



# PARISH BULLETIN 529

Sunday, April 12, 2026.

## 2. EASTER SUNDAY WHITE SUNDAY AND SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

### **Gospel: Jn 20, 19-31.**

*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." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."*

*Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."*

*Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.*

### **Commentary by the Pastor:**

The Church, at the beginning of Lent, invites us to reflect on Jesus' temptation in the desert—not only the entire process but also Jesus Himself. More than focusing on the three specific temptations, today we concentrate on Jesus' experience of the forty-day fast and its culmination. The reason Jesus fasted for exactly forty days can be found in the rich biblical tradition and symbolism, but more important than the number itself is Jesus' victory in this spiritual battle.

Jesus endured forty days and nights without faltering; nothing could make Him break or give up the fast. The Gospel speaks of the climax of this period, the moment when it is "finished", when the competitor shouts "I have won". Jesus emerged from a state of spiritual exaltation, a kind of spiritual embrace that allowed no one access. But when that ended, when the fast was over, natural needs appeared—hunger, the body's call for renewed strength. Then the tempter tries to ignite that euphoria in Jesus even more, hoping that in full spiritual power and omnipotence He would turn even the hardest stones into the freshest bread.

The Gospel does not say that Jesus ate just any accessible food after the fast, but that He could do more than that. In the other two temptations, Jesus rejects spectacle and focuses on true worship of God.

Jesus' example calls us to Lenten fasting and penance, to perseverance and overcoming evil tendencies, but also to spiritual vigilance so that we do not fall when we think we have reached a spiritual peak, so that we do not become proud when we see we have achieved something, and so that we do not think we are better than others when things "go our way".

Simply put, we resist the Evil One: if we fall into sin—through holy confession; and if we are in spiritual consolation—to humbly accept our state and direct honor, glory, and praise to the one Almighty God, the source of all grace. The greatest fast, therefore, is to resist the Evil One...

**Holy Masses**MONDAY – SATURDAY  
(13.4. - 18.4.)7:00 KNEŽEVIĆ  
8:00 VLAH  
9:00 PETRIČEVIĆ  
12:00 ŠESTAK  
19:00 BILIĆ**Confessions**MONDAY – SATURDAY  
(13.4. - 18.4.)6:30 – 9:30  
11:00 – 12:30  
18:30 – 20:00**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LITURGICAL CALENDAR****Sunday, April 19th****3rd Easter sunday, Year "A"**

**THANK YOU:** We especially noticed that a particularly large number of believers attended the Good Friday ceremonies and the veneration of the Cross. On that occasion, you donated 1,475 euros and 20 dollars for the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, and we thank you from the heart. May Christians in the Holy Land, in this difficult time, feel not only this material help but also your spiritual closeness and prayers.

**ARCHBISHOP'S ANNIVERSARY:** On Wednesday, April 15, is the third anniversary of the service of our archbishop Mons. Dražen Kutleša! Let us also include him in our prayers!

**PARISH FAMILY COMMUNITY:** On Thursday, April 16 at 8:00 PM, in the hall of Blessed Ivan Merz on the 1st floor, there will be a meeting of our Parish Family Community. Besides prayer, sharing experiences, and socializing, this meeting will especially focus on logotherapy and helping children in their educational processes. Everyone is welcome, especially all already registered members, as well as new married couples and single parents raising their children alone.

**EXCURSION ANNOUNCEMENT:** On Saturday, April 25, on the feast of St. Mark, there will be a parish family excursion to Sljeme. We wish that especially families with children, as well as other parishioners who want to, take this opportunity to refresh both physically and spiritually and to strengthen parish fellowship. More details next Sunday, but this is so you can plan ahead! Everyone is welcome!

**ROSARY AT KAMENITA VRATA:** Mondays at 8:00 p.m.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday to Friday, 9:30–10:30 a.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m.

**"LESS IS MORE" – LAY COLUMN No. 479 – written by: Iva Smolčić**

The Word of God this Sunday leads me into the depth of community and faith that transcends the visible. The early Church from the Acts of the Apostles lives as one heart and one soul – in breaking bread, prayer, and sharing everything. This is not just a picture of the past, but a call for me to allow the Holy Spirit to shape me for true communion where love becomes concrete. In the Gospel, Jesus comes through closed doors and brings peace. I feel how He enters my life where I am closed off – in fears, doubts, and insecurities. His peace is not the absence of problems, but His very presence.

Thomas teaches me honesty before God. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" becomes the quiet strength of my everyday life. Perhaps faith is not about always understanding, but about surrendering and allowing the Lord to transform me from within into love. It is precisely in this surrender that I discover I am not alone, but that God works in silence, in the sacraments, in the people I meet. Then I realize that faith slowly becomes my way of life, not just a moment of prayer.

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