

Divine Mercy Sunday

Remarks and Announcement

Loretta Sursely Pastoral Coordinator

The Archbishop's letter speaks to an important theme of this Divine Mercy Sunday, seeking God's healing and mercy at the same time keeping our faithfulness and trust in Him. We have been through a lot as a faith community and as we have said so often it is the care and compassion of so many of you that keeps us bound together as family. One of my favorite passages in the bible is from Corinthians 4:7-9 "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

Indeed, we are all jars of clay fragile and poor, yet we carry within us an immense treasure. During these very challenging times we may indeed feel afflicted, perplexed, in despair, and persecuted. But this Divine Mercy Sunday we can look to the promise of God's mercy, the real treasure inside our jars of clay.

The announcement of our new parish priest is another call to us to look to the future with hope and the willingness to trust in God's plan. I am grateful to the Archbishop for his confidence in the leadership of our parish and all of us on the parish and school staff, look forward to working with Fr. Bawyn. At the same time, I know you will join me in thanking Fr. Sebastian for his pastoral ministry to our parish.

His willingness to come to our parish during a difficult time and provide such dedication and commitment to the pastoral care of all of us is inspiring. Even more so given the pandemic situation and the unique ministry demands required of our priests today.

When we pray together the Divine Mercy Chaplet today at 2pm we will be praying each decade for a different intention: First responders, medical researchers, the deceased and their loved ones, those suffering economic distress, and for a deepened protection and promotion of all human life. At the end, Fr. Sebastian will carry the Monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament to the front doors of our church to join with other priests and the Archbishop in blessing all those in our communities.

I would invite us to also include Fr. Sebastian, Fr. Tony and all our priests in this collective prayer. This will be a time to pray for healing and peace but also in gratitude for the sacrifice and dedication so many are making on our behalf.

As always, I am grateful to all of you for your continued faithfulness. Your faith in our ministry to you, your faith in our community and your commitment to our faith.

Together let us ask St. Faustina and St. Madeleine Sophie to pray for us.