

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**(Sunday of Divine Mercy)**  
**April 19, 2020**



**“REFLECTIONS”**

Dear Friends:

*Allow me to share a few thoughts from this crazy time as we enter into Easter season.*

*First, I must thank all of you in our parish for sending in your donations at a time when we have no public Masses. It is inspiring to me that you understand that our parish bills continue even when we are in shutdown. As I have discovered so many times in my work here at Immaculate Conception and St. Anthony's, you have consistently been so generous and thoughtful. It certainly makes a Pastor's job so much easier.*

*As I look back on Holy Week, which was the strangest Holy Week in memory, I seem to be focused more on Good Friday than the other days. It seems we are living through a non-stop Good Friday in our time of tribulation with the coronavirus. We identify with Jesus so much in His suffering as we experience suffering in our loneliness, our frustration, and in our sorrow.*

*Whenever I celebrate the Good Friday Liturgy, I remember that this was the very moment that Christ gave His life to save the world. It is at that moment that we offer probably the greatest prayer of the faithful of the whole year. I'm thinking that this is the most important time of the year to pray. And it was at that moment that I added a prayer – a prayer for the victims of the virus and their families, for those who are ill from the virus and for their healing, for those who work so courageously with the sick, and for an end to the virus. That was such an important prayer at a very fearful time.*

*Another traditional prayer service on Good Friday is the Stations of the Cross. It is so helpful to really reflect on every station. For some reason on Good Friday, I stopped and really thought about Jesus falling the third time. It seemed like He was doomed. How could He get up? How could He keep going? What was Jesus feeling at that point? And I was thinking about us in this world, and it sometimes seems like we are falling down for the third time. Jesus got up and kept going and finished His mission. We may feel we can't get up. But with the help of God we can get up and finish our mission. .*

*Fr. Wilson*

**UPDATE ON THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK** - In accordance with instructions from the Archdiocese of New York, weekday and Sunday Masses as well as our Religious Education Program, retreats and events are still cancelled until further notice. Immaculate Conception Church will however be open for private prayer and confession is available on Saturdays from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm in the Chapel of Immaculate Conception.

With respect to the Sunday weekly offering envelopes, I understand that troubling times make financial commitments difficult. However, I ask that if you are able to make your weekly donation, please feel free to drop it off at the Rectory (4 Lavelle Road) in the mail slot which is located on the lower right side of the door or at the parish office or place it in the mail. As always, I am grateful for your support and thankful for your steadfast commitment to the Church.

One thing that we all can do during these difficult times is keep one another in our prayers.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH :** Gerhard Herron, Evan Ciovacco, Lydia Casey, Mark Hamm, Grover Williams, Stephanie Merenda, Carol Wilson, Dawn Hazel Burrows, Jordana Bell, Lori DeLucca, Amanda Carneski, Linda Sartori, Winifred Capowski, Arthur Nadeau, LuAnn Ballantine, Frank D'Agostino, Sonja Kelly, Mike Butts, Erin D'Elia, Richard Piccoli, Dominic Nannetti, Santino Delfino, Ricky McGhee, John Daubman, Joseph Licurse, Joanne Balek, Michael Engel, Theresa Thompson, Linda Mary Dick, Leela Niranjana, Ralph Locantore, Fred Arni, Brandon Rojas, Leah Rost, Susan Consentino, Pat Boice, Arietta Carroll, Cecilia Cummings, Mary Wilkinson, Evelyn Tompkins, Mary Simmons, Marjorie Arni, Teal Burns, Jane Bly, Jennifer Boice, Nora Miller, Allen McPeck, Diana LaCurto, Genevieve Minischetti, Anita Nichols, Kathleen McGuire, Loretta Heller, Douglas Wilson, Donna Whalen, Stephen Bida, Leah Eurvard, Meghan King, Christine Darby, Peter Hill, Patricia Macura, Jerard Kain, Margaret and Roger Gregoire, Kyleigh Cummings, Caroline McEnroe, Kristin Paraszti, Patty Cassidy, Stephen Bida, John McKee, Kathleen Herron, Roseann Roux and Catherine DiRe.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION for 2020-2021** - As our Religious Education Program has been cancelled since Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, due to the coronavirus, our Registration for 2020-2021 could not be handled as usual. Due to these unforeseen circumstances, this year the Registration for our Religious Ed Students will have to be done primarily by mail. Letters were sent out to each of our families on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you register your child/children by **June 15<sup>th</sup>**, as books and supplies need to be ordered. If you know of anyone who has a child entering first grade, please ask them to call the office at 373-8193 and we will mail them a registration form. Our program helps parents pass on the Catholic faith to their children which is so very important.

**SUNDAY MASS** - Please see your Television Guide for the Easter Sunday Masses being offered on EWTN, Catholic Faith Network, and WPIX (Channel 11) from St. Patrick's Cathedral.

**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** - When you are unable to receive Communion:

**My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and  
unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.**

**BACKGROUND OF THE DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION** - The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. The message of mercy is that God loves us - all of us - no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. 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 to others.** 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.

**SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION** - The Pine Plains Council of Churches annually offers a scholarship to a graduating High School senior who is actively affiliated with one of the four Churches in Pine Plains. Applications are available from Fr. Wilson and must be returned no later than May 18, 2020.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION** - We received \$7,003.00 in donations this past week. We also received \$100.00 for the American Bishops Appeal and \$170.00 for the Holy Land. I am so very thankful for your generosity and truly grateful for your steadfast commitment to our Church. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families with good health.