



April 9, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

HAPPY EASTER!

I hope all of you are having a wonderful Easter Season. Thank you to Fr. David Norris for his willingness to help so that more of our community could fully experience Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Thank you to everyone who ministered before, during and after the liturgies because of your faith, dedication, practice, and hard work everything went well. We were able to have reverent, faithful beautiful celebrations. Congratulations to you all. Special congratulations to Debbie and Madison who were fully initiated at the Vigil. We are so happy for you and we welcome you with open hearts.

This weekend we continue our Easter celebration with the 2nd Sunday of Easter also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. This is a special day for us because our parish is named Divine Mercy. You may not realize this but when a parish is named after someone or something that is celebrated on the church calendar then that day is usually celebrated as a Solemnity or Solemn Feast at that location on that day. For example, St. Francis of Assisi is listed as a Memorial on October 4th, which is a Monday, therefore the parish of St. Francis of Assisi would celebrate Monday October 4th as a Solemnity rather than as a Memorial which basically means it would be celebrated at a higher level, perhaps by singing the gloria, reciting the creed, using incense etc. I bring this up because Divine Mercy Sunday, our feast day, is always a solemnity because it completes the Octave of Easter (eight days of Easter) as well as being on Sunday. Every Sunday is a Solemnity because Sunday we as the church celebrate the Lord's Day.

I think the readings today give us the real meaning of the importance of Divine Mercy Sunday. When the apostles and disciples were afraid, not just because of what the Jews might do, but because Jesus had been crucified by betrayal and by the sinfulness of humanity. It was miraculous that Jesus was raised from the dead, but also surprising that when he returned, he did not return in the way that might be expected, he did not return for vengeance, he did not even ask for justice. Instead, he came back and offered peace, and forgiveness, and to offer mercy. He came back in love. He came back and enabled us to do likewise, that is if we choose to believe. I hope you continue to delve deeply into this joyous Easter Season.

You are always in my prayers.

Fr. Michael