

Parish News

Here is your weekly update. There are also attachments for this week.

Stewardship-

Operating expenses for the Parish on a weekly basis are \$6,200.00 Collection.

Hope Appeal

2nd Collection at weekend Masses is for the Hope Appeal and will continue in order for the Parish to reach the 2024 Goal
Goal \$38,468.00 Received to date \$21,688.02

Parish Giving-

The Parish is pleased to introduce "Enhancing Stewardship through Electronic Funds Transfer. It is convenient no more searching for a checkbook or Sunday morning stops at the ATM. To excess simply Log on the parish website www.sacredheart-saintmary.org and click on the Parish Giving Log and follow the easy registration instructions. It is Secure.

Events at other Parishes in our area

Please remember we are all a Catholic Community and need to support each other.

St. Joseph & St. Patrick Church

702 Columbia Street

34th Divine Mercy Sunday

Guest Homeliest/Concelebrant-Fr. James Buttner

Music & Confession: 1:30pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 PM

3:30pm Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Theology Uncorked -

Thursday April 11 from 6:15-8PM
Guest Speaker-Father Jason Hage
Harts Hill Inn Whitesboro

Youth Ministry Nights

The Senton Center/Mary Mother Savior Parish

Monday April 15th parents, grandparents and family caretakers of
teens to come join with a conversation about our ministry to teens
from 6:30pm-8:00pm



As always, I like to share the deep traditions and meaning of our Church.

This Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday



Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter and is a religious observance celebrated mostly among Catholics. This year, it takes place on April 7. It is a significant time for reflection on the Christian faith. As Pope John Paul II stated, "It is a time where we are blessed with divine mercy as it reaches us through the heart of Christ crucified." Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gifts that flowed from Christ's death, burial, and resurrection – his mercy and love that were so freely given to humanity after such a betrayal. Divine Mercy Sunday concludes the Easter celebrations and welcomes the ultimate gift that Christ gave after his crucifixion.

The story of Divine Mercy Sunday, also known as 'the Feast of the Divine Mercy,' is thousands of years old. However, the official

recognition of the day was only authenticated by the Vatican in 2000.

Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter to be called "Divine Mercy Sunday." Since that declaration, it has been marked in the General Roman Calendar as a religious observance celebrated by Catholics worldwide.

The significance of the day can be attributed to St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who experienced visions from Christ himself. Born in 1905, she served her parish well and communed with Jesus on several occasions where he communicated with her that he wished to be "a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners." St. Faustina, also known as the 'Secretary of Divine Mercy,' died in 1938 in Krakow at age 33 after suffering from Tuberculosis.

Divine Mercy Sunday is a space specifically designated for those who feel unworthy of God's love and Jesus's acceptance. In a vision, he told St. Faustina, "I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy." Divine Mercy Sunday, from its advent, has been a source of reconciliation with faith and God's mercy. It provides a specific day on which people from all walks of life can humble themselves before God, and ask for his mercy, love, and forgiveness, which he grants to all those who are willing to ask for it. It is also about forgiveness and mercy, how Jesus offered his to us, and how we should act in kind throughout our lives.

How to Recite the Chaplet

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited using ordinary Rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska* and followed by a closing prayer.



1. Make the Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

2. Optional Opening Prayers

St. Faustina's Prayer for Sinners

O Jesus, eternal Truth, our Life, I call upon You and I beg Your mercy for poor sinners. O sweetest Heart of my Lord, full of pity and unfathomable mercy, I plead with You for poor sinners. O Most Sacred Heart, Fount of Mercy from which gush forth rays of inconceivable graces upon the entire human race, I beg of You light for poor sinners. O Jesus, be mindful of Your own bitter Passion and do not permit the loss of souls redeemed at so dear a price of Your most precious Blood. O Jesus, when I consider the great price of Your Blood, I rejoice at its immensity, for one drop alone would have been enough for the salvation of all sinners. Although sin is an abyss of wickedness and ingratitude, the price paid for us can never be equaled. Therefore, let every soul trust in the Passion of the Lord, and place its hope in His mercy. God will not deny His mercy to anyone. Heaven and earth may change, but God's mercy will never be exhausted. Oh, what immense joy burns in my heart when I contemplate Your incomprehensible goodness, O Jesus! I desire to bring all sinners to Your feet that they may glorify Your mercy throughout endless ages (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 72).

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

4. Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

5. The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Optional Closing Prayers

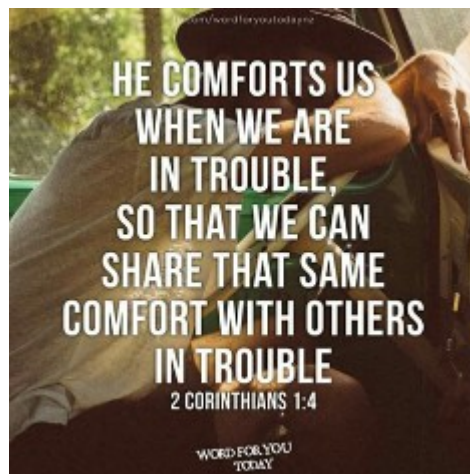
Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion – inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

O Greatly Merciful God, Infinite Goodness, today all mankind calls out from the abyss of its misery to Your mercy – to Your compassion, O God; and it is with its mighty voice of misery that it cries out.

Gracious God, do not reject the prayer of this earth's exiles! O Lord, Goodness beyond our understanding, who are acquainted with our

misery through and through, and know that by our own power we cannot ascend to You, we implore You: anticipate us with Your grace and keep on increasing Your mercy in us, that we may faithfully do Your holy will all through our life and at death's hour. Let the omnipotence of Your mercy shield us from the darts of our salvation's enemies, that we may with confidence, as Your children, await Your [Son's] final coming — that day known to You alone. And we expect to obtain everything promised us by Jesus in spite of all our wretchedness. For
Jesus

Catholic Food for thought





Any child who will be making First Holy Communion or Confirmation a copy of the Baptismal Certificate is required.

Important Dates for children making Sacraments.

First Communion

First Communion Practice-It is important the children come

April 10th, April 17th, May 1st @ 6pm

May 4th final practice 11am

Blessing Cup on April 13th from 12pm-2pm

First Communion May 5th @ 11am Mass

Sponsor information and Confirmation Name due.



Sacrament of Reconciliation: Will be offered the first Wednesday of every month after the 12:15 Mass.

Saturday 4pm

Sunday's

7:30am 9AM and 11AM

Weekdays 12:15 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Friday.

There will no Mass on Thursday

Let's remember that as Catholics, the importance of attending Sunday Mass. At Mass we stand mystically at the foot of the cross and witness for ourselves the same self-sacrifice of Jesus, in an unbloody manner. Mass is a celebration of this sacrifice. It is the active participation of all that come together in the place of worship.

2nd Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: ACTS 4:32-35

Responsorial Psalms: 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

2nd Reading: Jn: 5:1-6

Gospel: Jn: 20: 19-31

While these are wonderful reflections, please remember that they are not to be a substitute for the wonderful sermons of Father or Deacon Kirk at Mass.

Again this is one of my favorite Gospel readings. There are also those who do not believe unless they can see. Blessed are those who have not seen but believe. 2000 years later we still believe in the Risen Christ but we have never seen Him.

As always, I try to find wonderful reflections for this week's Gospel reading. I let the Holy Spirit guide me.



This week's reflection comes from the Working Preacher

That day, of course, was a day like no other. After the awful reality of Jesus' crucifixion and burial on Friday, this Sunday had brought some strange and unsettling events.

Early that morning, Mary Magdalene had come, distressed, to tell the disciples that Jesus' body was missing from the tomb. Peter and "the other disciple" had run to the tomb and had seen for themselves that it was true. They had seen the linen cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus' head and body lying there with no corpse to be found. Then, a bit later that day, Mary Magdalene had come to the disciples once again, this time breathless with excitement, and told them, "I have seen the Lord."

"When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews ... " We might expect that the disciples would be celebrating by now. Instead, we find them huddled behind locked doors. John says that the doors were locked for *fear of the Jews*. Since the disciples themselves are Jews, of course, the statement cannot mean that they are afraid of Jews in general. Certainly they are afraid of the Jewish leaders who were behind the plot to kill Jesus. They are likely afraid for their own lives, afraid of their uncertain futures.

Some years ago I read a comment (I don't remember where or who had written it) that suggested that maybe, just maybe, the disciples were also afraid of Jesus. After all, they had failed him miserably. Peter had denied him three times, and the rest had deserted him (except for "the disciple whom Jesus loved," who had been at the cross and had taken Jesus' mother into his home). Perhaps the last person the disciples wanted to meet on that evening was Jesus, risen from the dead to confront them with their failures.

Jesus, however, will not be stopped by locked doors. He who is himself the "door" of the sheep (10:7) comes right through those locked doors and appears in the midst of his frightened sheep. He comes not to confront his disciples with their failures, but to grant them peace. His greeting, "Peace be with you," carries the sense of the Hebrew greeting "*shalom*," a blessing that connotes more than tranquility, but a deep and holistic sense of well-being — the kind of peace the world cannot give (14:27).

Then Jesus shows his disciples his hands and his side, so that they can see that it is he, the real, flesh-and-blood, crucified Jesus —

not a ghost or apparition — who is before them. The disciples respond by rejoicing in seeing the Lord, just as Jesus had told them that they would (16:22). Again Jesus speaks a blessing of peace and tells them, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

The disciples are sent to continue Jesus' mission of revealing God to the world. They will not be left on their own in this daunting task. Jesus had promised to send another Advocate (*paraklétos*, one who is "called alongside" someone) who would be with them forever (14:16-17). Now he fulfills that promise. In an act of new creation (cf. Genesis 2:7), he breathes into his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit (20:22). This Advocate or "Spirit of truth" will teach them, remind them of all that Jesus has said to them, and guide them into all truth (14:26; 16:12-14).

Then Jesus tells his disciples, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (20:23). As many interpreters have demonstrated, "sin" in John's Gospel is not primarily a moral category; rather, it is fundamentally

unbelief, the refusal to receive the revelation of God in the person
of Jesus.

Jesus is not giving his disciples some special power to decide whose
sins will be forgiven and whose will not. Rather, he is further
specifying what it means to be sent, to make known the love of God
that Jesus himself has made known. As people come to know and abide
in Jesus, they will be "released" (*aphiemi*) from their sins. If,
however, those sent by Jesus fail to bear witness, people will remain
stuck in their unbelief; their sins will be "retained" or "held onto"
(*kratéo*). The stakes of this mission are very high indeed.

For some reason (we are not told why), Thomas was absent and missed
out on this first Sunday evening encounter with the risen Jesus.
Although he has gotten a bad rap as "doubting Thomas," he asks for
nothing more than the others have already received: to see Jesus,
wounds and all. The wonder of this story is that Jesus shows up again
one week later to provide exactly what Thomas needs. And Thomas
responds with the highest Christological confession of anyone in the

Gospel. His is not simply a doctrinal confession, but a statement of trust and relationship: "My Lord and my God!" (20:28).

Jesus' response to Thomas (20:29) is not a rebuke, but rather a blessing for all those who will come to believe without having had the benefit of a flesh-and-blood encounter with Jesus. Indeed, the author goes on to declare that this is the very purpose of this book, addressing all of us who have not seen but have heard this testimony:

"But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name" (20:30-31).

The Easter season of alleluias can sometimes seem to leave little room for our doubts, our fears, and our pain. We tend to forget that for the first disciples, there was fear, doubt, pain, and confusion before there was understanding and joy at what had taken place on *that day*. One week after Jesus appeared to his disciples, they were gathered once again behind locked doors, suggesting that Thomas was not the only one still needing reassurance that Jesus had in fact conquered death.

There are many directions a sermon on this text could take. One would be to explore our commonality with the disciples in their fear and doubt. Are we so different today, even after we've heard – just one week ago – that Jesus is risen from the grave? How do the anxiety and fear in our lives betray our own disbelief? A preacher could name some of the fears and anxieties that keep us locked in-as individuals and as congregations-and keep us from fulfilling the mission for which Jesus has called and sent us.

The natural thing to do when we are feeling anxious or threatened is to hunker down and lock the doors, to become focused on our own security rather than the risky mission to which we are called. The promise of this text is that Jesus cannot be stopped by our locked doors. Jesus comes to us as he came to the first disciples, right in the midst of our fear, pain, doubt, and confusion. He comes speaking peace, breathing into our anxious lives the breath of the Holy Spirit.

What is more, he keeps showing up. As he came back a week later for Thomas, Jesus keeps coming back week after week among his gathered

disciples – in the word, the water, the bread, and the wine – not wanting any to miss out on the life and peace he gives. And he keeps sending us out of our safe, locked rooms, into a world that, like us, so desperately needs his gifts of life and peace.

This week's Saints of the week:

The saints are models of human excellence, perfected by the life of Christ and the communication of his Spirit. They demonstrate in their lives how to really live and how to really die. They consistently point to the horizon of love which leads to the fulfillment of all human desire: eternal communion with the Holy Trinity.

April 8th Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, April 11th
Memorial of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr



Each week I include this week's Scripture to be shared for children who may be too young to attend the program.

Theme

Jesus has risen. Believe it or not!

Object AA copy of Robert Ripley's "Believe It or Not." You should be able to find

a copy in some form at the public library or a bookstore. If not, you can use the

examples in the sermon without a copy of the book. There is also a Ripley's

"Believe It or Not" comic strip online. (See Resource below)

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Children's Sermon: Doubting Thomas Believes (John 20:19-31)

There is a very interesting book called "Believe It or Not" by Robert Ripley. Mr. Ripley enjoyed collecting strange and amazing bits of information which, although they seem unbelievable, were true. Let me read some examples of some of the amazing things you will find in his book.

DOUBTING THOMAS BELIEVES

A man by the name of James Cook once had a chicken that laid a perfectly square egg. Now, I've seen white eggs, brown eggs, even

spotted eggs, but I have never seen a square egg. Have you? I think I'd have to see it to believe it!

Joann Barnes was a 15-year-old from California, and she once swung a lot of hula-hoops on her body at the same time! How many do you think she swung on her body? (Take guesses until kids say 68.) Can you believe that? I can't even keep one hula-hoop going. I think I would have to see that to believe it!

Here's one I'll bet you didn't know. How long do you think the world's largest weenie was? (Take guesses until kids say 3,000 feet.) The world's largest weenie was over 3,000 feet long, weighed 885 pounds, and took 103 butchers to carry it! Now that's a lot of baloney! I would have to see that to believe it!

This book is filled with things that are very hard for me to believe. But do you know what? If it's true, it's true--whether I believe it or not!

In today's Bible lesson we learn that on the Sunday that Jesus rose from the grave, He appeared to a group of His disciples. One of the disciples, whose name was Thomas, was not with them. When the disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus and that He was alive, Thomas said, "I won't believe it until I see it with my own eyes. I want to put my finger in the nail-prints in His hands--and place my hand where the spear was thrust into His side.

A week later, Thomas saw Jesus. Jesus invited Thomas to touch His hands where the nails had been. He told Thomas to put his hand in

the wound in His side. Then Thomas believed! Jesus said to him,
"Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who
have not seen and yet have believed."

A lot of people today won't believe that Jesus really rose from the
grave because they haven't seen Him with their own two eyes. Do you
know what? It is true whether they believe it or not! You and I have
never seen Jesus, but we believe. We accept Him by faith. We don't
have to see it to believe it!

Dear Jesus, thank You that You help us accept by faith that You have
risen from the grave and that You are alive. In Jesus' name, amen.

Weekly Prayers

**Blessing. As we continue our Easter season, let keep focused toward
the Risen Christ**





Diocese of Syracuse

From Notre Dame Schools:

Notre Dame Schools 12th Annual Raffle is underway. This year's Grand Prize is \$100,000. With a Second Prize of \$10,000, Third Prize of \$10,000, and an additional \$10,000 in smaller prizes! Tickets cost \$100 each and include admission for 2 adults to the Drawing Party on April 23, 2023, featuring free food, door prizes, and 50/50 raffles. Doors open at 12 Noon and the main drawing will be at 3pm. Call 315-724-5118 to purchase your tickets today!

3) From the Catholic Schools Office:

Save the Date: On Monday, June 17, 2024 we will hold our **3rd Annual Light A Child's Future Charity Golf Tournament at [Turning Stone Resort](#)**. This exciting event benefits Catholic Schools scholarships. We strive to raise much needed funds for our Light a Child's Future Scholarship program, which enables economically disadvantaged students to attend Catholic Schools in our diocese. Did you know that 65% of our students rely on financial aid or scholarship support to attend our schools? Your support will directly aid underprivileged students, ensuring their participation in a faith-centered community focused on promoting academic excellence.

Please join us:

· [Serve as a Sponsor](#) or [Register as an individual or foursome team\(s\)](#)

Sponsorships begin at \$500 - Click [here](#) for a complete list

· **Promote the Golf Tournament in your Parish**

See attached flyer for bulletin boards and Parish website

Event Details:

Light A Child's Future Charity Golf Tournament.

Monday, June 17 2024

Shenandoah Golf Club, Verona NY

18 holes of golf, rain or shine

11:00-1:00 Registration and grab-and-go lunch

1:00 Shotgun start

5:30 Cocktail hour

6:30-9:00 Celebration Dinner

Lynn M. Springer
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Sacred Heart/St Mary's
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