

Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday – April 8, 2018

The Tough Side of God's Mercy - Divine Mercy Sunday

8 days ago, we and all the rest of the 1.3 billion Catholics throughout the world gazed with wonder and gratitude on the Resurrection of our Lord. Today, we turn our eyes back to the little group of Apostles who, eight days after Easter Sunday, were gathered once again in the Upper Room. And Jesus appears to them, once again, in the glory of his resurrected body, effortlessly passing through their locked doors and their hidden fears. The first thing he does is go after the one lost sheep whose heart is astray: he lets doubting St Thomas touch his glorious wounds, mercifully removing all doubts that had separated him from the rest of the tiny church. And then he looks into the eyes of his Apostles, breathes on them, and gives them the power and task to forgive sins in his name. This was the start of the sacrament of confession, which ever since then has been bringing other stray sheep back into the Good Shepherd's merciful care. 20 centuries after that encounter between Christ and his Apostles, in the year 2000, Pope John Paul II established this first Sunday after Easter as a universal Feast of the Church in honor of that Divine Mercy. In so doing, he was fulfilling a request our Lord himself made in his appearances to the Polish nun, St Faustina Kowalska. Just the thought of Christ's mercy fills us with confidence and hope. But it should also fill us with humility. If Christ is so eager to spread the news about his boundless mercy, it's because we need that mercy.

It's because sin is a reality in our lives and in our world, and sin causes real damage that only Christ can repair. This is the tough side of God's mercy - the reality of sin. When Jesus spoke to St Faustina, he never shied away from this uncomfortable topic.

He once told her: *Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity...tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, because the awful day, the day of My justice, is near. (Diary, 965) In another conversation, he explained the power of his mercy by explaining the ugliness of sin: Were a soul like a decaying corpse, so that from a human standpoint, there would be no hope of restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full. (Diary, 1448)*

Sin, our rejection of God's friendship, separates us from God, the source of all life, so a decaying corpse is the perfect image to describe a soul in the grips of sin. But the most disturbing thing about sin is that, unless a sinner seeks God's forgiveness, which is always available and unconditional, it can lead to eternal separation from God, to hell. St Faustina was given a vision of hell, in which she saw the torturous sufferings of the condemned. She wrote afterwards that God had given her this vision "so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like." She also wrote, "I would have died at the very sight of these tortures if the omnipotence of God had not supported me" (Diary, 741). Christ's mercy is a big deal, because our sins are a big deal. But Christ's mercy is the bigger deal. Jesus told St Faustina that compared to his mercy her miseries were like a tiny twig being thrown into a roaring fire. Jesus wants to incinerate our sins and selfish tendencies with his love; he just needs us to throw our twigs into the flames. The **ABC's of Divine Mercy**: We all need to be reminded of these difficult truths, because life in this world can get distracting. And the reminder he is giving us today will bear fruit in our lives if we follow the ABC's of the Divine Mercy. A. Ask for mercy. The best way to ask for his mercy for ourselves is through the sacrament of confession, entrusted to the Church on this very day 2000 years ago. But we can also ask for mercy for others, especially by praying for those who don't trust or believe in Christ's mercy. B. Be merciful. Jesus told St Faustina, "I demand from you deeds of mercy... You are to show deeds of mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere." This means doing good things for others not because they deserve it or to get a reward, but simply in order to follow in the footsteps of our merciful Lord. But where can we find the strength to do that? C. Completely trust in Jesus. Jesus himself will give us his grace, if we let him. He will make us into ambassadors of his mercy, just as he did with the first Apostles. Whenever we are afraid to Ask for mercy, when we feel too weak to Be merciful, we should simply pray the prayer that Jesus told St Faustina to write underneath the image of his Divine Mercy: "Jesus, I trust in you." And let's start right now, during this Mass, when we receive the fountain of mercy himself in Holy Communion. Nothing would please him more.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



Mass Intentions

April 7- 14, 2018

Sat. 4/7	8:00am	+Emerita Cabiagas
	5:30pm	The People of the Parish
Sun. 4/8	8:00am	+Marcos & Leopoldo Tañenor +Frank Borris
	10:00am	Miles Xavier Willis (thanksgiving)
	1:00 pm	Divine Mercy Novena Intentions
Mon. 4/9	Noon	+Leoncio Loza
Tue. 4/10	Noon	+Fr. William Hines
Wed. 4/11	11:00	+Janet Carter (Funeral)
Thu. 4/12	Noon	+All deceased parishioners
Fri. 4/13	Noon	+Fr. Arne Panula
Sat. 4/14	8:00pm	+Winnie Mandela
	5:300pm	Sick/Homebound Parishioners

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Francis Howard, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Geraldine Jones, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Robert Myers. *Iris Newman, *D. Cynhia Peters, *Willie Poole, Jr., *Dorothy Richburg, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Alice Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Donald Whiting, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta,

****We are updating the sick list. Please call the Rectory if you need to add or delete a name. Thank you.**



Finance Spotlight: Regular giving and donations dropped significantly this Winter following Christmastime. Currently we are in a shortfall to cover our bills for the month ahead. For those

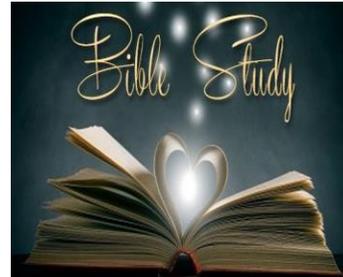
who can offer a sacrificial or Thanksgiving Passover/Easter gift to thank the Lord your donation is greatly appreciated. Currently we are in need: we have a deficit of **\$24,063** to meet our obligations. Thank you for your help!

ATTENDANCE REPORT

4/1/18

Offerings & Tithes: \$12,444

Utility fund: \$441



“Gospel according to Mark”.

Mondays at 5:45 pm in the Music Room with Fr. Evans.

Bring your Bible and a catechism. St. Mark, pray for us!



Lectors Needed: Reverent, clear-voiced Readers of the Word are needed for daily Masses and Sunday Masses. To sign up and try out please contact Sandra Coles-Bell @ scolesbell@msn.com



Jesus Promises Great Graces through this image & these prayer:

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You! (3x)

On the rosary beads, begin:

Our Father, Hail Mary, the Creed

On the Our Father beads, pray:

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On the Hail Mary beads, pray:

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

In conclusion, pray three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.