



Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church

Saint Sharbel, Pray for Us!

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www.stsharbel.org

April 19, 2020

Jesus Appears to the Disciples & Thomas



Next Sunday

Jesus Appears to the Two Disciples at Emmaus

2 Tim 2:8-13 (Timothy's Conduct)

Lk 24:13-35 (The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus)

Liturgy Intentions

Sunday, April 19th 10:30 am

Living and Deceased Members of this Parish

Monday, April 20th

Available

Tuesday, April 21st

Available

Wednesday, April 22nd

Available

Thursday, April 23rd

Available

Friday, April 24th

Available

Saturday, April 25th

Available

Sunday, April 26th

Living and Deceased Members of this Parish

Adoration/Exposition every Sunday at 9:30 am before the morning Liturgy.

Confession every Sunday at 9:45 am before the morning Liturgy.

Also join us to pray the Rosary on Sundays at 10:00 am before the Liturgy begins.

Your Gifts To God

Offering Report for April 5th - 11th

Online.....\$1,670.00

Collection.....\$500.00

Weekly Total.....\$2,170.00

YTD Total.....\$23,114.00

YTD Goal.....\$25,844.00

YTD Difference.....**-\$2,730.00**

Altar Sponsorship

Sunday, April 19th

Redmond Family

Sunday, April 26th

Available

Parish / Community Events

Parish Council

+Bruce Ashford
(Treasurer)

Charlie Ashou

Gus Bekahi

Nick El Hajj

Agopos Ghossein

Adib Karam

+Claude Karam

Anne Marentette
(Secretary)

Doug Raab

+Thaddeus Rask

Nadia Redmond

Mitch Siekmann

Laif Waldron

Ex Officio

+Deacon Tony

+Deacon Wadih

+Finance
Committee

Sunday, April 19, 2020 Livestream Link
10:30am

<https://youtu.be/2ak3EcGt4PA>

Divine Mercy Sunday

Each year, on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Mankind's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th century, when civilization began again to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of every human life.

Since the legalization of abortion in our country, millions of women, men and families have been hurt by abortion. By the age of 45, as many as 1 in 3 women have had an abortion, and a similar number of men and family members have been involved. Many inaccurately believe that abortion is "the unforgivable sin." They need to hear that God forgives every sin of a repentant heart, even the sin of abortion.

The Sunday of Divine Mercy provides an important opportunity to share Christ's message of mercy, especially with those who have been wounded by abortion.

Resources can be found at uscbb.org/abortion healing. *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

The US Catholic bishops have launched a nationwide effort called "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service" to assist pregnant moms and families in need. The Respect Life Committee invites you to join us in this effort, and we will be providing more information in the bulletin each week. For more information go to www.walkingwithmoms.com.

Readings

Sunday April 19, 2020

2 Cor 5:11-21 (The Ministry of Reconciliation)

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Jn 20:26-31 (Thomas/Conclusion)

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection

New Sunday

As we proclaimed last week, Christ is risen! The great battle is finished and He has destroyed death by His death demonstrating His ultimate victory against humanity's great Enemy... So why, then, do we hear in the Gospel that the Apostles were hiding in fear in the Upper Room a week after this glorious triumph of Christ? As St. John tells us, they locked themselves in the Upper Room "for fear of the Jewish leaders" (John: 20:19) persecuting the followers of Christ. Perhaps it sounds a bit like our own lives – if Christ won the greatest victory of all time, why are we still undergoing hardship here and now?

The Apostles hid in the Upper Room in fear of their immediate circumstances in Jerusalem, perhaps not yet even fully understanding the mystery of our Lord's resurrection. Their main preoccupation is survival. But Jesus Christ Himself assured them that He would never abandon them to their own devices. In fact, Christ came in the first place because "God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Having redeemed humanity in His Passion, Christ would not simply leave those who believed in Him to perish simply within the first week. Before even undergoing His Passion He promised them "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you" (John 14:16) — referring to the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which had not yet happened. Until then, our Lord appears to His Apostles; though it might seem Christ is far away because we cannot see Him, He has promised us, "where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matt. 18:20).

But St. Thomas has incredibly bad timing. Just as we believe St. Thomas was late for the Assumption and missed saying goodbye to the Virgin Mary at her death, he also missed Christ's first appearance to the Apostles saying, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). According to the logic of the world, why should St. Thomas believe Christ was with them? The Disciples were suffering persecution and would be killed if found. So Christ appears to the Apostles again to assure St. Thomas, and we ourselves, in saying, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

In the Syriac tradition we do not remember St. Thomas for his doubt but his response to Christ's admonition. Having seen that our God is not dead but truly alive and forever with us, St. Thomas bides farewell to Jerusalem and heads to India. Today, millions of Indians following the Syriac tradition trace apostolic succession to St. Thomas's initial evangelization. At the end of his service teaching the Indians about Christ, working many miracles and converting many he was martyred for the same Lord's Resurrection he initially doubted for St. Thomas. St. Thomas understood on New Sunday that all had been made new by the Resurrection – though he should be threatened by physical forces, this world will eventually pass away but all who believe in Christ will have eternal life even if they should die here for Christ raised those who believe in Him at His resurrection. Let us follow St. Thomas's example to bring the Resurrection to the world with our daily lives and pray with joy this day:

This feast is a mystery and title of the New World – let us rejoice and exult with the blessed company of Apostles. With them and amongst them let us worship Him. With Thomas who touched His side, let us give thanks to Him and cry out, "You are our Lord and our God!" Glory be to His Resurrection!

(from the Diaconal Proclamation for New Sunday)

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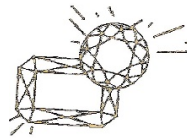
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