

St. Theresa's Catholic Church

Fr. Paulinus Okpala, Pastor

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Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM Sunday: 9:30 AM (English) & 12:15 PM (Spanish)

Daily: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: Noon Wednesday: 6:00 PM

Adoration: Wednesday 5:00 PM

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

(Jn. 20:29)

This past week, a former evangelical Pastor appeared on social media expressing her disgust for the Christian faith and professing to have become an atheist. Indeed, many of us are likely to have recently, either online or in real life, met a former Christian who boldly expressed their rejection of the faith for some reason. The one thing common to all these cases is a clear lack of an essential understanding of the faith as an active connection to Someone who is alive and present. Sadly, this kind of “absence” mindset is very common among many “believers,” including many Catholics who profess a formal faith in the Eucharist.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we read the story of Thomas’ doubt and Jesus’ pronouncement of blessedness on “those who have not seen and have believed.” Often people interpret this to mean those of us who live several years after Christ’s physical presence on earth. This is wrong. It means believing that he is alive and present, even when invisible. Whenever we see the word “blessed” in the Bible, we should understand it to mean “happy.” This is not a future happiness but a present one, signified by the peace that the risen Christ gives to his disciples, all who believe in his presence. Jesus’ Resurrection means that he now lives and is directly connected to every believer and sustains their lives with his, in real-time. The believer is aware of a higher life that is already present in him or her through a connection to Christ.

Our connection to God, through Christ, is called Baptism, not as a past event of the Sacrament, but as a present state of our lives. In today’s Collect, the Church prays “that all may grasp and rightly understand, in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, and by whose Blood they have been redeemed.” This font, Spirit, and Blood are Christ’s, and they are constantly running, binding us to Him and to one another in Him. We live in this Font, His Spirit is ours, and His Blood too is ours. Through him, God’s mercy flows unceasingly into our lives and transforms us into merciful persons like him, and with God’s mercy comes God’s Peace into us and into our world. Those who believe, that is, are connected to the Risen Christ, even without physically seeing him, experience constant forgiveness, learn to forgive constantly, and so are always blessed or happy in Him.

Happy Divine Mercy to everyone!!!

Fr. Paulinus

Sacraments

Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick– Call for appointment

First Communion/ Religious Ed– Sundays 11:00 am until Noon

Confirmation– Sundays 11:00 am until Noon

Confessions- Sunday: 8:45-9:15am & 11:30am to Noon;

Saturday: 4:15-4:45 pm;

Wednesday: 5:15-5:45 pm; and by appointment

Weekly Mass

April 15

5:00 pm Mass

April 16

9:30 am Mass

12:15 pm Mass

April 17

No Mass

April 18

No Mass

April 19

No Mas

April 20

No Mass

April 21

Noon Mass

Ice Cream Social ~ our annual Ice Cream Social will be Sunday, April 23, 2023, beginning at 2:00 pm. Everyone is invited for fun, games and ice cream.

Prayer List ~ please add Debbie Collins to you prayers.

Parish Workday~ will be Saturday, April 22, from 8 am until Noon. Please make plans to come and don’t forget your gloves and rakes.

Divine Mercy Sunday ~ is this weekend. We will have Divine Mercy Adoration Sunday afternoon 2:30–3:30pm.

Rice Bowls ~ please return by April 23.

Annual Catholic Appeal ~ we have almost met our goal! If you haven’t been able to give yet, there is still time to do so. Envelopes are available in the Narthex. Make checks payable to the Diocese of Savannah and note that St. Theresa’s Cordele is your parish.

Youth Group ~ is resuming on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. Supper will be provided. This will be for youths 7th grade and older. This is for Religious Education, not Confirmation. If you have questions, please contact Fr Paulinus.

Today’s readings begin on page 865 in the St. Augustine Hymnal.

Our Gifts to God:

Weekly Budget Goal: \$2,391

Last Year’s Offering: \$3,270

Last Sunday’s Offering : \$3,310

Online Offering: \$165.60

Children’s Offering: \$24

Annual Catholic Appeal

Goal: \$10, 590

Paid to date: \$10,339

As you are gone, help our church carry on. Please remember your offering is essential to help us meet our budget.

Give online: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/littletherese> or you may text “GIVE NOW” to 229.318.4127 or scan the QR Code

