

## *Our Lady of the Desert*



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**Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,  
Administrador Parroquial**

**Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial**  
**Confesión el Sábado:**  
Por cita en (Español y Inglés)

**Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima  
Virgen Maria—3:20pm**

**Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.**

**Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima  
Virgen Maria— 9:40am**

**Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.**

### **Liturgia en los Días de la Semana**

**Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli**

**Lunes: Adoración 7:30am y Misa a las 8:00am**

**Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:**

Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

**Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz  
con Adoración**

**Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am**

**Misa en Honor de Virgen María**

EASTER SUNDAY

the  
*Resurrection*  
of the  
*Lord*



## March 31st, 2024

**Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator  
Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar**

### **Confession on Saturday:**

By appointment English/Spanish

**Saturday Rosary:** With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary - 3:20pm

**Saturday Mass (Vigil):** English -4:00 p.m.

**Sunday Rosary: With** Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary—9:40am

Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am

### **Liturgy of the Weekdays**

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

**Monday: 7:30am Adoration & Mass 8:00am**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:**

**Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am**

**Friday: At 6:00pm Rosario of Queen of Peace with  
Adoration**

**Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass  
In Honor of the Virgin Mary**

Reflection for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord : Year B  
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion – March 24, 2024  
Fr. Mark Hellinger

Readings: *Mk 11:1–10* or *Jn 12:12–16* • *Is 50:4–7* • *Ps 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20, 23–24* • *Phil 2:6–11* • *Mk 14:1–15:47*  
[bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032424.cfm](http://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032424.cfm)

When I was leaving my very first priestly assignment as a young parochial vicar, I was, naturally enough, very sad. I was speaking to a brother priest who worked with me in the parish as the other parochial vicar, and, with the arrogance that can only come from inexperience said, “At least I know that, as I leave this parish, all the people really loved me.” My friend, older, with a few more years of priesthood under his belt, laughed hard and said, “No, no they didn’t! What, are you crazy? Not everyone loved you!” I was horrified! I was dismayed! In truth, I was angry! I demanded to know what he meant! My brother priest simply stated: “You’re human; you have flaws, and you’re not everyone’s cup of tea! Some people don’t like the super-catechetical homilies that you gave! Some felt you paid no attention to the senior citizens and were always at the school! Don’t worry about it! 10% of the parish loves you and will remember you fondly. 10% of the parish will be happy you’re in a new assignment. 80% will really have no opinion whatsoever! They just love the sacraments and support their priests.”

As I mentioned, I was sad. Was I a failure? Did I not make a difference in the lives of my parishioners, even after five years of service as their parish priest? And, most of all, why didn’t everyone like me? After all, I’m a really great guy, aren’t I?

It has taken me many years, but I have come to the realization that, no matter what I do, no matter what I don’t do, not every single person whom I encounter will absolutely love and adore me! Even if I try to do every single thing right, even if I try to be a really super-nice guy to all, some people will not like me! Maybe I remind them of someone else! Perhaps I bring to mind a bully or a pest from elementary school. And, maybe, just maybe, it’s actually me; perhaps I can

be annoying, obnoxious, unthinking, and hurtful, both unintentionally, and, in my sinful nature, intentionally. There can a million compliments given after a homily or a class for me, but the one critique given, that’s what I will remember! It’s all part of fallen human nature. It’s a simple fact — not everyone will always like me. And, sadly, if I’m honest with myself, there’s some people whom I encounter about whom I’m not too crazy, either!

The Lord Jesus, who is truly the only perfectly just man, and who is the only one worthy of adoration, predicts his rejection and ultimately His blessed Passion in the scripture passage we read from today in the Gospel of Mark. If the Lord Jesus, He who alone is perfect, can be not be accepted and loved by all, why should we, humble creatures, created in God’s image and likeness, but still, due to the Original Sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, fallen, expect anything different?

For those of us who are ordained to service to God’s people, for those engaged in lay and religious apostolates of pastoral work, we want to be liked. Let’s face it, being liked helps bring people to Church and to the Lord Jesus. But it’s also nice to be liked; we also, even the most introverted among us, kind of liked being liked!

We should remember that, in humility, our job, our task, indeed the task of all Christians, is not about being liked and admired. It’s all about being good and just, being Christ to all whom we meet. It’s all about being, even when we are going to be considered obnoxious and going to be rejected, Christ. Our job, in spite of our flaws and failings, is to cultivate the peace of Christ to the world. Pray for that grace, in spite of our insecurities.

*Fr. Victor is scheduled  
To be at “Our Lady of the Desert”  
the 4th Sunday of every month. (Dates are subject to change)*

No Request  
is too  
*Audacious*  
for God.

## **Gospel Meditation** **Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture**

A protestant pastor friend of mine was invited to meet Pope Francis with a group of other pastors. He noticed the Pope's chair was especially ornate and set at the head of the group. He somewhat playfully said, “Holy Father, why do you get that special chair?” The group chuckled nervously at my friend's audacious chide.

The following year, the group was invited to return. They entered the room to find only simple chairs placed in a circle. Pope Francis entered, sat down in one of the humble chairs and, looking directly at my friend, with a twinkle in his eye, asked, “What do you think of my chair now?” My friend was stunned that the Pope remembered his concerns — and took the time to answer them.

Thomas the apostle was certainly stunned by the Risen Jesus displaying his wounds in person. But he also must have been equally shocked that Jesus knew and answered his particular questions, worries, and even demands related to his faith. How humbled — and perhaps a bit terrified — he must have been to realize God remembers his concerns and cares enough to answer them.

What questions or demands about Jesus do you find in your heart? Like Thomas, will you be bold enough to voice them this week? How wonderful to know that if we do so, God will remember and respond even to our most audacious desires.

— *Father John Muir*

## **Readings for the week of April 7, 2024**

### **Sunday:**

Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/  
1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

### **Monday:**

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/  
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

### **Tuesday:**

Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/  
Jn 3:7b-15

### **Wednesday:**

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Jn 3:16-21

### **Thursday:**

Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/  
Jn 3:31-36

### **Friday:**

Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

### **Saturday:**

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

### **Next Sunday:**

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/  
1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The community of believers was of one heart and mind,  
and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own,  
but they had everything in common. (Acts 4:32)

### Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting.  
(Ps 118)  
Or: Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

For the love of God is this,  
that we keep his commandments.  
And his commandments are not burdensome,  
for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.  
(1 Jn 5:3-4)

### Gospel:

On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,  
for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood in their midst  
and said to them, "Peace be with you." (Jn 20:19)

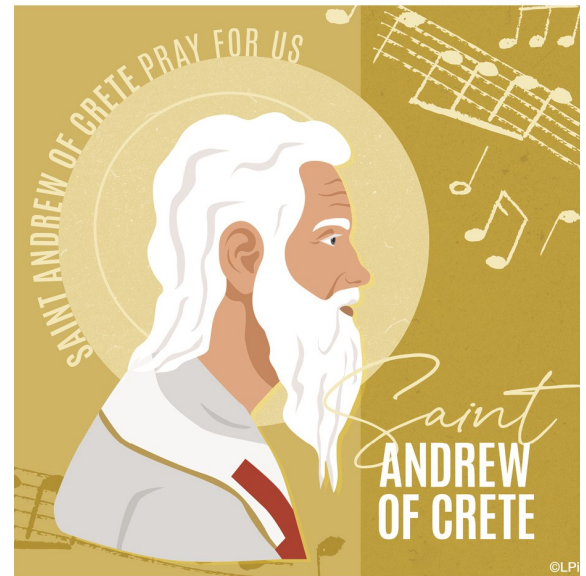
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We find unfathomable mercy and everlasting love in the wounds of Christ — even when we are skeptical, even when we carry doubt. God meets us there in the confusion. He reaches for our hand and places them at his side. We just have to call his name.

## Observances for the week April 7, 2024

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)
- Monday:** The Annunciation of the Lord
- Thursday:** St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr
- Saturday:** St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Easter



## Saint of the week

St. Andrew of Crete was born in Damascus and was mute until he received his First Communion at age 7. He went on to be an influential archbishop and hymnist in Crete. His most renowned work, the Great Canon, is chanted during Lent in Eastern Orthodox churches.

## Prayer for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

Dear Jesus,  
As you greeted your disciples after you rose, fill us, too, with your peace.  
As you breathed your spirit on them, breathe on us, too.  
As your presence was known to Thomas, make it known to us, too.  
Help us to live in your peace, power, and presence.  
Amen.

### ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

#### Written in the Wounds

For all the condemnation Thomas the Doubter has received in 2000 years of homilies, I think there's something to admire in him.

Thomas is not unique. We all waver at some point, overcome by hesitation, distracted by the clamor of the world which seeks at every turn to shout above the whisper of the divine.

Thomas knows what he saw on Good Friday: his friend nailed to a cross, a sword driven through his body. He saw the blood and the water. He saw these things with his own eyes, eyes given to him by God, eyes which have never failed him before. And God doesn't ask us to suspend reality to believe in Him. He only asks us to be discerning about how that reality is interpreted in our hearts.

Thomas knows the man before him is either a fraud, preying on the hopes and anxieties of the traumatized disciples, or he is the Christ, the Savior of the world, accomplisher of impossible things. But where to look, to tell the difference?

Satan once appeared to the great mystic saint, Teresa of Avila, disguised as Jesus. She knew instantly that he was a fraud. Enraged, he demanded to know where his deception had failed. "You have no wounds," she told him simply.

Could we have accepted a savior who did not bleed? I don't think we could, because sooner or later, we would all stand before him and say, "Here is where the world hurt me. Here, and here, and here. What about you?" Christ can point to his hands, his feet, his side. "Here, and here, and here," he can say. "And I overcame them all."

It's the wounds, you see. The truth is in the wounds.

*Thomas answered and said to him,  
"My Lord and my God!" — John 20:28*

*- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

#### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

After a civil divorce, is a Catholic obligated to pursue an annulment?

##### Answer:

Many Catholics are not exactly sure what an annulment does. An annulment does not deny that a marriage took place, nor does it deny that there once was love. It does not mean that people say anything untrue, such as they never loved each other or that everything in their marriage was wrong. An annulment does not negate children, nor make them illegitimate. An annulment addresses the spiritual aspect of marriage. In effect, an annulment says that at the time of the wedding, there was either something present or something absent that prevented the sacrament from taking place. It is a spiritual determination that, if granted in the affirmative, allows a person to marry in the Church.

Annulments have no legal standing and are unable to be used in a civil court. Therefore, a Catholic has no moral obligation to pursue an annulment. However, when the tragedy of divorce occurs, and there is no hope for reconciliation, annulments may help bring some spiritual closure to a person's life. Some people have found the process to be healing and others have found it to be difficult. Speak to your priest or a member of the Diocesan Tribunal staff to decide what is best for you.

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