
2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 7, 2024



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Acts 4:32-35

Second: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31

FOCUS: *We are called to live out God's mercy.*

In today's Gospel, Jesus confers his divine power to forgive sins on the Apostles through the Holy Spirit. This forgiveness is still available to us in the sacraments. The gift of God's mercy calls us to also perform acts of mercy to ensure that, as in the earliest communities of believers, no one among us is in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The first reading describes how the early community of believers held everything in common. In the second reading, John writes that to love God is to keep his commandments and that



faith in Jesus conquers the world. In the Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples in a locked room and breathes on them, giving them the power to forgive sins.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: George Olsen, Maria & Michael Walker and Emma Crossetti

10 a.m.: Dolores Melillo, Quintin Garcia and Dolores Townley

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance was good, particularly on Easter Sunday, but the numbers were not consistently recorded so cannot be reported.

THE DIVINE MERCY MESSAGE

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And he wants us to recognize that his mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon him with trust, receive his mercy and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share his joy.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for his Mercy. God wants us to approach him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking him to pour his mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive his mercy and let it flow through us to others.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. The graces of God's mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus known as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden.

However, she received extraordinary messages from Jesus. Jesus asked her to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks that are known today as the "Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska," and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

In the writings and homilies of St. Pope John Paul II, he has described Divine Mercy as the answer to the world's problems and the message of the third millennium. He beatified and canonized Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska in Rome and not in Poland to underscore that Divine Mercy is for the whole world.

For more information, including forms of devotion, visit

www.thedivinemercy.org





TRADITION!

Kids and candy; adults and wine; eggs (not green) and ham. Babka and kielbasa, too. Deacon Carl had a plethora of Easter favorites to bless on Holy Saturday in a tradition that spans generations and even some geographical boundaries!

BECAUSE OF YOU ...

Holy Week is integral to our faith and powerfully spiritual - but challenging to choreograph. With so many independently moving parts, there's room for an occasional misstep or two. However, as Easter Sunday's Mass draws to a close, along with an almost audible sigh of relief, there's a sense of renewed connection to God and one another.



Our worship is enhanced by all those who dedicate their time and talents: The Music Ministry, Art and Environment Ministry, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Altar Servers, Greeters and other behind-the-scenes helpers.

A meaningful liturgical experience also depends on your participation and positive energy. We are grateful that St. Paul's has no shortage of that! Thank you.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

March 24-March 31: \$ 5,567.03

Envelopes: \$ 2,259.00 – Online: \$ 3,308.03

Easter Gifts

March 30-March 31: 5,092.00

Envelopes/cash: \$3,843.00 – Online: \$1,249.00

Total weekend collection: \$ 10,659.03

THANK YOU!

CARDINAL'S 2024 APPEAL

*Just a little more than \$ 8,000 to go,
but no change since last week*

Our parish goal is **\$50,600**, of which **\$ 42,110** has been received/pledged as of April 3 from 99 families. If you have not done so already, please prayerfully consider your gift, which can also be made online at www.cardinalsappeal.org. Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Scripture Discussions of the Letter of James, First and Second Letters of Peter and Letter of Jude, using the Ignatius Catholic Study, will begin next **Monday, April 15**, from 10-11:15 a.m. on Zoom. Call Gail Van Tassel at 845-457-3432 to order the book, which is \$14.



For more than 60 years, the Cursillo movement has been helping Catholics bring about changes in themselves and the world around them. The three-day **Cursillo weekend** is a workshop on the fundamentals of faith and the value of becoming a member of a living Catholic community. The next **women's weekend** is **April 11-14**. For more information, call Debbe Garry at 845-695-1944.



There will be a **French Toast Breakfast** after the 10 o'clock Mass on **Sunday, April 28**. Eggs, hash browns and sausage will round out the buffet. Tickets go on sale after the Masses next weekend and are \$10 or \$20 for an immediate family.



This year, the Archdiocese of New York's **Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass** will take place at 2:30 p.m. **Sunday, June 2**, at St. Patrick's Cathedral for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2024. Couples must register through the church office by May 10. St. Paul's Masses the weekend of **May 27** and **28** will honor those marking both their 25th and 50th anniversaries. Let the office know if you've reached either milestone.



The **Marianist Family Retreat Center in Cape May Point, NJ**, is offering weeklong family retreats beginning June 24, including one for single-parent families in July. The cost, which includes meals, lodging, activities and beach access, is \$230 each for those 8 and older, \$160 for ages 2-7. For more information: www.capemaymarianists.org.

