



Ask, Father James:

Jesus appears and blesses the first church in the "Upper Room" - at the same place of the Last Supper

Our Gospel reading John 20:19-31 tells of the first post-resurrection blessing of Jesus to the gathered "First Church." The disciples were gathered as a congregation and Church. Wherever the church gathers, Jesus appears in their midst (Matthew 18:20). It was on a Sunday. The gospel text says the appearances of Jesus occurred on the first day of the week. This influenced the early Christian tradition to change the Saturday (Sabbath) worship to celebrating the Eucharist on the first day of the week – SUNDAY – the day of the resurrection and appearances of Jesus.

Jesus appears and blesses them saying: Peace be with you and breathes on them. Pope John Paul II says that today's Sunday be called DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. Meaning, we should specially plead the Divine Mercy blessing. We all need the blessing of peace in our lives, homes/families, marriages, amongst our children, in our society and in our world.

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