

## FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Archbishop Protase Rugambwa** enjoyed his visit to our parish and was quite honored by all you did to make him feel welcome. Although he is already back in Rome, busy with his Vatican duties, for us his presence during the Triduum was an honor and a memorable privilege. On today's Divine Mercy Sunday, our readings sweep us up into God's immense capacity for mercy. Our liturgy commissions us to go announce God's mercy and to proclaim it to others. Pope Francis calls God's mercy "The heartbeat of the Gospel." After the resurrection of Christ, the early Christians witnessed to this truth and mystery in various

ways. May I use this Reflection to invite you to see the Risen Lord daily at each Mass and come to spend at least one hour with him every Friday?

The First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles explains how the early Christian community were galvanized by the Risen Lord who poured out His Divine Mercy upon the sick through his healing and preaching ministry. The Apostles' newly augmented faith enabled them to minister to the people, giving them the Lord's healing love in "*signs and wonders.*" In the reading from Revelation, St. John, delivers a beautiful vision of '*one like of a son of man,*' urging all to record and document all that they had witnessed.

The Gospel of John today welcomes us to dwell within that early joy experienced by the disciples upon receiving Jesus. Can you imagine their profound delight when they saw the Lord as they sat in their little community behind locked doors? The Gospel vibrantly reminds us here how Jesus the Risen Lord instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Sacrament of Divine Mercy, giving his Apostles the newfound power to forgive sins, saying, "*Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained*" (Jn 20: 19-23). This electrifying event was the ultimate game changer for the disciples. Furthermore, he will later, upon presenting the doubting Thomas' extend his Divine mercy especially to those who "*have not seen and have believed.*"

May I then, as your pastor, with passion, invite you to accept God's invitation to both receive and practice mercy? One way the Church receives God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and also finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Joyful Divine Mercy Sunday!