

Dear Padre,

How do we maintain our faith in a world that shames religion and creates doubt in our beliefs?

I would respond to your question with one of my own: "When has it ever been different?" In what place has there been universal praise and acceptance of the practices of faith and belief? When has there been a time when there is no doubt? This is a good question for this Sunday, when we hear about St. Thomas, the doubting disciple.

Many years ago, unanimity might have been understood as the norm in a tight-knit neighborhood community of people with the same experience and belief. However, in the wide world today that is so connected and disconnected at the same time, sameness and uniformity cannot be assumed. It may cause unease, or even fear, to learn that someone disagrees with you, perhaps even someone you love, but it should no longer be a surprise or considered out of the ordinary.

Doubt can help a person grow in faith and belief. Even though doubt is challenging, it is often a necessary experience in order to be strengthened and to persevere. Doubt is not something that should cause us to quiver in fear, but rather to rejoice in hope, in the confidence that what we believe is worth living and has something to teach us. •

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 28 Easter Weekday Acts 4:23–31 Jn 3:1–8	April 29 St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Acts 4:32–37 Jn 3:7b–15	April 30 Easter Weekday Acts 5:17–26 Jn 3:16–21	May 1 Easter Weekday Acts 5:27–33 Jn 3:31–36	May 2 St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Acts 5:34–42 Jn 6:1–15	May 3 Sts. Philip and James, Apostles 1 Cor 15:1–8 Jn 14:6–14	May 4 Third Sunday of Easter Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41 Rv 5:11–14 Jn 21:1–19 or 21:1–14



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask ourselves: at home, in my family, at work, in my community, do I foster fellowship, am I a weaver of reconciliation? Do I commit myself to defusing conflict, to bringing forgiveness in place of hatred, and peace in place of resentment? Do I avoid hurting others by not gossiping, which always kills?

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter / Sunday of Divine Mercy (C)

Acts 5:12–16 / Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19 / John 20:19–31



From Anger to Peace

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

At this point in history, we are a nation filled with much anger. Given all that is taking place, one might conclude that it comes from a fear of losing control—fears due to the waves of immigrants seeking asylum, to a changing economy, to political alliances, to artificial intelligence, resulting in our inability to sort truth from untruth. Fears also due to strained relationships with non-Western nations, to urban violence and the abundance of guns, to the conflict between pro-life and pro-choice allegiances, and, for some, to what is perceived as conflicted thinking within the Catholic Church. There is no shortage of what may be fueling our anger. How can faith help us respond in a life-giving way?

Saint John writes that "whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith" (1 John 5:4). This is not to say that we can easily make the world respond in ways we want, but rather that the world has no power over the person who places all trust in God's presence among us. It was the risen Lord who once brought peace to the disciples behind doors locked out of fear. Might not our faith help us who have locked ourselves behind doors of mistrust and anger? If only we allow ourselves to trust God. Yet, we should not simply shrug off all cares or involvement in life; on the contrary, with faith and trust, we recognize we are not the only players in shaping the events of the world. •

Reflect

*Do I bring my faith to the news of the day;
do I pray for peace?*



[Jesus] said to [the disciples] again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

JOHN 20:21–22



St. James Church

Fr. Tim Kozak, Pastor

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**Love God. Love Neighbor.
Make Disciples.**

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick: Call Fr. Tim

Sacrament of Matrimony: Call the rectory six months in advance

Sacrament of Baptism: Call the rectory three months in advance

	Lector	Server	EMHC	Greeter
This Sat.	D. Hoover	MJ Drobina	S. Staib	J. Corcoran
Next Sat.	S. Roberts	MJ Drobina	K. Fisher	J. Corcoran

Mass Intentions	
Sat., Apr. 26 th	Wally Olszewski† By Sheila Olszewski
Tues. Apr. 29 th	Andre Taylor† By Joe & Carol Hatem
Sat., May 3 rd	Pope Francis† By Fr. Tim Kozak



Please Remember in Your Prayers
Msgr. Larry Luciana†, Jack Richards†, Pat Hambel, Fr. Sam Saprano†, Ron Muetzel, David Hutson, Chris Stine, Fr. Jack McCoy, Bill Stine, John Schaad, Oliver, Msgr. Michael Campbell

Bulletin	St. Bernard Office 740.984.2555 contact@StJamesMcConnelsville.org
Ministry Scheduling	Holly Schaad 220.206.3555 schaadh@gmail.com
Parish Council	Carol Hatem 740.559.3770
Prayer Network	JoAnn Scholl 740.962.3282 Pat Hambel 740.962.2214
Social Concerns	Kelly Fisher 740.516.3576
CWC President	Mary Goode 740.962.5963
KrogerCommunityRewards.com	Joe Hatem 740.559.3770



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Divine Mercy Sunday

April 27th, 2025

This Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday:

On the second Sunday of Easter in 2000, Pope St. John Paul II officially designated the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. On that same day, Sr. Faustina Kowalska was also declared a saint. During her short life she had apparitions of Jesus which she recorded in her diary. The Lord promised to bestow gifts upon all those who celebrate this day. **The Church has also offered a plenary indulgence to those who attend Mass that weekend, as long as they receive Communion and go to Confession.**

Newsletter Will be Available Next Weekend:

The newsletter for May will be published next weekend. Our apologies for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Parish Council Meeting:

The Council is an advisory body that meets with Fr. Tim every other month to discuss what is going on in the parish. If you would like something brought up at the meeting please contact a member of the Council with your concerns.

The next meeting is **this Monday, April 28th, at 6:00pm in the Hall.**

Parish Council Members		
Carol Hatem	Pres.	740.559.3770
Annette Schaad:	Sec.	740.559.3944
Kelly Fisher		740.516.3576
Dixie Jenne		740.651.7703
Mary Goode		740.962.5963

May He Rest in Peace: Please keep Pope Francis in your prayers. And please also keep in your prayers the cardinals who will elect the next pope. May they be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Divine Mercy Prayer Service:

Next Sunday, **April 27th**, is Divine Mercy Sunday. **From 3:00pm to 4:00pm at St. Bernard** there will be a prayer service with readings from of St. Faustina's diary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and music.

Madonna Plan Collection:

The CWC will be holding their annual collection on **May 3rd**. The proceeds help empower mothers and expectant mothers of the third world with health, education and finances. There are envelopes in your box of church envelopes. Thank you for your generosity.

Mary's House Benefit Dinner:

The Benefit Dinner is on **Saturday, May 3rd, from 4:30pm to 7:00pm at St. James.** The cost is \$15 per person.

Cakes and Cookies Requested for Mary's House Dinner:

If you can help, please contact Annette Schaad at 740.517.1292 by April 27th.

Vacation Bible School Meeting:

The meeting will be right **after the last CCD class on Sunday, May 4th at St. Bernard.**

Spaces at DCCW:

There are 1 or 2 more spaces for women who want to attend the DCCW Convention on Wednesday, June 4th. Please contact Mary 740.962.5963.