SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY • APRIL 28, 2019

The Church of Saint Mary
112 E. Washington Street • P.O. Box 246
Elizabeth, IL 61028

Parish Mission Statement

The Church of St. Mary, followers of Christ, are inspired by our Catholic faith to build on our traditions through the Eucharist, prayer and education. As the family of God, and with one another, we desire to live our faith in the world.

PRAYING THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Begin with the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Apostles Creed. Using regular rosary beads, work your way around the five decades with the prayers below.

On the stand alone beads, pray: "Eternal Father, I offer you the body, 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 decade beads, pray: "For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

At the end, pray the following three times: "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

It is typical to conclude the Divine Mercy Chaplet with the words: "Jesus, I trust in you."
Dear Friends in Christ,

Alleluia! We continue to celebrate Easter this weekend, as we will for the next 42 days in the remainder of the Easter Season. The triumph of life over death, truth over falsehood, light over darkness, and good over evil is accomplished by Jesus Christ’s suffering, dying, and rising from the dead, and the cooperation of human beings with the graces won thereby. The outcome of the war is certain, but there will still be casualties in the battles of the “mop up operation” we are in. The worst casualty would be to fail to become a saint. We do not want that to happen to us or to anyone, so, as the Church militant, we stay close to Jesus and follow where he leads us: to resurrected life!

Pope John Paul II gave the Second Sunday of Easter the additional title of Divine Mercy Sunday, when we recall in a special way God’s intense desire to be merciful to everyone, especially in forgiveness of sins. Special indulgences and graces are available for participating in Divine Mercy devotions on that day. We will have a Eucharistic holy hour with Divine Mercy prayers at 3:00 PM this Sunday afternoon (April 28th) at St. Mary Church in Elizabeth. Prior to that we will confessions from 1:30 to 2:15 PM, and a regular Sunday Mass at 2:15. Confession on the day of the devotion or within 20 days before or after the devotions is one of the requirements to receive the indulgence. Another is to receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday in a state of grace, with the intention of receiving the indulgence and with trust in God’s merciful love.

This coming Thursday and Friday we will have our healing Masses, as they are the first Thursday and Friday of the month: Thursday at 8:30 AM at St. John’s in Hanover, and Friday at 8:30 AM at St. Mary’s in Elizabeth. St. John’s will be having a youth Mass and May crowning Saturday, May 4th at the 4:00 PM Mass. St. Mary’s will be having a youth Mass and May crowning next Sunday morning at the 8:30 AM Mass.

We begin our annual Diocesan Appeal with a second collection next weekend. This appeal funds diocesan programs as well as general administration of the diocese. The ways we in our parishes benefit most from the diocese are the education of future priests and the support of our religious education programs. There are other programs we sometimes benefit from such as the Ministry Formation Program which trains lay people for faithful service to the people of our parishes. Please be generous in donating to this appeal. Any donations over the targets the diocese assigns us come directly back to our parishes.

Since last Easter we have lost quite a few of our long-time parishioners, who will be dearly missed. We remember their dedication and service to our parishes, especially that of Deacon Dave Wilbricht, who served so faithfully for so many years. May God grant them eternal rest and grant their families consolation in their loss.

We thank all who participated in our Holy Week services. We thank especially all those who worked so hard to make those services so beautiful, including our choirs and musicians, our lectors and altar servers, our sacristans, and those who helped decorate the churches. May God bless you (and all of us) with Easter joy now and always!

In Christ,
Fr. Dennis

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**Stewardship Report**

**April 21 & 22, 2019**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Offering—Easter</td>
<td>$3085.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Land</td>
<td>$529.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Votive Lights</td>
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</tbody>
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**Respect Life Corner**

If you or someone you know has had an abortion, “be assured that it is never too late to seek God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.” Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is also available. Visit the “Find Help” map on [www.hopeafterabortion.org](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org) to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

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**Altar & Rosary Society**

The Altar & Rosary Society meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth, but not in December, January or February.

**Knights of Columbus**

Fr. Ron Conro Knights of Columbus meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary.

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**Word of Life**

The Altar & Rosary Society meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary in Elizabeth, but not in December, January or February.

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**Knights of Columbus**

Fr. Ron Conro Knights of Columbus meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the church hall at the Church of St. Mary.
Vocation Corner By Fr. John McNamara—Divine Mercy Sunday—Today we celebrate the 8th day of Easter, hopefully it has been a joyful week as we pulled back the veil in our lives in order to experience the powerful light that comes from the Risen Christ. In addition to joy, this Feast of Divine Mercy reminds us that we are also to experience God’s peace. Jesus repeats in the Gospel today, “Peace be with you.” These are words that must take root in our lives. God has come to give us peace!

I recall in my discernment process for the priesthood a few individuals that I greatly entrusted my formation would frequently remind me that God wants me to experience tremendous inner peace. All the restless questions that rattled around in my mind and heart on whether I was smart enough, prayerful enough, social enough, courageous enough, bold enough, strong enough, holy enough, etc... They were all calmed by the fact that God didn’t want me to be a worrier, rather, a person who experiences inner peace. With all our questions, worries, fears, doubts, Jesus says to us, “peace be with you.”

On Tuesday, April 30th, from 11am to 1pm at the Elizabeth Community Building, ALL are welcome to join us for a free lunch hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church. This lunch is sponsored by a Community of Christians (your local churches). Come join us and enjoy a community lunch along with fun conversation and fellowship.

Next weekend we will have a second collection as we begin our annual Diocesan Appeal. You should be receiving envelopes in the mail sometime this week.

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Readings for the Week April 28, 2019

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ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

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**All Parishioners and residents of the Elizabeth and Hanover areas are welcome to access the many Catholic videos and other materials available at www.formed.org. Simply go to the web site, click “Enter Code,” sign in using access code 94TGXM, put in the requested information to create a personal account, and from then on just “login” with your e-mail name and a password you created.**

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Liturgical Roles

Saturday, May 4 at 6:00 pm (SM)

- Commentator: Patricia Engle
- Lector: Bryant Engle
- EM: Cheryl R, Norma & Jan T
- Greeter: Evie & Avery
- Altar Servers: Ben & Bryton
- Elizabeth Nursing Home—EM: Karla Grube

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Sunday, May 5 at 8:30 am (SM)

- Commentator: Jessica Engle
- Lector: Bryant Engle
- EM: Cheryl R, Norma & Jan T
- Greeter: Evie & Avery
- Altar Servers: Ben & Bryton
- Elizabeth Nursing Home—EM: Karla Grube

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