

**Pastor’s Note:**

We tend to be either optimists or pessimists. For some the glass is always half empty, while for others it is always half full. Most of us however, would rather be positive than negative, we want to see the world through rose coloured glasses. Yet this general pattern does not seem to fit when it comes to our faith. When I speak with people about their faith I’m often surprised about how strict we can be when it comes to ourselves. The person may be a regular Mass goer, a person who volunteers, a person who tries to do what is right despite the difficulties, a person who cares for family and friends, and yet they seem to think and feel that God, in some way, is not too pleased with them. When it comes to our faith it seems as if the glass is always half empty.

In this Sunday’s Gospel we have the story of Jesus’ appearance to the apostles with the exception of Thomas. Because Thomas was not present when the Risen Lord first appeared he refused to believe. When the Risen Lord appeared for the second time, and Thomas was present, Thomas was able to see the wounds of Christ and proclaimed his great profession of faith—“My Lord and my God!” With his doubt, Thomas has gained for himself a most unfortunate title, that is, Doubting Thomas. With this title we have given greater importance to his doubt instead of his faith. What is most important is not that Thomas said “I will not believe,” but that he said, “My Lord and my God!” And so in reality this passage is not about doubt but about faith. In our own lives is it not true that sometimes our faith seems imperfect? In a time of suffering is it not true that we pray and we pray and we pray for God’s help and intervention? And if that grace does not seem to be given, do we not doubt, wondering why God has seemed to will something different? Is it not true that despite our desire to love and to be understanding that sometimes we say mean and harsh things or do hurtful things? And when we know what we’ve said or done, and remorse has set in, do we not doubt that God will remain faithful to us? We may think and feel that it’s the last straw for God, that he has had enough of us. This feeling, though common, is a lie. The tomb is empty and so we have each been fully embraced by God.

This Sunday is also Divine Mercy Sunday. Mercy is not primarily about forgiving our faults and failings. It is about how God loves. And God’s merciful love is about the reality that there is no last straw, that God is always faithful. For God, our imperfect faith is not at the center of his heart. But what is held in his heart is each of us. God does not call us imperfect ones, he does not label us as doubters rather he embraces us as his beloved. And if this is so, can we not begin to make a shift in our faith? We all have moments of doubt; we all have moments of sinfulness. But out of love we also try to serve God, to deepen our faith, and to make his Will our own. These are our gifts to God.

When we receive a gift we don’t think it’s not so good, but we’re moved, we’re touched and we’re grateful. In a similar way, when we are humble enough to offer God our gifts of faith, He is moved, He is touched, and He is grateful. We are not doubters rather we are lovers. It’s true that we sometimes say things and do things that we wish we hadn’t. But it is equally true that these things are not who we are, nor are they what’s written on our hearts. We are the beloved of God, so we know and trust and depend on his merciful love that we can freely proclaim for ourselves and the world My Lord and My God!

God Bless and Take Care! Fr. John

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*Our Lady of Lourdes*



**Saturday, June 1, 2019**

**Volunteers Needed For our Annual Parish Bazaar – June 16, 2018:** Preparations have begun for our Parish Bazaar and we are looking for people who would like to help out. We need people throughout the day, to help set up in the morning, help out during the day and clean up in the afternoon. Join us for a couple of hours or for the whole day. It is always a fun day and a wonderful community experience. If you are new to the parish, or looking for a way to become more involved, this is a great opportunity to get to know people in our parish. Please call the Parish Office at 416-924-6257. We have some new activities planned for this year’s bazaar so watch for upcoming bulletins and mark the date!

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Our **Famous 50/50 Draw** is back again for this year’s Parish Bazaar. This year’s possible jackpot is \$5,000. 5,000 tickets are being printed and are priced at \$2.00 each. Tickets will be available starting next week from our Welcome Desk or from our Parish Office.

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Come and celebrate **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** in our parish. Join us today, Sunday, **April 28 at 2:30 pm**. There will be Eucharistic adoration, sung praise and worship, the

Divine Mercy devotions and the celebration of the Mass.  
All are welcome.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, April 29**

- 8:00 am Bienvenido Gaceta + [Gigi Gaceta]
- 12:10pm Mariano Quimson Jr. + [Family]
- 5:15 pm Adelino Batista + [Nelly Dy]

**Tuesday, April 30**

- 8:00 am CRESENCIA IBARRA's Birthday [Annabelle Ibarra]
- 12:10 pm Thanksgiving to St. Joseph, Rommel & Romily Burgers  
[Alicia Calanche]
- 5:15 pm Terrence Hughes + [Thursday Small Group]

**Wednesday, May 1**

- 8:00 am ELIZABETH CHO + [Juliana Cho]
- 12:10 pm Kevin Quinto + [Maria]
- 5:15 pm Jayjay & Jojo's Birthday [Saavedra Family]

**Thursday, May 2**

- 8:00 am SHERNAZ COLABEWALA + [Daniell]
- 12:10pm Silkes Family Intention [Mary Daly]
- 5:15 pm Fidel & Alfonso Balatero & ROSALIA Souster +  
[Cora Balatero]

**Friday, May 3**

- 8:00 am Juan Celestial + [Edbert Celestial]
- 12:10pm GUALDINE & NANING JOLAMPONG + [Letty Jolampong]
- 5:15 pm Joseph Kaposi's Intention [Mike & Lydia Sherlock]

**Saturday, May 4**

- 8:00 am Cesar Torio + [Gloria Torio]
- 12:10pm NANCY PHAM's Intention [Nancy]

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:**

*Rita Harrington, Arthur Innes, John Thorne*

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**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month 8:30 am to 7pm**

*Come and spend some time in quiet prayer*

Next date: **Friday, May 3, 2019**

**SHARELIFE: Living the Gospel by welcoming newcomers to Canada**

Rashida endured years of domestic abuse while living in Egypt. Fearing her husband would abuse their children, she successfully applied for refugee status in Canada. Rashida arrived in Toronto, not knowing the language, what to do, or who could help. Fortunately, she met an Arabic speaker who told her about Catholic Crosscultural Services (CCS). CCS helped her navigate the immigration process and access the resources she needed. "CCS saved my life," Rashida says. "Today I have money of my own, an apartment, and my children are finally safe and happy." **Next Sunday, May 5 is ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously.**

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**Summer Fun at Marygrove Camp & Camp Ozanam**

St. Vincent de Paul runs Marygrove Camp, open to eligible girls ages 6-13 and Camp Ozanam for boys ages 7-12 throughout the summer. The camps provides an 8 day camping experience for children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy a camping adventure. Families who are experiencing financial or domestic hardship at this time, may register on **Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 12 to 2pm in Bernadette Hall.**

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**BEAUTY FROM OUR FAITH**

*Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?*

*~ St. Gerard Majella*



**Spring Alpha – Tuesdays at 6pm**

Join Alpha this Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – "Who is Jesus?"

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith. It's an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed and friendly setting. Each evening involves food, fun and friendship.

Feel free to let us know if you'll be coming by calling the office at 416-924-6257 or emailing [info@lourdes.to](mailto:info@lourdes.to)

There's no pressure, no follow up, and no charge.