



# The Thomas Dilemma

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**ill is a widower, now in his eighties. He calls every once in a while, partly to talk but really wanting to know how he can convince his grown children and grandchildren to come back to church. He tells me they're good people, but he would like them to have faith. It's been a mainstay in his life, he tells me, something that has gotten him through many difficulties. He loves his family but says their life would be so much richer if they had an active faith life. I try to tell Will he can't argue them into faith. At most he can share with them how faith has been a blessing in his life, hoping that it might then spark an interest in them.

The disciples in the Gospel story about "Doubting Thomas" experienced Will's dilemma. They were unable to convince Thomas that the Lord had risen. He insisted that he would only believe when he could put his fingers and hands into Jesus' wounds, which of course is just what happens the next time they are gathered. For Thomas, words were not enough; he needed the experience.

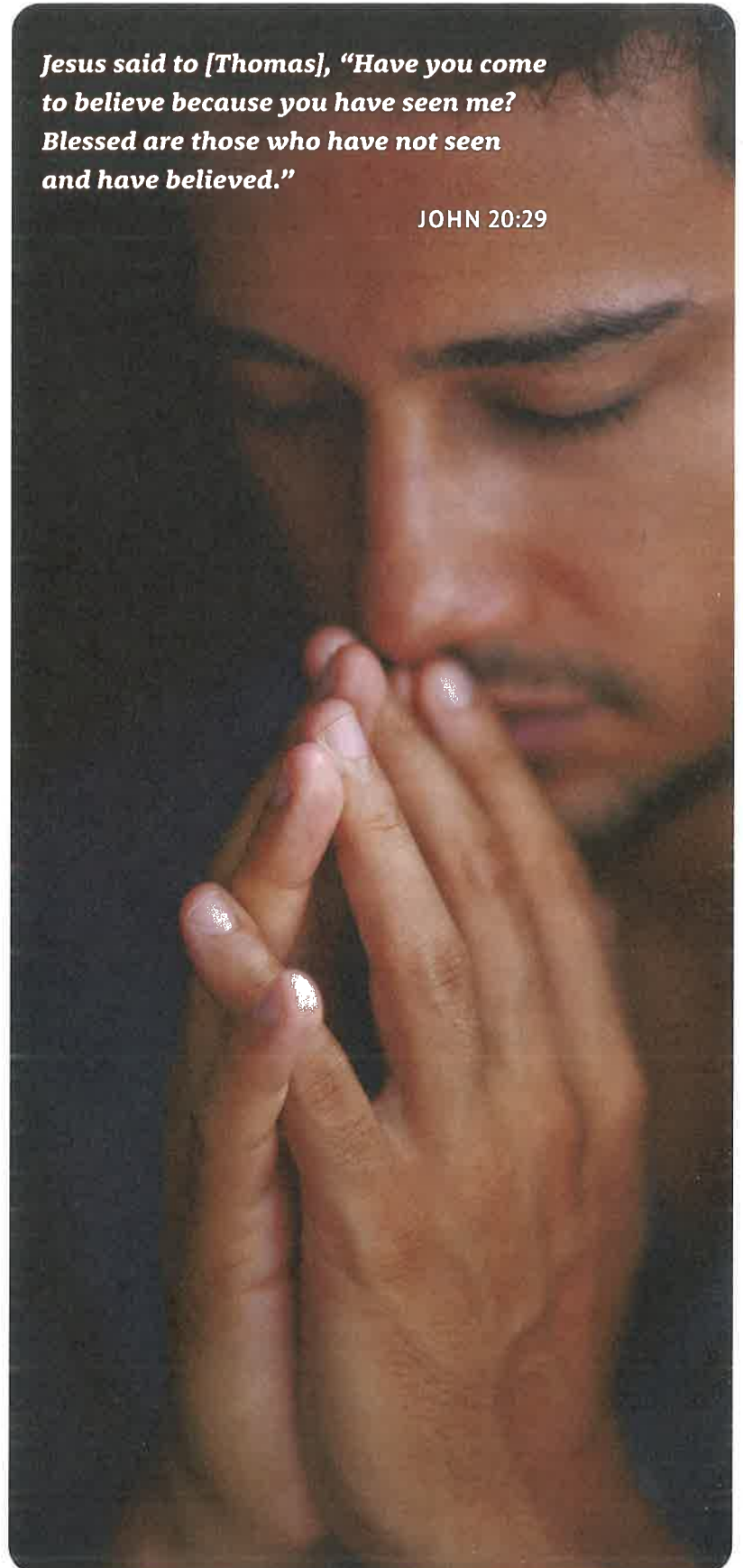
Sometimes that's true for us. We've heard the truth, but we haven't experienced the truth as real or relevant or something we cannot live without. The experience of grave need and then surrendering to God is what many need to remain faithful. Meanwhile, the faithful pray for those who do not believe, especially those we dearly love. 🌻

## Reflect

***Have you ever surrendered to faith even when you were filled with doubt?***

*Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*

JOHN 20:29



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 [www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org) [secretary@icbvm.org](mailto:secretary@icbvm.org) [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org)

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann .....Pastor  
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi  
 Parish Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ....610 582-3880  
 Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645  
 Parish Website.....[www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org)

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....[www.icaberks.org](http://www.icaberks.org)  
 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC, 800-791-9209  
 Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS, 610-871-5200, Ext 2204  
 Diocese of Allentown website.....[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)  
 Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 7, 2024**

### *The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Florence Watts*

#### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

<b>SAT</b>	<b>5:15 PM</b> Linda Bardi	<b>THUR</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b> Francis Miller
<b>SUN</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b> Charles Wagner	<b>FRI</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b> George Sohn
	<b>9:00 AM</b> Our Living & Deceased Parishioners		<b>9:00AM</b> ICA Mass John Spink
	<b>11:00AM</b> Gerald Wright	<b>SAT</b>	<b>5:15 PM</b> Our Living & Deceased Parishioners
<b>MON</b>	<b>7:30AM</b> Fannie Hunter	<b>SUN</b>	<b>7:30AM</b> Schleifenheimer Family
<b>TUES</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b> Pamela Setlock		<b>9:00AM</b> Deceased of the Bambrick Family
<b>WED</b>	<b>7:30 AM</b> Dominic, Elizabeth & Joe Morello		<b>11:00AM</b> Joseph & Mary Ruby & Family

**The Second Collection Next Week is the Monthly Collection**

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS  
**a part of our  
 Flock!**



Keep in touch with us via email and text!



**TEXT  
 ICBVM  
 TO 84576**



or connect with us online at

[immaculateconceptionbvmc.flocknote.com](http://immaculateconceptionbvmc.flocknote.com)

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Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Madge Butto, Deb Petras, Pat Fessler, Rita Ferry, Sunny Motta, Curt Miller, Loretta Hitchens, Dante Stetina, Barbara Ruby, Kara Morrison, Arlene Shirley, George Ruby, Harriet Yeager, Marjorie Hansen, Jason Leman, Ann Washko, Geri Barth, Dominic Strock, Anthony Scaglione, Aaron Gulla, Maryanne Emery, Pam Amos, Miriam Leman, Marianne Sutton, John Mingione, Henry J. Wade, Lois Muldowney, Terry Swisher, Arlene Schaeffer, Shelly Weiler, Christopher Shirk, Joe Nowotarski, Steven Blanyar, Jennifer Gazda, Gruber, Adele Nieckoski, Shawn Kaeser, Catherine Mueller, Regina Marie Brown, Tanya Sanders, Louis & Renee Cutillo, Ralph Rapposelli, Joe Dantas, Debbie Watson Simcock, Judy Jones, Wanda Palmieri, Msgr. Nevin Klingler, Barbara Wright, Charlotte Glacken, Beppy McGee, David Mollura, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary, Michael Bobb, John Kusznr, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, Nova Puszczkowski, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Dante LaScala, Michael Gulla, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, & Geraldine Christ.

**Our parish church is open each day of the week from 8am to 3pm for private prayer and visits to the Blessed Sacrament.**

**Each Sunday, the 11am Mass is live-streamed on our Facebook page for those who are sick and homebound. Access the live-streaming Mass from our parish website at [www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org)**

OUR PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN WEDNESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 11AM-3PM. IF YOU CALL  
THE PARISH OFFICE AND NO ONE ANSWERS YOUR  
CALL, PLEASE LEAVE A DETAILED MESSAGE AND YOUR  
CALL WILL BE RETURNED 610-582-2411

**Family Mass - On April 7th at the 9am Mass, we  
will celebrate the children and families of our  
parish Church of the Immaculate Conception.**

This inspiring and family-friendly event will bring  
together our cherished families, children, and the  
broader Parish community. We cordially invite you  
to join us for this special Mass, as it offers an  
incredible opportunity to build our community,  
nurture friendships, and create lasting memories. •

Participate in Mass alongside our talented  
Immaculate Conception Academy students, who will  
serve in key roles in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Children ages 4 to 8 will be able to participate in a  
special Children's Liturgy of the Word hosted by  
Mrs. Korinko and Mrs. Hughes. The children in this  
age group will be invited by Monsignor McCann to  
participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word  
immediately following the Sign of the Cross and the  
greeting. They will gather at the baptismal font  
where Mrs. Korinko and Mrs. Hughes will meet  
them and lead them to the Sunday Office located  
near the vestibule where our children will have the  
opportunity to learn about Jesus in the Gospel of  
the day. The children will return to the church and  
to their families at the offertory of the Mass. The  
Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held on the  
second Sunday of each month at the 9am Mass. •

After Mass, enjoy a delightful Social Sunday  
reception in the Social Hall, where you can mingle  
with fellow Immaculate Conception families and  
make new connections. • Engage in a family-  
friendly atmosphere that welcomes all age groups.

Save the Date and Spread the Word!

Family Sunday Mass April 7th at 9am

The Women's Society will meet Wed., April  
17th at 7:00 p.m. in the social hall. Meeting  
will begin with recitation of the Rosary,  
followed by a business meeting.

The Women's Society is sponsoring a raffle,  
\$1500 in cash prizes. Tickets are \$5 each or  
5 for \$20. The drawing will be held on  
Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

Mary Queen of Peace Council meets on the  
first Tuesday at 7:30pm in the social hall. Join  
us to learn more about the Knights of  
Columbus and our parish group.

Amity Township Crime Watch is holding the annual  
shredding event on Saturday, April 20, 2024

Parish  Giving

† SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING †

Through Parish Giving, you are able to make  
your Sunday Offering, along with special  
diocesan and other contributions online!

*The number of families contributing online has  
increased dramatically since the onset of the  
pandemic. Thank you for your commitment to  
our parish family and its Mission to proclaim  
the good news of the Gospel!*

Won't you join us? It's easy, safe and secure.  
And YOU have control over your online account.

How?

- † You determine when the money is withdrawn weekly, or
- † Use your Credit/Debit card or your own checking account
- † At any time, you can see your year-to-date contributions
- † Best of all, you don't have to worry about missing a  
Sunday Collection even if you are away for any reason!

Go to [www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org) click the Parish Giving link on  
the lower left-hand side of the home page.

Your generosity to Immaculate Conception is greatly  
appreciated!

### Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday

Bishop Schlert will celebrate the 11:30 A.M.  
Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena,  
Allentown, wherein he will confirm adults of  
our Diocese. *Those to be confirmed are  
those adults who were baptized in the  
Roman Catholic Church, received their First  
Holy Communion, are catechized, but never  
confirmed.* Please contact Monsignor  
McCann to discuss the details.

In support of the mission and lives of The  
Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart  
of Jesus, we will host our annual NUN RUN  
in-person on Saturday April 13, 2024. We  
invite you and your parishioners to join us  
through sponsorship and/or registration.

Both opportunities can be accessed at  
[mscreading.org](http://mscreading.org)

Living as a Joyful Daughter of God", a  
Women's Retreat with Maggie Riggins will  
be held at the McGlinn Conference and  
Spirituality Center adjacent to Alvernia  
College. The Ladies Auxiliary of St. Mary's  
Kutztown invites you to join them on  
Saturday, April 27, 2024. The cost for the  
day is \$30 Contact is Jane Bennett (724-920-  
2032). Registration deadline is April 14.

# Dear Padre,

## What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina Kowalska a saint of the Church on April 30, 2000, and in a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that “throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that [we] will experience in the years to come.”

Saint Faustina was born in 1905 and spent most of her life in Poland, in the Congregation of the Virgin Mary of Mercy. She experienced an extraordinary union with God. She received exceptional graces, revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, the ability to read souls, and the gift of prophecy.

One of the images that was revealed to Faustina was that of the merciful Jesus, touching his Sacred Heart, from which beams of red and white light came forth. This image and her devotion to the divine mercies gathered thousands of supporters throughout the world. We still see the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in many of our churches today. In some churches, we might see the newer image, inspired by the saint. Saint Faustina Kowalska died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three, leaving an impressive mystical legacy. She is a disciple of God’s divine mercy for the twenty-first century. ●



**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 8 <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	April 9 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15	April 10 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21	April 11 <i>St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr</i> Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36	April 12 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15	April 13 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 6:1-7 Jn 6:16-21	April 14 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*The story of Thomas is in fact the story of every believer. There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord’s mercy.*

HOMILY, ROME, APRIL 24, 2022

WE CAN DO THIS!!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY.  
COMMUNITY STARTS HERE. 25% TASTES SO GOOD.  
FOIL-WRAP (S) WRAP (S) TASTES SO GOOD.  
MAD  
EVERY  
EVERY

# DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR  
**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION ACADEMY**

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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH | 5-9PM**  
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For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.