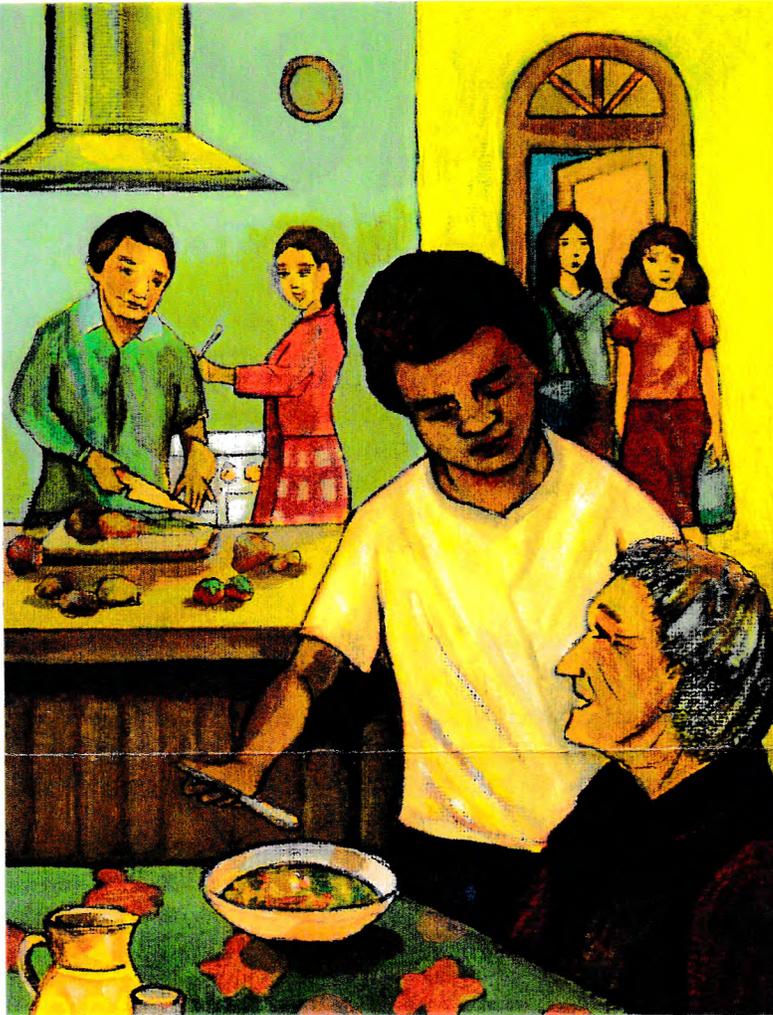


# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



## Heart and Mind

God, font of all life,  
through the Paschal Mystery of  
your Son, Jesus,  
you have restored your people to life.  
Our house gives you praise  
for your enduring mercy and  
unending love.

Watch over and protect our community  
as we work to make known the message  
of salvation.

Keep us one in heart and mind  
as we work to build up your Kingdom.  
Give us hearts overflowing with mercy  
as we minister to those most in need.  
Help us remain faithful to your call  
so that our words and actions  
may always proclaim Christ as Lord.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 8, 2018

Easter Sunday

*Today's Readings: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31.* Jesus' Resurrection establishes a new way of living. He is the new covenant and in his life, death, and Resurrection, he reveals our loving and merciful God. This new way of living is one of mercy and reconciliation, one of peace and hope, one where the chains of sin can no longer hold us captive. Christ has changed us and, as we proclaim in the refrain to the Responsorial Psalm, we "give thanks to the Lord" because "his love is everlasting." Our First Reading gives a sense of this new way of living. Acts tells us that the community was united in one heart and mind and that they held their possessions in common. The final lines describe the social outreach of this early community. Christ brought them together

and continues to bring us together. We are united to him in one Body, which invites us to risk everything for him and the Kingdom.

Too often we hear of division in our communities. Being members of Christ's Body urges us to love and forgive. This mercy should not be insular but lead us into the world to advocate for justice. If Christ has truly united us in one heart and mind, then we must work to reconcile differences and let the light of Christ within us shine forth so others may know the transforming love of God. Consider how your faith in Christ leads you to build up the Body of Christ. This week, reach out to your neighbors and friends for conversation or a meal.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, April 9**

### The Annunciation of the Lord

“Do not be afraid.” Imagine what it must have been like for Mary to learn God had chosen her to carry the Savior. By grace, she was able to say yes and remain faithful to God. In Baptism, we become temples of the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we say yes and commit ourselves to a life that proclaims the Good News. When faced with trials or doubts, keep in mind what the angel said to Mary. There is no need to be afraid; God will be with us. Today, pray for all expectant mothers. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.*

**Tuesday, April 10**

### Of One Heart and Mind

Just as disagreements arise in faith communities today, the early Church had its difficulties. The picture that Acts paints of the Church as an ideal Christian community provides us something to ponder. Jesus’ Paschal Mystery unites us into one community of God’s mercy. Jesus showed this compassion during his earthly ministry. How does your parish imitate the community of believers? Consider volunteering to coordinate your parish outreach. *Today’s Readings: Acts 4:32–37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd–2, 5; John 3:7b–15.*

**Wednesday, April 11**

### Memorial of St. Stanislaus

God’s love and justice filled the heart of St. Stanislaus, who fervently opposed injustice and violence in his native Poland. He worked against the injustice of the government of his day, which eventually led to his death. Since we are filled with the light of Christ, we are called to bring light to those in darkness and help free others from oppression. Our Easter alleluias have no meaning if they do not lead us to work for justice and reveal God’s saving love. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:17–26; Psalm 34:2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; John 3:16–21.*

**Thursday, April 12**

### Share the Gospel

The Apostles are being challenged again in today’s First Reading. They remain fervent in their witness to God and refuse to stop sharing the Good News. Their faith in Christ moves them to glorify God’s name and witness to all what God has given in Christ Jesus. If we live in Christ, the Spirit works through us to share the Gospel. Research a modern-day saint who refused to stop sharing the Gospel. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:27–33; Psalm 34:2 and 9, 17–18, 19–20; John 3:31–36.*

**Friday, April 13**

### Tell the Story

No matter the obstacle, the Apostles remain passionate in teaching about Jesus. How would you respond if you found yourself in the First Reading and were flogged and told not to speak of Christ? Would you rejoice as these followers did? For thousands of years, God’s Word has permeated place after place. As disciples who seek to dwell in the Lord’s house, we must be found worthy to suffer for Christ our light. *Today’s Readings: Acts 5:34–42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; John 6:1–15.*

**Saturday, April 14**

### Ministry of the Word

The First Reading describes the beginning of what we know as the diaconate. Since the community was growing, the needs within the community also grew. Seven men were called upon to help in the ministry through the distribution of goods, freeing the Twelve to spread the Good News. The number seven shows the universal nature of the Church. Today, pray for deacons and consider finding out more about St. Stephen. *Today’s Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; John 6:16–21.*

