

(roc mass)

Today is the second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday.

At each of the liturgies this weekend, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, a sacrament of God's tender mercy.

This Sacrament is recommended for those who are suffering with a serious or chronic illness, those who are facing surgery, and those struggling with addictions, depression, or emotional illness.

The Anointing will take place after the homily. We ask that you sit in the first row around the church and Fr. Joe will come to you.

In today's gospel, Jesus offers this great gift of Peace to his friends as they hid in fear. These were among Jesus' closest friends – who during his agony, *his* darkest hour, they abandoned him, disappeared from view, even denied him.

It is to this group, in *their* darkest hour of fear, that Jesus brings the gift of peace – setting them free – free to love, to forgive, to heal.

What Jesus handed on to his disciples in the upper room...what the disciples handed on to that first community of believers...what has been handed on through the centuries...is ours today to receive and to live... in our world.

May we embrace Jesus' gift of Peace as our way of life.