



SAINT XAVIER CHURCH JESUIT

Inward Reflection. Outward Action.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2020

WELCOME TO St Xavier

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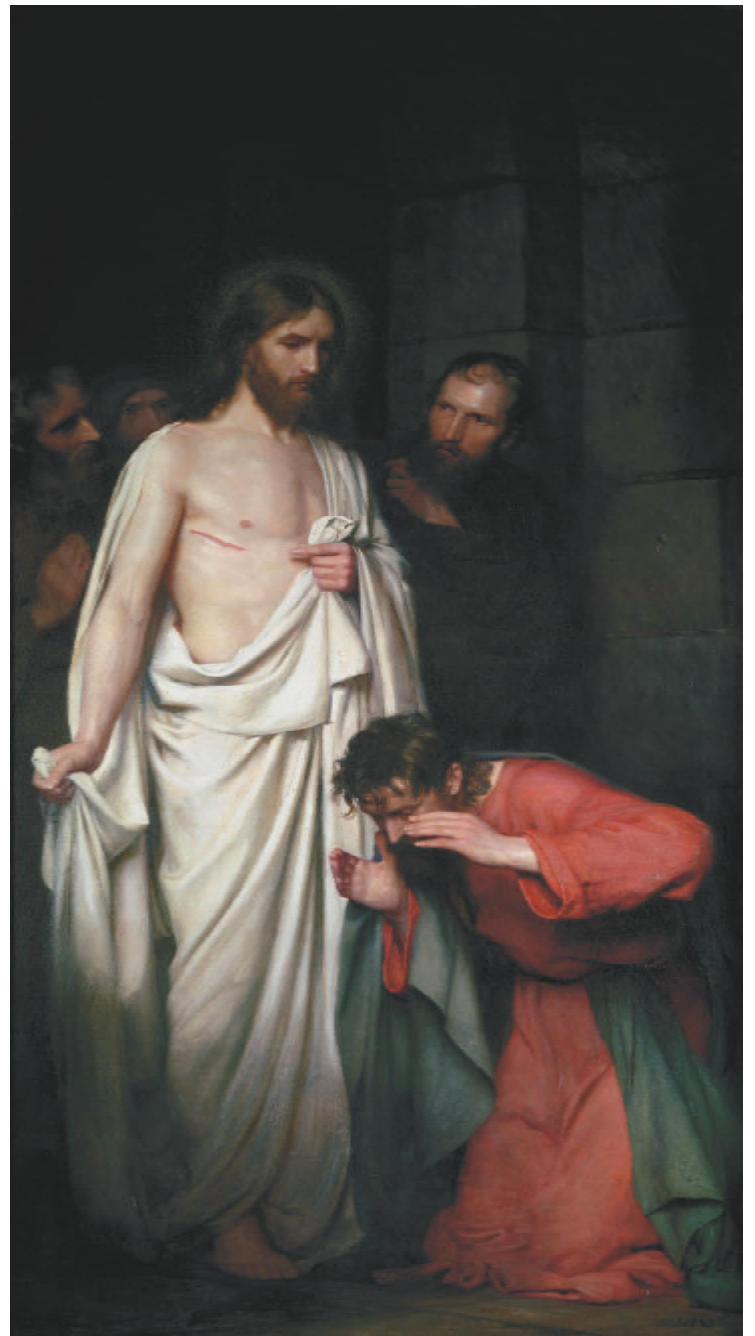
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MASS SCHEDULE (suspended)

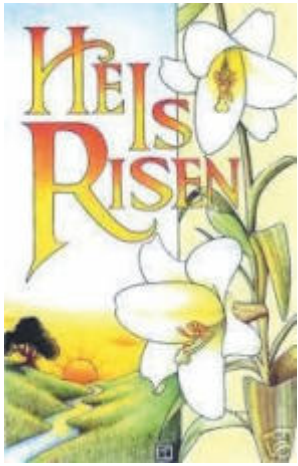
Please see our website for other options
for prayer and spiritual communion
www.stxchurch.org

MASS INTENTIONS April 20—25

MON 20	6:00	+ Bob and Kay Dietrich (Birth.)
	11:30	+ John F. Dosech + Charles and Bes Schulenberg
TUES 21	6:00	+ Parish Book of Remembrance
	11:30	+ Jane Fangman + Carol Adler (1st Annv.)
WED 22	6:00	+ George and Marilyn Schulenberg
	11:30	+ John R. Grosser + Nancy O'Brien
THUR 23	6:00	+ Mary Jo Schwartz and Jason Scott
	11:30	+ Joe and Maureen Merten + Nancy Hollenkamp
FRI 24	6:00	+ Jack Burns (Birth.)
	11:30	+ Margaret Fessler + Evelyn Zembrodt
SAT 25	7:00	SI Sabrina Fischer



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Happy Easter to everyone at St. Xavier Parish. I am missing each and every person connected with the parish. It's been a big loss to not be together to celebrate Holy Week and to initiate the Easter Season—probably my favorite season of our liturgical year.

During these 50 days we marinate in the Resurrected Jesus and His love and mission for all of us. His earthly life and passion ushered in Eternal Life and like everything

that the generous Lord has—he shares with us.

I truly believe he is sharing this New Life with us in the midst of the pandemic. I have nothing but firm hope that God is bringing us through this time of loss, pain, suffering, sickness and death and will remain with us all the days of our life and lead us to the promised land.

I have been feeding my spirit by soaking in all the stories of compassion, generosity, goodness, care and concern that people are showing to one another in our country and throughout the whole world. Where sin abounds, grace abounds even more the scripture tells us. God's grace will get us through and strengthen our faith and trust in Him. I keep telling people to watch for the miracles—the small daily miracles that show us that God is in this fight with us and will bring about a victory. There may be a great Miracle of Healing with the banishment of the virus, but there are already little miracles of love, peace, kindness, healing, friendship and companionship even amid isolation that tell us: God is with us.

I advise keeping up a strong prayer life. Take time to be quiet. Turn off the phone and computer. Experience the undeniable truth that it is good to be alive, no matter what we are going through each day. Thank God for the gift of life and share God's compassion, starting with yourselves.

I caught a recent interview with Brené Brown, a popular author and speaker on the topics of resilience, courage and empathy. She concluded her conversation by stating: "We have to work on our resilience in every way we can, but we also have to give ourselves permission to say, 'This is my first global pandemic. I'm dealing with a lot, I'm feeling a lot of complicated stuff and that's OK.'"

So, hang in there. The best is yet to come. God is not finished with us, and we will all be together soon in our beautiful Church singing the Lord's praises and feasting on His Divine Body and Blood together.

Sending out big spiritual bear hugs that are super safe and don't defy social distancing because they are In the Spirit, the Holy Spirit who we know is with us and in us.

—Love and prayers, Father Matt Gamber

✠ST XAVIER PRAYER MINISTRY✠

Please offer prayers for the infirmed of our parish:

Marty Yee, Special Intention, David Schwartz, Edward Merkes, Lora Lee, Joe Waters, Elaine Waters, Audrey Koester, Jeff Koester, Betty Holt, Don Sumner, Joe Albers, Joan Ludwig, Dave Sturgeon, Chelsea Rust, Daniel Helmes, Angie Fennell, Melissa, Christine Schoonover, Charley Verkamp, Tim Robinson, Harry Tenkotte, Gerry Walsh, Russ Williams, Mimi McGarry, Rosemary Kosky, Rick Hancock, Gina Spradling, Arnold Tepe, Adelle Eaton, Terry Lawrence, Mary Murphy, Roy, Anita Snider, Thomas Willis, Shirley Tolliver Hardin, Karen Blust, Jerry Wallman, Gloria Duncan, Carl Ladwig, JoAnn James, David and Carol Grosser, Steve Wolter, Angie Randy Paul, Cynthia Hogan, Carmeltia Schlueter, Joseph and Shiela MacDougall, Kevin Noble, Helen Sievers, Jewel Rossmann, Chris Arlinghaus, Beth Barney, Bob Wilkerson, Quinn Cobble, Diana DeVore, Lisa Spencer, Ellen Sole, Sheila Sullivan, Mary Ann Himmelmann, Karen Shaw, Bill Hughes, Sue Leeds, Chris Leeds, Edward Pestian, Erin Payne, TJ Ducklo, Doug Lange, Glenda Bauer, Betty Headsworth, Ron and Lynda Pierce, Bill and Nancy Santen, Shirley Riegling, John Massman, Joseph Brehm, Josefa Navales, Gina Martin, Bob and Jean Scheid, Robert Miller, Barbara Meridieth, Sharon Dearwester, Joan Perone, Tomie Faye Weissinger, Rose Elizabeth Sartin, Debbie Garnett, Tom Miller, Jeanne Miller, Tim Robinson, Kathy Link, Jane Melson, Steve Nieman, Lovre Dzolic, Plinio DeGoes, JoJo, Bill Robison, Arlene Fritsch, Ginny Wiltse, and Gregg.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Sunday offerings for April 12 \$14,858

THANK YOU to all those who remembered to support St Xavier Church during these hard times. See our website for information about online giving.

2020 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES

Married couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary (25, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75) in 2020 can request a personally signed certificate from the Archbishop. If these noteworthy milestones apply to you, please call Diane at the office. For couples celebrating 50 years, there will be a GOLDEN Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Sun August 1 at 4:30.

Daily Mass Intentions

On the front of this bulletin, you can see the names of those souls for whom each daily Mass is offered. Even in times of social distancing, these Masses continue to be celebrated in a private setting each day by our Jesuit priests. See inside for details about spiritual communion. We encourage you to keep these names in your own personal prayer intentions. A M D G



Have you ever had a nickname? Curly? Red? Charlie Hustle? Sawbones? I think nicknames come in two types: first, the derogatory type. Like if someone calls you Tiny, even though you weigh over 300 lbs. And the second type is complimentary: one you're proud of. When they call you an Einstein.

In our Gospel today, we hear that Thomas has a nickname: Didymus, which is Greek for twin. Legend has it that he may have been the disciple who most resembled Jesus, and so St. John uses the word "twin" 3 times in Gospel, nowhere else. And it certainly does carry a meaning for us. We are in some way a "twin" to Jesus as we are made in his image and likeness.

But informally, we also know Thomas' other nickname: Doubting Thomas because Jesus says to him, *"do not be unbelieving, but believe."* Doubting Thomas is that first kind of nickname, the one you might not be so proud of. A name you want to outgrow.

Many think doubting is wrong, to question authority; to challenge church teaching. No it isn't wrong. Doubt is a natural response to unsatisfactory answers. Doubt can be a sign of struggle, growth, and desire for deeper faith. Or something that holds.

In recent days, we have come to doubt much of what we heard about viruses and how they spread. We doubt the news and we doubt this may pass at all. Then we learn, or we find hope to dissuade our doubts. Spiritual or religious doubt can often lead to what we call an appropriated faith. That is, not just the faith your parents gave you, but the one you struggled to accept as your own.

For Thomas, he has spiritual doubts. He's been hurt. He just lost his "reason for living". He may have had high hopes and exciting plans to follow Jesus. No wonder he doubts. Many of us have doubted God or life itself when we have been "hurt" by others or have suffered a loss. We doubt when we lose trust.

But the Good News is ... Doubt is not the end of today's story. Just like a negative nickname, Doubt is to be outgrown and transformed with the help of God. What kind of help does God bring when we doubt? He brings us deep Peace. Jesus sees Thomas' unbelief and invites him to a Peace that is very deep and personal. It is a peace so close that he wants him to touch his hands and his side. Take a look at the picture on the front of this bulletin, in this version, Thomas does not have his finger in the side of the Risen Christ. We don't know that Thomas put his hand deeply into Jesus' body or not, Scripture does not tell us. But we do know that the Lord invited him. And that invitation itself transformed Thomas into a man of faith. Thomas immediately responded "My Lord and My God." →

Perhaps you remember a time in life when you doubted yourself or your faith. Isn't it true that we somehow find this moment of resolve or trust, this peace, that moves us beyond the doubt? Christ always offers us a way through doubt. And that can lead to peace. At times like that, I use the other Thomas nickname: I play the twin. I imitate Christ who is peace. I twin with Jesus in his struggles and accept the peace of God. I twin with the saints in their doubts and rely on that center that holds. And like Thomas, I get closer to Jesus and accept the offer of free peace. Deeper peace, and I find I can move forward. I find an inner certainty just uttering the words "My Lord and My God." My Jesus mercy. **Jesus, I trust in you.** This is the prayer of St Faustina, whose soul we recall on this Sunday of Divine Mercy. In the coming days, when you find yourself in times of doubt about God, yourself, the future. Will you carry on the struggles and take the name of Doubt? Or will you believe the words of "Peace" and take the name of Twin. Pax tibi Domini.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

— Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, S.J. Pastor

FIRST COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION

Lift up these young children in your prayer as they prepare themselves for First Communion and Confirmation soon. Susan Stewart-Pirone, Margaret Meyers, Grace Sychay, Alexander Siller and Braxton Rhinehart for First Communion and Brennan Bucher for Confirmation. We are grateful to John Kollar, Emily Conklin, Mary Fetick and Clare Krumme for preparing them. May the grace of our loving God envelop these young people as they receive these sacraments.

RCIA: CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES OUR NEW CATHOLICS

In light of the alternative schedule for the month of April, the Archdiocese has advised parishes to look to the Solemnity of **Pentecost** (May 31) as the Sunday on which we welcome new members into the Catholic Church. Our 9 candidates and catechumens will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at this time. Please keep them in your prayers, and stay tuned for more information.

**Chelsea Cole, Chris Stratmoen,
Brittany Bishop, Paul Dieterlen,
Brittney Fernandez, LaToiua Foster,
Zachary Powell, Riley Sheehy, Emily Voll**

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

jan kirlinger
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