Jesus said to Thomas,
Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.
—John 20:29
Dear Friends,

We are concluding the octave of Easter! The second Sunday of Easter has been termed Divine Mercy Sunday since 2000. Pope John Paul II reminds us “Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity”.

Jesus presents Himself to the disciples and invites them more than the glory of the resurrection, to the mystery of the wounds made by the passion and crucifixion. The invitation is extended to the disciples and to us to place our finger on the wounds, especially the wound in His Heart, the source from which flows the great wave of mercy poured out on humanity.

Sr. Faustina Kowalska reveals the two rays of light - red and blue as in the picture of the Divine Mercy, shining from that Heart and illuminating the world: 'The two rays,' Jesus Himself explained to her, 'represent blood and water', reminding us of the crucifixion testimony by the evangelist John. The blood recalls the sacrifice of the Cross and the gift of the Eucharist and the water, represents Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The ‘Easter Mystery of the Redemption’ of the suffering, death, burial, resurrection, culminates in the outpouring of His mercy. He underwent all these to reveal the Mercy of the Father and His own merciful love for the humanity. Jesus entrusted the perpetuation of His mercy to humanity when Jesus said 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven and whose since you retain are retained'. The forgiveness that we seek from the Lord and one another, the tranquility of forgiving and being forgiven, is the mercy and peace that He offers us. Is our hearts open enough to be flooded by the mercy of the Lord?

Even though this particular season prevents us from the worthy reception of the sacrament of reconciliation and Holy Eucharist, nevertheless, we are all invited to the spirit of the divine mercy through our ardent and sincere desire and intent. St. Peter in the second reading comforts us, ‘for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, …attain you the salvation of your souls’.

May the Lord present in our midst, pour out Himself as His mercy into the life of each one of us and the whole world such that we become His agents filled with His mercy to share that mercy with everyone and the world so that true mercy and healing fills the earth.

Blessings,
Fr. Sunil

THE PRAYER OF SAINT SISTER FAUSTINA

“O Jesus, I want to live in the present moment, to live as if this were the last day of my life. I want to use every moment scrupulously for the greater glory of God, to use every circumstance for the benefit of my soul. I want to look upon everything from the point of view that nothing happens without the will of God. God of unfathomable mercy, embrace the whole world and pour Yourself out upon us through the merciful Heart of Jesus” (Diary, 1183).
Help Us Make a Difference

The Corona Virus is challenging all of us. As a parish we are learning to be church in new ways and one parishioner is inviting us to make a difference.

Our St. Vincent de Paul team received a $500 donation from a parishioner to help families who are struggling to make ends meet. With this gift and some left over reserves the ministry will be able to provide much needed groceries to 16 Alameda families.

How else should we respond to the needs in our community? How can you help?

The end of the “Stay in Place” order will not stop the struggles for many families in our community. The downturn in the economy is threatening. This means they will fight to pay their rent, feed their families and take care of their bills. The worst part of this pandemic may not be the isolation but the loss of jobs and people’s ability to take care of themselves financially. St. Joseph Parish and our St Vincent de Paul Ministry wants to be ready to help people. Would you like to become part of this ministry? Would you like to help us build up our financial reserves so we can provide emergency assistance to our neighbors and fellow parishioners?

If you want to learn more about getting involved with St. Vincent De Paul please contact Louise Astle at: louisea.svdp@gmail.com. If you would like to donate please send a check to St. Joseph SVdP, C/O Business Manager, 1109 Chestnut St. Alameda 94501 or make a contribution through your Faith Direct Account to St. Vincent de Paul. Your involvement helps make the Resurrection real for another person and enables St. Joseph to be a parish that makes a difference.

Recently a parishioner wrote a reflection that concludes:

“Jesus and the Apostles are in a boat at sea, when a storm hits. Jesus is sleeping, and the others, annoyed, wake him. Doesn’t he care about what they’re going through? He tells them not to worry - to just have faith. Now we, too, are in a storm, but we are all truly in the same boat, and God is with us.”

May God be with all of us, and each and every one of us, and may we all row this boat together for the betterment of all. As we are Sheltering in Place, let’s find creative ways to help the poor, the homeless, the refugees, the immigrants, the elderly, the young, the unemployed, and all who need assistance in this time of crisis.

This is our opportunity to demonstrate that our Faith makes a difference. Thank you for believing. Happy Easter.

If you know someone who needs our service, please have them call the Parish SVdP Hotline, (510) 995-9471.

 Feast of Saint. Mark, Evangelist
April 25

According to the Acts of the Apostles, Mark’s mother owned the house where the first Jerusalem Christians prayed and where Peter stayed after his miraculous release from prison (Acts 12:1-19). The New Testament also notes that Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas on their mission to Antioch and that he was associated with both Paul and Peter in Rome. He may have written his Gospel, the shortest of the four, based on Peter’s preaching while in Rome. By tradition, he was the martyred bishop of Alexandria, Egypt, with his relics later carried to Venice by Venetian merchants. In art, he is often symbolized by a lion. He is the patron saint of lions, lawyers, Venice, interpreters, and prisoners.

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Pray for the Sick

May those who are in need of our prayers, place their trust and faith in the comforting presence of the Lord. Amen

Sandy Anderson, Natalie Ackerman, Romelita Bautista, Emma Branigan, Ronald Bautista, Jazlynn Cain, Nia Cain, Fong Che, Jan Curtis, Mary Cronin, Lee Corral, Jamal Downs, Sherry Eastwood-Falls, Jeff Murray, Michael Long, Michael Lancaster, Monte McEntee, Joann Miller, Maureen McGee, Lolla Manibusan, Michael Ricica, Becka Smith, Rachel Sutherland, Nory Reyes, Evangeline Reyes, Ramon N. Tirona, Prosperidad Salamanca, Dee Pickett, Charles H. Thomas & John Verduzco.

Please call (510) 522-0181 if you would like a name to be added to the list.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 18
8:00pm
For the People of the Parish

Sunday, April 19 (Live Streamed)
12 noon Mass
Lorenzo G Jimenez
†Jennifer Stahl
†Miguel Antonio Gamo
†Jose Manuel Gonzalez
†Robert 'Bobby' Driver
†Herbert Keaouai Kauhanet

Monday, April 20
8:00 am
†For All Souls

Tuesday, April 21
8:00 am
†For All Souls

Wednesday, April 22
8:00 am
†For All Souls

Thursday, April 23
8:00 am
For the People of The Parish

Friday, April 24
8:00 am
†Deceased Members of Belluomini & Marcheschi Families

Saturday, April 25
8:00 am
†Anton Seelenbacher

Sunday, March 26
(Live Streamed)
†Deceased Family Members of Edna Go
Harnett Family - Living & Deceased
†Iris Wall
†Judy Kbibs

Mass Intentions

Our parishioners can continue to request for Mass Intentions while the Parish Office is closed during the Shelter-In-Place. Requests are available the beginning of May. Please email your request to Parish Secretary, Sherley Lim: secretary@sjblameda.org. Please provide the following information when requesting for the Mass Intention:

- Name of person requesting
- Name of person for whom Mass is offered - living or deceased
- Date of Mass requested
- Telephone and email information

Note: There is no guarantee of availability of Mass for a requested date. We will confirm request by email or phone call.

The suggested stipend is $10/request. Upon confirmation, check for stipend can be mailed or drop off to the Parish Office. Please indicate date of Mass on memo line.

Pray for the Sick

May those who are in need of our prayers, place their trust and faith in the comforting presence of the Lord. Amen

Sandy Anderson, Natalie Ackerman, Romelita Bautista, Emma Branigan, Ronald Bautista, Jazlynn Cain, Nia Cain, Fong Che, Jan Curtis, Mary Cronin, Lee Corral, Jamal Downs, Sherry Eastwood-Falls, Jeff Murray, Michael Long, Michael Lancaster, Monte McEntee, Joann Miller, Maureen McGee, Lolla Manibusan, Michael Ricica, Becka Smith, Rachel Sutherland, Nory Reyes, Evangeline Reyes, Ramon N. Tirona, Prosperidad Salamanca, Dee Pickett, Charles H. Thomas & John Verduzco.

Let Us Remember

All those who have died, especially
Patrick Michael Dundon and Necitas Villagonzalo
As a Community of faith, we offer our prayers and support to their families and friends.
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.
Origin of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Divine Mercy image, the Chaplet, and the Novena

Saint Faustina: Mankind’s need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an “eclipse of the sense of God” and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. St. John Paul II explains:

This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, nazism and communism, were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of offsetting the evil of those ideologies, that fact that God is mercy—the truth of the merciful Christ. And for this reason, when I was called to the See of Peter, I felt impelled to pass on those experiences of a fellow Pole that deserve a place in the treasury of the universal Church.

~ Pope Saint John Paul II, Memory and Identity (2005)

Divine Mercy Sunday: St. Faustina’s Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed, for example:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. … Let no soul fear to draw near to Me. … It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary, no. 699)

On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Image: Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbolizing the blood and water that was poured out for our salvation and our sanctification. The Lord requested that “Jesus, I trust in You” be inscribed under his image. Jesus asked that his image be painted and venerated throughout the world: “I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish” (Diary, no. 48) and “By means of this image I will grant many graces to souls” (Diary, no. 742).

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy: The Chaplet was also given to St. Faustina with this promise: “Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you” (Diary, no. 1541). “Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. … Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy” (Diary, no. 687). (Instructions for its recitation are provided on a separate page.)

The Divine Mercy Novena: Jesus gave St. Faustina nine intentions for which to pray the Chaplet beginning on Good Friday and ending on the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm
(Office Closed for lunch: Noon to 1:00pm)
Volunteer Coverage
Sat. 8:30am - 12:30pm / Sun. 8:30am - 1:00pm

Parish Website: www.sjbalameda.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sjbalameda
FORMED: www.sjbalameda.formed.org

Clergy:
Rev. Mario Rizzo - Parochial Administrator
(510) 995-9421 / frmario@sjbalameda.org
Rev. Sunil Orathel - Priest In Residence
(510) 917-9558 / sunil@sjbalameda.org
Dcn. Peter Lawongkerd (Youth Ministry Coordinator)
510-995-9474 / deaconpeter@sjbalameda.org

Sacrament of Marriage
Preparation for registered, active parishioners should begin at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date. Please contact Fr. Mario Rizzo directly to begin the process. Call (510) 995-9421 or email: frmario@sjbalameda.org.

Sacrament of Baptism
Please stop by the Parish office or check our website under “Sacraments” for information.
- For infant baptism (6 or younger) contact Parish Office, 510-522-0181
- For adults or children over age 6 please contact Anne Marie, 510-995-9409

Parish Staff:
Steve Mullin - Pastoral Associate
510-995-9475 / smullin@sjbalameda.org
Stan Schonberg - Business Manager
510-995-9411 / business@sjbalameda.org
Anne Marie Fourre - Director of Faith Formation
510-995-9409 / afourre@sjbalameda.org
Sr. Asha Kooliyadan R. - Director of Pastoral Care
510-995-9406 / srasha@sjbalameda.org
Eric Bertelsen - Liturgy Coordinator
510-995-9404 / ebertelsen@sjbalameda.org
David Howitt - Music Director
510-995-9403 / dhowitt@sjbalameda.org
Michael Chinnavaso – 7:00pm Music Coordinator
mchinnavaso@sjbalameda.org / 510-5220181
John Scott - Youth Mass Music Coordinator
sjbyouthband@gmail.com / 510-522-0181
Susan Gahan - Coordinator for Funerals
510-995-9416 / sg@sjbalameda.org
Sherley Lim – Parish Secretary
510-995-9420 / secretary@sjbalameda.org

Community Staff:
Julie Guevara - Interim Principal, SJND High School
510-523-1526 / jguevara@sjnd.org
Katherine Francisco – Principal, Elementary School
510-522-4456 / kfrancisco@csdo.org

St. Vincent de Paul Hotline: (510) 995-9471

Note: Most events or gatherings are canceled during Shelter In Place, although some are continuing through videoconference. For information on how to connect, contact:

RCIA Inquiry: afourre@sjbalameda.org / Special Needs Inclusion Ministry: drmaponce@yahoo.com
Pastoral Care Ministry: srasha@sjbalameda.org / Bible Study: demcgaffey@gmail.com

St. Joseph Basilica Ministries
All God’s Children Prayer Group - Mondays, 7:00-9:00pm, Basilica
Basilica Choir Rehearsal - Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, Basilica
Bible Study - Thursdays, 10:00-11:30am, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Children’s Choir - Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm, Basilica / CIA (Christ in Action Children’s Ministry) -Tuesdays, 3:30 - 4:30 pm, Basilica
Cub Scouts - Weekly Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Learning Center (Ends June)
Grief Support Ministry - 2nd Thursday, 6:30 - 8:30pm, Parish Center (Damien Room)
Guadalupe Ministry - 1st Thursday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Knights of Columbus - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00-8:30pm, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Legion of Mary - 2nd & 4th Fridays, 7:00 - 8:30pm, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Legion of Mary - 1st & 3rd Saturdays, Reconciliation Room
Moms’ Bible Study Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Pastoral Care Team - 1st Sunday, 8:45-9:30am, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Inquiry - Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm, Parish Center (Mother Teresa Room)
St. Vincent DePaul Society - 4th Thursdays, 7:00-8:30pm, Parish Center (St. Joseph Room)
Spirit Ensemble rehearsal Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm, Basilica
Sp. Needs Inclusion Ministry - 4th Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Parish Center (Mother Teresa Room)
Taize Prayer Service - 4th Friday, 8:00-9:00pm, Basilica
Young Adults - 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30pm-9:00pm, Parish Center (Damien Room)
Young Families Potluck - 3rd Saturday, 10 – noon