



BLD Trenton



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We have hope for eternal life when we believe and seek Christ's divine mercy.

PROMISE:

"Blessed are those who have not seen me, and have believed." (Jn 20: 29)

WORD:

Acts 2: 42-47/ Ps 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24/ 1 Pt 1: 3-9/ Jn 20: 19-31

ORDERS:

- Love me...believe in me...rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy... attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Pt 1: 9)

DIRECTIONS:

- Have faith and trust in God's mercy and compassion.
- Reconcile with God and with one another.

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April 14, 2023

Share The Good News

REFLECTION:

"Peace be with you."

Said by Jesus as He stood in the midst of His disciples, on the evening of the first day of the week after His death.

If you were there, how would you react?

The disciples were happy, they rejoiced when they saw Jesus. But one of the disciples, Thomas, was not there, so he doubted their testimonies.

But Jesus showed himself again. This time, Thomas was in the room, He greeted them once again "Peace be with You," then he invited Thomas to touch His wounds, after which Thomas proclaimed, "My Lord and My God!"

The central theme of the Divine Mercy Sunday is: it is through Christ's Resurrection, that we receive mercy and forgiveness for our sins. The readings testify to the fact that Jesus conquered death and sin, and that through his resurrection, we are able to experience new life and hope.

The readings also reveal the depth of God's love and compassion for humanity, as demonstrated through his mercy and forgiveness.



Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers us the gift of new life and the hope of eternal salvation. Jesus did fulfill His mission through His perfect love and obedience to the will of God the Father. He called his first disciples to continue His mission, to live and proclaim the

Gospel of Divine Mercy through the power of the Holy Spirit and now he calls for us to do the same.

We are also reminded to Love Jesus although we have not seen him. We have to believe in Him, even though we do not see Him.

We heard the story of Thomas previously, who initially doubted the testimony of the other disciples, but ultimately came to believe through his encounter with the risen Christ. When Thomas recognized Jesus, His Master, he believed and exclaimed that Jesus was truly Lord and truly God. Through the gift of faith, we, too, proclaim that Jesus is our personal Lord and our God. Through our words and actions, we are called to testify to the reality of the resurrection and to share the

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From Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Mark

M The Risen Lord is alive and is here with us throughout the entire season of Easter. Let us encounter the Risen Lord in everything and in every person that gives us life, joy, and hope during this season. Let us encounter him at Mass, where he is most truly present, as we hear his beautiful and inspiring words and as we receive his life-giving self in the Eucharist. And let the Risen Lord remind us that he has defeated death. For those who believe in the Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting, there is no such thing as a permanent death. Death does not have the final word. As followers of Jesus who died and rose from the dead, our lives do not have to end on Good Friday. Our life story begins at birth but it does not end with death. It must also include Bodily Resurrection and Eternity with God in Heaven. For the faithful departed who had died more than two thousand years ago and are still buried in the tombs here on earth, their death seems like eternity. But Christ will come back from heaven someday to raise them up from their graves and tombs. He will miraculously gather the ashes together and, just like at the beginning of Creation, he will breathe life into them. God will give them physical bodies, similar to (but not exactly the same as) the glorified physical body of the Risen Christ. And they will live eternally and permanently with God in Heaven, where they will enjoy perpetual happiness, peace, light, and comfort. Beginning today, let us

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Bukas Loob Sa Diyos
Diocese of Trenton

proudly presents

the
Philippine
Madrigal Singers

Mark Anthony A. Carpio, choirmaster



MAY 13, 2023 | SATURDAY | 7PM

CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMIN
61 GEORGIA RD, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$40 | VIP MEET AND GREET: \$75

Proceeds will benefit Bukas Loob Sa Diyos mission activities.

FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS AND INQUIRIES
EMAIL: BLDTRENTON.MAD2023@GMAIL.COM | CONTACT: TM (609) 954-2300

Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

March 31, 2023

Tithe :\$600.00
Love Offering :\$294.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Agnes Monta	4/7	Eric Bustamante	4/10
Margaret Tomczyk	4/7	Therese Lumapas	4/10
Ellen San Rafael	4/8	Christian Dizon	4/11
Agnes Morte	4/8	JP Edralin	4/11
Fr. Jason Yvans	4/8	Lota Salomia	4/12
Arlene Riggio	4/9	Mon Miranda	4/13
Lito Fune	4/9	Cesar Morte	4/13

Anniversary

Lito & Sylvia Lingat 4/8
Fr. Pete Literal (ordination) 4/13

I was hard pressed and falling but the Lord helped me; he has been my savior, my strength and my courage.

Joyful Proclaimers

Let us think of the women of the Gospel: there was the sealed stone and despite this, they go to the tomb; there was an entire city that had seen Jesus on the cross and nevertheless they go to the city to announce that he is alive. Dear brothers and sisters, when one encounters Jesus, no obstacle can prevent us from proclaiming him. If instead we keep his joy for ourselves, perhaps it is because we have not yet truly encountered him.

Brothers, sisters, before the women's experience we ask ourselves: tell me, when was the last time you bore witness to Jesus? When was the last time I bore witness to Jesus? Today, what shall I do so that the people I meet receive the joy of his proclamation? And again: can someone say: this person is serene, happy, good, because he has met Jesus? Can this be said of every one of us? Let us ask Our Lady to help us be joyful proclaimers of the Gospel.

~ Pope Francis

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541



Send your prayer requests to:

<https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory>

Last Week's Prophecy



• Do not be afraid of hardships and sacrifices. It is when you are in this vulnerable state that I am closest to you. I am always with you.

• Sacrifice. Self-sacrifice.

Sacrifice to help those in need. Sacrifice to raise our children in the way of the Lord. Sacrifice to fulfill our ministry work but the highest sacrifice of all is laying one's life down for love. Sacrifice is the true mark of a disciple of Christ.

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good news of God's mercy and forgiveness.

We love, we believe and now let us rejoice.

What is the joy of the resurrection?

In the second reading, St. Peter exhorts us "you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." (this is also the order for tonight's readings)

We rejoice in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus as God's Divine Mercy. Everything happens within the mercy of God. The incarnation is a concrete manifestation of God's Gracious Mercy. It is not merited by any of our good doings, but is ONLY GRACIOUSLY GIVEN.

I repeat, "It is not merited by any of our good do-

ings, but is ONLY GRACIOUSLY GIVEN."

The readings for Divine Mercy Sunday Year also show us that faith that was given to us by the grace of God, has the power to overcome doubt and fear. Like Thomas, we may struggle with doubt and uncertainty, but through faith and trust in Jesus, we can experience the peace and joy that comes from knowing the risen Christ.

We rejoice in God's infinite love and outpouring of Mercy to mankind. This is the joy of His Resurrection.

God is rich in mercy. (Eph 2:4) Jesus was consumed by Divine Mercy (see Heb 12:29) Please remember, "when we received mercy, we must freely give mercy." (Mt 10:8)



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live our lives here on earth, looking beyond our present sufferings, and already seeing the victory that awaits us at the end.

A favorite Easter hymn from the Philippines is a song called "**Life Forevermore**," and is actually a prayer to our Heavenly Father, the Lord of Life:

*When the day of toil is done, when the race of life is run
Father, grant Thy wearied one: Rest forevermore.*

*When the strife of sin is stilled, when the foe within is killed
Be Thy gracious word fulfilled: Peace forevermore.*

*When the darkness melts away at the breaking of the day
Bid us hail the cheering ray: Light forevermore.*

*When the heart of sorrow tried, feels at length its throb subside
Bring us where all tears are dried: Joy forevermore.*

*When for vanished days we yearn, days that never can return
Teach us in Thy love to learn: Love forevermore.*

*When the breath of life is flown, when the grave must claim its own
Lord of Life be ours thy glorious crown: Life forevermore.*

Life forevermore!

Remember that Easter Sunday is just Day 1 of the Easter Season in the Church's calendar. We did not spend forty days of Lent just to celebrate in one day. We are given fifty days to celebrate Easter! Thank you, Jesus, for rising from your own grave! Thanks be to God. Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!!!