

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 11, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

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

Pope Francis, in his Bull of Indiction 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 mercy. The word mercy reveals the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy is the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy is 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 is the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness."

Today's Scripture readings remind us of the gift of God's love and mercy in our lives. We should always be grateful for God's everlasting gift to us. One way in which we could show our gratitude to God for His tremendous gift is by extending **our** love and mercy to others.

In our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke describes the early Christian community. Luke's description clearly displays a community that is committed to extraordinarily noble values. Luke mentions that the early believing community shared a common purpose in mind and heart and they shared a common bond of selfless generosity. The community's principal values were **unity** in mind (faith) and heart (love), the **sharing** of earthly resources and material possessions (**detachment**) and apostolic **witness** to Jesus' Resurrection. The community's unity of mind and heart characterized the Greek concept of friendship while the sharing of possessions in common was a Jewish value.

Our second reading from the Letter of John is a tract about the Holy Trinity. This tract describes God as the One who begets (Father); it identifies Jesus as the Son of God and credits the Holy Spirit as the One who testifies to Jesus' Resurrection as being His triumph over sin and death. The tract also describes the way believers participate in this Trinitarian reality. By loving God and obeying His commandments, believers become God's children and through their faith in God, believers can conquer the evils that threaten them.

Today's Gospel passage from St. John focuses on three events. *Continued...*

Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 10	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt, Kathy Sehlhorst Len + Sally Rieman
Sun Apr 11	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Apr 11	10:00 a.m	Jan Schulte, Beth Schroeder Tim Kahle, Katie Wischmeyer
Sat Apr 17	4:00 p.m	Rosemary Meyer
Sun Apr 18	8:00 a.m.	Fr. Gary Ferguson
Sun Apr 18	10:00 a.m	Fr. Dave Beck

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$1,635.00 Loose \$415.00
Total \$2,050.00



30 envelopes returned = 15%
Easter to date: \$5,220.00

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

Assignments for April 17 & 18, 2021

Money Counters: Chad Wolford, Courtney Gerten

4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Karen Phillips
Ushers: John Parinello and Bob Minto
Lector: Amy Tabler
E.M.: Jennifer Tschuor
Servers: Shylee and Ronald Kaufman

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lectors: Chris Denecker
E.M.: Betty Gerten
Servers: Conner Gerten

Readings for April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 3:13 – 15, 17 – 19

2nd Reading: 1 John 2:1 – 5

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:35 – 48

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... First, in His post-resurrection appearance, the Risen Jesus makes Himself known to His frightened disciples who had barricaded themselves behind locked doors. Jesus gives them the gift of His **peace**. With this gesture the disciples recognize Jesus and rejoice. Second, after Jesus gives His disciples the gift of His peace, Jesus then bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit upon them and **commissions** them to carry on His work and ministry. In commissioning His disciples, Jesus gives them the authority to forgive and retain sins. The third event is Jesus' appearance to the skeptical Thomas who had been absent for Jesus' first appearance. Seeing Jesus, Thomas professes his profound faith in his words: "My Lord and my God." All three events manifested Jesus in His **new life** as the Risen Lord.

The Risen Jesus gave the Catholic Church the ability to formally forgive sins and be an instrument of God's love and mercy thru the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Risen Jesus also invites and empowers each one of **us** to be an instrument of His love, peace, and mercy within our families, schools, and work-places. As we continue to celebrate this joyous Easter Season may we realize and utilize **our** ability to be the Risen Jesus instrument of mercy and love in our communities and in our world. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

The MHCO Service Group is sponsoring a BBQ Chicken Dinner on April 24th from 4 – 6 p.m. The \$8 dinner includes ½ chicken, mac & cheese, green beans, and a roll. Tickets are available from any service group member, by email at gloriaferdin1992@gmail.com, by phone/text at (419) 429-2621, or on Facebook at [facebook.com/mhcoohio](https://www.facebook.com/mhcoohio) (additional fee applies). Edna Conkling will be selling tickets after Mass this weekend. Meals will be delivered curbside at 158 N. Jackson at Bubba C. BBQ. Money raised will help purchase a gently used transport can for MHCO. Thanks for your support!

ACA Progress Countless lives are touched by every contribution to our 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Thank you for pledging to help meet our **parish goal of \$14,364, as of April 2, 60 of our families has raised \$8,887.50.** Thank you!!



Congratulations to Lane and Jessica Oberly on the baptism of their three daughters, Scarlett, Nora, and Millie. Welcome to the family, girls!

Thank you to all who took responsibility for ministries during Holy Week. Thank you to Rhonda Maag for creating yet another delicious and beautiful cake for the reception. Thank you to Beth Yarger and all the volunteers who helped host the Red Cross blood drive.

Please remember to pray for our First Communicants who will be in retreat on Saturday, April 17th.



Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life. **Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist**, a three episode series, explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation.

Watch Series: <https://watch.formed.org/presence>
Recommended Schedule for Three Weeks in a Row:
April 10-16 **Presence - Episode 1: God Is with Us**
April 17-23 [Presence - Episode 2: The Story of the Eucharist](#)
April 24-30 [Presence - Episode 3: Bread for the Journey](#)

Optional 11 Minute Video for Children: [Presence - For Children: The Miracle at Every Mass](#)

Help with VBS It is time for St. Mary's to host VBS again! Kelly is looking for help with set up and tear down, spray painting decorations, leading sing and play exercises and more. For more information, please contact Kelly Honse at the Parish Office or at khski7@aol.com



P.R.E.P

K-5: Class will meet Wednesday, April 14 from 6:30 – 7:30.

6th Grade: Class will meet April 18 from 11 – 12:45

Jr High: Class will meet April 18 from 11 – 12:45



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet April 18 from 11 – 12:45