

*Jesus, I trust in You!*

Dear friends in Christ,

We continue to celebrate Easter Sunday with today being the final day of the Octave Week of Easter. Today is the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. It was Divine Mercy Sunday three years ago that Saints John XXIII and John Paul II were canonized by Pope Francis. Saint John Paul the Great Canonized Saint Faustina Kowalska on April 30, 2000 and proclaimed the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Fifteen years ago, Saint John Paul the Great passed Away on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday, (April 2, 2005). Since his death, more and more faithful are understanding and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet as part of their daily spiritual growth. Instead of the three prayers you have seen printed in our bulletin since our shelter in place, today is printed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for families to pray together.

“Jesus, I Trust in You”. This statement of faith is seen on the Image of the divine mercy. Years ago, a parishioner donated a beautiful image of The Divine Mercy, which hangs on the back wall of our church next to the Marian statue. During this time of pandemic, let us offer the Chaplet of Divine Mercy to do just that, to surrender and place our complete trust in Jesus. As we continue this Easter Day to celebrate His resurrection, let us surrender to Him, placing all trust, faith and resolve in His Will.

More than 120 parishioners, including families, spent some time visiting the church Easter Sunday. I know that because 120 Holy Water bottles were placed outside the church that day. I have received more bottles earlier this week and again today, there will be bottles of Easter Holy Water available for any parishioner who would like to have one. The table again is set up outside the main entrance of the church.

Please be aware of my understanding that a number of families are feeling a financial burden during this time. With a large number of workers on furlough, or employment no longer existing and the concern we all have about our financial situation at this time. Realizing that is our ‘new normal’ we are dealing with this past month, I do however, want to share the overwhelming generosity of those 120 + parishioners who visited last Sunday, and many others who mailed or dropped off their Easter Offering to the Parish Office. As of now, \$15,009.00 has been received for our Easter Sunday collection. \$1,235.00 has been received by way of parishioners using our online giving program WeShare. The Good Friday collection amounted to \$364.00. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated at this trying time.

As we continue with our isolation, now over a month. we need to look at the immediate future of parish activities. The reception of First Holy Communion for our second graders, scheduled for May 9, 2020 and the Sacrament of Confirmation scheduled for May 30, 2020, will have to be postponed until the Fall. Even if by some miracle we find ourselves back in our physical church building next weekend, our children, especially the second graders need more vital catechesis to understand the significance of the Holy Eucharist. The postponement of Confirmation comes from the continual phone conversations I have with Bishop Lagonegro, the scheduled celebrant of this year’s ceremony. More detailed information will be emailed to the families involved in these sacraments from of our Religious Education Office.

After my letter to all of you, I am including information from Mrs. Ughetta Jilleba, our Coordinator of Religious Study. Some of that information I have already mentioned. I think its important to share again, especially more information about today, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Last Monday’s extreme wind and rain caused the Parish Office to lose power for a number of hours. Our back up generator never came on. For that time, our phones and internet were down. It is vital that you are able to contact the office, especially during a time like this. If you ever call and the phone continually rings, or you do not receive a connection after dialing the office, please know there is a problem with the power source. Our phone answering system answers on the fourth ring. I continually check messages throughout the day and return any calls that needs attention. Sorry for any inconvenience during the recent power outage.

As we continue to cope the best we can during this pandemic and isolation, let us remember on this Divine Mercy Sunday, “Jesus, I trust in You”

- Fr. Herbert T DeGaris

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION- “My Time with Jesus”**

**Message to Parents:** Due to the corona virus, we will not be returning to Religious Education for the remainder of 2019-20 year. The Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation originally scheduled for May 2020 will be delayed. We anticipate, God willing, returning to Religious Education this coming Fall. We will keep you updated. In the meantime, please continue attending Mass with Fr. Herb live stream on Sundays and weekdays, praying especially the Rosary, watching the videos on Formed.org up to and including the Fall. Keep a log with dates of what was completed.

The most important message is that even though our classes and sacraments are delayed, **our faith continues**. Jesus is the foundational principle on which our lives revolve and are built upon. He is the center of our lives - “The Way, The Truth and Life.” Our faith and its teachings make us who we are wherever we are - whether at religion class, home, school, sports, extracurricular activities, workplace, business, public arena, etc.

**Today we remember Divine Mercy Sunday:** In the year 2000 Pope John Paul II announced at the canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska that the Second Sunday of every Easter would be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday.

St. Faustina was born in 1905 (the third of ten children named Helena) who had three years of simple education. In 1925, she entered the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy responsible mostly for cooking and cleaning.

On February 22, 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina wearing a white robe, with two rays, one white and one red, flowing from his heart. He told her to make a painting of His image, promising that anyone who honored it would be saved. His Divine Mercy meant not only receiving mercy, but also giving it. He also told her that He wanted the Church to celebrate the first Sunday after Easter as the Feast of Mercy.

In Jesus’ other visits to St. Faustina He said, “Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you...I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My Mercy.” “The souls that will say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death.”

**Parents please teach your children: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.** It can be recited on rosary beads. We begin with The Sign of the Cross. *Continue with:* O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, I trust in you! (3 times). *On the rosary beads begin:* The Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostles Creed. *On the 5 large beads:* 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 10 small beads:* For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world. Conclude (3 times) with: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Jesus, have mercy on us and on the whole world. St. Faustina pray for us. St. Pope John Paul II pray for us.

**FROM THE DEACON’S BENCH  
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life.**

**Pope Francis**

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,  
THE FOOD PANTRY WILL BE CLOSED.**

We are asking at this present time that No perishable items be donated.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially:** John Capria, Billy Keenan, Michael Fay, Ruth Ann Melia , and Nora Malloy.

**Our recently deceased:** Msg. Richard J. Guastella, Mary Agovino.

We will announce at the Mass on Sunday for a period of one month the intentions of those who are sick and then we will print them for one month. After that we ask that you please contact us to make sure that they are placed on the list again for another cycle. It is the only way we know if someone has recovered. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 Vigil John G. Griffin (req. by family)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 *For the People of the Parish*

9:30 Mary Eugene Martin (req. by family)

11:30 Joseph Hanlon (req. by family)

**MONDAY, APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 Michael Celenza Sr. (req. by family)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>**

7:30 Gino & Carmen Baez  
(req. by Joe & Norma Rodriguez)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup>**

7:30 Paul & Giovanna Spiteri (req. by family)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup>**

7:30 Dell & Tom Flatley  
(req. by Maureen & Tom Wright)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 Carmela Bigeni (req. by family)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 Kathryn Filor (req. by family)

5:30 Vigil Michael Orapello  
(req. by Carol & Jay Wolk)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 Robert Christian (req. by The Spiteri Family)

9:30 George Maltbie (req. by family)

11:30 Mary, Domenic & Josephine Accurso  
(req. by family)

**CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Winner</u>
4/13	\$ 50	1103	Erin Sweeney
4/14	\$ 25	441	Steve Gadry
4/15	\$ 75	1602	Ed Maltbie
4/16	\$ 25	2172	Rebecca Marino
4/17	\$ 25	581	Evelyn Cornelo
4/18	\$ 75	1205	Rosemarie Young
4/19	\$ 25	2352	Elizabeth Hardin

Congratulations to all the winners.

We began last week to mail out winning prizes.

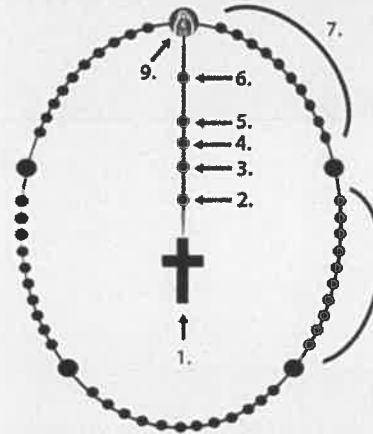
**NEWS OF INTEREST**

Please keep informed of the latest information from the Archdiocese by joining our Parish Facebook page at *Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church*, our website at *immaculatesp.org* or through our text message system known as *Flocknote*.

**PRAYING THE CHAPLET OF**

**DIVINE MERCY**

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads. It is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of St. Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.



- 1 **MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS**
- 2 **OPTIONAL OPENING PRAYERS**  
You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.
- 8.

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

- 3 **PRAY THE OUR FATHER**
- 4 **PRAY THE HAIL MARY**
- 5 **PRAY THE APOSTLES' CREED**
- 6 **PRAY THE ETERNAL FATHER**  
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.
- 7 **ON THE TEN SMALL BEADS OF EACH DECADE:**  
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- 8 **REPEAT FOR THE REMAINING DECADE**  
Say the Eternal Father (#6) on the Our Father beads and then ten "for the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (#7) on the following Hail Mary beads.
- 9 **HOLY GOD**  
(Repeat three times) Holy God, Holy Might One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- 10 **OPTIONAL CLOSING PRAYER**  
Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion—inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

**LEARN MORE**

[avemariapress.com/divinemercyformoms](http://avemariapress.com/divinemercyformoms)

