



**Mass Intentions  
Sunday of Divine Mercy  
April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**4/18 SATURDAY VIGIL:**

*Sunday of Divine Mercy  
Kathleen Arnold*

**4/19 Sunday of Divine Mercy**

*The People of the Parish  
O'Donnell - Anderson Families*

**4/20 MONDAY**

*Johnson Family*

**4/21 TUESDAY**

*Costante Toffolo*

**4/22 WEDNESDAY**

*Poor Souls in Purgatory*

**4/23 THURSDAY**

*Special Intentions*

**4/24 FRIDAY**

*Anthony Parent*

**If you wish to continue to keep up with your weekly offertory during the church closure, you can mail it to Blessed Sacrament Church, P.O. Box 27, Stowe, VT 05672**

**Also, you can make a one time donation or monthly offertory on E-Giving, just contact Phyllis via email ([blessedsacrament@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:blessedsacrament@vermontcatholic.org)) to sign up or call the parish office (messages are checked frequently). On our website ([bscvt.com](http://bscvt.com)) you can also donate through paypal. Thank you so much for your generosity!**

Dear Parishioners,

*During the second full week of Easter the church remembers to celebrate the great gift of Divine Mercy. Our Lord Jesus appeared in the early 1900s to a Polish nun, Saint Faustina Kowalska, and revealed to her this important image and message that the modern world needs to hear now more than ever. It is a message from the heart of Jesus, opened wide to receive those who have been wandering in their faith away from God and those whose lives have been filled with brokenness from sin and shame. Jesus, in his message to Saint Faustina, and through her to the church and to the world, speaks of how great the mercy of God is. This theme has been constant in the papacy of our holy father, Pope Francis. One of my favorite quotes from him is, "The Father never gets tired of forgiving us our sins. However, it is we too often get tired of asking him for forgiveness."*

*One unfortunate reality in the last 40 years in the church has been a growing numbness to the reality of sin in our lives and in the world, and it's effect that divide us from God, from others, and even from ourselves. The Sacrament of Reconciliation has unfortunately been neglected by the faithful. Confession is one of the two healing sacraments of the church, where within our own hearts and souls we allow Jesus, the divine physician, to attend to and heal those parts within our lives most effected by sin.*

*How does sin affect us? Sin, is best understood as a lack of something. The way that darkness is measured by an absence of light or cold is measured by an absence of warmth; so sin is measured by an absence of God. And the tragedy of that is that it has become for us normal to live with this burden. From the beginning...It was not so!*

*The Easter season confronts us with the powerful truth that Christ is the victor over sin and death, and that only in him can sin and it's effects in our lives be conquered. The power to defeat Satan does not come from us... But only comes from our total reliance upon Jesus to save us, to heal us, and to make us new. Your faith challenge for this week is 2-fold: First, find a good examination of conscience online and prayerfully go through it so that you may be well prepared for the next opportunity you have to come to confession; and secondly, learn and pray the chaplet of Divine Mercy, whose great message we need to hear again and again: Jesus I trust in You! Have a blessed week!*

With Mary  
In Jesus,  
Fr. Jon

## **This year Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne's message**

for the Bishop's Annual Appeal is quite different than in past years and addresses the immediate crisis the COVID-19 pandemic has caused us personally, has caused our parishes and has caused the Catholic Church in Vermont. To listen to the full message visit: [bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org).

"Many are sick, and their loved ones are caring for them. Some are dying and being cared for by doctors, nurses and healthcare workers in hospitals. Many have been laid off from work. Our schools are closed. Our restaurants are empty. And the public worship of the Church is suspended," Bishop Coyne said. But "even when we are physically isolated, we are not spiritually so," he continued. "Scripture reminds us that 'God is near to those who call on Him'... when we pray, when we meditate and when we offer devotions, we are always joined with the Church, physically on Earth and in the High Church of Heaven."

To help the Catholic community stay connected during this period of isolation, diocesan staff has been working on many creative ways to provide digital opportunities for prayer, worship (especially the Mass), daily scripture reflections, recitation of the rosary and so much more.

"We have embraced as many media outlets as we can to provide daily and Sunday Mass and faith engagement opportunities for people isolated at home, including live-stream, Zoom, Facebook Live and more," said Ellen Kane, executive director of development and communications. "Our Holy Week services had more than 1,500 viewers requiring us to upgrade our live-stream package."

For the weekly online schedule and resources visit: [vermontcatholic.org/spiritualresources](http://vermontcatholic.org/spiritualresources).

Meanwhile, Catholic schools are continuing to provide remote learning to nearly 2,000 students throughout the state. Vermont Catholic Charities' four residential care homes are caring for the most at-risk population, and emergency aid is being distributed to families and individuals who are struggling — many due to COVID-19 hardships.

"We had to quickly adjust our 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal plans due to the pandemic," Kane said. "We had

hoped to launch our Diocese's first-ever capital campaign that was focused on helping parishes implement the recent Diocesan Synod goals: expanding evangelization, building vibrant parishes and improving communication. For now, the campaign has been delayed, and we are asking the community to please support their parishes by contributing to their weekly offertory and to prayerfully consider a donation to the Bishop's Annual Appeal."

The Vermont Catholic Community Foundation has set up a temporary online giving platform for parishes that do not have one. In addition, a donate-to-parish webpage was created on the Diocese's website to make it easy for parishioners to find a link to their parish's online giving portal or to the temporary form created by the foundation: [vermontcatholic.org/donatetoparish](http://vermontcatholic.org/donatetoparish).

"Even though the churches are closed right now, parishes count on the weekly offertory gifts to maintain their buildings and pay the bills," Bishop Coyne said. "Similar to parishes, the Bishop's Appeal helps keep the Diocese operating and supports the Catholic Church in Vermont. I ask for your prayers and your support to sustain us during this difficult time."

To make a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal please click [bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org). In a recent message to the Catholic community, Bishop Coyne offered words of encouragement: "The Church has remained steadfast for centuries. It is the means by which Christ will remain with us 'always until the end of the age' (Matthew 28:20). Over the centuries, we have faced invasion, famine and plague. Each time humanity has faced a profound and serious threat, the Church and its people have answered in solidarity with others and with full trust in the Lord. This pandemic will not stop us from proclaiming the Good News, caring for the neediest in our midst and spiritually feeding God's flock. As in the past, we will persevere in hope. We will get through this together."

*VTC • Ellen Kane*

**Please check our Facebook page for updated information and resources.**