at least 6 months in advance

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

5:00pm Vigil Mass 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm

GIFT SHOP

Monday & Wednesday 8am–1:00pm

Tuesday Closed

Thursday & Friday 8am–1pm

Saturday Closed

4th Sunday of the Month 10:00AM– 1:30PM

NOTE: Gift shop will be closed when the parish office is closed

ROSARY GROUP

Monday–Friday after the 7:30am Daily Mass

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after the 8:30am Mass



SCHEDULE CHANGES?

Do you want to make sure there have been no sudden time changes to any event or activity you want to join this week? Call the parish office on business hours.

561.496.2480

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday, April 8

6:30A..... Adoration 1:00P.....Movie

Tuesday, April 9

6:30A..... Adoration 10:00A..... Faith Sharing 7:00P.....KoC Officers Meeting

Wednesday, April 10

6:30A..... Adoration 2:00P..... School of Christian Formation 4:00P..... SoulCore 6:30P.....Ladies G. members Meeting

Thursday, April 11

6:30A..... Adoration 9:00A.....Anointing of the Sick 3:00P..... Holy Hour 6:30P.....AA Meeting

Friday, April 12

6:30A..... Adoration 6:30P..... Taize

Saturday, April 13

9:00A..... Confession 9:00A..... Lay Cistercians Meeting

Sunday, April 14

9:00A..... Ladies Guild Mass 1:00P..... Pre-Baptism Class

DSA STEWARDSHIP REPORT—YEAR 2024

March 14, 2024

Goal Amount \$ 169,000.00

Current Donation Total\$ 81,745.06

Balance Remaining\$ 87,254.94



Dear Parishioners: HAPPY and BLESSED DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.

The second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. What a beautiful truth of faith this is for our lives: the mercy of God !

God's love for us is so great, so profoundly unending; one that always takes us by the hand to support us, to lift us up and lead us on.

In the gospel, Thomas personally experienced this mercy of God, which has a concrete face; the actual presence of the risen Jesus. Thomas does not believe it when the other disciples tell him: " we have seen the Lord". It is not enough for him that Jesus foretold and promised it; " on the third day I will rise ". He wants to see, he wants to put his hand in the place of the nails and in Jesus' side. With patience, Jesus does not abandon Thomas in his stubborn unbelief; He gives him a week's time, He does not close the door, He waits. And Thomas acknowledges his own poverty, his little faith. " My Lord and my God!" With this simple yet faith-filled invocation, he responds to Jesus' patience. He lets himself be enveloped by divine mercy; he sees it before his eyes, in the wounds of Christ's hands and feet and in his open side, and he discovers trust: he is a new man, no longer an unbeliever, but a believer.

For our part ,Jesus offers his wounds to be touched.He continually does this even in our day. Believing that the church is the Body of Christ, when we touch the wounds of the church, we are putting our hands into the wounds of the risen Lord. The risen Lord, for his part, transforms our wounds into his and therefore we are healed.

Once again I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of you for being merciful to our parish family. We worked together and we support its other that's what mercy is all about. Special thank you to the members of our pastoral council(it's different ministries) ,finance council, knights of Columbus, Ladies Guild and all volunteers. You are GREAT.

Rev. Fr. Gaudioso Zamora, Pastor

CLERGY SCHEDULE APRIL 8-14, 2024

Monday, April 8th

7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Carr

Tuesday, April 9th

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Carr

Wednesday, April 10th

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Leone

Thursday, April 11th

7:30A Fr. Zamora 8:30A Fr. Timothy

Friday, April 12th

7:30A Fr. Theo 8:30A Fr. Timothy
6:00P Fr. Zamora

Saturday, April 13th

8:30A Fr. Carr 4:00P Fr. Carr
5:30P Fr. Theo

Third Sunday of Easter, April 14th

7:30A Fr. Zamora 9:00A Fr. Timothy
10:00A Fr. Timothy 10:30A Fr. Leone
12:00P Fr. Theo 6:00P Fr. Zamora

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

March 24, 2024

First Collection	\$16,667.00
Second Collection	\$3,636.00
Subtotal.....	\$20,303.00
Online (03/18/24–03/22/2024).....	\$ 1,078.59

March 28-31, 2024

First Collections.....	\$ 38,678.00
Second Collections.....	\$ 4,730.00
Subtotals.....	\$43,408.00
Online (03/25/24–03/29/2024).....	\$ 844.30

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

2:00PM

EMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Please join us in our Celebration of the Divine Mercy Sunday starting at 2:00pm

PROGRAM:

Ceremonial Procession

1st in Procession: Main altar server leads with the book of the Gospels held high.

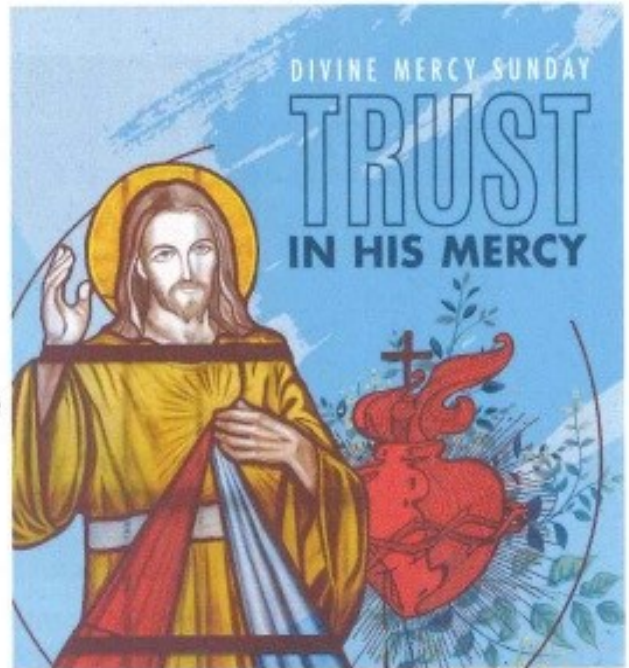
2nd in Procession: Altar server carries Divine Mercy images.

3rd in procession: Altar server carries petitions

4th in Procession: Priest carries relic of Saint Faustina and places it on the altar.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

(O Salutaris)



1st Reading (Diary 699) - to let all know what Jesus said to Saint Faustina about this day, the FEAST OF MERCY.

2nd Reading (Diary 1572) - the explanation of the 3 o'clock prayer.

3rd Reading (Diary 47) - the explanation of the Divine Mercy image.

Blessing the Images of the Divine Mercy

(page 35 of Divine Mercy Booklet)

Priest approaches the images while altar servers hold holy water and candles.

Blessing & Offering of Petitions

Priest offers the petitions in prayer and blesses them with Holy Water.

Song: There is a Longing

4th Reading (Diary 708) - Trusting in Jesus

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy (to be sung)

Benediction

(Tantum Ergo)

(Holy God We Praise Thy Name)

****Please bring your images of the Divine Mercy and write your petitions at home and put it in the basket at the front door of the Church and the priest will offer it to the Lord.****

SCHEDULED INTENTIONS

Monday, April 08

7:30am †Gerard & David Abrami by Fran Abrami
 8:30am †Marie Fitzgerald by Robert Fitzgerald

†Soledad Hoyos by Cannon Family
 †Salvatore Chimenti by Mr. & Mrs. Atanasio

Tuesday, April 09

7:30am †Rita O'neill
 8:30am †Miriam Dilorio by Friends

†Andrea Colon Santiago by Cannon Family
 †Miriam Dilorio by Friends

Wednesday, April 10

7:30am *Mary Lily Hope Silva by Family
 8:30am †Sally DiPrima by Antonio & Maria Amato

†Andrea Colon Santiago by Dorothy Deedy
 †Eleonora Pace by Mario Pace/Husband

Thursday, April 11

7:30am †Maribel Buenconsejo by Family
 8:30am †Elvera Hageney by James Hageney & Daughter Victoria

†Jean Crawford by Family
 †Christine Giordano by Margaret Kopp

Friday, April 12

7:30am †Holy Souls in Purgatory by Martina DeBoise
 8:30am †Alfredo Rodriguez by Martha Rodriguez & Children
 6:00pm FOR PRIESTS

†Bernard Suppa by Angela & Mark
 †Lillian Fenton by Melissa Marnell
 FOR PRIESTS

Saturday, April 13

8:30am †Steven C. Umpierre by Merida & Carl Umpierre
 4:00pm BOOK OF THE DEAD
 5:30pm †Lucy Cardona by Daughter & Grandchildren

†Steven C. Umpierre by Merida & Carl Umpierre
 BOOK OF THE DEAD
 *Ida Provenzano by Elisa & Kevin McDonnell

Sunday, April 14

7:30am *Victor Gabriel Caraballo by Caraballo Family
 9:00am †Felicia & Theodore Facciuto by Terry Facciuto & *Ladies Guild
 10:30am PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS
 12:00pm †Rosa & Renato Andretta by Children
 6:00pm †Paolo Crosara by Santoro by Santoro Family

*Dany Mackey by Soledad Robinson
 †Irma Toscano Parker by Mom & Dad
 PARISHIONERS & BENEFACTORS
 †Aunt Ester Baldino by Family
 †Carole Harris by Diane Marry & Family

UNSCHEDULED

*Fran Abrami by Ladies Guild †Robert Maguire Buckheit by Marie Margolf †Charlie Malpere by Abbey South Friends
 †Renee Leone by Barbara Rossi *Fran Abrami by Barbara Rossi †Angelina P. by Diane & Joe Sarro

ALTAR FLOWERS

†Miriam Dilorio
 Barbara Rossi

VIGIL LIGHTS

†Miriam Dilorio
 Barbara Rossi

SHRINE FLOWERS

†Miriam Dilorio
 Barbara Rossi

PRAYER LIST

Please take some time this week to remember the following in your prayers:
For all in our parish family who are suffering serious or terminal illness:
For men and women in the Armed Forces:

AND FOR

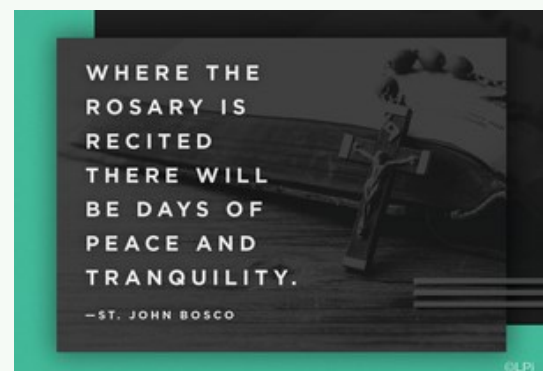
David & John	Sr. Frances Vass OSC
Helen Cruz	Marguerite Dawson
Lenore Curatolo	Mary Loveland
Marilyn Boyle	Sam Falcone
Andrea Anastasi	Patricia Golstein
Shelly Fiorini	Taylor Dosh
Fran Abrami	Marilyn Martino
Ed Bush	Gulshan Modena
Margarito D. Berciles	Maggie Dolan
Arthur Chiusano	Amelita Coz-Zarraga
Maureen Oberholzer	Heather Martin
Bob Oberholzer	Taiilor McGee
John Wilkens	Ronald Griffiths
Scott Ellison	Margie Giaquinto
Evangeline Ezeilo	Maria Fernandez
Michael Gehres	Raphael Roman
Karen Sullivan	James Ezeilo
Eric Albertson	Brenda Ezeilo
Sean Zahul	Cynthia Martin
Darren Guzman	Francis Martin
Mary Lou	Hermoine D'Cruz
Connie Panepinto	Brigitte Knops
Amalia Mazzolin	Toni Kreamer
Leon Martin	Gerry Gerhard
Joe Delagami	Euclides Cerutti
Dennis Audette	Grace Cassagnol
Rose Marie Regner	Samuel Gonzales
Michael Manuele	Victorio
Carla Ruiz	Ray Wolff
Benjamin Robelo	Patricia Tripi Giraldo
Karen McCarty	Ruth Kipperman
T.J. Genzale	Ida Giannettina
Dave Ruiz	Tom Hickey
Victoria Robelo	Josette Weber
Ms. S.	Nicholas Payamps
Dennis Gilbride	Vincent Rizzo
Jane McGinley	Louis Perticone
,Rose Borsella	Ann Cavaseno
Richard Stephens	Sue Madden
Lexie Helgerson	Hahah Missig
David Smeraldo	Ulrich Vhon Laroa
Janette Cole	Charles Christopher
Steven Martin Sikes	Tufano
Gianna Pagan	Angela Discepola
Suzanne Puleo	Cristina Beck
David Keyser	Nancy Wong

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION . Lord, I believe and profess that You are truly Christ, Son of the Living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Accept me this day as I partake of your mystical supper, O Son of God. May the partaking of your holy mysteries, O Lord be not for judgment or condemnation, but for the healing of body and soul. I also believe and profess that this, which I am about to receive, is truly your most precious Body and Blood, which, I pray, make me worthy to receive for the remission of all my sins and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL PRAYER. Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to stay with us always, until the end of the age. Reawaken our wonder at His presence in the Most Holy Eucharist. May our hearts burn within us as He opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread. Give us the eyes of faith to recognize His presence in our brothers and sisters, especially in the face of the poor and the suffering. Nourished by the Eucharist, send us forth to walk faithfully as missionary disciples, proclaiming the Gospel to every heart and extending Your kingdom to every land. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS. Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come follow Me! Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to your voice. Support our bishops, priests and consecrated people in their apostolic labor. Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to your service. Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness. Lord, send your workers to your harvest and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors, missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel. Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen.



PRACTICING CHRISTIAN

FIND GOD IN ORDINARY MOMENTS

Eye Has Not Seen

If you witnessed a miracle, wouldn't you want to tell them? They say seeing is believing. But if you've ever ordered a pair of pants online, you know that's not always the case. Whatever the photos promise us, what looked like a perfectly nice shade of navy blue on our computer screens comes in the mail as an unusual shade of blue green that only appears in the giant box of Crayola crayons.

The Apostle Thomas, who couldn't bring himself to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing him, is such an utterly relatable figure in the Gospels. Thomas is still reeling from a loss – not only of his good friend but his Lord, who was taken prisoner and crucified before his eyes. Thomas is guarding himself. He's not believing the hype. He's going to be the only judge of what is real and what is fiction.

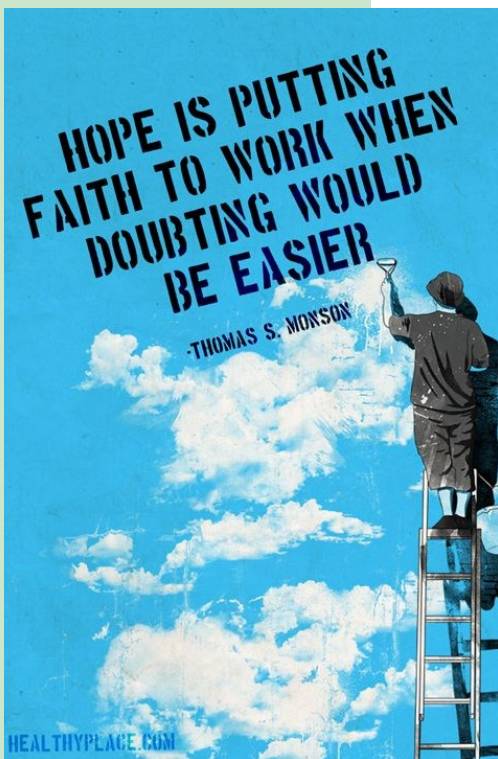
Would any of us be any different? We've all had those thoughts. Can we believe it all – Jesus, salvation history, the Eucharist – when we haven't seen it with our own two eyes?

That's when we need to remember that those two eyes were absolutely positive they had ordered a pair of navy blue pants.

It's easy for us to sit back stroking our chins in judgment at Thomas, "you didn't believe the testimony of your friends!" But do we accept the testimony of our friends? The saints, the popes, the Church fathers themselves?

Sometimes the things that are most worthy of believing can't be seen with the naked eye.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Everyday Stewardship

What do you own and what owns you? You can find this question asked many times in several different contexts. Are you looking to find some kind of financial freedom? How about trying to live simply in a complex world? Has a mountain of stuff invaded your home garage to the point where parking a car inside is only a dream?

The early Church practiced a radical form of fellowship called *koinonia*, which literally means "sharing in common." Those who had homes and other major possessions would sell them and then place the proceeds in the care of the Apostles to be shared with the entire community. People focus mostly on the fact that people sold all their possessions for the benefit of the community. However the real point is the action that occurred after every selling: the proceeds were given to Church authority, in essence, to God first. I wasn't just selling my house and then giving the money to random people. My offering was to God and it was for the Apostles (those who personally encountered Jesus and now represented him on earth) to decide how to divide up the wealth.

Why do such a thing? One could say it was so that no one wanted for anything. If we push that thinking too far, as some in history have done, we can create a system that takes from some to give to others. Nothing was taken from anyone in that first Christian community. It was freely given. And perhaps the reason why people were moved to do so lies at the heart of stewardship: because all we have already belongs to God anyway.

-- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. (Acts 4:32)

Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

For the love of God is this,
that we keep his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.
(1 Jn 5:3-4)

Gospel:

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you." (Jn 20:19)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We find unfathomable mercy and everlasting love in the wounds of Christ — even when we are skeptical, even when we carry doubt. God meets us there in the confusion. He reaches for our hand and places them at his side. We just have to call his name.

Observances for the week April 7, 2024

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)
Monday: The Annunciation of the Lord
Thursday: St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr
Saturday: St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter

SAINT OF THE DAY - ST. STANISLAUS

Anyone who reads the history of Eastern Europe cannot help but chance on the name of Stanislaus, the saintly but tragic bishop of Kraków, patron of Poland. He is remembered with Saints Thomas More and Thomas Becket for vigorous opposition to the evils of an unjust government.

Born in Szczepanow near Kraków on July 26, 1030, he was ordained a priest after being educated in the cathedral schools of Gniezno, then capital of Poland, and at Paris. He was appointed preacher and archdeacon to the bishop of Kraków, where his eloquence and example brought about real conversion in many of his penitents, both clergy and laity. He became bishop of Kraków in 1072.

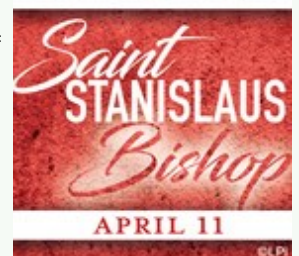
During an expedition against the Grand Duchy of Kiev, Stanislaus became involved in the political situation of Poland. Known for his outspokenness, he aimed his attacks at the evils of the peasantry and the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II.

The king first excused himself, then made a show of penance, then relapsed into his old ways. Stanislaus continued his open opposition in spite of charges of treason and threats of death, finally excommunicating the king. Enraged, the latter ordered soldiers to kill the bishop. When they refused, the king killed Stanislaus with his own hands.

Forced to flee to Hungary, Boleslaus supposedly spent the rest of his life as a penitent in the Benedictine abbey in Osiak.

Reflection

Saints John the Baptist, Thomas Becket, Thomas More, and Stanislaus are a few of the prophets who dared to denounce corruption in high places. They followed in the footsteps of Jesus himself, who pointed out the moral corruption in the religious leadership of his day. It is a risky business



Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:28-29

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Questions of the Week

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

We hear how the early Christians lived in unity and holiness, bearing witness to Jesus, and living in community as friends. Which of these traits do you see at work in your faith community?

Second Reading:

John teaches his community that our faith in Jesus helps us "conquer the world." What struggles are you facing that you need to confront and defeat?

Gospel Reading:

The risen Jesus meets Thomas in the midst of his doubt and encourages him to believe. Who could you encourage this week to have faith in the resurrection of Jesus?

LADIES GUILD



The Ladies Guild is sponsoring their annual baby shower for BirthLine/Lifeline. We have a basinet in the vestibule of Church to collect items from parishioners until April 30th. All and any items are very much appreciated. The most needed items are listed below.

- Diapers (Size: Newborn, 5 and 6)
- Baby Towels and Washcloths
- Small Toy items for Infants
- Baby Wash/Shampoo/Lotion (Small or Medium)
- Car Seats
- Pack-n-Play

Thank you for your contributions to this worthwhile endeavor.

TO OUR BELOVED SNOW ANGELS:

Happy Divine Mercy Sunday!

Thank you for choosing Emmanuel Parish Family as your parish family during the season.

Our deepest gratitude for actively helping us in the different spiritual and social events in our parish, your support to our offertory and to our Diocesan Services Appeal and by participating in all of our different ministries and pastoral programs.

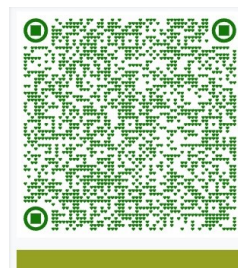
I know that most of you will go back to your home state after Easter. Do let us keep each other in our prayers! Keep in touch; you can always use the contact page in the Parish website to drop us a note or two.

www.emmanuelcatholic.church

Have a safe trip and May God Bless You and your families!

Until next season,

FR. ZAMORA



Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of April 7, 2024

Sunday:

Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/
1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

Monday:

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:

Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday:

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday:

Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/
Jn 3:31-36

Friday:

Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday:

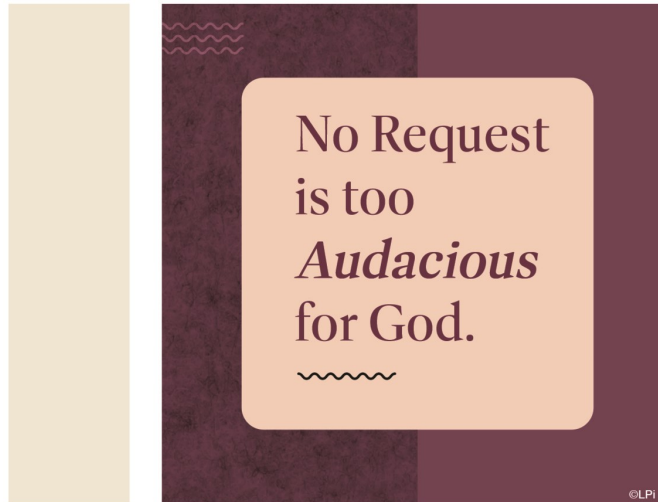
Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday:

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/
1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48



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Gospel Meditation

Seek a deeper understanding of Scripture

A protestant pastor friend of mine was invited to meet Pope Francis with a group of other pastors. He noticed the Pope's chair was especially ornate and set at the head of the group. He somewhat playfully said, "Holy Father, why do you get that special chair?" The group chuckled nervously at my friend's audacious chide.

The following year, the group was invited to return. They entered the room to find only simple chairs placed in a circle. Pope Francis entered, sat down in one of the humble chairs and, looking directly at my friend, with a twinkle in his eye, asked, "What do you think of my chair now?" My friend was stunned that the Pope remembered his concerns — and took the time to answer them.

Thomas the apostle was certainly stunned by the Risen Jesus displaying his wounds in person. But he also must have been equally shocked that Jesus knew and answered his particular questions, worries, and even demands related to his faith. How humbled — and perhaps a bit terrified — he must have been to realize God remembers his concerns and cares enough to answer them.

What questions or demands about Jesus do you find in your heart? Like Thomas, will you be bold enough to voice them this week? How wonderful to know that if we do so, God will remember and respond even to our most audacious desires.

— *Father John Muir*

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Written in the Wounds

For all the condemnation Thomas the Doubter has received in 2000 years of homilies, I think there's something to admire in him.

Thomas is not unique. We all waver at some point, overcome by hesitation, distracted by the clamor of the world which seeks at every turn to shout above the whisper of the divine.

Thomas knows what he saw on Good Friday: his friend nailed to a cross, a sword driven through his body. He saw the blood and the water. He saw these things with his own eyes, eyes given to him by God, eyes which have never failed him before. And God doesn't ask us to suspend reality to believe in Him. He only asks us to be discerning about how that reality is interpreted in our hearts.

Thomas knows the man before him is either a fraud, preying on the hopes and anxieties of the traumatized disciples, or he is the Christ, the Savior of the world, accomplisher of impossible things. But where to look, to tell the difference?

Satan once appeared to the great mystic saint, Teresa of Avila, disguised as Jesus. She knew instantly that he was a fraud. Enraged, he demanded to know where his deception had failed. "You have no wounds," she told him simply.

Could we have accepted a savior who did not bleed? I don't think we could, because sooner or later, we would all stand before him and say, "Here is where the world hurt me. Here, and here, and here. What about you?" Christ can point to his hands, his feet, his side. "Here, and here, and here," he can say. "And I overcame them all."

It's the wounds, you see. The truth is in the wounds.

*Thomas answered and said to him,
"My Lord and my God!" — John 20:28*

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

After a civil divorce, is a Catholic obligated to pursue an annulment?

Answer:

Many Catholics are not exactly sure what an annulment does. An annulment does not deny that a marriage took place, nor does it deny that there once was love. It does not mean that people say anything untrue, such as they never loved each other or that everything in their marriage was wrong. An annulment does not negate children, nor make them illegitimate. An annulment addresses the spiritual aspect of marriage. In effect, an annulment says that at the time of the wedding, there was either something present or something absent that prevented the sacrament from taking place. It is a spiritual determination that, if granted in the affirmative, allows a person to marry in the Church.

Annulments have no legal standing and are unable to be used in a civil court. Therefore, a Catholic has no moral obligation to pursue an annulment. However, when the tragedy of divorce occurs, and there is no hope for reconciliation, annulments may help bring some spiritual closure to a person's life. Some people have found the process to be healing and others have found it to be difficult. Speak to your priest or a member of the Diocesan Tribunal staff to decide what is best for you.

PARISH LIFE

13 | EASTER PEOPLE



Oh Yes, we'll be adding more pictures next issue!



Diocese of Palm Beach

All WORKSHOPS
9:00–11:45 am
Doors open at 8:30 am for Registration

To: All Pastors
Coordinators of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

From: Reverend Brian G. King, Director, Office of Liturgy
Beatriz Urrea, Office of Liturgy burrea@diocesepb.org

****Sessions Offered in English and Spanish.****

Saturday, March 16, 2024:
English and Spanish

St. Bernadette Parish, Port St. Lucie
350 NW California Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986
Ph: 772-336-9956

Saturday, April 20, 2024:
English and Spanish

St. Joan of Arc Parish, Boca Raton
370 SW 3rd Street
Boca Raton, FL 33432
Ph: 561-392-0007

Coordinators of LECTORS

Saturday, May 18, 2024
English and Spanish

St. Joan of Arc Parish, Boca Raton
370 SW 3rd Street
Boca Raton, FL 33432
Ph: 561-392-0007

These workshops will assist you in the training of *both new veteran* Ministers of the Word / LECTORS. The workshop presents the theology of the ministry, Scripture discussion, demonstrates appropriate methods of delivery, answers practical questions, provides a step-by-step approach to preparing for proclamation of the Word, and reviews principles of good liturgy.

The registration fee for all workshops is \$12.00 per person, including books and materials. Parishes will be billed after the workshop for the actual number of attendees from the parish.

PARISHES: Parishioners are to be sent to this session by their Pastors or ministry coordinators, so they should **NOT** contact the Office of Liturgy with individual reservations. Instead, please designate a ministry coordinator to keep track of reservations, and **email** burrea@diocesepb.org with the expected number of participants from your parish **no later than two days before the workshop day.**

NB: Be advised that veteran LECTORS have a three years term and must attend a workshop to be recertified.