

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

## April 26, 2020



### “DIVINE MERCY”

Dear Friends:

*Brothers and Sisters, in this mixed up and difficult situation that we are experiencing, it is easy to lose track of time. I often have a hard time remembering what day it is. I suppose you might have the same problem. It wasn't until Sunday that I realized that Sunday, April the 19<sup>th</sup>, was Divine Mercy Sunday.*

*Divine Mercy Sunday is the Sunday after Easter, so it shouldn't be easy to forget. But in this crazy time, we can forget anything.*

*I thought of the Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, not far from here. Divine Mercy Sunday is usually a very popular celebration at the Shrine. I don't know how it went, but I suppose it was cancelled this year. That's another thing to pray for: that the Shrine, and all the other religious sites in the United States, and around the world, are able to survive and continue to inspire millions.*

*Divine Mercy is such an important message for the world today. First, I think that many people think of God as a punishing and harsh Master. Often people are aware of the many commandments and rules of our religion and they think of God as a stern judge, counting all the violations of the rules that we commit. This unfortunate impression is dramatically countered by the understanding of God as Merciful. A loving God of mercy is the God we need as we struggle with sin.*

*Divine Mercy also is a devotion that reminds us of the need for humility. Another aspect of this modern world is that we are all sometimes too proud and we don't need God. Many might think “I can do everything on my own – I don't need anyone's help. And I don't need God's help.” The image of Divine Mercy reminds us that we are all sinners and that we do need God's help. You and I can't do it alone. Empowered by God's forgiveness, we can grow in Christ, and we can do great things for God. And we can do great things today, in this troubled and suffering world.*

Fr. Wilson

**UPDATE ON THE CORONA VIRUS OUTBREAK** - To date, Weekday and Sunday Masses, our Religious Education Program as well as First Communion and Confirmation are 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. During these difficult times, I think it is so important to 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, Catherine DiRe and Michael Gaddis.

+++++

**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.

**JESUS ALWAYS GIVES MORE THAN WE ASK** - During His time on Earth, Jesus exceeded people's expectations. He always gave more than was asked – but exactly what was needed.

*A paralyzed man sought a cure for his body but Jesus cured his soul (Mark 2:1-12).* A man's friend brought him to Jesus to heal his body, but Jesus forgave his sins. As God, Jesus has the power to heal. As man, He identifies with our deepest needs and gives us what is required to overcome them.

*A widow needed strength to bury her son but Jesus gave him life (Luke 7:11-17).* God's love for us is bigger than we can imagine and moves Him to shower us with miracles.

*Invited to attend a wedding, He elevated the marriage to a Sacrament (John 2:1-12).* At His Mother's request, Jesus blessed a new marriage by replenishing their empty wine stocks with better refreshment than they could have imagined. When we ask for her help, she makes sure her Son gives us what we need and more than we can imagine.

**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.**

**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** - This past week, we received \$5,145.00 in donations. We also received \$620.00 for the Holy Land. I am overwhelmed by 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.

**PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:** . Timothy Walsh, Joshua O'Hara, Connor Washburn, Sam Kent, Jordan Paraszti, Gavin Carroll, Richard C. Belliveau, Jimmy Darnell, Mike Mazza, Nathan Tong, Mark Hall and Tyler Jasmin. Please keep our servicemen and their families in your prayers.