

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter which is known as **Divine Mercy Sunday**. **Mercy** is the expression of God's goodness, love and forgiveness for us. Many of us are familiar with the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** devotion. The purpose of this devotion is for all of us to "to trust in God's **mercy**, obtain God's **mercy** and to show **mercy** to others."



Pope Francis in his Bull of Indiction written during the Extraordinary Jubilee of **Mercy** (known as "Misericordia Vultus") stated: "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of **mercy**. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Our salvation depends on it. **Mercy**: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. **Mercy**: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. **Mercy**: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of their brothers and sisters on the path of life. **Mercy**: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

Our Scripture readings for today remind us that we should be grateful for the gift of God's **mercy** in our lives **and** we should model and extend God's **mercy** by forgiving those who have hurt us: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Jesus sends us forth to be the face of God's compassion and **mercy** by bringing the peace, joy and comfort of the Holy Spirit into our families, schools, work places, communities and our world.

In our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles St. Luke describes what the idyllic Christian community looked like as they experienced God's love and **mercy** in their daily living. The community is described as one big happy family where everyone was agreeable with and cared for each other. Everyone devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, shared a communal life, celebrated the Eucharist together and prayed for one another. All their energy was focused on serving Jesus by preaching and witnessing to His kingdom.

In our second reading St Peter reminds his audience that God's **mercy** is the cause of all the good that takes place in the life of a Christian. The Christian's new life and their destiny to enter God's

Kingdom are due to the **mercy** that is revealed in Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection.

Today's Gospel passage from St. John reminds us that God's **mercy** is available for all. This Gospel passage takes Jesus' apostles and all His followers from fear to joy, seclusion to mission, absence to presence, disbelief to faith and mere existence to new life. John describes how the Risen Jesus appeared first to some disciples and then later in a second appearance to the apostle Thomas. John also describes how the Risen Jesus divinely commissioned His apostles (by breathing the Holy Spirit upon them) and sends them forth to be God's instrument of love, **mercy** and forgiveness.

The Risen Jesus gave His Church the ability to formally forgive sins and be an instrument of God's **mercy** in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confession/ Reconciliation. That same Risen Jesus also invites and encourages each one of us to be His instrument of love, peace and **mercy** within our families, schools, work-places and communities. As we continue to joyfully celebrate Jesus' Resurrection let us accept Jesus' invitation to be His instrument of **mercy** and to the best of our ability bring His love, peace, forgiveness and **mercy** to all we encounter this week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 18	5:00 p.m	Charley and Mim Shepler
Sun Apr 19	8:30 a.m.	Tim and Imogene Kahle
Sat Apr 25	5:00 p.m	Special Intention
Sun Apr 26	8:30 a.m.	For our parishioners

SUNDAY COLLECTION



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Readings for April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22 – 33

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17 – 21

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:13 – 35

