



Dear Friends in Risen Christ,
 One lady wrote in to a question and answer forum. "Dear Sir, Our preacher said on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed

Him back to health. What do you think? Sincerely, Bewildered.

Dear Bewildered, Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his side...put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens." Sincerely, Charles.

As this Sunday is known as divine mercy Sunday, let us reflect on what is **Divine Mercy**.

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us, loves all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that **His mercy is greater than our sins**, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering **ABC**:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

"Love is the great healer of all ills." By St Francis De Sales. Sincerely, Fr Joseph.

Readings for the Week of April 8, 2018

- Sunday** **Second Sunday of Easter**
 Acts 4:32-35, Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;
 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31
- Monday** **The Annunciation of the Lord**
 Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11;
 Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
- Tuesday** **Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr**
 Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
- Wednesday** **Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr**
 Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Jn 3:16-21
- Thursday** **Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr**
 Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20;
 Jn 3:31-36
- Friday** **Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr**
 Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
- Saturday** **Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr**
 Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21
- Sunday** **Third Sunday of Easter**
 Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9;
 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday 8:00 a.m. | April 8—Divine Mercy Sunday †Bette Field (Wedding Anniversary) req. husband & children |
| 11:00 a.m. | <i>Pro Populo</i> |
| 3:00 p.m. | Divine Mercy Chaplet and Confessions |
| 4:00 p.m. | Benediction |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Mass Intentions for the Week | |
| Monday 8:00 a.m. | April 9—The Annunciation of the Lord †Pat Killeen req. family |
| Tuesday 8:00 a.m. | April 10 †Dave Williams req. family |
| Wednesday 8:00 a.m. | April 11—St. Stanislaus †Lottie & John Genge req. family |
| 9:00 a.m. | †Neal Piecyk req. St. Mary Student & Staff |
| 11:30 a.m. | †Ryan Tapper req. Bill & Annette Markovich |
| 12Noon | Senior Luncheon |
| Thursday 7:00 p.m. | April 12 Rosary |
| Friday 8:00 a.m. | April 13 Special Intentions of Doug Kudwa req. Kudwa family |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 4:30 p.m. | April 14—Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter †Sam Scaccia & Mary Giangrosso req. family |
| Sunday 8:00 a.m. | April 15—Third Sunday of Easter <i>Pro Populo</i> |
| 11:00 a.m. | †Frank Schroeder req. Elaine Etheridge |

| READERS & EMHC—APRIL 14/15 | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 4:30 P.M. | 8:00 A.M. | 11:00 A.M. |
| READER | READER | READER |
| L. Ehinger | F. Van Meter | T. Stanek |
| EMHC | EMHC | EMHC |
| M. Dick | J. Podkol | T. Thomas |
| N. Garcia | D. Fry | M. Middlebrooks |
| S. Hill | S. Gibbs | E. Huver |
| Y. Lean | M. Walker | F. Ross |
| R. Garcia | P. Arbanas | M. McCaw |
| W. Hitchcock | A. Killeen | L. Marshall |
| R. Grzebyk | K. Killeen | F. Wallace |
| ALTAR SERVERS—APRIL 14/15 | | |
| D. Kasson | S. DeYoung | J. McCaw |
| K. Kasson | J. Aviles | A. Roy |
| K. Muir | A. Gibbs | S. Marshall |

Please Welcome and Pray for those who have joined our parish family this Easter Vigil:

Ronald Bartell
David Doxey
Lacey Haluch
Teresa Martinez
Kristin Roy
Gage Urquieta
Michael Van Sickle

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Almighty and ever-faithful Lord,
gratefully acknowledging Your mercy
and humbly admitting our need,
we pledge our trust in You and each other.

Filled with desire,
we respond to Your call for discipleship
by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ.

We profess that the call requires us
to be stewards of Your gifts.

As stewards, we receive Your gifts gratefully,
cherish and tend them in a responsible manner,
share them in practice and love with others,
and return them with increase to the Lord.

We pledge to our ongoing formation as stewards
and our responsibility to call others to that same endeavor.

Almighty and ever-faithful God,
it is our fervent hope and prayer
that You who have begun this good work in us
will bring it to fulfillment in Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen

Prayer Requests

2nd Week of April—Mike Thomas, Mike Johnston, Dale Kemp, Lauren Markel, Kathy Pritchard, Fr. David Otto, Todd Sikkema, Sr. Melanie, Special Intention, William Rios, Eric Burza, Virginia Stimac, Mary Nash, David Koppers, Bill & Jeanne Grevelding, Tammy Hawes, Ellie D., Nicole Middaugh, Chris Nash, Ron Sons, Florence Hunt, Theron Mosey
Pray for those residing at Bronson Commons and White Oaks.
Please call the office if you are in special need of prayer help.

Saint Mary School Community, For over 80 years, this school has provided a home for students and teachers. It has been a place where we learn, worship, laugh, and give and more than a thousand students have walked through these doors. To celebrate the 80th year of Saint Mary School, we would like to have a new sign in front of the school to welcome a new generation of students and their families. The sign will be surrounded by brick, and we are offering these bricks for engraving at \$100 per brick. Order are due **April 30, 2018**, forms can be picked up in the school office. Questions, call 657-3750.

THE SPONSOR OF THE WEEK is Paw Paw Rentals. To view the full advertisement, see the back page of our bulletin. Please patronize all of our sponsors because they make the bulletin possible.

Mass of Healing April 17 - In recognition of April being National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Diocese of Kalamazoo will be celebrating a Mass of Healing for victims and survivors of child abuse. Bishop Bradley will celebrate the 12:10 Mass on Tuesday, April 17th at St. Augustine Cathedral. Please contact Marina Hentz, Associate Director of the Office of Safe Environment with any questions. She can be reached (269) 903-0171 or mhentz@diokzoo.org.

DIOCESAN 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: A special Mass for couples of the Diocese of Kalamazoo who are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversaries in 2018 will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2018, 3:00 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral in Kalamazoo. Couples celebrating their 50th Anniversary *any time* in 2018 are asked to contact their parish office rectory (269-657-4459) so that their names can be submitted for a personal invitation from Bishop Bradley to participate in this celebration. Invitations will be mailed beginning August 20th.

The next baptism class will be held on May 16th at 7:00PM in the school. **Baptisms will be on May 27th** after the 11:00AM Mass. Please call the office to register.

St. Mary School Easter Basket Raffle 2018 Winners

#1 Pig Basket—Carmen Alvarez
#2 Family Fun Time Basket—Gary Mencl
#3 Cash Dash Basket—Josh Stipes
#4 Kids' Easter Basket—Jennifer Dobbins
Congratulations to the winners and Thank You to all who purchased tickets to support our school!

Joy Filled Marriage preparation weekends for the engaged 2018 dates - The *Joy-Filled Marriage* is a comprehensive marriage preparation program rooted in virtues as well as the *Theology of the Body*. The program incorporates rich Catholic theology with sound psychology. If you are planning to marry in the Catholic Church, one of the components for marriage preparation is experiencing a JFM weekend before the wedding day. Please register early because spaces fill up fast. 2018 weekend dates are: July 7-8, September 22-23, and November 17-18. Visit the website to download a registration form: <http://www.diokzoo.org/marriage-preparation> Questions about this marriage preparation weekend? Contact Socorro Truchan at (269) 903-0199 or via email: struchan@diokzoo.org

Please join us for the performance of **“Tolton: From Slave to Priest”**, an original one-man live drama performed by actor Jim Coleman. This production will be presented in Stevensville at Lakeshore High School Auditorium, 5771 Cleveland Avenue on Sunday, April 22 at 4PM. Audiences encounter first-hand the life and message of Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first African American Catholic priest. Born a slave, ordained a priest in Rome, and sent to minister in Chicago. Admission: \$5 per person, pre-sale or at the door. Additional free-will donations will be accepted. Tickets and info: St. Joseph Parish Office (269) 983-1575).