



**St. John's Parish**  
Roman Catholic Church

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# THE LIFE THAT CONQUERS DEATH

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY - APRIL 12, 2026

Today, Divine Mercy Sunday, the Gospel recounts two apparitions of the Risen Jesus to his disciples, and in particular, to Thomas, the "doubting Apostle" (*cf. Jn 20:24-29*).

In reality, Thomas is not the only one who struggles to believe. In fact, he represents all of us a little bit. Indeed, it is not always easy to believe, especially when, as in his case, one has suffered a tremendous disappointment. After a huge disappoint, it is difficult to believe. He had followed Jesus for years, running risks and enduring discomforts. But the Teacher was put on a cross like a criminal, and no one freed him. No one did anything! He is dead and everyone is afraid. How can he trust again? How can he trust the news saying He is alive? There was doubt inside him.

Thomas, however, shows that he is courageous. While the others are closed up inside the Upper Room out of fear, he goes out, running the risk that someone might recognize, report and arrest him. We could even think that, with his courage, he would have deserved more than the others to meet the Risen Lord. Instead, precisely because he is away, Thomas is not there when Jesus appears to the disciples for the first time, on Easter evening, thus missing that opportunity. He had distanced himself from the community. How could he get [the opportunity] back? Only by going back to the others, returning there, to that family he had left behind, scared and sad. When he does so, when he returns, they tell him that Jesus had come, but he struggles to believe. He wants to see his wounds. And Jesus satisfies him: eight days later, he appears again in the midst of his disciples and shows them his wounds, his hands, his feet, these wounds that are the proof of his love, that are the ever-open channels of his mercy.

Let us reflect on these facts. In order to believe, Thomas wants an extraordinary sign — to touch the wounds. Jesus shows them to him, but in an ordinary way, coming in front of everyone, in the community, not outside. As if saying to him: if you want to meet me, do not search far away; remain in the community, with the others, and don't go away. Pray with them. Break bread with them. And he says this to us as well. That is where you will find me; that is where I will show you the signs of the wounds impressed on my body: the signs of the Love that overcomes hatred, of the Pardon that disarms revenge, the signs of the Life that conquers death. It is there, in the community, that you will discover my face, as you share moments of doubt and fear with your brothers and sisters, clinging even more strongly to them. Without the community, it is difficult to find Jesus.

Dear brothers and sisters, the invitation given to Thomas is valid for us as well. We, where do we seek the Risen One? In some special event, in some spectacular or amazing religious manifestation, only in our emotions and feelings? Or rather in the community, in the Church, accepting the challenge of staying there, even though she (the Church) is not perfect? Despite all of her limitations and failures, which are our limitations and failings, our Mother Church is the Body of Christ. And it is there, in the Body of Christ, that, still now and forever, the greatest signs of his love can be found impressed. Let us ask ourselves, however, if in the name of this love, in the name of Jesus' wounds, we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy but welcoming everyone, each person like a brother, like a sister. God welcomes everyone. God welcomes everyone.

May Mary, the Mother of Mercy, help us to love the Church and to make her a welcoming home for everyone.

POPE FRANCIS — April 16, 2023

## ENGLISH SCHEDULE

### *Second Sunday of Easter of Divine Mercy*

Saturday, April 11 **5:00 PM**  
+Keshimi Namasiuayam

Sunday, April 12 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, April 14 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, April 15 **11:00 AM**  
+For Deceased of the Bleskie & Belkwell Families

Thursday, April 16 **11:00 AM**  
+Anne Longworth

Friday, April 17 **11:00 AM**  
St. Kateri Tekawitha  
+Edward Hammer

### *Third Sunday of Easter*

Saturday, April 18 **5:00 PM**  
+Murray Partridge

Sunday, April 19 **9:00 AM**  
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

## HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

### *II Domingo de Pascua de la Divina Misericordia*

Sabado 11 de abril **7:00 PM**  
+Pedro Antonio Molina

Domingo 12 de abril **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 14 de abril **12:00 PM**

Miercoles 15 de abril **12:00 PM**

Jueves 16 de abril **12:00 PM**

Viernes 17 de abril **12:00 PM**  
St. Kateri Tekawitha

### *III Domingo de Pascua*

Sabado 18 de abril **7:00 PM**  
+Marvin Castillo Courtade

Domingo 19 de abril **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**  
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

## World Youth Day 2027: Seoul, South Korea

July 31 – August 9, 2027

Bishop Dabrowski is sending a delegation of young adults (aged 18–35) to World Youth Day in the summer of 2027. World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelization for the world. The Diocesan Pastoral Offices welcome you to attend a **virtual information night** on Thursday, April 23 @ 7:30pm. Register here: [bit.ly/WYDInfoNight](http://bit.ly/WYDInfoNight)

For more information about WYD in the Diocese of Hamilton please visit: [wyd.hamiltondiocese.com](http://wyd.hamiltondiocese.com)

### **The Scandal of the Incarnation - St. Clement's, Cambridge**

A Study Day co-sponsored by the Communio Circle of the Diocese of Hamilton and St. Clement's Parish, Cambridge, (745 Duke Street, Cambridge), *Saturday, April 18th, 2026 - 10:00am to 2:00pm.*

The Scandal of the Incarnation by theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar is a small book in which he thematically quotes from Against the Heresies by St. Irenaeus and provides commentary to help us understand how ancient Gnosticism takes on new forms in our day. Come join the presentations and discussion. No need to read the book. Optional Mass at 9:00am. Doors open at 9:30am with coffee. Welcome at 10:00am. End at 2:00pm. For more information call Deacon Charles Fernandes: 519-923-0454 or visit: <http://communiohamiltondiocese.org>

**The “Help Not Harm” Campaign** raises awareness about proposed changes to Canada’s Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) legislation and encourage respectful engagement with Members of Parliament.

Current federal legislation is scheduled to expand eligibility for MAiD to individuals whose sole underlying condition is mental illness beginning March 17, 2027. In response to these developments, a Private Member’s Bill currently before Parliament—**Bill C-218, the Right to Recover Act**—proposes an amendment to the Criminal Code that would prevent this expansion.

Through the *Help Not Harm* campaign, Catholics and all people of goodwill are invited to learn more about the issue and to respectfully contact their Member of Parliament in support of Bill C-218 through the [HelpNotHarmCanada.ca](http://HelpNotHarmCanada.ca) website.

**Statement from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on Bill C-218: [In English](#) [In French](#)**

Find the [Information Sheet](#) here. To learn more about the campaign and to contact your Member of Parliament, visit: [HelpNotHarmCanada.ca](http://HelpNotHarmCanada.ca)