

Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday April 8, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 14th
5 P.M. – Diane Janak

Sunday, April 15th
7 A.M. – M/M Joseph Lauer
9 A.M. – Barney & Patricia Barfield
Anniversary Blessings!

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for pregnant women in our community – for a safe and healthy delivery.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

Your Gift to God: April 1st

Sweet Home	\$2,691
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$16
Holy Thursday	\$543
Good Friday	\$353
Rice Bowl	\$176
DSA	\$5
Koerth	\$1,614
Building Fund	\$320
DSA	\$7
Holy Thursday	\$461
Rice Bowl	\$99

May God reward your generosity!

Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

*"Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me,
so I send you."*

Bible Study on the Acts of the Apostles

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Come experience the power of the Resurrection like never before through the incredible book of the Acts of the Apostles. Join us as we explore the world of the early Church and get a glimpse into the faith of those who were closest to Jesus. This six week series led by Fr. Jacob will be held at the Family Center and will begin **Monday April 9th at 6:30 p.m.** **Bring your Bibles**

Confirmation Reminders

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place at St. Joseph's in Yoakum on **Saturday, April 21st** at the 5:00 P.M. Mass. Students and sponsors are asked to be at Church Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. for a brief practice.

First Reconciliation

The celebration of First Reconciliation in preparation for First Communion will be at 10:30 A.M. in the Church on Saturday, May 5th.

First Communion

On Sunday, May 5th we will have the celebration of First Communion at the 5:00 P.M. Mass.

First Communion Interviews

Those preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will have their interviews with Father on **Tuesday, April 17th** during regular class time.

*"Have you come to believe because
you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen
and have believed."*

Bluebonnet Youth Ranch Spring Fling

Sunday, April 8th

Yoakum Community Center
Doors open at 10:00 A.M.

BBQ Chicken Plates - \$9.00
Serving 10:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Shiner Hobo Band performing
10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Live Auction 12:30 – 1:30 P.M.

Plant Sale – Desserts – Artisans Market
Balloon Creations – Face Painting

Meal tickets available at First State Bank,
Yoakum National Bank, Bluebonnet Youth Ranch
and at the door.

Administrative Assistant for the Office of Transportation

The Diocese of Victoria (DOV) in Texas is looking for an Administrative Assistant for the Office of Transportation. The Administrative Assistant is responsible for supplementary oversight, operation, and maintenance of the Diocesan Transportation Program. This includes assistance in training, program operations, driving/background check operations, compliance monitoring and reporting. This position will also include providing support to the Office of Safe Environment as assigned. ***The position is security sensitive that requires extreme confidentiality, care, and trust.*** For more information or to apply go to the Diocesan website: www.victoriadiocese.org and click on Employment Opportunities.

Baptismal Preparation Class

The next class of Baptismal Preparation will be Saturday, May 12th at 9:00 A.M. at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room. **This will be the last class offered until September.**

The Emmaus Center: Roast and Toast

Saturday, May 12th – 6:30 P.M.
The Cathedral Center in Victoria

Help Support *The Emmaus Center. Counseling and Spiritual Direction in the Catholic Tradition.* Join in the fun and festivities on May 12th at 6:30 p.m. in Victoria at The Cathedral Center for the First Annual **Roast & Toast** benefiting *The Emmaus Center*, the Diocese of Victoria's Counseling and Spiritual Direction Center. This year's honoree will be **Father Gary Janak**, on the occasion of his 30th Anniversary of Ordination. The evening will include a delicious meal, entertainment and live and silent auctions, with all proceeds directly benefiting *The Emmaus Center*. *The Roast & Toast* event promises to provide an opportunity to enjoy a great evening and support the Center's continuing efforts to serve others. Call *The Emmaus Center* (212-0830) or The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory (575-4741) for tickets and further information.

Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Associate Director will primarily be responsible for assisting the Director in implementing the goals and vision of the Diocesan Youth Office as outlined in the USCCB documents, *Renewing the Vision and Sons and Daughters of the Light*. This position will be a non-exempt, full-time member of the Diocesan staff and should be an experienced professional in the field of lay ministry and formation. For more information or to apply go to the Diocesan website: www.victoriadiocese.org and click on Employment Opportunities.

Pt.-Time Administrative Asst. for the Office of Catechetical Ministry – Pastoral Institute

The Diocese of Victoria (DOV) in Texas is looking for a Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Office of Catechetical Ministry – Pastoral Institute (PI). The Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing assistance with the necessary tasks assigned by the Director and Assistant Director for the Pastoral Institute department and Office of Catechetical Ministry. For more information or to apply go to the Diocesan website: www.victoriadiocese.org and click on Employment Opportunities.

3 Surprising Things About Divine Mercy Sunday

Fr. Chris Decker

A feast for Pope Francis' favorite theme

1. Jesus asked for it.

St. Faustina Kowalska, was a young member of The Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Lodz, Poland. In the early 1930s, she received a series of messages from The Lord expounding His desire to extend mercy upon humanity. He asked her to write these messages down. Among the messages was the request for an image of Himself to be commissioned:

"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus I Trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the world." (The Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy in My Soul, 47)

Further, the image was to be venerated in a special way and at a certain time:

"I want the image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it." (The Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy in My Soul, 341).

So, Jesus specifically asked for the Divine Mercy image to be painted and for a Feast of The Divine Mercy to be instituted on the Second Sunday of Easter. Interestingly enough, only young Sister Faustina's religious superiors and spiritual director knew that these supernatural occurrences were taking place. It wasn't until after she died that parts of the diary became public.

2. It was a complete surprise to the Church.

Sister Faustina's diary became increasingly known among the Polish people, especially a priest named Karol Wojtyla. As Pope John Paull II, he would help to fulfill Jesus' desire that His message of unfathomable mercy to sinners be spread to the entire world.

On the occasion of Blessed Faustina's elevation to the dignity of the altar (her Mass of Canonization) The Pope Shocked the world by announcing the proclamation of a new observance on the liturgical calendar. He said, "It is important ... 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."

Needless to say it was kind of a surprise since only those who keenly paid attention to the decree of The

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments a week earlier would have been aware of the surprise waiting in the middle of the now sainted pope's homily.

3. It's actually an opportunity to receive mercy.

More than just a passing observance of the mercy of Jesus, Divine Mercy Sunday is a day that Jesus wanted to extend His mercy to sinners. According to the diary of St. Faustina, Jesus requested Divine Mercy Sunday with an express purpose:

"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (The Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy in My Soul, 699)

This is known as a plenary indulgence, and is one of the most misunderstood concepts of Catholic teaching. Whenever we sin, there are temporal effects due to the sins we commit. Even though the guilt may have been forgiven in Sacramental Reconciliation, there are still "ripples" that our actions (or omissions) cause for which we have to account. This is where the understanding of purgatory comes in.

It is in purgatory that we atone for these "ripples" or effects of our sin. We're purged of all impurity before seeing God. Even though there's no real way to measure time in purgatory, this purifying isn't instantaneous. An indulgence is an application of the graces given by Christ's saving actions on the cross as well as the redemptive suffering of the saints to a soul in need. The Church, specifically the successor of St. Peter (the pope) and in some cases a bishop, has the authority to dispense these graces called "indulgences". They're either partial or plenary (or full).

A plenary indulgence is complete remission of that punishment, just like Jesus claims in St. Faustina's Diary. And it is on Divine Mercy Sunday (as well as other special times and days throughout the year) that the mercy of Jesus can be experienced in this way.

Bottom Line? Get to Confession if you haven't already, receive Holy Communion, pray for The Holy Father and his intentions, and dive deep into the mercy of Jesus. He's been waiting for you!



Jesus, I trust in You