



Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

JOHN 20:29

The Importance of Trust

ANN M. GARRIDO

We can readily understand Thomas' insistence upon seeing things with his own eyes. Would you believe it if someone told you that a friend whose funeral you had attended was now walking through walls?

At some time or other, all of us have been tricked into believing something we later found out was untrue and remember how foolish we felt. Haven't our parents told us not to believe everything we hear? Haven't our teachers taught us to do our own research? Doubt serves a valuable purpose, and we would be naïve to disregard it.

At the same time, we know that doubt can become a way of life, overstepping its usefulness. During the COVID pandemic, for example, some refused to believe even the most knowledgeable medical voices in the nation. Like Thomas, they insisted that unless they'd "done their own research," they wouldn't believe. Such a stance ignores that unless you are a scientist working in a medical lab, even "your own research" will be based on an act of belief that what you are reading of others' research is correct. Doubt is good, but only in combination with a healthy dose of humility. In the end, the world turns on an axis of trust.

At the close of today's gospel, Jesus names as "blessed" those able to discern what is true and believe not only because of what they have seen with their own eyes but also because of what they have heard through their ears from sources worthy of their trust. ●

Reflect

When has doubt served a purpose, and when has it gotten in my way?

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Ongoing Parish Fundraising: STM Rav/Tort. Sale | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone #/order) \$9.00/bag

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

CCD Classes

Sunday, April 12th — 6-8th Grade Class

Sunday, April 19th — K-5th Grade (Last Class) mock confession



St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of April 13, 2026

Monday	04/13		† No Mass
Tuesday	04/14	9:00 am STM Site	† Mary Joan Casye
Wednesday	04/15	5:30 pm HT Site	† Burton "Bill" Waite
Thursday	04/16	9:00 am HT Site	† Alan Hahn
Friday	04/17	9:00 am STM Site	† Kathy Sondgeroth

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of April 18- 19, 2026

Saturday	04/18	4:00 pm ST. Thomas More Site	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	04/19	9:00 am Holy Trinity Site	† Mary Jane Smith

Divine Mercy Sunday Reflection

On the First Sunday after Easter the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast based upon the private revelations of Jesus to St. Faustina. In extending this feast to the entire Church, Pope Saint John Paul II re-emphasized the resurrection context of Easter, citing St. Faustina's diary: "Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy." In describing this feast, Pope Saint John Paul II says: "Divine Mercy is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ, a gift which it offers to all humanity."

The first epistle of St. John declares to the entire world that "God is love," and in his encyclical letter "Rich in Mercy," St. John Paul II wrote, "Mercy is love's second name." If we understand mercy in the biblical sense, then without any fear of error contrary to the faith, it can be said, as St. John Paul II said, that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. This biblically formulated relationship between love and mercy is expressed by St. Faustina when she says: "Love is the flower, mercy the fruit."

Divine Mercy is the form that God's eternal love takes when He reaches out to us in the midst of our misery and our brokenness. Whatever the nature of our need might be — sin, guilt, suffering, or death — He is always ready to pour out His merciful, compassionate love for us, to help us. Where there was only despair, loneliness, and heartache before, comes joy, fruitfulness, and abiding love.

The message of Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us and wants us to approach Him in constant prayer, repenting of our sins while asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world. He wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others, extending our love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

(excerpted from saintjamestheapostle.org)



Church Announcements

Divine Mercy Holy Hour

To celebrate the First Anniversary of the founding of St. Barbara Parish, there will be a special Holy Hour in honor of Divine Mercy, during which the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited. This Holy Hour will take place at STM this Second Week of Easter from 4pm to 5pm. All Parishioners are cordially invited to this meaningful event, and to Thank God for the gift of Divine Mercy.

Beatification of Fulton Sheen

The Mass for the Beatification of the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, will take place on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 2 pm Central time at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis.

Latest Offering's

April 5th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$3,528.00

Good Friday: \$496.00



Next Confessions

Confessions on

Sat. April 18th

10:30am-11:15am

STM in the Confessional



Dear Padre,

We are told that when we receive the Holy Eucharist, our venial sins are washed away. Does the same thing happen when we receive spiritual communion?

Yes, and there are many other ways that venial sins can be forgiven. First and foremost is each of the sacraments of reconciliation: baptism, Eucharist, penance, and anointing of the sick. In addition to the sacraments, an Act of Contrition will also suffice, as will a simple prayer of intercession, such as, "Lord, Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Forgiveness of venial sins is directly dependent on one thing: the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit at work in our world and in each one of us. Forgiveness is not merited; it is a gift, and, as a gift, it requires only that we ask and gratefully receive.

It is true that we are all sinful. We are also all blessed. As wonderful as forgiveness is, and there truly is no greater gift of God's love, an equally wonderful gift is gratitude. Perhaps, with every Act of Contrition that we pray, we should also offer a prayer of thanksgiving. It might help us find balance if we remind ourselves not only how we may not have measured up but also that we are blessed and graced. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



ALESSIA PIREDDOMENICO / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Lord shows us his wounds and says: Peace be with you. Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us,

too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, OCTOBER 1, 2025

Monday

April 13
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:23–31
Jn 3:1–8

Tuesday

April 14
Easter Weekday
Acts 4:32–37
Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday

April 15
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:17–26
Jn 3:16–21

Thursday

April 16
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:27–33
Jn 3:31–36

Friday

April 17
Easter Weekday
Acts 5:34–42
Jn 6:1–15

Saturday

April 18
Easter Weekday
Acts 6:1–7
Jn 6:16–21

Sunday

April 19
Third Sunday
of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22–33
1 Pt 1:17–21
Lk 24:13–35

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.