

# Faith Loops

Faith Loops are PowerPoint presentations with images and information that will help us grow in the understanding of our Catholic faith. They will be projected on the screens during the twenty minutes prior to each weekend mass. To learn more about your faith while waiting for Mass to begin, come a few minutes early.

The slides will loop, or repeat, themselves. Thus, the name: Faith Loops.



# Divine Mercy Sunday

The Second Sunday of Easter is known as Divine Mercy Sunday. This feast day was established by St. John Paul just after he canonized St. Faustina Kowalska in April 2000. St. Faustina (1905 – 1938) was a Polish nun and a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Beginning on February 22, 1931, the Lord appeared to Sr. Faustina on several occasions. During these visits, he spoke to her about His mercy and His desire for us to be merciful to one another.



# Divine Mercy Sunday



Today, many churches host an image of Divine Mercy, which depicts Jesus as He appeared to Sister Faustina in one of her visions.

From his chest radiate two rays, the red one symbolizing His blood, and the white one, the water that cleanses our souls.

# Corporal Works of Mercy

The Catholic Church has identified seven corporal works of mercy. The word *corporal* means 'body'. These acts of mercy pertain to how we tend to the physical needs of others.

Six of the works of mercy derive from the Parable of the Final Judgment (Matthew 25), where the goats are separated from the sheep, based on how they helped those in need. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40).



# Corporal Works of Mercy

What are the seven corporal works of mercy?

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Shelter the homeless.
4. Clothe the naked.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.





# Let Us Pray ...

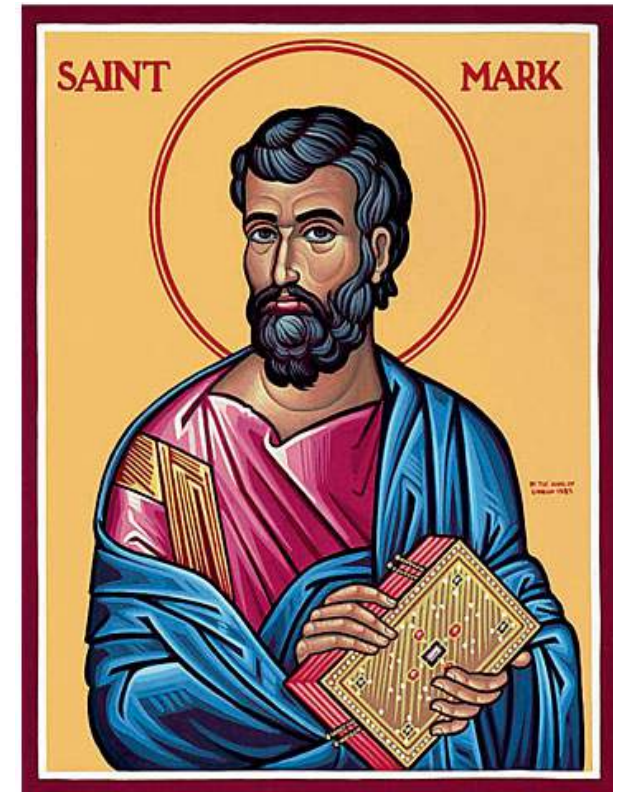


"Lord God, we commend to you the soul of your faithful servant, Fr. Les Drewicki. Thank you for his years of dedicated service to your Church, and for the countless lives he touched through his ministry. May he now find eternal peace and joy in your presence. Comfort and sustain his family and parish community during this time of sorrow. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen."

# Saint of the Month: **St. Mark**

What we know about Mark is found largely in the New Testament. Mark was not one of the twelve apostles and may not have personally known Jesus. Nevertheless, he is believed to be the young man, described by Mark in his gospel, who ran away when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

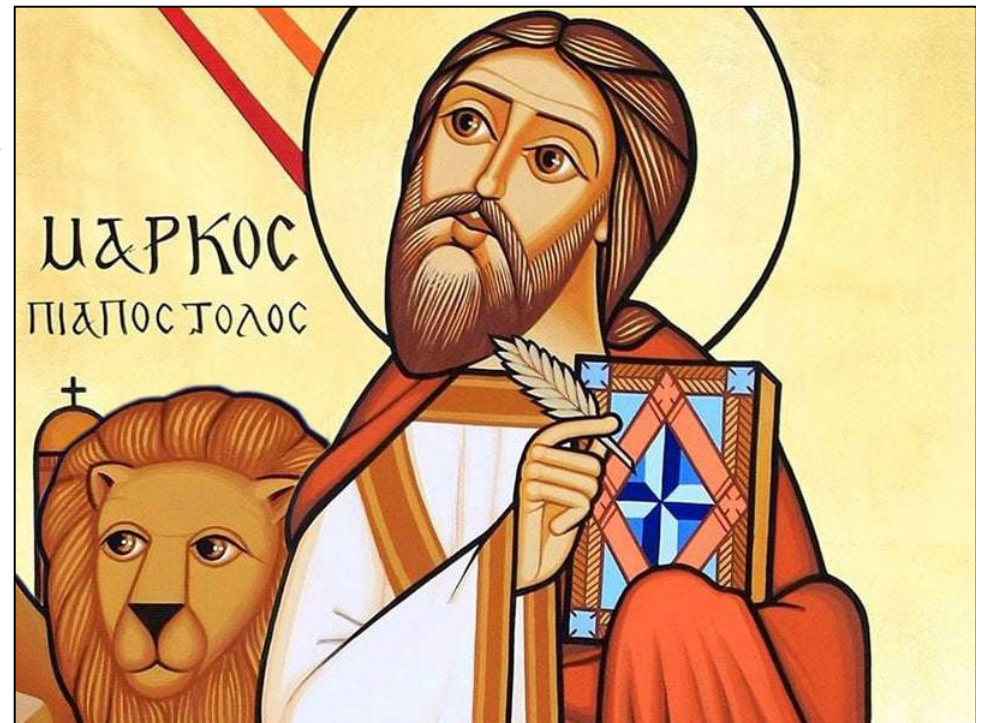
Mark was a member of the first Christian community in Jerusalem. After Jesus's death, Mark and the other disciples carried on the work of Jesus. Mark's mother owned a house that the Christians used as a place of prayer.



# Saint of the Month: **St. Mark**

As a disciple of Saint Peter, Mark traveled with him to Rome. When St. Paul and Barnabas, a cousin to Mark, visited Jerusalem, they took Mark with them to the city of Antioch in Syria. In a letter to Timothy at Ephesus, Paul writes, “Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry” (2 Timothy 4:11).

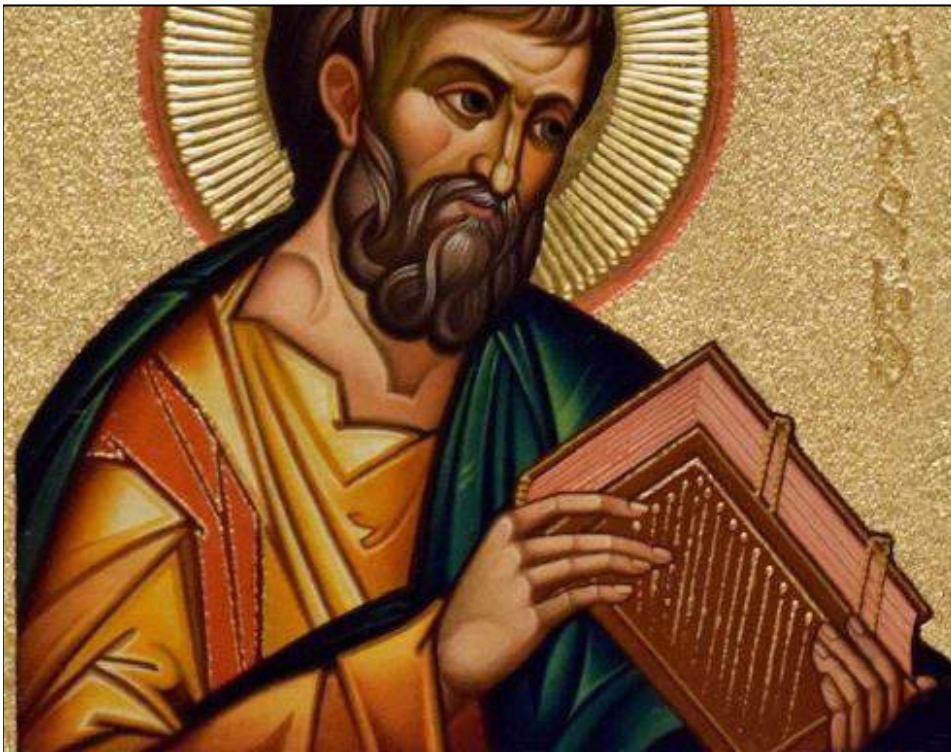
Therefore, Mark was a missionary, spreading the news of Jesus Christ to people who did not know the Lord.





# Saint of the Month: **St. Mark**

Mark evangelized in Alexandria, Egypt, where he established the Church and founded the first famous Christian school. As the first bishop of Alexandria, he is recognized as the founder of Christianity in Africa.



We know Mark as one of the four Gospel writers. He is the author of the earliest, and the shortest, gospel, written between 60 and 70 A.D. His audience was the Christian Gentiles in Rome.

# Saint of the Month: **St. Mark**

Mark is believed to have rescued Christians from slavery and, therefore, is the patron saint of prisoners, as well as lawyers and stained glass workers.



Mark was martyred on April 25 in the year 68 in Alexandria, Egypt. Some relics of St. Mark are displayed in the altar at St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice, Italy. As with many saints, we remember St. Mark on the day of his death: April 25.

# Test Your Knowledge: Easter

Who was among the first witnesses to the Resurrection?

- a) Pontius Pilate
- b) Joseph of Arimathea
- c) Nicodemus
- d) Mary Magdalene





# Test Your Knowledge:

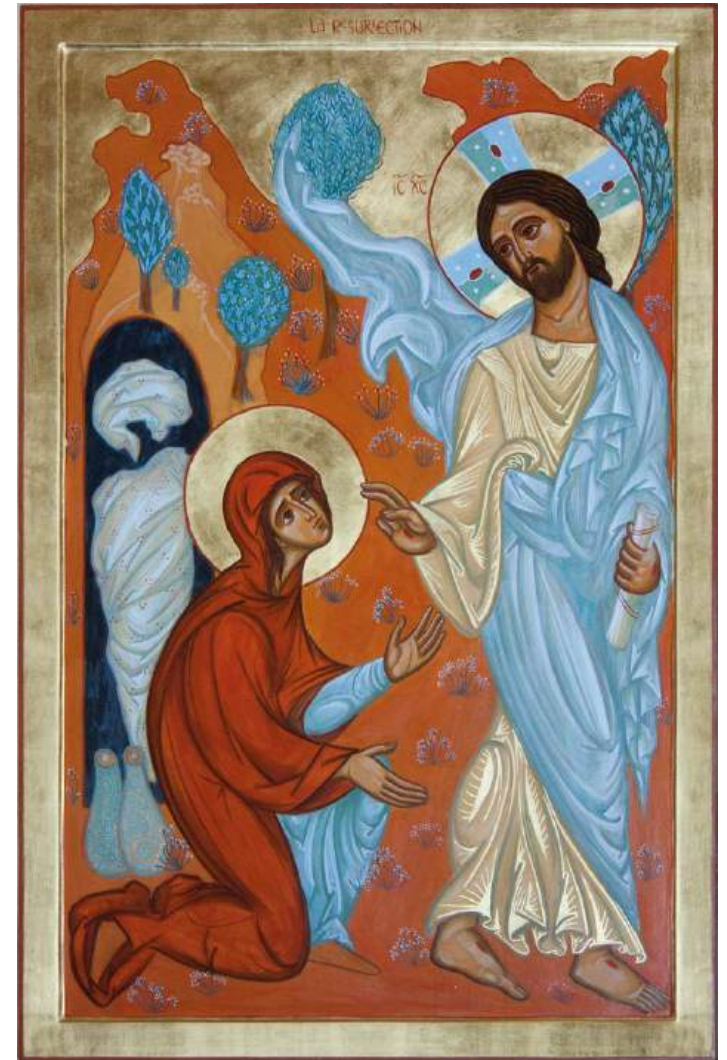
## Easter

Who was among the first witnesses to the Resurrection?

### d) Mary Magdalene

“Mary Magdalene and the holy women ... were the first to encounter the Risen One.

Thus, the women were the first messengers of Christ’s Resurrection for the Apostles themselves” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 641; see Luke 24:10). Thus, St. Thomas Aquinas gave Mary Magdalene the title, ‘Apostle to the Apostles’.





# Why do Catholics believe that Mary was a perpetual virgin?

The belief that Mary remained a virgin all the days of her life is part of our Church Tradition.

We refer to her as

‘ever-virgin’, meaning that she was a virgin before Jesus’s birth and remained so after His birth. Jesus was her only child. Even Protestant reformers like Martin Luther and John Calvin have defended this belief.



# Why do Catholics believe that Mary was a perpetual virgin? (cont.)



Scripture does refer to Jesus's brothers and sisters (Matt. 13:55-56).

However, in the Hebrew language spoken by Christ and his disciples, the same word is used for 'brother', 'cousin' or 'near-relative'.

# Test Your Knowledge: Easter

The tradition of Easter eggs began with \_\_\_\_\_ .

a) a group of Russian women

b) the Easter Bunny

c) St. Paul

d) Mary Magdalene





# Test Your Knowledge: **Easter**

The tradition of Easter eggs began with:

## **d) Mary Magdalene**

According to tradition, Mary took the Emperor Tiberius (14 - 37 A.D.) an egg as a symbol of the

Resurrection. The emperor told Mary that a person could no more rise from the dead than her egg could turn red. Miraculously, the egg immediately turned red.





# St. Joseph the Worker

So important is St. Joseph that we honor him twice in the liturgical year: as the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 19, and as 'the Worker' on May 1, which coincides with International Workers Day.

Joseph spent his whole life in service to God. As a carpenter and a provider for Mary, Joseph teaches us

about the value and dignity of work. Through work, we can give glory to God.

St. Joseph is the patron of our Archdiocese and the namesake of our Cathedral.



# Prayer to St. Joseph the Worker

**GLORIOUS PATRIARCH, ST. JOSEPH,  
HUMBLE AND JUST ARTISAN OF NAZARETH,  
THOU HAST GIVEN TO ALL CHRISTIANS,  
AND PARTICULARLY TO US,  
AN EXAMPLE OF A PERFECT LIFE  
THROUGH DILIGENT LABOR  
AND ADMIRABLE UNION  
WITH JESUS AND MARY.**

This prayer was written by the Venerable Pope Pius XII, who, in 1955, established May 1 as the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.



## St. Joseph the Worker

St. Joseph is often depicted with a white lily. Why? Lilies represent femininity and purity. Knowing that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit, Joseph protected Mary's virginity and honor.

Joseph too remained a virgin throughout his life. In some images, Joseph holds three lilies, representing the Holy Trinity.

# Joseph's Dreams

In Scripture, on four occasions, God spoke to Joseph in a dream:

- Joseph was assured that he should marry Mary, as she has conceived by the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 1: 20-21)
- After Jesus' birth, Joseph is warned to leave Bethlehem and flee to Egypt. (Matt. 2:13)
- While in Egypt, Joseph is told that it is safe to return to Israel. (Matt. 2:19-20)
- Joseph is warned to return to Galilee rather than Judea. (Matt. 2:22)





# Devotion to the Sleeping St. Joseph

The devotion to the Sleeping St. Joseph is a longstanding tradition, made popular once again by Pope Francis. Each night, we can write down a special intention and slip it under the statue of the Sleeping St. Joseph so he can bring it to Our Lord as he sleeps.



# Why do Catholics believe that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven?

This refers to the assumption of Mary – body and soul – into heaven. There is no mention of the Assumption of Mary in Scripture, although there are other instances of biblical characters being taken directly into heaven. For example, the prophet Elijah was whisked into heaven by a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11).



# Why do Catholics believe that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven?



The belief was expressed in the writings of the early Church Fathers in the first four centuries.

The Dogma of the Assumption of Mary was declared in 1954, 100 years after the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.



# Prayer for Pope Francis

Loving God, you are our shepherd,  
and we are the sheep of your flock.  
Look with favor on Pope Francis and  
welcome him into your heavenly halls.  
We give you thanks for the loving

service, faithful teaching, and prayerful guidance he  
provided the Church during his twelve years as pope.

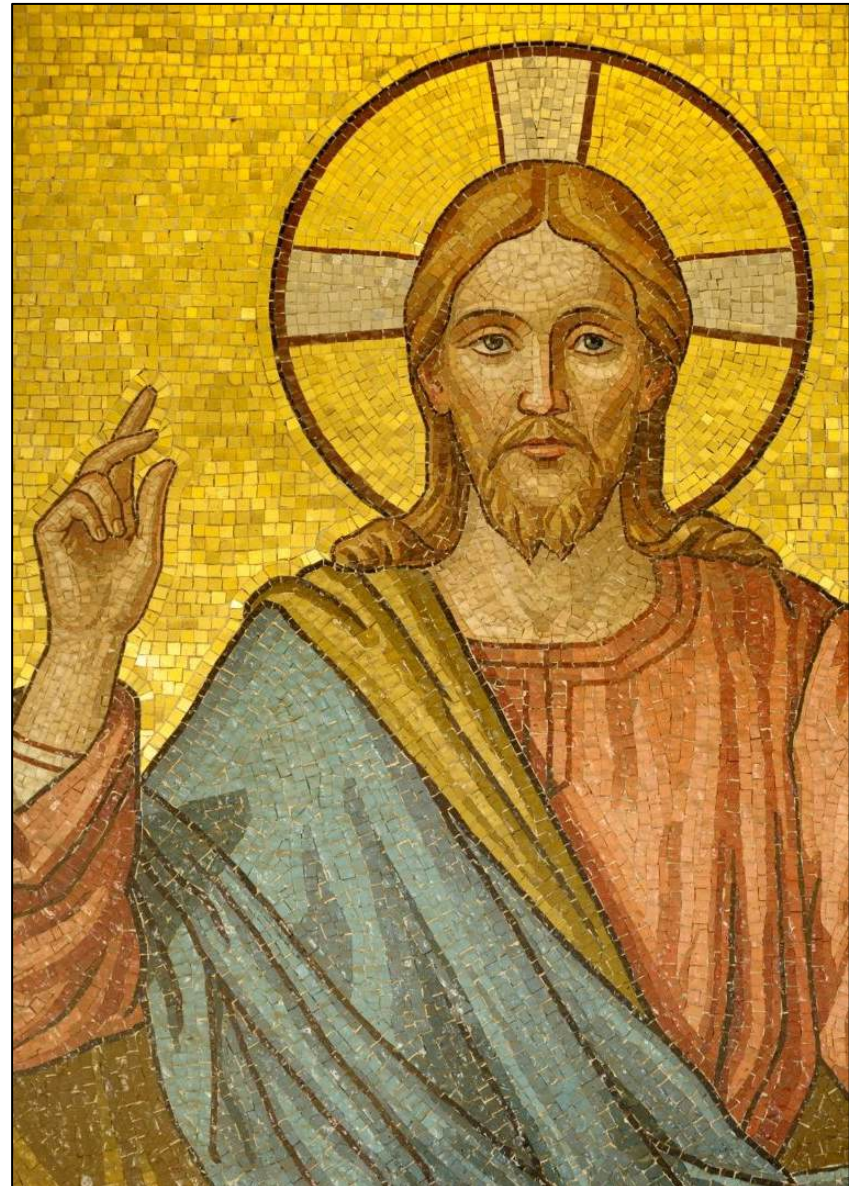
Guide the process of selecting a new pope for the  
Church. Grant us a pope who will please you by his  
holiness and carefully watch over the People of God.  
We ask these prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.



# Test Your Knowledge: Easter

Symbolizing light, innocence, purity, joy, triumph and glory, what is the liturgical color of Easter?

- a) pink
- b) white
- c) purple
- d) green



# Test Your Knowledge: Easter

Symbolizing light, innocence, purity, joy, triumph, and glory, the liturgical color of Easter is:

**b) white**

White is used for the Christmas Season and the Easter Season, feasts and solemnities of the Lord (except his Passion), Mary, the Apostles, and the angels and saints (not martyrs). White is also used for Nuptial Masses and Requiem Masses (for young baptized children under 7 years of age).





# Did You Know ...?



Since Simon Peter, our first pope, there has never been another pope that has chosen the name Peter. This is out of respect for Peter's greatness as an apostle.

On the other hand, twenty-three popes have chosen the name, John, and sixteen, Gregory.





**JESUS IS NEVER FAR  
FROM US SINNERS.  
HE WANTS TO POUR  
OUT ON US,  
WITHOUT LIMIT,  
ALL OF HIS MERCY.**

Pope Francis



# From the Suggestion Box ...

**What is the difference  
between disciples and  
apostles?**

The word *disciple* derives from a Latin word meaning 'pupil, student, or follower'. In the biblical sense, a disciple is one who imitates the life and the teaching of their master, their rabbi. They are apprentices, walking in their teacher's footsteps. All Christians are disciples; they are followers of Jesus Christ.



# From the Suggestion Box ...

## What is the difference between disciples and apostles?

The word *apostle* means 'one who is sent'.

In the New Testament, an apostle was one sent as a missionary to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and to



establish new communities of believers. All followers of Jesus were *disciples*. Only twelve disciples (and later Paul) were considered *apostles*.

# Prayer Before Mass

Dear God, help me to be open to all that you want to give me at Mass today.

My heart is open. I come in hope.

I come empty and unsure and troubled.

I come in need to be loved by you,  
united with this faith community,  
strengthened by your word,  
and nourished by the Bread of Life.

Cleanse me. Refresh me.

Strengthen me for the journey ahead.

Lead me to heaven.

Thank you, God, for this time together.

Thank you, God, for everything. Amen.



# Questions???

Do you have a question about the Catholic faith or about the celebration of the Mass? If so, write it on a piece of paper and drop it into the marked shoebox on the table at the back of the church. We will try to answer it in a Faith Loop at a later date.

Thank you.

