



A word from Fr. Bill.....

April 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

I wonder if because of the coronavirus we feel like the apostles in this Sunday's Gospel: "locked behind closed doors out of fear." I know, to some degree, I do and I imagine most of us do also.

But notice, those locked doors didn't stop Jesus from being with the apostles and standing in their midst. Like the apostles, we may be fearful and careful, but that doesn't stop Jesus from being in our midst during these days of social distancing.

How can you experience Jesus behind your locked doors? One way is to pick up the scriptures for this weekend (Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 118, 1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 20:19-31) click on this link to read.... [<http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/041920.cfm>] and share them with family members and friends, either in person or thru modern technology. Another way is to watch a liturgy which is being streamed. You will find a list of these opportunities on our website's homepage: <http://www.st-augustinechurch.com>. (We hope to Livestream a Mass from St. Augustine next weekend on our parish FaceBook page..... **St.AugustineChurchPhiladelphia** We will give you more details during the week).

Maybe we will experience the presence of Jesus by taking some time alone to pray (perhaps writing in a journal). We hear Jesus being merciful to Thomas. This is "Divine Mercy Sunday." How have I experienced God's mercy? Have I extended God's mercy? What is locked in my "upper room" (guilt? depression? anxiety?) and can the Risen Christ enter my "upper room?" Have I doubted like Thomas and how does the Risen Jesus respond to my doubts? Do we experience Jesus' patience with us as Thomas did? Jesus uses his wounds for a good (to show it is truly he). We all have wounds from rejection, false accusations, broken relationships, disappointments, etc. How can Jesus use my wounds for a good? Jesus told the apostles to receive the Holy Spirit. He has given us that same gift at our baptism and confirmation. Do I realize that the same Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead lives within me? How does that affect my life?

Perhaps if we allow Jesus to get behind our locked doors, we will experience his mercy as Thomas did and we will hear him saying to us as he did to the apostles, "Peace be with you."

Have a great week.

Fr. Bill