

## Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church



15385 Pierce Ferry Road  
(Poste de milla número 4)  
P.O. Box 337, Dolan Springs AZ 86441  
Teléfono: (928) 767-3397

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 María—3:45pm

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

Rosario el Domingo: Y letanías de la Santísima  
Virgen María— 9:40pm

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: 7:00am y Misa 7:30am

Martes y Miércoles: Adoración 8:30am y Misa  
9:00am

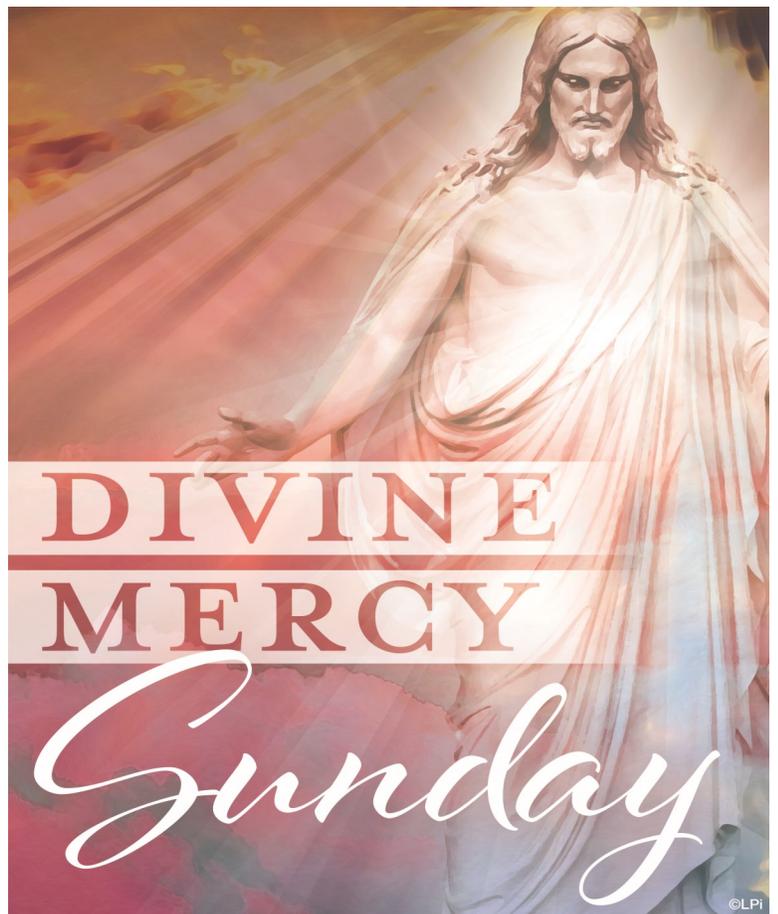
Jueves: Adoración: 8:30am y Misa: 9:00 m o la  
Oración de la Evangelización a las 10:00am

Viernes: Adoración: 8:30am y Misa: 9:00am y  
6:00pm

Rosario Reina de la Paz con Adoración

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

Misa en Honor de Virgen María



## April 24th, 2022

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

### **Confession on Saturday:**

By appointment English/Spanish

**Saturday Rosary:** And Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary 3:45pm

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

**Sunday Rosary:** Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
9:40pm

Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am

### **Liturgy of the Weekdays**

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

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

**Tuesday & Wednesday:** Adoration 8:30am &  
Mass 9:00am

**Thursday:** Adoration: 8:30am & Mass: 9:00am  
or Prayer of the Evangelization at 10:00am

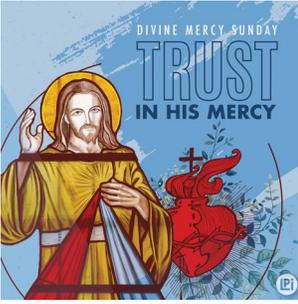
**Friday During Lent:** Way of the Cross 3:00pm  
concluding with Mass

**Saturday:** Adoration: 7:00 a.m. & 7:30 a.m.

Mass in Honor of the Virgin Mary

## The Divine Mercy of Jesus

Allison Gingras



Sometimes, it may be hard to remember that we live in Jesus' victory over sin and death, we are not waiting on it. And we, who have not seen and yet believe, are truly blessed (John 20:29), as Jesus so compassionately proclaims to Thomas in today's Gospel.

Jesus showed his Apostles great mercy, even after they abandoned him in his greatest hour of need, running and hiding in fear — only St. John the Evangelist (along with some of the women) remained and stood at the foot of the cross. However, Jesus' greeting as he stands among the Apostles is not a chastisement but instead, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). Jesus demonstrates the limitless power of his mercy as he breathes the Spirit upon them, conferring the authority to forgive sins. In yet another way, fulfilling the words spoken as Jesus washed their feet, "For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).

St. Thomas, sometimes called "Doubting Thomas," is the only Apostle missing during this incredible encounter with the Risen Christ. He struggles to believe, he requires signs and wonders, physical evidence to open his eyes to the Truth. Is that not still true today, a world so suspect of everyone and everything they struggle to believe? However, unlike Thomas, who proclaimed "My Lord and My God," when Christ reveals himself, so many people find temporal explanations to keep them from embracing the Savior they so desperately need — who longs to be in communion with them. Although something entirely without explanation, save a heavenly one, will occur, and maybe they entertain the idea of God for a moment, then, like the seed in the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13), they foolishly allow any glimmer of hope to be blown away, devoured, scorched, or withered.

In Acts 5, the Apostles "heal many." And while the sick will always long for physical healing, it is the work of spiritual healing that is truly miraculous. No matter how many times the sick are made well, eventually, death will come. At that moment, it is Jesus' mercy, as shown to the Apostles in the Upper Room, we all long to receive. Even the most fervent follower of Christ will fail, gratefully, God's love never does!

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (699), "Jesus heals the sick and blesses little children by laying hands on them. In his name, the Apostles will do the same." Even more pointedly, today, that same power flows through our bishops and priests (and deacons), through the imposition of hands, as they continue the work of Jesus and his Apostles, "this visible sign, from the New Testament onward, is the imposition of hands" (see LG 21).

We experience this spiritual healing most profoundly through the Sacrament of Confession (also referred to as the Sacrament of reconciliation, conversion, penance, and forgiveness). In Confession, the priest sits "In persona Christi," a Latin phrase meaning "in the person of Christ." Here, we encounter Christ in a real and personal way, to be cleansed of our iniquities and strengthened with the grace to go forth and sin no more. Although we will fall again, the grace that we receive in the sacraments empowers us to resist temptation and seek God over the things of this world, even if it's just for a little while. Made right with God through this sacrament, we experience an outpouring of God's mercy.

Sadly, 2000 years later, even the faithful seem to diminish the wonder and awe of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection. We fail to take advantage of the abundant graces that flowed from his side that dark afternoon on Calvary. Instead of emerging into the light of Easter, we continue to choose darkness — stuck on Good Friday because of sin. We can start living our heaven now because if we wait for it, we may miss the opportunity altogether.

Allison Gingras

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24, 2022

- Sunday:** Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31
- Monday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
- 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 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

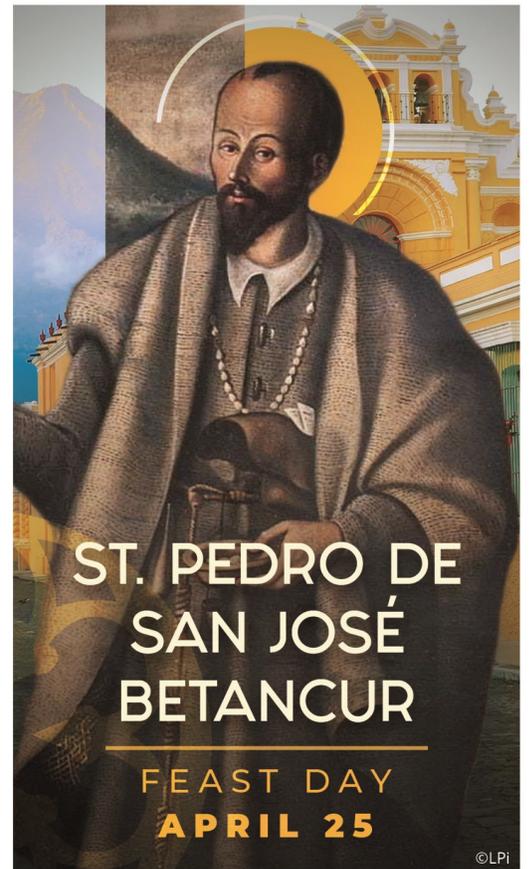
## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24, 2022

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy); St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr
- Monday:** St. Mark, Evangelist
- Wednesday:** Administrative Professionals' Day
- Thursday:** St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
- Friday:** St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church; Arbor Day
- Saturday:** St. Pius V, Pope
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Easter; St. Joseph the Worker

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

Life is about to get very interesting for the disciples. Finding themselves questioning what happened to Jesus and whether he actually was raised from the dead, they are afraid and uncertain. In the midst of this fear, questioning, and uncertainty, Jesus decides to surprise them with a visit! This visit, complete with the gift of peace, fills the disciples with great excitement and joy. But their detailed testimony is not enough to convince their absent friend Thomas. He wants to see for himself. We struggle with belief as well. It is hard for some to give themselves over to the testimony of another. We want to see the resurrected Christ in person. God, through the gift of eyes of faith, gives us the ability to do precisely that: when we witness the healing that comes from forgiveness, the beauty that flows from love, the wonder of creation, the new life that comes after we fall, and the unique soul that lives behind each person's life. Christ is risen. Life will get very interesting for us too, when we stop unbelieving and believe!



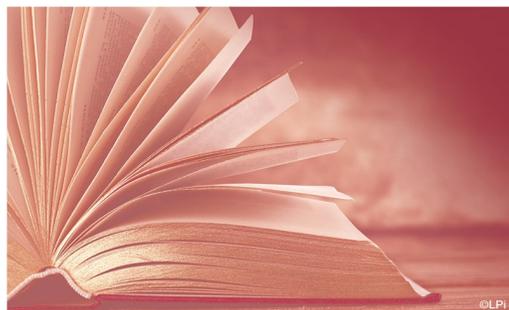
## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Central America's first saint, St. Pedro de San José Betancur (1626-1667) was born a poor shepherd in the Canary Islands. His family lands were seized because of debt, and he worked as an indentured servant until his early adult life when Pedro left his home to travel to Guatemala. His money for the journey ran out long before he arrived. He was destitute when he did arrive and was forced to join the bread line the Franciscan Friars had for the poor.

In 1655, he joined the Third Order of St Francis. Pedro began to serve the poor, the enslaved, immigrants, abandoned children, anyone that needed him. In 1658 he was given a hut which he made into a hospital for the poor. This small start grew into a shelter for the homeless, a school for the poor, an inn for priests, and several small chapels in poor areas. He was supported by many patrons and was joined in his work by both men and women, who became the Bethlehemite Brothers and the Bethlehemite Sisters.

Pedro prayed for the souls of those in purgatory, walked through the streets of rich neighborhoods ringing a bell and calling the wealthy to repent, and ministered to prisoners. Most accounts credit him with beginning the tradition of posadas, a procession in which people representing Mary and Joseph ask for lodging from their neighbors. This tradition continues today in Mexico and Central America. Because of his work with the poor and marginalized Pedro is often referred to as the "Saint Frances of the Americas". St. Pedro was canonized on July 30, 2002, in Guatemala City, Guatemala by Pope John Paul II.

## WORSHIP & MEDITATION



### FIRST READING

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. (Acts 5:14)



### PSALM

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



### SECOND READING

"I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever." (Rev 1:17-18)



### 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. (Jn 20:19)

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### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Even Thomas struggles to remove his boulder! Being very pragmatic and determined, he wants to see the risen Christ for himself! Thomas's boulder is heavy with mistrust. Many of ours are too. A certain amount of skepticism is good, as it can save us from being duped or misled. But we can become so skeptical of things that it erodes our ability to trust anything we see or hear. Skepticism can actually be a well-disguised defense mechanism that we use to prevent us from being hurt or perceived as a fool. Having too much ego protection is a real risk. Thomas, because of the boulder blocking his vision, could not even trust the word of his friends.

Boulders are hard to move. It's difficult to seek change or take a risk, especially when we are so afraid to be vulnerable or reluctant to trust another's word. When we are closed minded, overly pragmatic, unwilling to see things in a different way, stubborn or defensive, it is difficult to be surprised by God and stretched. We need to be less guarded, self-assured, and self-absorbed. God cannot break into the ordinary moments of our lives and inspire us when we cling to doubt. If we are going to discover resurrection faith, we have to believe that what the witnesses say is true, especially when they are credible. We also have to trust that the risen Christ is alive in us, too!

While the first witnesses to the resurrection have faded into history, there are many others who have come after them. They continue to inspire by walking the talk of faith. They are the martyrs who offer their lives for the Gospel, the simple holy people in our communities who cling so steadfastly to their faith, those who have touched despair and found new hope and the ones who, even in spite of ridicule, still pursue their hunger and thirst for God. They are our friends, acquaintances, biblical heroes, and saints, and many others who are convinced that they have seen the Lord! The risen Christ may not surprise us with the same kind of visit as he did the first disciples, but God finds other ways. All we have to do is open our eyes, remove whatever is preventing us from seeing and believing and exclaim: "My Lord and my God!"