

BULLETIN: Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Easter! The Lord is Risen.

1. I will be at Sacred Heart in Wasilla the weekend of April 30, 2017 to do a mission talk and wedding. Deacon Harry Moore will do a communion service at Saint Theresa and Aileen Walsh will to the service at Holy Rosary.
2. The first week of May is our annual Tribunal Conference. This year it will be in Portland, Oregon.
3. Thank you to Fr Christ A for serving the Holy Rosary Community during Holy Week! Hope to see you back out here in the near future Chris!!

Photos from Clarks Point at our Easter Celebration





HOMILY

Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Her devotion to the Divine Mercy began spreading throughout the world in the 1930's.

By a Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II, during his homily at the canonization of Sister Faustina declared: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'"

Saint Faustina's life carried a mission of sharing the Lord's divine mercy for the world. In this Sunday's Gospel we meet the Apostle Thomas, known as "the doubter" for his hesitation to believe the first-hand accounts of Jesus' resurrection from his fellow apostles. Thomas, then, has his own divine encounter with the Risen Lord, the Divine Mercy Himself.

Many are familiar with the Divine Mercy image our Lord asked Saint Faustina to have painted in his memory. They all show the Divine Mercy image of Jesus portrayed with two rays coming from his heart. The rays symbolize the blood and water that flowed from his side after the lance was thrust into Jesus on the cross.

The diary of St. Faustina describes the image this way: "The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls."

The Divine Mercy image reflects Jesus' post-resurrection body. In the image we see the scars from the nails of his crucifixion; he appears able to walk through locked doors. His wounds remain but his body is indeed different and very much full of life.

The Divine Mercy message calls people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone, especially the greatest sinners. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

A — Ask for Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C — Completely Trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

Saint Caesarius of Arles stated that, “There is earthy or human mercy. There is also heavenly or divine mercy. Human mercy has compassion on the miseries of the poor. Divine mercy grants forgiveness of sins (495 Words).”

READINGS

Reading 1 Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles.

They were all together in Solomon’s portico.

None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them.

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them.

Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats

so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. (1) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His mercy endures forever."

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.
or:

R. Alleluia.

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.

The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just:

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.
or:

R. Alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.
or:

R. Alleluia.

Reading 2 Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

I, John, your brother, who share with you
the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus,
found myself on the island called Patmos
because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus.
I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day
and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said,
"Write on a scroll what you see."

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me,
and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands
and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man,
wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest.

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead.
He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid.
I am the first and the last, the one who lives.
Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever.
I hold the keys to death and the netherworld.
Write down, therefore, what you have seen,
and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve,
was not with them when Jesus came.
So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."
But he said to them,
"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands
and put my finger into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them.

Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.

But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

GENERAL INTERCESSION

Celebrant: With trust in the Divine Mercy, we now bring all our prayers before the Lord.

That the Mercy of our Risen Savior may draw all sinners to the fountain of repentance, forgiveness, and healing, we pray to the Lord.

That world leaders may never doubt the power of God's truth and love, we pray to the Lord.

That as the Apostles shared all their goods, Christians may share their goods with the less fortunate, we pray to the Lord.

We pray that all priests may be effective and compassionate ministers or reconciliation as the administer the sacraments of Penance, given to us by the Risen Lord, we pray to the Lord.

That all the sick, and those who suffer in any way, may be consoled and strengthened by God's grace, we pray to the Lord.

That all who have died may come to share the Resurrection, we pray to the Lord.

Father, we need your mercy, as you answer our prayers, fill us with the joy that comes from hope, and grant us the life that conquers death, we ask this through Christ our Lord.