

April 08, 2018

**TRUSTING IN DIVINE MERCY!**

St. John Paul II gave us all a beautiful gift when on April 30, 2000, day of canonization of St. Faustina, he designated the Sunday after Easter to be **the Divine Mercy Sunday**. Since his election in March 2013, Pope Francis keeps emphasizing the message that God is all-merciful. He gave us the **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy** in 2015-16. You will recall that on that special **Year of Mercy**, we declared every door in our church to be a **Door of Mercy**, and we built our **Wall of Mercy** in the Narthex: a wall where we could display our individual works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual works. We also gave top priority to availing ourselves of the great sacrament of Reconciliation. The door to our confessional room was and still is the most important door of **Mercy** in our entire church: entering that door is already admitting our sorrow for our sins, and leaving that door is being a new person totally free of sin. Whenever we celebrate the Divine Mercy Sunday, we can remember God's invitation to be as **merciful as He is**. Yes, God forgives our sins when we are sorry for them, and promise Him, with His help, to avoid the future occasion of sin. Yes, we in return have to **show the same mercy** to those who have offended us. It is never easy to forgive someone who has hurt us deeply. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit, God's Grace, can we do so. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, we are all invited to reconcile with one another. I personally know that I have hurt many of you either by my words, actions, or lack of actions, and I ask you to forgive me.

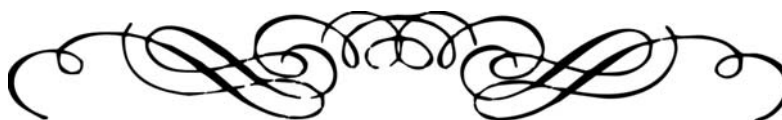
Over the last three years, we have prayed the **Divine Novena each Good Friday** at 3:00 pm. Last week, a very large number of you came and prayed together on the first day of this **powerful Novena Prayer**. Your continued devotion to do so every following day, either at home or here in church gathered daily at 3:00 pm is powerful. And it's not too late! We hope that you will join us in completing this Novena at 2:00 pm **this Sunday, April 8**. We will begin with **one hour of adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament in the main church, during which time you can also go to confession, and we will conclude with the Ninth Day of the Novena along with the prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 pm. Everyone is invited to come. If you cannot spend the entire one hour of Adoration, come at 3:00 pm. You will not be disappointed. The chanting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet is very peaceful and powerful: a time to pray for one another! At the initiative of some of you, a **Divine Mercy Ministry** has been established. The members of this ministry pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet in our church at 3:00 pm every First Saturday of the month. If you are interested in joining this new ministry, just let our office know.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you, including our multitude of volunteers (Altar Guild, Musicians, Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, etc.) for making our **Triduum** this year such a wonderful, spiritual experience. Special thanks go to our Parochial Vicar, Fr. Santiago, who led the beautiful celebrations of Holy Thursday and Good Friday. His homilies touched many of us. I will not forget his emphasis on the importance of **servng one another**, first and foremost in our families, with love and humility as in the washing of one another's feet on Holy Thursday: imitating Christ kneeling down to wash the feet of his disciples as only slaves were doing in those days. Fr. Santiago also reminded us during the Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday that all of us carry heavy crosses. We can not be true Christians if we do not endure our daily crosses. Through accepting those crosses we are able to encounter Christ and be redeemed. My cross during this Holy Week was having lost my voice since Holy Tuesday. God was giving me a clear message to slow down, be a better listener, and to be more prayerful through silence.



I hope that you all had a most blessed Triduum, and I pray that the **Joy of the Risen Lord** will be **in your hearts** throughout the fifty days of the Easter Season. May we all be touched by God's Infinite Mercy! May we remember that God is always there waiting for us: always waiting for our asking of reconciliation with Him! May this Divine Mercy Sunday be an opportunity to **reach out in love** to those who may have hurt us! May we all be able to say with great confidence, "**Jesus, I Trust in You!**" May we all declare every morning when we wake up, and every evening when we rest for the night, those five words; **Jesus, I Trust in You!** If we trust in Jesus, He will not disappoint us! We will be able to find that **Peace, Love and Joy** He wants for each one of us right here, right now, and then forever!

*One in Christ,  
Fr. Alain*



# Sunday of Divine Mercy

## CCD Class Schedule

April 8/9: CCD Class  
 April 11 (6:45PM) or April 14 (9:45AM): 1st Communion Workshop  
 April 15/16: CCD Class  
 April 21 (12:30-6:30 PM): Youth Retreat w/NET Ministries (required for Confirmation Year 1 students)  
 April 22/23: CCD Class (Monday 8th grade attend Sunday classes)  
 April 23 (6:45 PM): Confirmation rehearsal  
 April 24 (7:00 PM): Confirmation with Bishop Bevard  
 Contact **Therese Thiedeman** at 301-645-7112 or [dre@olhoc.org](mailto:dre@olhoc.org)  
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 FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team (meets monthly)  
 Edge: Middle school youth ministry (meets monthly)  
 Life Teen: High school youth ministry

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All-Youth Night is April 22  
 Begins with 4:00PM Mass followed by  
 pizza and gatherings for FIAT, EDGE  
 and Life Teen

### **\*\* Youth Summer Retreat \*\***

Rising 9th graders-seniors, join us for **Camp Veritas** August 12th-18th at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. It will be an amazing week of outdoor fun, prayer, time with friends, and growing in your faith.

For more information and youth opportunities, please visit [www.olhoc.com/ym](http://www.olhoc.com/ym) or contact **Marlen Coles** at [marlen@olhoc.org](mailto:marlen@olhoc.org).  
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### NET Ministries Retreat

On Saturday, **April 21st** 12:30 to 6:30 PM, a NET Ministries team of 12 young adults will lead a retreat for Middle and High School age youth at OLHOC. Theme: **Risen - "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." 1 Cor 15:14**

Drama, music, games, small group discussions, and large group presentations are all used to present the Gospel in a dynamic way. Middle and High School youth are encouraged to join us for this Spring Retreat and invite some friends! **Confirmation Year 1 students are required to attend**, as this is your Spring Retreat experience. Visit [www.olhoc.org/lifeteen](http://www.olhoc.org/lifeteen) to register.

## OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

<http://www.olhoc.org/preschool.html>

**Now Open – Registration for Fall 2018**

For more information, send an email to [preschool@olhoc.org](mailto:preschool@olhoc.org) or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

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### Community Outreach

The next **Shepherd's Table Dinner** will be held on **Thursday, April 19, 2018 at Good Shepherd Church**. We need menu planners for May.

Our next Outreach Committee Meeting is **May 2** at 7PM in the Social Hall.

All are welcome!



**Sharing Sunday** – Non-perishable food donations are always welcome and can be left in the Social Hall. All donations will go to the local food bank, managed by Catholic Charities, on Irongate Drive in Waldorf.

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### 2018 Annual Jubilarian Mass

Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years on Monday, June 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call or email the parish office to register by Monday, April 16.

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### Divine Mercy at OLHOC

Divine Mercy Sunday begins at 2:00 PM today with an hour of adoration including time for Reconciliation. At 3:00 PM we will conclude the Divine Mercy Novena.

Then, beginning May 4, the Divine Mercy Ministry invites us all to come and pray the chaplet each **1st Saturday at 3:00 PM**.

### Prayer Requests \*

We are asked to pray for: Fred Kowaleski, Kaylie Fowler, Ernest Mack, Derrick Webster, Brandon Mack, Patricia Trefry, Gregory Marciano, Johnné Webster, Dionne Gause, Dorian Webster, Alfred Brown, Doris Chesley, James Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dunham, Tom Casey, Connie Miller, Windsor Family, Jessica Holt, Sue Holt, Wilbur Etbauer, Todd Iddings, Michael Proctor, Edmund Madden, Abigail Poole, Sarah Parker, Dennis Forgash, David DeMarr, Joseph Mason Proctor, Larry McGraw, Sonia Knapp, Lynn & Ronald Henrion, Ebony Jenkins, Tina Gallagher-Detwiler, Judy Studds, Pearl Green, Fr. Robert Pittman, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.



*\*Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.*

*OLHOC offers its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Guillermo Sánchez*

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### Mass Intentions this Week

- Saturday, April 7, 9:00 AM: Florence Hall
- Saturday, April 7, 5:30 PM: OLHOC Parishioners
- Sunday, April 8, 8:30 AM Lagman & Strawberry Families
- Sunday, April 8, 10:00 AM: Wayne Lloyd (+)
- Sunday, April 8, 11:30 AM: Teresita Lastimosa (+)
- Tuesday, April 10, 9:00 AM: London Sutton
- Wednesday, April 11, 9:00 AM: Anna Treshock (+)
- Thursday, April 12, 9:00 AM: Patricia Griesert (+)

### The Vocations Tree

*God, our Father, please send us holy priests. All for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all for the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with St. Joseph.*

The Vocations Tree project invites our parish community (English and Spanish) to offer prayers to our Seminarians. Each year the Archdiocese Vocation Office generously prints out Seminarian cards. Each card has the photo of a seminarian and a bit of information about him along with a suggested prayer on the back. We ask parishioners to pick a card from the "tree-wall" in the Narthex, and commit to praying for that seminarian every day until Pentecost Sunday, May 20.



### Lost yet Found

Various items (rings, watches, cell phones, etc.) have been found in and around our church building. If you or anyone you know has lost anything, please stop in or call the church office during business hours to claim.



### Mass Readings for April 15, 2018

*Third Sunday of Easter*

**First Reading \* Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15,17-19**

**Second Reading \* 1 John 2:1-5**

**Gospel \* Luke 24:35-48**

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### Thank You!

The parishioners of OLHOC showed their generosity again for the Archdiocese of Washington Lenten Food Drive. The Knights of Columbus completed the non-perishable food counts and the Southern Maryland Food Bank brought their staff and truck to bring all the items to the Food Bank which serves the hungry in this area. The total weight of the donated food was 1,776 pounds, which equals the feeding of about 89 families.





**FRANCISCAN MONASTERY**  
*of the* **HOLY LAND IN AMERICA**

### **April 28-29 - Franciscan Monastery Herb and Plant Sale**

Come to the popular Franciscan Monastery Plant and Herb Sale, April 28 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.)-April 29 (8 a.m.-3 p.m.) at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017. Get organic herbs, flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, fresh honey and Monastery-grown plants, while enjoying food and craft vendors in one of Washington's most beautiful locations. Free garden tours on the hour, Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sponsored by the volunteer Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild to support the preservation of the monastery's historic gardens. Information: [www.FMGG.org](http://www.FMGG.org), @gardenguild on Facebook and [gardenguild@gmail.com](mailto:gardenguild@gmail.com).

### **May 5 - Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild Open House**

Beekeeping, garden tours – and a volunteer-run vegetable garden that produces local, fresh food for parish food pantries and food non-profits in our community. Learn more about what we do and how you (or your parish group) can volunteer. The Franciscan Monastery Garden Guild Open House is Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m.-12 noon, 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017 (meet at the greenhouse behind the gift shop). Everyone is welcome. Visit [www.fmgg.org](http://www.fmgg.org) or email [gardenguild@gmail.com](mailto:gardenguild@gmail.com).

### **May 13 - Music at the Monastery**

Music to uplift your soul! Enjoy Music at the Monastery on Sunday, May 13, 4 p.m., with organist Carol Feather Martin. Held at the historic Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017, this monthly series is cosponsored with the DC Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. A light reception follows; free-will offering. For information: [myfranciscan.org](http://myfranciscan.org) or call 202-526-6800; free parking; Brookland/CUA Metro and H6 bus toward Fort Lincoln.

### **Catholic In Southern Maryland**

St. Mary Church, Newport in Charlotte Hall, MD, will hold monthly Healing Masses in honor of St. John Vianney every 1st Thursday. Confessions begin at 6:00 PM followed by 6:30 PM Healing Mass. 11555 St. Mary's Church Road, Charlotte Hall, MD, 20622 - 301-934-8825.

[www.stmarychurchnewport.org](http://www.stmarychurchnewport.org). All are welcome!