

April 16, 2023 | Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47 | 1 Pt 1:3-9 | Jn 20:19-31

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

**GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

**GROW:** “I’ll believe it when I see it.” We’ve all said this at some point, usually in response to hearing about someone unreliable doing something out of character. St. Thomas had the same reaction in today’s Gospel when he wasn’t there when the other disciples saw Christ for the first time since he rose from his tomb – **“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”** Although Jesus helped Thomas with his unbelief, he blesses those who have not seen, but believe. Have any of us seen the nail marks in Christ’s hands and feet, or the wound in his side? Do we see Christ’s body and blood on the altar, or do we see only the gifts of bread and wine? Christ comes to us in ways we can understand initially – parables, bread and wine, the face of people we meet throughout our daily lives – but [our faith in what we have not seen, in the great mystery of our salvation, is what makes us Christian.](#)

**GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

**GO:** In today’s first reading, we hear reports of the lives of the first disciples soon after Pentecost: communal living, breaking bread together, prayer, selling of their property and possessions and redistributing among themselves according to individual needs. To our ears today, this idyllic community living seems almost incredible. Yet these first disciples were infused with the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to proclaim the Gospel and think of others before themselves. As Christ’s disciples today, how are we behaving toward one another? If we truly are among those who have not seen and yet believe, let’s act in full confidence. As we heard in the second reading, our faith is **“more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire.”** We certainly aren’t perfect, and our faith at times can be sorely tested, and yet this is our call: to share this faith by doing good works in Christ’s name to make disciples and build the kingdom of God.

**INVITATION:** People often see Christ through the words and actions of others. This week, actively seek out opportunities to be the hands of Christ. What opportunities does your community have to practice corporal works of mercy?

**Mass Intentions | April 16-22, 2023**

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Mon, Apr 17 - Patricia Young (+)  | Thu, Apr 20 - Rosa Maria Matining (INT) |
| Tue, Apr 18 - Ricardo Lo (+)      | Fri, Apr 21 - T Leung                   |
| Wed, Apr 19 - Rev Jim Comey (INT) | Sat, Apr 22 - Alma de Jesus             |



**ST. MONICA PARISH**

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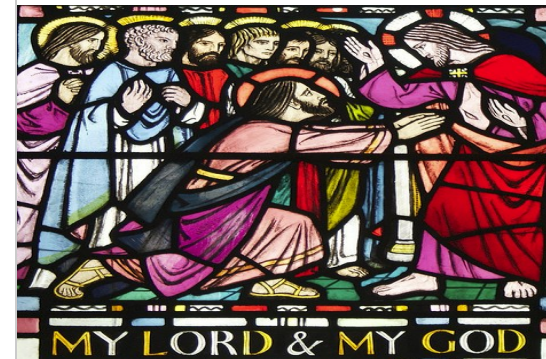
Website: [stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca) Email: [parish.smon@rcav.org](mailto:parish.smon@rcav.org)

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**  
DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday

**9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**



**MASS SCHEDULES**

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

**CONFESSION SCHEDULES**

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm—4:55 pm**

10 minutes before Daily Mass

**BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL,  
HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL**

Please call the Parish Office

April 16, 2023

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

**Divine Mercy**

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**Liturgy of the Word**

*The Lord invites us to touch his wounds and encounter the font of all mercy.*

In Acts, we hear a description of the early Church as a community of deep faith, shared possessions, and continual growth. Saint Peter speaks of the power of faith that endures through adversity. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals himself twice to his disciples. Thomas would not believe without seeing Jesus.

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**Today’s Readings:**

*1st: Acts 2.42-47*

*Psalms: 118*

*2nd: 1 Peter 1.3-9*

*Gospel: John 20.19-31*



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### **Pastor Away on Pilgrimage**

Fr. Robert will be accompanying a pilgrimage group from April 23 (evening) to May 9. He will return on May 13. During his absence, Fr. George Varghese Edattukaran, former pastor of St. James, Abbotsford will cover the Masses. Please extend our welcome to him.

### **Youth For Christ Spring Fair Sale**

The youth are having their Spring Sale in our parish centre on April 22 and 23. They welcome your donations for the event. The proceeds will help them to cover the cost of their Youth Camp. Thank you for your support.

### **From the Chancellor**

Anyone who has information regarding the whereabouts of **Marie Pauline Profetana** is requested to contact Fr. Joseph Le at: [jle@rcav.org](mailto:jle@rcav.org).

### **Interfaith Food Bank Drive**

This year's 2nd annual partnership -- we are invited to participate in the Ramadan / Easter Interfaith Food Bank Drive, from March 22 to April 20th.. A box is in the foyer for your donation of dried-goods.

### **Divine Mercy Celebration**

The parishes of Holy Name of Jesus and St. Anthony of Padua Vancouver invite everyone to their joint celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on April 16, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 4925 Cambie Street, Vancouver. The afternoon will include a short talk on how to obtain the special grace of this day, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration with reflections, and Benediction. Three priests will be available for Confessions from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Angie Dee at [angie@holynameparish.ca](mailto:angie@holynameparish.ca).

### **Marriage Anniversary Mass**

On Sunday, May 14, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will honour couples celebrating Milestone Marriage Anniversaries: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60+ years of marriage. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at St. Francis Xavier Church in Vancouver at 1:30 p.m. Registrations received before Monday, April 24, will receive their certificate at the Mass, and have their names included in the Mass booklet. Learn more and register at [family.rcav.org/mam](http://family.rcav.org/mam)

### **The Alpha Marriage Course**

When life gets busy, it's easy for married couples to forget about date nights. Come and set a weekly date night to reconnect with your spouse and build a more joyful family by thriving as a couple! Join The Marriage Course, a seven-week program by Alpha International designed for spouses "seeking practical support to strengthen their relationship, keep the spark alive and stay connected." Sessions will be both in-person and online. Cost is \$25. Every Friday, starting April 14 until May 26, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Learn more and register at [beholdvancouver.org/events](http://beholdvancouver.org/events)

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### **A Stewardship Moment**

In today's first reading, the four activities of the earliest church are introduced to us as priorities of the church: devotion to the teachings of the apostles, communal fellowship, the Eucharist, and prayer. The early members of the church saw themselves as devoted stewards of these activities. These were not options. They were the fruits of a genuine conversion to a life in Christ. Sharing in the Eucharist was the most intimate expression of fellowship, while the most common expression of fellowship in the New Testament was that of sharing financial resources – giving. It was not a perfect community, but one that gave evidence of God's active presence in its midst. This early community offers us an excellent example of how to better exercise stewardship in our own parish families.

### **Celebrating the Easter Season** [Celebrating Easter, 2016 \(creighton.edu\)](http://CelebratingEaster,2016.creighton.edu)

Easter is a seven week season of joy and grace. Starting with the Triduum in Holy Week and ending with Pentecost Sunday, this 50 day season has been called "the radiant center of the liturgical year." We keep celebrating so that we might continue to enter into the meaning of the resurrection and to deepen the way it touches our daily lives.

After Easter Week's resurrection stories, the first reading for the rest of this long and glorious season is from the Acts of the Apostles. Every day we see how Jesus' followers reacted to his death, the challenges to their witness and the unexpected courage that comes to them. John's Gospel is used for the entire Easter Season, the one time of year we can enter into his poetic and layered stories on a daily basis.

Easter only begins with Easter Sunday. These daily prayers and meditations come together to remind us that Jesus is with us. He is not dead, but alive. And, that makes all the difference in the world in how much hope and courage we have, before any struggle, any possible fear of death.

In these 50 days, we are Easter People!

*What is the mark of love for your neighbour? Not to seek what is for your own benefit, but what is for the benefit of the one loved, both in body and in soul. –St Basil the Great*