



*Founded in 1894 our parish is served by the Mercedarian Friars
Father Michael Rock, O. de M., pastor
Father Scottston Brentwood, O. de M., associate pastor*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

- Jn 20:28-29

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.



Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

Readings for the Week of April 11, 2021

- Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/
1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3
- Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8
- Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
- Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Jn 3:16-21
- Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/
Jn 3:31-36
- Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
- Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
- Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9/
1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48



Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11

- 8:00am Pro Populo
- 9:30am Fatima Consecration of Russia
- 11:30am Chase Hanson
- 8:00pm Robert Jimmo

Monday, April 12

- 8:30am Irma Mohammed

Tuesday, April 13 St. Martin I

- 8:30am +Evelyn Hauser

Wednesday, April 14

- 8:30am Nathaniel T. McKnight

Thursday, April 15

- 8:30am +Gerardine Krishnan

Friday, April 16

- 8:30am +Wayne Mlady

Saturday, April 17

- 8:30am +Deceased Mercedarians
- 4:00pm +Thomas J. Glynn

Sunday, April 18

- 8:00am Chase Hanson
- 9:30am +Edward Joseph Schnorr
- 11:30am +Joan Brunner; and Deceased of the
Martinelli and Brunner Family
- 8:00pm Pro Populo



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Our collection for Easter was \$25,389.05

Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

Because of your generosity we are able to meet our financial responsibilities and carry on our ministry and help families in need.

Do Catholics have to go to confession at least once a year?

Paragraph #1457 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us "each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year." This is part of the minimum requirements to practice faith as found in the precepts of the church. The obligation to confess applies to serious sin.

If one practices one's faith sincerely, receives the sacraments, prays daily, strives to be holy, and is unaware of any serious sin, one would not be obligated to go to confession. Paragraph #1458 encourages people, however, to confess venial sin and to view the sacrament as another tool in the struggle to grow in faith through the formation of conscience.

Like any exercise, when we get out of the habit, it is more difficult to return to the practice. Athletes understand how important daily practice is. It is the same for those who do physical therapy to recover from an injury. The regularity helps more than just occasional activity. In the same way, the regular practice of one's faith makes it easier to develop a deeper relationship with God. Examining one's conscience and honestly looking at oneself daily, helps a person understand the need for celebrating the sacrament of penance, even more than once a year.



I would like to share a thought about the celebration of reconciliation, that is, confession. What a tremendous gift we have been given by Almighty God. No matter how often we sin, God's love is so awesome and great that he forgives, and gives us a new chance at working towards holiness of life! This great sacrament is such a powerful moment because it brings healing and hope.

With this in mind, I comment that, when a person attends confession, it is important to examine one's conscience **before** they enter the confessional to be better prepared to celebrate the sacrament. Very often people will come to confession and begin to think about what they did, almost like going over a daily calendar, at that moment. That thought process should take place before you come in so that you may state your sins, receive some advice and a penance, and then receive absolution. The people waiting in line behind you should not have to wait twenty minutes because the person in confession is trying to remember their day to day action at that moment. We welcome and encourage everyone to come to confession and celebrate God's mercy –so please do so prepared.

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 "Our Father" 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 "Hail Mary" 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."

Please pray for James Butler who passed away. His funeral will be celebrated on April 12th

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Dorothy Hardy, Kurt Mohammed, Patricia Nicholson, Colin Ramberan, Avery Lofton, Eugene Colombaro, Monica Ramberan, Margaret Davis, Kaela Davis, Yosan Gabriel, Daisy Gray, Jenell Sifontis, Cathy Norman, Sabrina Freeman, Leslie Wade, Esmond Family, Aileen Regan, Sarah and Michael Regan, Kelly Regan, Scott Stierheim, Sr. Mary Charles, A.S.S.P., Mecca Taylor, Melissa Becker, Christian Laffy, Lisa Becker, Debbie Everett, Nigel Simon, Donald Graham, Jean Hargraves, Marvi Wade, Mary Frances Doran, Maureen Doran Hendrix, Melissa Potts, Cayla Wade, Theresa Gilliam, Suzanne Dupre, Indramattie Somwaru, John Bricker, Alina Simon, Carmelina Desiderio, Graham Family, Chuck Murrin, Samantha Johnson, Holly, Damon, and Stephen Anthony, Charles Epps, Ramona Wade, Charles V. Murrin

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The Sanctuary Lamp intention is:

For Deceased Mercedarians

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We offer to anyone who may wish to 'donate' for the following "Memorials":

For personal intentions;

For your beloved dead; and/or For the living

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church - \$15.00 per week

RESTORE: A WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

May 21-22, 2021 at Shrine of St. Therese in Nesquehony, PA

(or attend virtually)

Restore: return to its original condition; return what was lost, stolen, or taken away. God longs for us to believe that we indeed are who He says we are: His beloved daughters, carefully created, infinitely loved and valued beyond measure. Yet, here amidst the din of distortion, lie-based beliefs and the darkening caused by sin and trauma, we struggle to experience the Truth of who we are. Our pain and woundedness distort the lens through which we look at ourselves, others and the circumstances of our lives. Come... and let Him Restore you!

Retreat talks and experiences will reconnect us with the Truth of our inherent dignity, beauty, and wholeness. Retreat also includes: small groups, individual healing prayer, Mass and Adoration. Retreat leaders are Father Allen Hoffa, De Yarrison of You Are Made New Ministry and Laura Ercolino of Hope's Garden.

Join us in-person or virtually! Find the full schedule and register at <https://youaremadenew.com/restore-womens-retreat> or email De: de@youaremadenew.com.

Alleluia! Forgiveness has risen from the grave! What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God.



When experienced, we are moved to do all in our power to avoid sin and embrace the loving presence of our risen God. God stands ever ready to receive us and wants nothing more than for us to come home. How reluctant we are to believe this truth! We want proof, tangible evidence and absolute assurance that what we have been told is true. Jesus has risen from the dead and brings us peace. It is the gift of wholeness and holiness that is breathed upon us by God's life-giving and healing mercy. May the rays of love that flow from the heart of Christ pierce ours!



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