

FAITH AND DOUBT: THOMAS REVISITED

In today's Gospel, we witness the encounter between Jesus and the apostle referred to as "Doubting Thomas." News of the Resurrection is spreading like wildfire, but Thomas is not yet convinced. He wants to know, to understand, to see for himself. The person he most admired and loved in the world, for whom he had given up everything to become his disciple: betrayed, mocked, condemned, tortured and crucified. Then three days later, first Mary Magdalene and the women disciples, and then all the rest of the inner circle, the "apostles" – are claiming that they have seen, met, touched Jesus.

Put yourself into Thomas' shoes. What was he thinking and feeling? Was it jealousy? Disappointment? Hurt? A sense of being left out? Whatever it was, Thomas was not satisfied with just *hearing* about Jesus' rising. He wants to meet the Lord. To see him. To touch him. To know "for sure."

I identify with Thomas. I admire his ability and willingness to name what he needed. For like Thomas, we are people of faith ... who struggle with doubts. We live in rapidly-changing times, in a world where everything – including our most cherished beliefs – seems to be up for grabs. Our faith is a restless, searching faith. Like Thomas, we want "evidence" before we will commit to believe. In our questioning, our searching, and even our doubting, Jesus comes to meet us. He comes to give us new vision, to expose the shadows of our biases and fears into clearer light: *"You believe, Thomas, because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."*

In this Easter season, may each of us encounter Jesus not merely by hearsay, but in a real, incarnate, and personal way. May we experience divine mercy and grace flowing from his heart. May our doubts lead us not to despair and disbelief, but to joyfully echo Thomas' proclamation of faith in the risen Jesus: *"My Lord and my God!"*

THANKS BE TO GOD, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

On behalf of the pastoral team, I would like to extend our gratitude to all those who worked so hard to make our Holy Week and Easter services so beautiful and meaningful this year. To all those who played a visible role in the services – the readers, servers, musicians, and singers; to those who worked behind the scenes – the sacristans, altar guild, liturgy committee, and environment/décor (those beautiful Easter flowers are always a highlight!); and to those whose donations helped defray the costs: thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks! God bless you all with fifty days of Easter joy!

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS**Taken, Blessed, Broken, Shared: *Living the Eucharist***

What are some of the ways in which the Eucharist can help you to become the person that God created you to be? How can it be a touchstone for encountering community, bringing peace, enabling forgiveness, finding wholeness and discovering God's love for us? Join Elizabeth Koessler on Wednesday, April 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall for an opportunity to discover how the Eucharist gives us meaning in our everyday life. Free babysitting is available upon request at registration. Please register by April 13.

The Marriage Course

The Marriage Course provides tools and tips that all couples need to make their marriage or committed relationship stronger and healthier. This course is for couples who have a good relationship, and want to make it the best it can be, as well as for couples who may be struggling in their relationship, and who want to improve and strengthen it. The 7-week Marriage Course will begin on Wednesday, April 22 from 7:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. in the parish hall. The cost is \$60 per couple, and includes course materials. Deadline to register is April 15. Note that there are no group discussions. Couples privately discuss the evening's topic. Dessert and coffee will be served. For more details and to register, please contact course leaders Nathalie or John Bondyra at 514-695-7896 or kahndyra@sympatico.ca., or Anna at 514-481-0267 ext. 22, or anna.diodati@stmonica.ca.

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or contact Anna at the office.

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 11 TO 26, 2015

Saturday, April 11: Easter Octave

4:00 Edgardo Poce By the Poce Family
Leonardo Ricciardi By Maria Carmela Ricciardi

Sunday, April 12: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Deceased members of the Cullen Family, Alba & Luigi Paliotti, Emma & Colombo Salvati.
11:00 Mirella Trocchia By Nunzio Trocchi
Elmer Cere By the Nolin Family
Guadalupe & Margarita Alonso By Patricia Alonso

Monday, April 13: St. Martin I

8:00 Anna & Lorenzo Forlini By Louise Forlini
Giuseppe Fiori By Wife & Family

Tuesday, April 14: Weekday Mass

8:00 Dorothy Rice By the Rice & Walder Family
John Jun Testa By Carmela Masalla

Wednesday, April 15: Weekday Mass

8:00 Ignazio Ciampini By Ernesta Ciampini
Linus Doyle By Marion Doyle & Family

Thursday, April 16: Weekday Mass

8:00 Antonio & Annunziata Castelli By Piccolino Family

Friday, April 17: St. Kateri Tekakwitha

8:00 Ermando Giuseppe Nudo By wife Elvira

Saturday, April 18: Our Lady's Mass

4:00 Angelo Caucci By Teresa Caucci
Alessandro Pallandini By his Wife & Children

Sunday, April 19: Third Sunday of Easter

8:30 Antonio Cavallaro By His Family
Velma Valleau By Sara Silvestri
Antonietta & Sante La Posta By Concetta La Posta
11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Deceased members of Charles J. McDonald Family, Joseph Onesi, Luigi & Rosa Mammone

Monday, April 20: Weekday Mass

8:00 Nazareno Angelini By Maria Theresa Palucci

Tuesday, April 21: St. Anselm

8:00 Logue McDonald By Wayne & Helen Hibberd

Wednesday, April 22: Weekday Mass

8:00 Thanksgiving for Blessings Received By Maura Dacuycuy & Family
Maria Ciampini Castelli By son Domenic & Evelyn

Thursday, April 23: St. George, St. Adalbert

8:00 Catherine Scerbo By Patricia Brabant
Guerrino & Luigia Ciambella By daughter Rosa

Friday, April 24: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

8:00 Agnese & Martino & Antonio Gigliardi By the Family

Saturday, April 25: St. Mark

4:00 **In Loving Memory:** Pietro Di Meglio, Mike Kilbertus, Giovanni & Palma Farinelli, Alessandro Palladini, James Webb, Leonard & Terry Winslade

Sunday, April 26: Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:30 Agnese & Guglielmo Teodori By Vivian Teodori
Antonio Ricci By Wife & Family
11:00 Antonio Bei By Gabrielle Bei & Family
Fioravante Rotiroti By the Rotiroti Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of March 28/29, 2015 totalled \$3,915.00.

SAVE THIS DATE FRIDAY, APRIL 17!

from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
for

St. Monica's Parish Game night. Mark your calendars!

Pot luck, raffle, games for all
ages. Everyone welcome.
More details coming soon...

PALM CROSS FUNDRAISER



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's palm cross fundraiser in support of

The Jason Fund. Through your generosity \$849.38 was raised.

THANK YOU TO ALL!!

On behalf of the pastoral team, I would like to extend our gratitude to all those who worked so hard to make our Holy Week and Easter services so beautiful and meaningful. To all those who played a visible role in the services—readers, servers, musicians, and singers; to those who worked behind the scenes—sacristans, altar guild, liturgy committee, and environment/décor (those beautiful Easter flowers are always a highlight!); and to those whose donations helped defray the costs: thank you ever so much! God bless you all with fifty days of Easter Joy!

The **BULLETIN** of April 11/12 and April 18/19 are combined. Regular printing will begin again with the weekend of April 25/26, 2015. Also, Please note that the parish secretary will be away on holidays from April 13 to 17. **However, the office will remain opened.**