



## The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**ill 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.

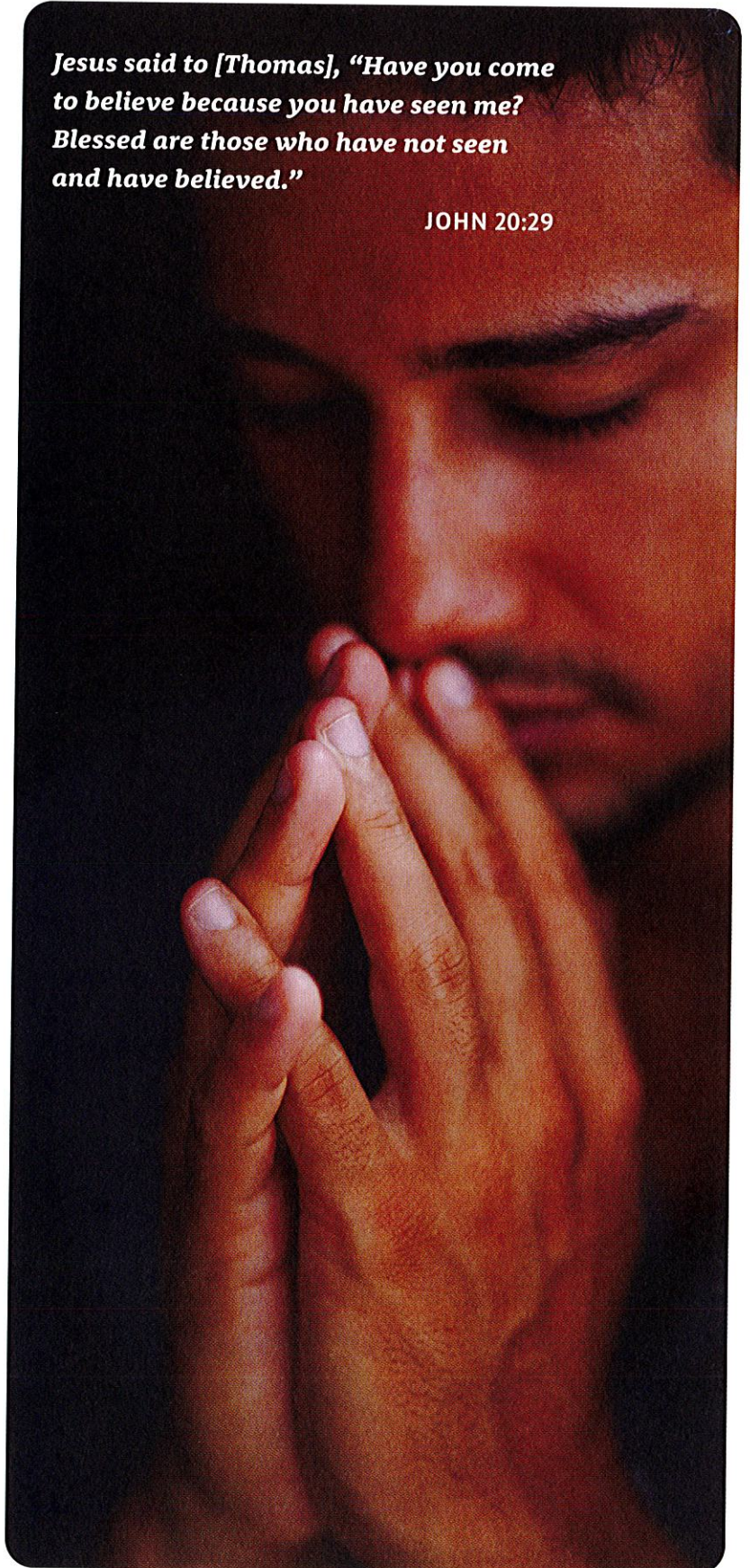
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe,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





# Dear Padre,

## What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina Kowalska a saint of the Church on April 30, 2000, and in a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that “throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that [we] will experience in the years to come.”

Saint Faustina was born in 1905 and spent most of her life in Poland, in the Congregation of the Virgin Mary of Mercy. She experienced an extraordinary union with God. She received exceptional graces, revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, the ability to read souls, and the gift of prophecy.

One of the images that was revealed to Faustina was that of the merciful Jesus, touching his Sacred Heart, from which beams of red and white light came forth. This image and her devotion to the divine mercies gathered thousands of supporters throughout the world. We still see the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in many of our churches today. In some churches, we might see the newer image, inspired by the saint. Saint Faustina Kowalska died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three, leaving an impressive mystical legacy. She is a disciple of God’s divine mercy for the twenty-first century. ●

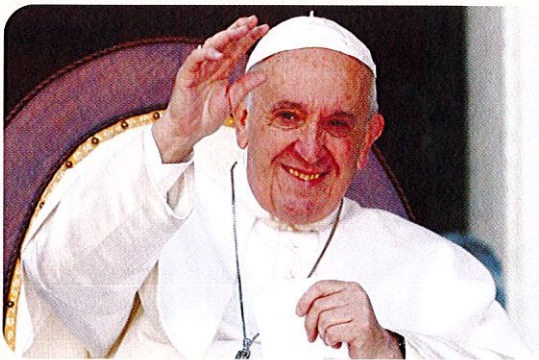


*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

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



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*The story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer. There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord’s mercy.*

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022



April 7, 2024

Pastor—Fr. Derek Hooper

Email: dhooper@diojeffcity.org

Fr. Derek Hooper— phone no. 573-492-6595

Deacon Ron Deimeke-573-473-7494

St. Joseph Parish

408 East Kellett

Martinsburg, MO 65264

Rectory—573-492-6595

School— 573-492-6283

ELC— 573-492-6398

St. Joseph Sunday Mass at 9:00 am Saturday Mass at 4:00 pm

Sunday Confessions: 8:30 am Saturday Confessions: 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm Weekday masses: 7:45 am Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.

Week day masses at Sacred Heart: 8:00 am 2nd and 4th Thursday; St. John's 1st and 3rd Thursday

Bulletin info email: tshramek@stjosephmb.org

Website: stjosephmb.org Facebook: St. Joseph Catholic Church

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK**

Mon, Apr 8— no mass

Tues, Apr 9 — 7:45 am mass—Bernice Swaim

Wed, Apr 10- 7:45 am mass— Eunice Welschmeyer

Thur, Apr 11—8:00 am mass—Sacred Heart—Vandalia

Fri, Apr 12- \*\*1:00 pm Mass\*\* - Andy Ehret

Sat, Apr 13— 4:00 pm Mass— Mary Hughes

Sun, Apr 14—9:00 am Mass—Paul and Betty Schafer

**ON THE CALENDAR:**

Sun, Apr 7— Sunday of Divine Mercy

Mon, Apr 8-

Tues, Apr 9- 6:30 pm St. Joseph Home School meeting

Wed, Apr 10— 7:00 pm St. Joseph Finance Council Meeting

Thur, Apr 11—

Fri, Apr 12- Grandparents Day—1:00 pm Mass

Sat, Apr 13-

Sun, Apr 14— Third Sunday of Easter—Student Mass

**Liturgical Roles for the month of April:**

SJC Usher/Counter

Saturday: Pat Arens and Paul Bertels

Sunday: Jeff Fennewald and Rodney Willingham

**Musicians/Cantor**

**Lector**

**Gifts**

**Servers**

Apr 6- Tom

Joan Hank

Brad and Becky Hoyt

Chason Sachs and Etta Sachs

Apr 7- Mary Kay, Jan, Chris Bohr

Jan Schafer

Jeff and Patty Fennewald

Bailey Miller and Andrew Miller

Apr 13-Mark

George Jacobi

John and Nancy Becker

Ty Norris and Jace Norris

Apr 14-Ruth, Patty

School Students Mass

Kevin and Rhonda Kestler

Kaylynn Arens and Ryan Arens

Apr 20-Tom

Kevin Kestler

Jaron and Liz Freie

Haydon Swaim and Hannah Swaim

Apr 21-Mary Kay, Brenda

Becky Hoyt

Jeff and Jennifer Hunn

Coltin Cope and Alex Poindexter

Apr 27-Mark

Sharon Cope

Jim and Brenda Hale

Maci Poindexter and Leah Poindexter

Apr 28-Ruth, Rita

Patty Fennewald

Please contact the office if you are unable to attend that Saturday or Sunday or find a replacement.

**Please Keep in Your Prayers:**

Amanda Keller, Laura Oligschlaeger, Linda Welschmeyer, Chris Robinson, Tammy Purvis, Bob Mette, Tealia McCurdy, Tom Swaim, Betty Mendonsa, Bill Knipp, Bryan Bartlett, Phyllis Silver, Jim Arens, Frances Troesser, Ryker Whalen, Daniel Brooks, Barb Poindexter, Shirley Willingham, Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger, Derrick Feldmann, Frankie Stuckenschneider, Bud Oligschlaeger, Edna Berry, Ryan Maskey, Makenna Mularoni, Anthony Arens, Steven Govero, David Welschmeyer, Billie (Welschmeyer) Gering, Jim Gooch, Doris Wieberg, Agnes Bertels, Carolyn Stuckenschneider, Dale (Bud) Craighead, Therese Fennewald, Wesley Andrews, Joe Vance, Edward Borgmeyer, Josh Oliver, Jim Purvis, Penelope Karrenbrock

**Shaping Our Future Together**

**Bishop Issues pastoral letter, deanery plans published**

As we move forward in our work on Shaping Our Future Together, the Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, Bishop of Jefferson City, has issued a new pastoral letter alongside the publication of deanery plans and a new diocesan pastoral process.

All the faithful are strongly encouraged to read these new documents, which are currently being formatted for widespread dissemination across the diocese:

You can read Bishop McKnight's pastoral letter and the deanery plans and diocesan pastoral process, available on the Shaping Our Future Together website on the Diocesan website

Bishop McKnight highlighted this progress during the diocesan Chrism Mass, held on March 26 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. During his homily at the Chrism Mass.

The Missouri Catholic Conference has shared the Bishops Statement on the Abortion Initiative Petition. A copy of the statement is available for you located by the bulletins in the back of church

**St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery Clean up** on Tuesday, April 9th. They will be picking up the flowers on Tuesday, April 9th. If you wish to keep your flowers please pick them up before Tuesday. Please pass this information on to your friends and neighbors.

**Church Spring Cleaning-Saturday, April 20th, 8:00 a.m.**

Lend a hand to spruce up our church! Please bring cleaning supplies, buckets and rags. Together we can make our church shine.

**Bishop McKnight's April prayer intention for our Local Church**

**For a greater awareness of and respect for our common home in building an authentic human ecology: May we be good stewards of the gift of creation in defending all human life.**



The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be traveling through our diocese from July 1-5, 2024, stopping in Sedalia, Boonville, Jefferson City, Columbia and Starkeburg. Learn how you can walk with us and worship with us at several events throughout the diocese...Please watch for more information and details about this exciting event coming soon.



**St. Joseph School News**  
Principal - Michelle Hombs

**Grandparents Day Friday, April 12-** Begins with 1:00 Mass and ends with 3:40 dismissal at the KC Hall

**Hanging Basket Fundraiser:** Basket tickets sold by school families for \$19.50 each. Every ticket sold the school receives \$5.00. Baskets are to be picked up at YardBirds Greenhouse, 1110 N. Sturgeon St., Montgomery City between April 1-May 31. Money returned to school by Friday, April 26.

**Thank you** to whoever graciously purchased and donated the lovely decade rosaries. They were shared with the students and staff before Easter break. Thank you for thinking of us!

**Middle School Track** -There are two track meets next week and which are listed below. Good luck! **Monday, April 8 @ Harrisburg**, bus leaves R-VI at 12:15pm, meet starts at 2:00pm. **Thursday, April 11 @ Montgomery**, bus pick up at SJS at 2:50pm, meet starts at 4:15pm

**AR Reading Challenge**-A 3 week challenge for students in grades 1-8. Six teams will compete for pool passes from the Mexico Aquatic Center. 1st place team=two day pool passes, 2nd place team=one day pool pass. **A BIG thank you to Poindexter Earth Moving for providing the pool passes!**

**StuCo News**- StuCo purchased some much needed items for school with part of the funds that were raised this school year. A leaf blower, two snow shovels, and a variety of recess and p.e. supplies, which include a volleyball and pickleball nets, were purchased.

**Diocesan Speech Meet**—Congratulations to the four girls listed below who represented us well at the Diocesan Speech Meet on March 23. A big thank you to Mrs. Poindexter for helping all the 7/8 grade students prepare for the speech meets this school year. Sophie Fennwald, serious speech, gold ribbon, Kooper Schafer, humorous speech, red ribbon, Kaytlynn Arens and Bailey Miller, duet, blue ribbon.

**Home & School News**—Next and final meeting for the 23-24 school year is Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30pm in the school's basement. Officers for the 24-25 school year will be sworn in. **THANK YOU** to this year's officers: Jamie Bukovac, Tessa Barnett, Beth Cochran, and Mandy Cope. We greatly appreciate all their time and effort.

**Teacher Opening for 24-25 Year**—A full-time 5th/6th grade home-room teaching position with opportunities to teach specific subjects 5th-8th grade. Apply online at [www.diojeffcity.org](http://www.diojeffcity.org) Also send resume and references to the school's address (401 E. Kellett St., Martinsburg) or email, [mhombs@stjosephmb.org](mailto:mhombs@stjosephmb.org)

**Looking Ahead ... Tuesday, April 9**-7:45am Mass, 7/8 read; Cemetery clean up, 7/8 help; H&S meeting, 6:30pm; **Wednesday, April 10**-StuCo Breakfast for those who purchased, 7-7:30am; SJS Library; 8th gr. to Cardinal baseball game, 12:15 start; **Thursday, April 11**-Diocesan Spelling Bee @ St. Martin, Jefferson City, leave SJS promptly at 7:00am; Track @ Montgomery, leave SJS at 2:50 **Friday, April 12**-Dress of choice for Spring Pictures; Branch Library visit, all grades; 1:00pm Grandparents Mass, 7/8 liturgical roles; 3:40pm dismissal from the KC Hall with grandparents; **NO EXTENDED CARE**

**Happy Anniversary & Birthdays**



April 8: Abbi Kleinsorge, Kenny and Audrey Schafer (52)

April 10: Ashley Arens, Tayler Cope, Ken Robnett

Please contact the parish office if you would like a birthday or anniversary listed in the bulletin. Parish office hours are Tuesday thru Thursday 9 am until 4:30 pm.

**We want to say a special Thank You** to a few people that helped us with the SJS Mini Golf – Shed Tour that was held on March 16.

Our hole hosts were NexGen; Tammy Stuckenschneider & Ryan Jackson; Vicki & Mike Duenke; Kristen & David Kleinsorge; Daniel & Julie Bosworth; Kenny & Audrey Schafer; John & Nancy Becker; Jay & Katie Robnett; Justin & Julie Stuckenschneider; Jay & Lisa Whalen; Dave & Melissa Sampo; Graf & Sons the Re-loading Authority; Rick & Debbie Robnett. Thank you for hosting holes without you guys this event wouldn't have been possible.

**Thank you**, Josh & Abby Graver with Nutrien Ag Solutions for buying the Green Carpet for the golf holes.

**Thank you**, Jeffery & Charlea Schafer for helping get the hall ready and handling the registration check-ins. Keith & Jesse Diemeke for helping with registration and anything we needed at the end of the event. Dawn Miller for adding up scores and helping with the prizes, Julie & Daniel Bosworth taking care of adding up scores.

Without all your help and the community support this wouldn't have been possible. They always say that it takes a village, and our village is amazing. Thank you again, Ryan and Kerrie Robnett, SJS Shed Mini Golf Chairmen

We all have something in our lives that is broken — that needs to be mended, fixed or healed. When we turn to Jesus and align our hearts and minds with Him and trust in His mercy, He comes to us and wraps His arms lovingly around us. He gently reminds us that “together, we can fix this!” Christ can heal broken relationships with God, broken relationships with others and broken parts of ourselves. Come join us to experience Jesus’ Divine Mercy through His Healing and Forgiveness which is freely offered to all. The 3-day Women’s Conference of Healing and Forgiveness, entitled “Women of Hope,” will be held September 5-7, 2024 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lenexa, Kansas. For more details see Diocesan website

**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. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”**

John 20:21-23

**God shares his mercy through the Resurrection of Jesus. Even in times of doubt, like Thomas, God’s merciful love is there for us to receive. By the power of the Holy Spirit and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we surrender ourselves to his mercy.**



**Stewardship**  
GROWING OUR FAITH



**DIocese OF Jefferson City**

A friendly reminder: That if there is a funeral at any parish or a school cancellation due to weather there will be no scheduled mass.



**2024 Women's Ministry Spring Pilgrimage**

Join us for a day of prayer and reflection on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary with Catholic speaker Jill Simons

Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
St. Mary Parish — Shelbina, MO



Register online at [diojeffcity.org/springpilgrimage](http://diojeffcity.org/springpilgrimage)



SJC Financial Report:	Income	Expense	Difference
July to February	\$673,884.72	\$702,539.66	\$-28,654.94
Percent of Budget	74.38%	74.38%	

Month of February	Income:	Expense	Weekly Mar 3	Weekly Mar 10	Weekly Mar 17	Weekly Mar 24	Weekly Mar 31
Church	\$ 33,951.77	\$ 27,087.81	\$12,736.83	\$13,428.37	\$4,382.00	\$10,008.17	\$23,065.99
School	\$ 8,309.84	\$ 62,423.19	\$ 3,428.11	\$ 292.70	\$ 262.70	\$ 652.70	\$ 700.04
ELC	\$ 12,755.00	\$ 36,704.59	\$ 2,610.00	\$ 3,920.00	\$2,240.00	\$ 4,890.00	\$ 5,228.00
Extended Care	\$ 1,337.00	\$ 2,786.13	\$ 313.00	\$ 256.50		\$ 294.50	\$



# Statement of the Missouri Catholic Conference on the Abortion Initiative Petition

The Catholic Church supports and defends society's most vulnerable, especially women and children, through accompaniment, social services, and material assistance.

A misleading proposed amendment to the Missouri Constitution suggests that a "right to an abortion" is needed to protect women, while the amendment could actually put women at risk and endanger preborn children. This ballot initiative would legalize abortions in this state and remove long standing health and safety standards for women. In addition, this initiative does nothing to reduce or eliminate the underlying social causes for abortion and does not further a true culture of life in the state.

Groups are currently collecting citizen signatures to add the amendment to the November 2024 ballot. **We encourage all Catholics and people of good will to not sign any petition that would put this amendment on the ballot.**

The Catholic Church in Missouri will continue to provide spiritual and material support to expectant mothers and their families through our parishes and ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their preborn children. For those women suffering from the pain of an abortion, the Church will continue to offer true healing and hope through its Post Abortive Healing Ministries. We ask all to help us in these efforts to safeguard the right to life.

We look forward to the day when every child, born and unborn, has the love and support needed to thrive and reach his or her full potential. Let us pray for a greater recognition of the gift of each and every human life in our society.

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI



*+ Mitchell T. Rozanski*

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
General Chairman  
Archbishop of St. Louis



*+ James V. Johnston, Jr.*

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.  
Vice Chairman  
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph



*+ Shawn McKnight*

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight  
Executive Chairman  
Bishop of Jefferson City



*+ Edward M. Rice*

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice  
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Approved February 22, 2024