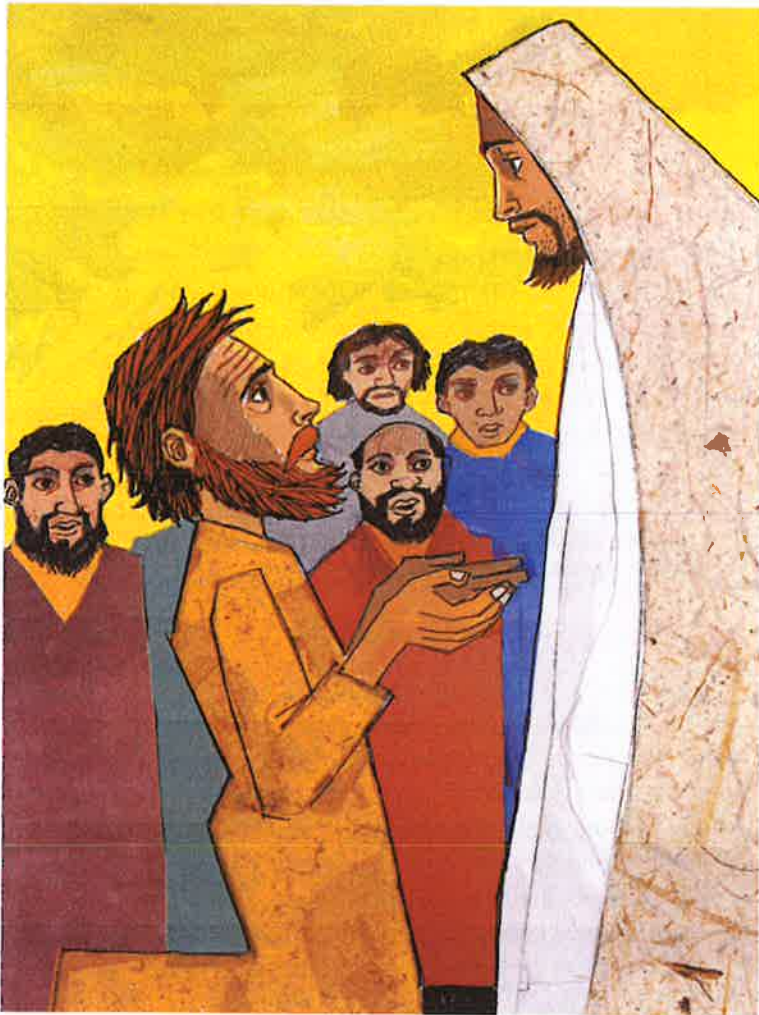


SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



Gift of peace

O Risen Lord,
you came that we might believe.
With Thomas, we proclaim your
sovereignty.

Acclaiming, “my Lord and my God,”
we announce our faith in you.
Help us during those times
when we suffer trials and doubts
tempt us.

You offer us peace,
providing us with the serenity to offer
such peace to others.
Guide us as we go forth
to wherever you send us.
Be at our side as we bring your Word
to family, friends, and coworkers.
You live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, April 12, 2015
My Lord and My God

Today’s Readings: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24 (1); 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31. By the end of today’s Liturgy of the Word, we might ask ourselves about the difference our faith has made in our lives. From the Acts of the Apostles, we see how the disciples’ lives changed because of their belief. Now, they were of “one heart and soul,” living with everything in common. They witnessed to the Resurrection and shared all they had.

Throughout the First Letter of John, it is evident that belief in Jesus Christ is key to our lives. Faith, we hear, is the victory that conquers the world. How can we be afraid if we live with such faith?

The story of Thomas in today’s Gospel may resonate with many, for some doubt often accompanies belief.

Thomas does not believe when the disciples say, “We have seen the Lord.” He is hesitant until the Lord appears before him. Often, we would like to be Thomas and have that solid proof. Instead, we need to rest in Jesus’ proclamation, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” Though we have not seen with our physical eyes, we have seen with the eyes of faith and have believed. The question is whether that belief has made a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Is it obvious that we are the children of God because we love God and have kept his commandments? Have we been willing to let others know by the way we live that we follow Christ?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 13, 2015

Being Born from Above

The conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus went to the very heart of Mosaic Law—how can one get right with God and enter into God’s Kingdom? Jesus’ answer was brief and startling, “no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from above.” This new birth of which Jesus spoke was the beginning of a spiritual birth, a new and radical birth in the Holy Spirit. How is the Spirit the active transforming agent at work in your life? Today’s Readings: Acts 4:23–31; Psalm 2:1–3, 4–7a, 7b–9 (11d); John 3:1–8.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Relying on the Holy Spirit

The Hebrew word for “spirit” means both “wind” and “breath.” We often hear and feel the wind, but we don’t often know where it comes from. Likewise, we see the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of people. The Spirit is our guide who gives us strength to witness, spread, and defend the Gospel by word and action. Often, though, we do not seek the counsel of the Spirit. How can you make reliance on the Spirit part of your life? Today’s Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5 (1a); John 3:7b–15.

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Seeing God in Others

In today’s Gospel, we hear that God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it but to save it. As we seek to bring the Gospel to others, we must remember that it is not our job to condemn. We are rather, Pope Francis states in *The Joy of the Gospel*, “to see God in others and to go forth from ourselves to seek the good of others” (39). We need to be aware that our love for others radiates God’s love. Today’s Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (7a); John 3:16–21.

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Living without Fear

During Easter Time, the First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, a book of the New Testament that tells of how the Apostles spread the Gospel. In today’s reading, the Sanhedrin remind the Apostles that they already have been warned not to speak of Jesus’ works. The Apostles’ response shows that they will not back down, even though their lives may be at risk. It is obvious that they have heeded Christ’s words and are not afraid. Today’s Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20 (7a); John 3:31–36.

Friday, April 17, 2015

Blessings in Abundance

We see in today’s Gospel how God nourishes us in so many ways. The crowd that has followed him is bound to be hungry. Jesus knows that they want to hear from him, but he also knows that they need physical nourishment, too. He does not let them go hungry but provides so much food that twelve wicker baskets are left over. Do we sometimes think that God will give us only enough or do we realize the abundance of our blessings in him? Today’s Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14 (4abc); John 6:1–15.

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Do Not Be Afraid

Today’s Gospel account tells of the Apostles being alone at sea in a storm and describes the situation as “dark.” The Apostles were not only experiencing physical darkness but spiritual darkness as well. When Jesus appears to them, John tells us that the disciples were “terrified.” But Jesus reassures them and calms the sea, saying, “It is I. Do not be afraid.” When calamities or trials threaten to overwhelm us, how do we respond? Can we remember Christ’s caution to the Apostles? Today’s Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19 (22); John 6:16–21.



Friday, April 17—6:15 PM



What is C.A.F.E?

Catholic Adult Formation Evening is an evening of food, fellowship and learning.

What is the schedule?

- 6:15 pm—6:45 pm—Enjoy food (**please bring** a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share, fried chicken will be provided)
- 6:45 pm—Prayer and Introduction to the speaker/topic
- 6:50 pm—Speaker/Topic
- 8:25 pm—Closing Prayer

Next C.A.F.E Night

Friday, April 17th—Icons: How they are written & their meaning

—Fr. Jim Secora & Julie Anne Bovenmyer

Upcoming C.A.F.E Nights

Friday, May 15th—Leaving a Legacy

—Frank Oppold & St. Cecilia Planned Giving Committee

What do I need to do to attend?

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, April 15th** (so we can have enough fried chicken) by calling the Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Office—515-232-3514 & bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share.

Is there anything I can do to help?

Yes, help will be needed with set up beginning at 5:45pm and clean up after 8:25 pm

A free will offering will be taken to help offset costs.

Mayslake Ministries
Veterans' Retreat

A Healing Program for Military Veterans

Sound familiar?

- I am having difficulty getting used to civilian life.
- I am impatient and frustrated and find myself isolating.
- I feel like God is MIA or KIA in my life.
- I can't sleep, and when I do sleep I have frequent nightmares.
- I experience intense emotions like guilt, resentment, and anger.
- I often turn to unhealthy activities to mask my pain.
- My friends and family don't understand me. They don't "get it."

You are not alone.

Mayslake Ministries offers free spiritual outreach programs to our military men and women suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. For many soldiers, life, including their spiritual life, has been forever changed by the experience of military service, deployment, and mobilization. The Veterans' Retreat is a Christian-based program designed to help military men and women come to spiritual healing and reconciliation with God and with one another. This program specifically addresses the issue of Post-Traumatic *Spiritual* Stress Disorder.

This is a two-night weekend retreat offered at no cost to veterans and their significant other (should they wish to attend) in a place of safety, respite, and support. Retreat leader, Sr. Linda McClenahan, a veteran herself, served as a communications Sergeant in the III Corps area of Vietnam. She is now a Dominican Sister and Licensed Professional Counselor and Therapist whose ministry involves helping veterans deal with trauma. Sr. Linda is assisted by Augie Sisco, Major, USMC (Ret.). He is the assistant director for our Vets' Ministry.

Veterans of any age or faith tradition are welcome. If you or your loved one are in need of spiritual healing and wish to register for a retreat, contact Mayslake Ministries, at 630-852-9000.



Dr. Mary Amore, Executive Director
718 Ogden Ave, Suite 200
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-852-9000
www.mayslakeministries.org

Mayslake Ministries is a lay-based not-for-profit spiritual center founded in the Franciscan tradition. Our mission is to meet the spiritual needs of people when and wherever the need arises. We transcend invisible lines of parish, church and diocese to reach out to all who seek to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, through retreats, spiritual direction, and adult faith formation programs.



Coming Home

2015 Retreat Dates:

Feb 13-15, 2015
The Well Spirituality Center
1515 W Ogden
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

May 29-31, 2015
Siena Retreat Center
5635 Eric Street
Racine, WI 53402

June 19-21
American Martyrs Retreat House
2209 N. Union
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Sept. 18-20, 2015
Cardinal Stritch Retreat House
1000 E Maple
Mundelein, IL 60060

Nov. 20-22, 2015
Siena Retreat Center
5635 Eric Street
Racine, WI 53402

For All Retreats:

TIME: 7pm Friday-noon Sunday
(check-in after 5pm)

FACILITATORS: Sr. Linda McClenahan
and Augie Sisco

COST: Free (\$25 refundable
registration fee)

What you can Expect:

- A safe, secure environment
- Being with others who "get it"
- Time and processes to reconnect with God
- New insights and understandings of your own unique experience