

Weekend Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 22

5:00 p.m. Mary Gibbons, RIP

7:30 p.m. Intenciones de los parroquianos

Sunday, April 22

9:30 a.m. Parishioners intentions

11:00 a.m. Parishioners intentions

11:00 a.m. Parishioners intentions

6:00 p.m. Parishioners intentions

Weekly Parish Activities

April 22 to April 28

*All confessions 30 minutes before Mass

*Sacred Heart and OLG confess after Mass

SUNDAY: Divine Mercy Sunday

Sacred Heart

9:30 a.m. ENGLISH Bible Study

9:30 a.m. SPANISH Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Mass - Sacred Heart

Our Lady of Guadalupe

10:00 a.m. CCD class

11:00 a.m. Mass - Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Brendan:

4:15 – 5:45 p.m. RCIA in CCD Building

6:00 p.m. Mass- St. Brendan

St. Mary:

9:30 a.m. Mass - St. Mary

CCD 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. at FLC

Monday

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass (St. Brendan)

Tuesday St. Mark

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass

8:00 p.m. CCM Women's Group meeting

At St. Brendan

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. CCD St. Brendan

6:45 p.m. Bible Study at OLG

7:00 p.m. Youth Group OLG

8:00 p.m. CCM meeting at St. Brendan

Thursday

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass

8:30 a.m. Bible Study

6:30 p.m. Español-Estudio Biblica en St.

Brendan

7:00 p.m. Grupo de Oración St. Mary

7:00 p.m. CCM Men's Group meeting at

St. Brendan

Friday St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignion

de Montfort; Arbor Day

8:00 a.m. Holy Mass

Saturday St. Catherine of Siena; Blessed

Virgin Mary

5:00 p.m. St. Brendan (English)

7:30 p.m. Santa Misa en St. Mary

(español)

A SEASON OF JOY

April 23, 2017

"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). This first line of today's first reading sets the tone as this fifty-day celebration of Easter opens before us. Today we listen to the teachings of three apostles—Luke, Peter, and John—who remind us that even though we have not seen Christ, we nonetheless are filled with joy as we place our belief in his saving death and resurrection. Each week during the Easter season we will gather as a community of faith to find strength and support from our God and from one another. Each week we will gather to break bread and offer the great prayer of thanksgiving, actions that will manifest the very presence of the risen Christ in our midst. Let us be open to the wonders of this season of joy.

First Reading — All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).

Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading — God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-9).

Gospel — The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts (John 20:19-31).

ST. MARY

Divine Mercy Chaplet: The Divine Mercy Novena chaplet will be recited at 9:00 a.m. on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23 at St. Mary. This will end the Novena chaplet begun on Good Friday. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IMPORTANT DATES & TIMES

First Holy Communion Practice Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m., please be here at 2:00 p.m.

First Reconciliation (Confession) by appointment on Wednesday, April 26th from 4-6 p.m. followed by final practice.

First Holy Communion will take place on April 29, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Mary.

PRIMER COMUNION FECHAS Y HORAS DE IMPORTANCIA

Práctica de la Primera Sagrada Comunión Domingo, 23 de abril de 2017 a las 3:00 p.m., por favor estar aquí a las 2:00 p.m.

Primera Reconciliación (Confesión) con cita el miércoles 26 de abril de 4-6 p.m. seguida de la práctica final.

La Primera Comunión tendrá lugar el 29 de abril de 2017 a las 3:00 p.m en St. Mary.

TARLETON CATHOLICS

Interested in sharing your Catholic faith with Tarleton students?

Tarleton Catholics is looking for a co-sponsor who desires to share their faith and offer support/guidance to students. This past year students have established a leadership team and built a foundation for community, faith building and service. For more information, please email Paul Caldwell or Dr. Jennifer Lancaster at: caldwell@tarleton.edu or jlancaster@tarleton.edu. Thank you!

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Seminarian Formation Fund (Good Shepherd Sunday) ----- May 6-7, 2017

***Basilica of the Ntl. Shrine of the Immaculate Conception----** May 13-14, 2017

ONE TIME

Catholic Communication Campaign ----- May 27-28, 2017

Annual Collection for the Holy Father (Peter's Pence) ----- June 24-25, 2017

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

THREE IMPORTANT FACT ABOUT DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



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 Paul 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.

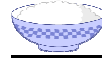
Bottom Line? Get to Confession if you haven’t already, receive Holy Communion, pray for The Holy Father and his intentions, and dive deep into the mercy of Jesus. He’s been waiting for you!

Father Chris Decker is a priest for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He writes for the [blog](#) for *The Catholic Underground*, where this article was first published. With special thanks to <http://www.aleteia.org/>

NEWS FOR ALL PARISHES

LOOSE CHANGE DRIVE (Pallotine Cans)

Please return your cans for the *Loose Change Drive* of the Irish Pallottine effort at your earliest convenience.. Thanks to all of you who have supported this drive.



CRS RICE BOWLS: Please remember to bring your Rice Bowls during the Easter Triduum or over the next two Sundays thereafter! Thank you!

CONFIRMATION FOR ALL PARISHES

Confirmation practice date is Wednesday, May 17th, 6 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mary. All parishes must attend.

The **Holy Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated at St. Mary Catholic Church on May 22, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Candidates and Sponsors need to be at Family Life Center by 6:00 p.m. The confirmandi from the four parishes will be confirmed by Bishop Most Reverend Michael Olson, who will celebrate Holy Mass with Fathers Matthew and James. All are encouraged to attend and support the Confirmandi in their continuing journey with Christ.

Bulletin: Send to: stsbrendanmarybulletin@yahoo.com Please call or text (512) 652-8006. Give name, announcement and parish, or prayer intention. Deadline: Wednesdays. Thank you!

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INFORMATION

- **First Holy Communion Practice Sunday**, May 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., please be here at 2:00 p.m.
- **First Reconciliation (Confession)** on Sunday, **April 30th** after Mass.
- **First Holy Communion Day** will be on May 7 at 11 a.m. Mass.

PRAYER CORNER: Prayers this week for: Baby Branson Eli Garcia, Rudy Guerrero, Filegonio Cardenas, Josefina Basulto de Solorio, Maria Inez Hernandez, Maureen Bole, Billy Joe Fulfer, Angel Coronado, David Gonzales, Jeanna DeVinney, Lisa Lagarde, Bill Luther, Kate B., Pete Sanchez, Teresa Sanchez, Anne Blount, Robert Gifford, Walter Serratt, Bonnie Kennedy, Claire Davis, Fr. Philip McNamara, Ed Withers, Jaime Dittrich, Nursing Home Patients, homebound parishioners, and all those who are ill