



April 19, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

FROM OUR PASTOR

This Sunday we celebrate Divine Mercy. It closes out the octave of Easter, Jesus winning us our salvation on the Cross and rising from the tomb.

The following is from the Divine Mercy Novena that began on Good Friday.

"Today bring to Me all mankind, especially all sinners, and immerse them in the ocean of My Mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me."

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen.

It is a reminder that we all need mercy since we are all sinners. But how generous our God is to us. As if Easter is not enough, our Heavenly Father gives us this feast so that the gift of His mercy can sink in and wash over us. St. Faustina has a great deal to say about it in her diary. It is a long read but very powerful.

We will have some material in the gathering area for Divine Mercy. We can not gather for it or have a crowd for adoration or lines for confession. If you would check our Facebook page and the Catholic Life magazine from the diocese you will see notes on celebrating the feast this year during the pandemic. EWTN will have coverage on it that day also I am sure.

The week following Divine Mercy is the usual week-long retreat for the priests of the diocese. Well as you may have guessed there isn't much 'usual' at this time. The diocese would host us at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon. Well we can't gather in crowds, so that option is out. To hold on to some 'usual' I will be going on retreat, but a private, silent retreat at Our Lady of the Valley Monastery. I will offer daily Mass for the sisters and be "retreating" the rest of the day. Know that you will be in my prayers, as you are daily, so that does not change. I ask your prayers during that time.

An image given to me some years ago was that of a reservoir, to understand more fully what a retreat is. For a reservoir to be useful, it needs to be full. If it is empty it can not serve its purpose. That is what a retreat is meant to do; fill the person that goes on retreat so that they can better serve those around them.

May Divine Mercy Sunday and the Easter season be a great source of grace for you.

Father John

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**Our church will be open everyday
8:00 AM—6:00 PM for individuals
who wish to spend time in prayer.
Please be respectful of each other,
maintain a safe distance and remem-
ber the limit of 10 people.**

WEEKEND MASSES

Cancelled

WEEKDAY MASSES

Cancelled

DAILY ROSARY

Cancelled

CONFESSIONS

As advertised

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

Cancelled

If someone you know becomes hospitalized and would like a visit, please call Cassandra at the church office. To be included on the prayer line or to be listed in the bulletin prayer list, you may also call the church office at 847-6054.

Cemetery Clean Up will take place in early May. Please remove any items that you wish to save by May 1st. You will be able to replace your items before Mothers' Day.

Formed

Looking for good Catholic movies to share with your family while you're at home? Try FORMED! There are 1000's of movies and audio recordings available for your whole family.

PICK OF THE WEEK: The Second Greatest Story Ever Told: *Divine Mercy with Father Michael Gaitley*. The vast panorama of God's work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced interwoven through the transformative events of Saint Faustina, Mary at Fatima, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope Saint John Paul II.

You can watch with your free parish subscription by simply selecting our parish's name during registration at formed.org/signup.

Pray for those in the military serving our country: Jason Witkowiak, John Miller, Tera Walsh, Casey Chamberlain, Chris Dvorak, Paul Knudtson, Jon Taylor, Jessica Burch, Mandy Gardner, Aaron Hoogland, Janie Asberry, Jessica Tremain, Andrei Klika-Sampe, Zachary Bader, Will Post and Adam Field.

Pray for the health of Max Teumer, Ben Reynebeau, Julie (Watry) Stoner, Rosemary Lehnert, Patrick Lewis, Vivian G., Russell Fairchild, William Roberts, Deb Beyer, Diana Hunt, Jessie Norton, Tricia Demmin, Bernard Resch, Laverne, Karen Caple, Lis, Joe Dolphin, Mary Ann Witcraft, Bill Chase, Kathy, Kiley Hackel, Shari Randall, Helen Euclono, Ethel Passer, Sid Mead, Steve, Marie Hersil, Becky Fredrickson, Mary W., Sally Haas, Bob W., Therese, Mary Sauer, Pete Ruland, Audrey Gillen, Rita Kueppers, Cindy Mueller, Lucille Ryczek, George Gabay, Jim Smith, Sadie Ravenscroft, Anne Nancolas, Rosemary Wier, Jim Czajka, RM, Floyd Babcock, Payton, Veronica, Kathryn Doughty, Patricia, Eric Erskine, the Moore Family, JM, Carl Wier, Carole Hayes, Tillie Schumacher, Fran Watry, Harold Smith, Caroline Christopher, the Johnston Family, Ralph Hamm, Millie Hovde, Bill Eisch, Mary Lechleiter, Bernadine Seitz, Dave Lewis and Marie Boehm.

Excellent Catholic Magazine Available Online: The Catechetical Review is granting free online access to anyone until April 30th. The theme of this Spring's issue is "Rediscovering Meaningful Leisure." This issue was planned a year ago, but how fitting for these difficult times when we are forced to stay at home. Leisure is not about "playtime." Many of us are taking "spiritual inventory," reprioritizing our lives, and realizing just how much of our regular "busy-ness" we can do without. To access this magazine, follow this link: <https://review.catechetics.com/62>

Mass Intentions for the week of April 19, 2020

Sat. Apr. 18 For our Parishioners
Sun. Apr. 19 For the repose of the soul of *Jack Koca*
Mon. Apr. 20 For the repose of the soul of Bernice Bohan
Tue. Apr. 21 No Mass
Wed. Apr. 22 No Mass
Thu. Apr. 23 No Mass
Fri. Apr. 24 No Mass
Sat. Apr. 25 For our Parishioners
Sun. Apr. 26 For the repose of the soul of
Shannon (Bishop) DeVee

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire You with all my heart.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already in my heart
and unite myself to You completely.
Please do not let me ever be separated from You.
Amen.

COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus, We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance, We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers, We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

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SCRIP IS STILL AVAILABLE AT THE RECTORY. WE ARE AT THE OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 8:30 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM.

All parish and diocese events have been canceled until further notice.

Please note that live and prerecorded Sunday Mass is available via <https://diolc.org/tvmass>, the diocesan YouTube channel, Facebook, and televised on the following channels:

Eau Claire, Channel 18, at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

La Crosse, Channel 19, at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Marshfield (Public Access), Channel 989, at 10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

Stevens Point (Public Access), Channel 984 at Noon and 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

Wausau, (Cable and Satellite), Channel 12 at 6:30 a.m. Sunday.

Wausau (Public Access), Channel 980, at 6:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

Wisconsin Rapids (Public Access), Channel 985 and Channel 3 at 6:00 a.m. and 1:00 pm. Sunday.

If you are in need of sacramental assistance during this time, please contact the rectory office at 608-847-6054.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! (3x)

On Rosary beads, begin:

Our Father, Hail Mary, the Creed.

On the Our Father beads, pray:

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.

On the Hail Mary beads, pray:

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

In conclusion, pray 3 times:

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

How God Guides Us ~ One Step at a Time

It is important to remember that prayer is essential to receive God's guidance. How amazing it is that the God of the Universe desires that we speak with Him and that He will respond to our prayer, providing us with necessary guidance. All we need to do is simply "ask."

Silence is necessary to receive a guiding response from Our Lord. We must quiet down interiorly and be attentive to "hear" this response. Taking time for daily prayer is essential, as our capacity to hear and recognize the Lord's response grows with practice. One of the wonderful benefits of quiet listening prayer is that God brings us to a place of peace, and in that place of peace, we are able to recognize His "voice" more clearly.

The guidance we receive from God is not always what we anticipated, nor will it always come in the way that we expected. One thing we can be sure of is that God always answers every prayer. The answer might be "yes" or "no" or "not yet." Sometimes the answer is "yes" because God knows that what we are praying for is for our good. It might be "no" because sometimes we pray for something that we think will be the best thing for us, while instead, we are wrong. Sometimes the answer to our prayer comes in the form of silence, which is also guidance from the Lord. God's answer may be "not yet" because He knows there is a "right timing" involved and that timing has not yet come. When we don't seem to be receiving an answer, we need to grow in patience, trusting in Jesus as we learn the lesson of "loves delays," allowed for by God's perfect timing and His desire for what is best for us. **We need to hold fast to the truth that God is always good**, even when the circumstances around us are difficult. The "Good News" is that "God is shaping all things together for good for those who love Him." (Romans 8:28, emphasis added) Nothing in the world can change that and we want to hold onto this truth for the duration.

There is no right or wrong way to ask for God's guidance in our personal conversation with Him, as our "ways of asking" are as unique as our personalities, situations in life and specific requests. Our part is to PAY ATTENTION and LISTEN to the guidance He will give! Here are some simple guidelines.

Ask the Holy Spirit to:

- Help you to be thankful for the ways that He has guided you in the past, whether or not you recognized it at the time.
- Guide you to relinquish your difficulties, distractions, and desires to Him.
- Give you the grace to quiet down inside.
- Assist you in learning how to recognize His guidance.

We need to ask God for His guidance and then listen and "watch" for His response. An important principle of God's guidance is that He will give us guidance one step at a time. Normally speaking, He does not reveal the whole picture as it could easily overwhelm us. The important thing is that we follow the next, one step as we understand it. After that, He will reveal the next step.

A helpful saying to remember is: *we need to step out, in order to find out.* This saying means we need to take the first step, and God will honor our step of faith with further guidance as we move forward under His direction. He will then give us the next step.

When we notice an answer to prayer for guidance, no matter how small or insignificant or incredibly large and important, let us be amazed and thankful that God knows and cares for each one of us personally. Remember, in this whole process, that even more important than coming to understand His guidance, **we want to know and love the Guide!**

If you would like to read two modern-day true stories of God's very real and practical guidance, they can be accessed at diolc.org/insert.

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