



*Second Sunday of Easter
(Divine Mercy Sunday)
April 19, 2020*



Saint John Vianney Parish Community

920 Keolu Drive, Kailua, HI 96734-3842

Phone: 808-262-8317

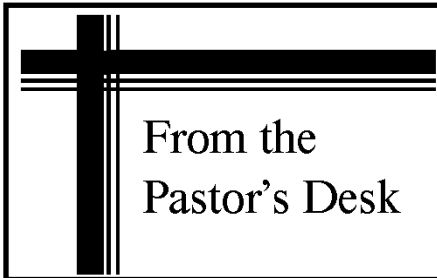
Fax: 808-772-5634

Website: www.saintjohnvianneyhawaii.org

Email: sjvkailuaparish@rcchawaii.org

School Website: sjvkailua.org

myparishapp.com



Dear Parish Family,

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, I once came across the following quote: ***“Don’t let your fear of what could happen make nothing happen.”*** How often are we paralyzed by fear and lack of trust in the word of God particularly during stormy times in our lives? The Apostles were afraid too. Following the death and burial of Jesus, the Apostles were left adrift during those early days. After all, the One who had been their focus and point of reference through years of mission and service was gone. God had gone quiet, no longer speaking to them or guiding them. How could they make sense of everything that had happened to Jesus? As their hopes crumbled around them, there was no escaping the darkness brought on by the Crucifixion.

Then in this Sunday’s gospel, everything changed. When Jesus first appeared to the Apostles on that first Easter Sunday, Thomas had been absent. Could it be that he was still overwhelmed by sadness? And I don’t think it’s fair to fault Thomas for being skeptical at the stories of Mary Magdalene and others seeing Jesus. With these same themes in mind, Pope Francis has reflected, *“Doesn’t the same thing also happen to us when something completely new occurs in our everyday life? We stop short, we don’t understand, we don’t know what to do. Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness which God brings us, the newness which God asks of us”* (Homily for the Easter Vigil 2013).

And while we know that faith is a gift, believing is not automatic or easy. At the conclusion of this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus proclaims, *“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed”* (20:19). When have your doubts and fears prevented you from recognizing God’s grace and mercy? Who or what strengthened your faith in those time? Jesus says: *“Peace be with you, do not be afraid.”*

In the Risen Christ,

Fr. Peter

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory: For the foreseeable future, we are not having Sunday Masses. Without a doubt, this has affected our weekly donations to support our Parish.

Our weekly donation for **April 11 & 12** is **\$11,145** and the weekly budget is **\$9,288**. Therefore, we have a **surplus** of **\$1,857**. Good news.!

Mahalo for your kokua to continue to GIVE. If you give online, keep giving online, and if you give by envelope, you can mail or drop off your donation at the Parish Office or place in the Slot Box.

REMINDER: Please mail or drop off your RICE BOWL donation at the Parish Office or place in the Slot Box.

Remember to Pray for the Sick—

Don Vickery, Keoni Keaunui,

Trisha Robertson and

for Hank Trautwein who passed

And for the Homebound

Let us know of others to pray for

Are you in need? Call the Office so we can let everyone know how they could help!

School News by Earl Walker

For over a half century, St. John Vianney School has been developing the next generation of Hawai'i's leaders through its strong academic program.

During this pandemic our **Distance Learning Program**, focusing on math, science and technology, will continue this tradition. With support from their parents, students continue to learn the value of service and respect, while developing into caring citizens and critical thinkers.

As we approach our 55th year, applications for **NEW STUDENTS** for 2020-2021 are now being accepted. You may find an application at our website sjvkailua.org and also learn more about our curriculum, scholarships and financial assistance programs.

Our school consists of an Early Learning Center for both 3 and 4-year olds, an elementary school; grades K through 5, and a middle school; grades 6 through 8.

Choose our school and experience the many rewards you and your child will receive.



Know Your Catholic Faith Corner

Apologetics without apology!

Sacred Tradition Continued...

Many non-Catholics or Protestants believe that Catholics look to Tradition instead of Scripture. They claim to base their faith on the Bible alone, a doctrine known as *sola scriptura*. This was a phrase coined by the Reformation Protestants who broke away from the Catholic Church in the 1500s. In addition to rejecting papal authority in all matters, such as daily governance, teaching authority, *et cetera*; the Protestants rejected Sacred Tradition.

But where did the Bible come from? It came from the Church, not vice versa. In apostolic times most people were illiterate. So what Christ said and did was passed on orally. Christ instructed the apostles: "to go into the whole world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). How could Our Lord order them to "preach the gospel" at a time when the gospels themselves did not exist in written form? Unless one is to accuse our Lord of being unreasonable, the only answer is that the gospel ("good news") already existed in oral form as a part of the Sacred Tradition of the Church, handed on from the lips of Christ.

It is a historical fact that man communicated orally before he wrote things down. Whether one puts the beginning of mankind at 5000 B.C. or 5,000,000 B.C., there is no archeological evidence of any written communication earlier than 4000 B.C. The outside date any Scripture scholars are willing to give for the beginning of the writing down of the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, is approximately 1450 B.C. Yet the Torah conveys facts relating to God's creating the universe and events that happened as far back as circa 1850 B.C., when God brought Abram "from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan" (Gen. 11:31). Obviously, unless we were to dismiss the validity of the entire Bible, we must admit, the Jews had an accurate oral tradition (from the Latin *traditio*, meaning ("handed or passed down") centuries prior to its being recorded in writing.

(Reflections by Fr. Peter) -

On March 11, 2020, when the World Health Organization announced the coronavirus a pandemic, it was just the beginning. And today, as we know in the United States, it has become a national emergency. Hopefully, it will pass soon. In the meantime, as we continue to ride the storm, to help strengthen our faith in such an uncertain time, I'm sharing some encouraging reminders on how to keep our trust in God during this global pandemic.



CHOOSE FAITH OVER FEAR:

First, let's remember to let faith rule our hearts and not fear. While we take this pandemic seriously, use precaution and exercise wisdom. Let us also keep our faith in God. If God took care of us before this pandemic, please know that He has not changed. Although everything is changing at rapid speed, God is not. He is the same faithful God before this outbreak as He will be once it passes. Our faith can be steady because our God is faithfully unchanging. This truth alone can strengthen us to not give in to fear. 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.* Fear can rob us of will power which enables us to live a life of faith when it's not easy; love which enables us to share and sacrifice when it's not convenient; and a sound mind which allows us to experience peace, even when everything seems to be going wrong. Fear is too costly. Choose faith.



CHOOSE WISDOM OVER WORRY:

While we can still maintain our faith because of our unchanging God, it is still important to exercise wisdom instead of becoming paralyzed by worry. If there is an action you can do to protect yourself, do it. Use wisdom and listen to sound advice. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has offered many ways for people like us to do, to slow the spread of this disease. It is also wise to ensure the sources of the information we consume are credible. There is a lot of false information circulating about the coronavirus that can be harmful by leading people to make unwise decisions based on information that is simply untrue.



CHOOSE PRAYER OVER PANIC:

While some may give in to cynicism and think there is nothing we can do, let's not forget the power of prayer. Prayer is the exact prescription the Bible gives us to cure anxiety. It's easy to want to look at all the news outlets and overthink all the possible negative outcomes that can take place. All that will do is rob us of the peace God promises us for today. Philippians 4:6 tells us: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."* We can panic, or we can pray, but we can't do both. This is a time to pray for God's intervention to stop the spread of this disease. It's time to ask for healing. It's time to ask for peace and comfort for those who have lost loved ones. It's time for us to ask for direction and discernment for our leaders and for us in our homes. Prayer is powerful and effective, and if we are too busy panicking instead of praying, we forfeit our greatest strength.



Divine Mercy is feast celebrated when the Lord expressed His will in a series of 14 revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s. Our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday, named by Blessed John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000

We pray the Divine Chaplet by:

1. Make the Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. Optional Opening Prayers: You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

4. Hail Mary: Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

5. The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

Continued:

7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades: Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then (10) "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times): Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Optional Closing Prayer: Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

REFLECTION

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, intensely reflect upon the abundance of this gift that God wishes to pour forth upon us. There is no limit to how much we are loved by our God of perfect mercy. And today, on this the eighth day of Easter, we should especially be aware of the fact that the floodgates of Heaven are opened to us to an unimaginable degree. Turn your eyes toward our merciful Lord and be open to all that He wishes to bestow.

PRAYER

*Lord of Mercy, help me today to begin to understand what mercy is all about. Help me to first be open to the mercy You wish to bestow upon me. As I receive Your own Divine Mercy, help me also to be an instrument of that mercy for all to see.
Jesus, I trust in You.*



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**THAT MOMENT WHEN
YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT THE ELDERLY
AND REALIZE THAT YOU
ARE THE ELDERLY. 😂**

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