

April 16 - Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday

On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the canonization of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II proclaimed to the world that the first Sunday after Easter "from now on throughout the Church, will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'"

In Psalm 118, we sing a comforting sentence three times for emphasis: "His mercy endures forever." The Gospel begins with the risen Christ appearing to the apostles on Easter night, calming them and giving them "Peace." He fills them with joy, breathes on them, and charges them with these words: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Christ gives his apostles the power of God's mercy for the sinner: the gift of forgiving sins from God's always-full treasury of mercy. With these words, Jesus gives us the gift of the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). We can choose to accept or refuse his present. Please, accept it. † (Rev. Alfred McBride)

Persevere in Faith!

Sometimes I find it very difficult to believe. I'm sure I'm not alone, that I'm not the only one who asks whether what I profess to be true is indeed real. Surely there are many others who doubt God's love for them or that God even exists at all. I know there are many greater and holier exemplars of Christian living who likewise struggled from time to time with "dark nights of the soul," with uncertainty, with doubt.

The apostle Thomas—the one many know as "doubting Thomas"—exemplifies holiness that brings comfort to me during my faith struggles and also humanizes the saints. We are accustomed to thinking that to be holy or a disciple is to be unshakable in our convictions and sure-footed in our beliefs. And yet, what is revealed in the Gospels and in the lives of the saints is that the kind of sanctity God desires is not one of apodictic certitude but one of perseverance. The perseverance in our Christian faith is manifested in how we live in and through the struggles of our lives and our faith. Though Thomas doubted the resurrection, he still returned to the upper room with the gathered community of believers. The task for us is to reflect on how we respond to those inevitable moments of doubt and uncertainty in our Christian lives of faith.

As the Easter octave comes to a close today, we are sent forth into the remaining Easter season with the challenge to persist in the good works of faith, living our faith not only in thought and word but also in deed (James 2:14-16), even when we struggle to make sense of what has been handed on to us and find it difficult to recognize God's presence in our lives. (Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM)

SANCTUARY LIGHT

April 16 – Leonard and Lorene Brancamp

April 23 – Robert Freeman

April 30 – Gene Simon

MASS INTENTIONS

April 15 – Don Wilmer

April 16 – Dennis Schwering

April 22 – Charles Simon

April 23 – Dale Tunny

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – April 22 at 4:00 PM

Servers: Morgan Busch, Ella Wagner

Lector: Jack Ferkinhoff

Gifts: Ken and Terry Harmeyer

EM: Roseann Wirth (*Hall*), Beth Simon, Judy Steuri

Sunday – April 23 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Susan Schutte, Cindy Weisenbach

Gifts: Paul and Arlene Gehl

EM: Vicki Wagner (*Hall*), Katie Spreckelson, Leslie Hicks

Saturday – April 29 at 4:00 PM

Servers: Ava Wagner, Ella Wagner

Lector: Judy Steuri

Gifts: Brian and Karen Horan

EM: Terry Harmeyer (*Hall*), Janet Wagner, Rita Kress

Sunday – April 30 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Donna Harlemert, Amy Kinker

Gifts: David and Jenny Hardesty

EM: Cindy Weisenbach (*Hall*), Scott Simon, Kevin Tunny

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$2468.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 37.31
Loose Collection	\$ 819.00
Total Regular Collection	\$3324.31
Capital Improvement	\$145.00
Easter Flowers	\$60.00
Holy Land	\$549.00
Easter Offering	\$1820.00
Smorgasbord	\$140.00

**GREAT AND MIGHTY IS THE LORD, OUR GOD!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL GIFT
THIS PAST SUNDAY!**

THANK YOU – To Vicki and Ron Wagner, Kara Huff, Gracie Simon, Judy Steuri, Joyce Muckerheide, Abby Wilder, and the students from Grades 5-8 for presenting the Passion Play to the elementary students and guests. What a wonderful Holy Week experience!

...To the children who sang and played at the Easter Mass, and our helper, Sophia Volz. It sounded very joyful. Also, thank you to all the parents for helping them at home with the songs and for making sure they came to the practices. May God be with you always!

WORDS OF GRATITUDE – To all our liturgical ministers, organists, cantors, servers, liturgy committee, and to Doug Stier, who took care of the fire on Holy Saturday, your gifts added to the beauty of our Easter celebration! A special thank you to Patty Simon and our children who sang the praises of God! Alleluia! To all of you, we say, "Thank you!"

This Easter season continues for **seven weeks**, so let's keep celebrating!

THANK YOU – Rosemary Mistler wishes to thank everyone who sent her an Easter card. She was overjoyed at receiving 26 Easter cards. "And there were no duplicates," she said!

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS ED – Children in Preschool through Grade 5 will meet on Wednesday, April 18, 6:45 PM, for class. "Pennies" party for winning class.

JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED – Classes for Grades 6 through 11 next Sunday, April 23, 8:30 AM.

CEMETERY FENCING – At a special meeting of the Parish Council on March 28, members voted unanimously to the placement of a 300-foot white vinyl fence on the west side of the cemetery. The first section will be 4 feet, and the next section will gradually transition to 5 feet.

Thank you to all the parishioners who offered comments or suggestions. **If anyone would like to donate to this project, your gifts will be gratefully received.** The cost of this project will be **\$10,600.**

GRADUATION MASS – Senior graduates will be honored at our Sunday Mass on May 14.

4:00 PM MASS GREETERS

April 22 – Ken Harmeyer, Gary Wagner
April 29 – Paul Simon, Ken Hellmich

10:00 AM MASS GREETERS

April 23 – Kevin Tunny, Steve Wagner
April 30 – Paul and Arlene Gehl

PARISH COUNCIL – Members of the Council will meet this Thursday, April 20, 6:30 PM. Please make every effort to attend. We will be discussing more projects needing to be completed by the end of June.

175 YEARS – In the 1880s, the majority of the families of St. Maurice Church were German, but sermons were sometimes also delivered in English to the benefit of English-speaking Catholics. The people were industrious and thrifty, very attached to their religion and customs, and were solid citizens of Ripley County. They attended Mass on Sundays and other occasions as well as their circumstances permitted, since many lived several miles from church. There were some benevolent societies in the congregation which encouraged the moral growth of the people and the development of dutiful community members.







The parochial school was most often taught by the Franciscan Sisters from the convent at Oldenburg. At times, a lay teacher would also be employed. There were living quarters for the Sisters or lay teacher adjoining the school building. School usually began on one of the first days of September and continued in session for ten months. On the church grounds at that time were also a spacious garden and a one-story frame residence which served as rectory for the priest.

FISHING DERBY – New Alsace Conservation Club Fishing Derby at Lake in the Pines on Saturday, May 6, 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Call 812-623-2136 if interested.

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER – Pastor Wes Gately of the Kenton (DE) United Methodist Church was delivering the children's message, based on Jesus' miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, when he commented, "So all they had were five loaves of bread and two fish. What do you suppose you would do with that?"

One little boy answered: "Make sandwiches!" (via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, Dover, DE, The Joyful Noiseletter)

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						PALM SUNDAY VIGIL MASS 4:00 PM Pick Pockets Blood Pressure Checks
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
RE Classes - 8:30 AM Mass - 10:00 AM Pick Pockets BP Checks NO Donuts & Coffee Practice for Passion Play - 11:00 AM			RE Classes 6:45 - 8:00 PM  Passion Play 7:00 PM in Hall	 HOLY THURSDAY Mass at 6:00 PM	 GOOD FRIDAY Service at 4:00 PM	 Holy Saturday Mass at 4:00 PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
 <i>Happy Easter</i> <i>The Lord is Risen!</i> Mass - 10:00 AM NO Donuts & Coffee			RE Classes 6:45 - 8:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 PM		Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM Smorgasbord 4:00 - 6:00 PM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
RE Classes 8:30 - 9:45 AM DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Mass - 10:00 AM Donuts & Coffee		Hall Rented: Napoleon State Bank	RE Classes 6:45 - 8:00 PM Pennies Party	Parish Council Meeting 6:30 PM		Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
RE Classes 8:30 - 9:45 AM THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Mass - 10:00 AM Donuts & Coffee		Feast of St. Mark	RE Classes 6:45 - 8:00 PM			Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM (Fr. Dan Bedel - Celebrant)
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
RE Classes 8:30 - 9:45 AM FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Mass - 10:00 AM (Fr. Dan Bedel - Celebrant)				THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH  For a culture of peace and non-violence: We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.		