Divine Mercy Sunday — April 27, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Elizabeth Barrett Browning began what is perhaps the most eloquent love poem in the English language by asking, "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." In this Second Sunday of Easter we can do well to count the ways in which God shows his love and mercy for us, especially through his mercy and forgiveness.

Baptism is first. Through the waters of Baptism we are washed clean and with all sins forgiven we are born anew as daughters and sons of God. We enter the family of God in this earth, his Church. Throughout our lives as God's children, like other children, we make mistakes. We fall short of family expectations. At times with each other we become neglectful, quarrelsome, and selfish rather than thoughtful, cooperative, and generous. Even toward our heavenly father we are not always as respectful and grateful as we should be. None of these sins is so serious as to exclude us from the family, but that does not mean that we should ignore them. God does not consider them insignificant. He offers us a means of forgiveness. The means he offers is the Holy Eucharist. Within the celebration of the Mass, we acknowledge our sinfulness. With contrition in our heart, we receive the body of the Lord given up for us and his blood poured out for us so that sins may be forgiven. This sacrament forgives our venial sins.

Still more. The sacrament of Penance proclaims to us that, no matter what, God reaches out to us prodigal children to embrace us in the warmth of his forgiving arms. Mortal sins must be brought to this sacramental cleansing, but we may always submit our venial sins to the power of this sacrament, especially those which we recognize as serious or particularly troublesome and habitual.

After Jesus' resurrection, many signs and wonders occurred among the people through the hands of the apostles, the first ministers of the Church. The signs which we enjoy now are the sacraments. The wonders are the powers granted to the Church to forgive our sins.

On that momentous night when Christ appeared to the apostles, St. Thomas was absent. Without seeing the risen Christ, he refused to believe. We do not see Christ in the sacraments but we are blessed indeed to believe that through the sacraments of the Church, Christ forgives our sins.

Within the act of absolution the priest prays for us: "Through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace." That ministry of the Church began on the night of Christ's resurrection and has continued through all the centuries and even now graces our lives.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**April 29**	**11:00AM**
Holy Father Pope Francis †		
Wed.	**April 30**	**11:00AM**
Holy Father Pope Francis †		
Thur.	**May 1**	**11:00AM**
Holy Father Pope Francis †		
Fri.	**May 2**	**11:00AM**
Mary Lou Austria †		Olivia & Marvin
Sat.	**May 3**	**4:30PM**
Mother's Day Novena		
Sun.	**May 4**	**9:00AM**
Mother's Day Novena		
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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