SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 24, 2022



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

000

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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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PARISH OFFICE

5012 Dune Drive, Avalon, NJ 08202 **Phone: 609-967-3746 •** Fax: 609-967-8172

Open: Monday - Friday 9AM - 4:30PM

(closed for Lunch 12 - 1PM)

SERVING OUR PARISH

Father William J. Kelly, V.F., Pastor Deacon Charles Devlin Deacon Bob Dooley

Administrative Assistant– Maria Leonard
Wedding Coordinator—Michelle Dooley
Bookkeeper– Linda DiSabatino
Facilities Manager—Anita Stenger
Maintenance Supervisor—Bob Biernbaum
Music Director—Kathi Getka
Bulletin Editor—Michelle Vidal

LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

Bernadette Krebs—609-224-0306 Eileen Barrett

BISHOP MCHUGH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Alicia Farren 609-624-1900

PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

Maris Stella ChurchSt. Paul Church5012 Dune Drive9910 Third AvenueAvalon, NJStone Harbor, NJ

Saturday: 5:00PM Saturday: 4:00PM (Confession: 4-4:30PM) (Confession: 3-3:30PM)

 Sunday:
 Sunday:

 7:30AM (no music)
 8:00AM

 9:00AM
 10:00AM

 11:00AM

Weekdays:Weekdays:8:00AM on8:00AM onTues., Thurs., Sat.Mon., Wed., Fri.

(Confession after Sat. AM Mass)

Readings & Music for April 24

GATHERING HYMN

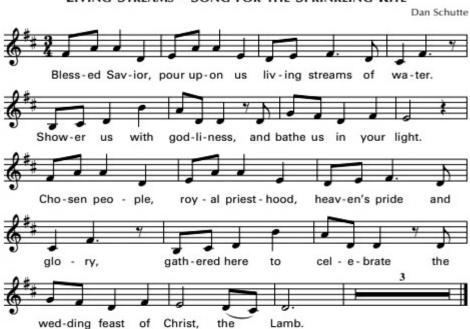




Text: 87 87 D; Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt. Music: Oude en Nieuwe Boerenlities, c. 1710.

SPRINKLING RITE

LIVING STREAMS - SONG FOR THE SPRINKLING RITE



READING | Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

PSALM 118: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, ALL YEARS



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READING II REV 1:9-11A, 12-13, 17-19

I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus. I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see." Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around His chest.

When I caught sight of Him, I fell down at His feet as though dead. He touched me with His right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JN 20:29

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in Me, Thomas, because you have seen Me, says the Lord; blessed are those who have not seen Me, but still believe!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL JN 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Now a week later His disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." 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."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in His name.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven (*all bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN

PSALM 103: LOVING AND FORGIVING



Text: Based on Psalm 103:8, 1–2, 3–4, 8–10, 11–12. Text and music © 1992, OCP. All rights reserved.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I Love You above all things, And I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You Sacramentally, come at least Spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Prayer to Saint Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God,

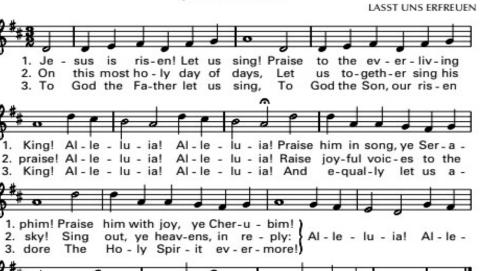
COMMUNION HYMN



Text: 1 Corinthians 2:9-10; Marry Haugen, b.1950 Tune: Marry Haugen, b.1950 © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

1-3. lu - ia!

SENDING FORTH HYMN



IESUS IS RISEN

Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu

ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

MASS INTENTIONS

MARIS STELLA CHURCH (MS), Avalon; ST PAUL CHURCH (SP), Stone Harbor; SACRED HEART CHURCH (SH), Avalon

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

8:00AM (MS) Joseph Wilson by The Amses Family

VIGIL

4:00PM (SP) Helen Boyd by The Boyd Family **5:00PM (MS)** Barbara Hoy by The Jacketti Family

Josephine Heintzelman by Sandra & John

Buccella

SUNDAY, APRIL 24 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

7:30AM (MS) Rev. Msgr. John Frey by Suzie and Neil

Gallagher

8:00AM (STP) Candace Kuezek by The Atwood Family

9:00AM (MS) Erik Burns by Mike & Carol Matt

10:00AM (STP) Graziella lacovino by The Phillips Family
11:00AM (MS) Leonard J. Desiderio by Sarah & Bill Burns

3:00PM (MS) Holy Souls

MONDAY, APRIL 25 Saint Mark, Evangelist

8:00AM (STP) Tina Marie Salvesen by Bunny Parzych

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

8:00AM (MS) Patricia Pagliughi by Marty & Lynda Pagliughi

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

8:00AM (STP) Nina Startare by Natalie Foschini

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 Saint Peter Chanel, Priest &

Martyr; Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest

8:00AM (MS) Maureen Corrigan by The Maris Stella

Rosary Group

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

8:00AM (MS) Jerry Keightley by His Wife

SATURDAY, APRIL 30 Saint Pius V, Pope

8:00AM (MS) Maureen Maguire by Maria Johnson of the

Legion of Mary

VIGIL

4:00PM (SP) Mary Eggly by Deacon Bob & Michelle Dooley

5:00PM (MS) Rose Wells by Sue & Betty Keen

For the Intentions of Charles Gallagher by

John & Sis Kirk

For Louise & Frank McLaughlin on the Anniversary of their Wedding by Children

& Grandchildren

SUNDAY, MAY 1

7:30AM (MS) Rev. Msgr. John Frey by Marty & Lynda

Pagliughi

8:00AM (STP) Anthony Hickman by Deacon Bob & Michelle

Dooley

9:00AM (MS) Patricia M. Corcoran by Albert Delia & Lillian

Nicolette

10:00AM (STP) Joseph & Graziella lacovino by The lacovino

Family

11:00AM (MS) Maureen Corrigan by Marty & Lynda

Pagliughi

Mass Intentions are accepted in the Parish Office.



Excerpts from the English translation of Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation, (ICEL); Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, ICEL; the English translation of Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children © 1975, ICEL. All rights reserved.

St. Brendan the Navigator Parish Mission Statement: Our Catholic community in Avalon and Stone Harbor, NJ is committed to implementing, following, and spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ. We also invite, welcome, and encourage each member of our community and visitors to actively participate with us in our Catholic Faith. Our community joyfully joins in celebrating the Eucharist and the sacraments, recognizing God in one another, and serving those in need. We remember and believe that we are all brothers and sisters, the children of our all-loving heavenly Father.

Second Sunday of Easter

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Let us pray for: the unborn and their parents, the sick and the dying, the poor and the lonely, those persecuted for their faith, and all the faithful departed especially those with no one else to pray for them.

<u>Let us pray for</u>: Pope Francis, Bishop Sullivan, all Priests, Deacons and Religious, for an increase in vocations, and for all those discerning a religious vocation.

<u>Let us pray for</u>: all first responders, and medical staffs as they selflessly put others before themselves.

Let us pray for: those serving in the military, their families, and our country.

Please pray for our sick: Anthony Abbonizio, Rachel
Walters Kahly, Weston Carmen, Roseann Giliberti, John
Risley, Patty Boyd Bennett, Gary Bevan, Henry Hilt, Betty
Keen, Bill Burns (SH), Pat Williams, Theresa Polak,
Michelle Vidal, Sis Hilkert

Let us pray for our deceased

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Amen.

Lord hear our prayers.

Names will remain on the sick list for 3 months, and on the list of the deceased for 1 month.

* Please call or email the parish office to include the name of your loved one. Call 609-967-3746 or email frontdesk@stbrendanavalon.org. *

"We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord." -St. Ambrose

One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul. Masses can be offered for: * a person who is deceased * a living person who is sick or suffering * on the occasion of a person's birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion * in thanksgiving * for a prayer intention



The Sanctuary Candle and Altar Flowers



may be in memory of a loved one or for a special intention. Please call the parish office at 609-967-3746.

PARISH REGISTRATION:

Welcome new parishioners! We are blessed to have you share in this Eucharist Celebration. We invite you to become part of our parish family. Please contact the parish office to register with us.

BAPTISM:

Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Also, please note that all parents who are scheduling Baptism for their child/children must attend a Baptismal Prep class if this is the first child they are having baptized. The prep class is held each month for baptisms the following month. The classes are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7PM in Quinn Hall (St. Paul) in Stone Harbor. Classes will be instructed by Deacon Charlie Devlin. Please register for the class by calling the Parish Office 609-967-3746.

MARRIAGE:

Contact the Parish Office for availability and information. The common policy set by the Bishops of the Province of New Jersey requires a one year preparation for marriage.

DEVOTIONS

ADORATION

St. Paul Church: Wednesday evenings, 6-7PM and First Friday 8:30AM - NOON

ROSARY GROUP

Maris Stella Church: Tuesday evenings, 7PM

The ROSARY is prayed before each daily Mass.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Maris Stella Church: Tuesday after Mass St. Paul Church: Wednesday after Mass

OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

St. Paul Church: Daily 9AM - 4PM
Sacred Heart Church: Daily 9AM - 3PM

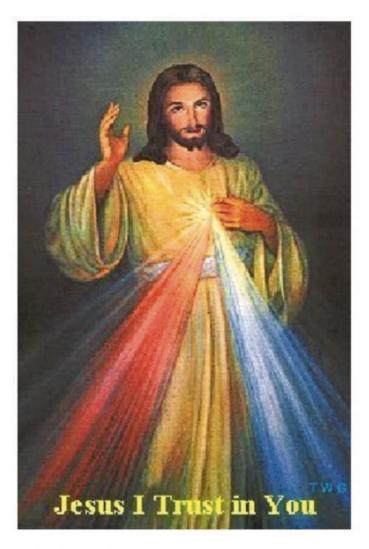
Maris Stella Church: Saturday Only, 9AM - 3PM

We are Live Streaming the Mass on Sundays at 9:00AM for those unable to attend Mass in person.

Please visit our website:

www.stbrendanavalon.org.

Additionally, a recording of this Mass can be found on our website throughout the day.



Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

April 24, 2022

St Brendan the Navigator Parish

Maris Stella Church 5012 Dune Drive Avalon, NJ

Schedule:

1:15pm to 2:30pm Confessions

2:30pm to 2:55pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

3:00pm Mass

Fulfills Sunday Obligation

Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy

The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him (299). By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works (742).

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPE?

St. Brendan the Navigator is compiling a Parish CookBook and we would love to include your family's favorite recipe(s). Recipes are due by May 16th. Recipes can be mailed to the office, emailed to: datamanager@stbrendanavalon.org subject: recipe, or dropped off in the Recipe Box in gathering space of St. Paul or Maris Stella.

You can also pre-order your copies of SBN Parish Cookbook by email or phone. Cost is expected to be \$15 per book.

For more information call Michelle 609-830-2206 or email datamanager@stbrendanavalon.org.

DEAR DRESSMAKERS SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, QUINN HALL 9:30-11:30am

Following this long winter, you are welcome to bring the lovely dresses you've made to Quinn Hall on Saturday morning, May 14. We're looking forward to seeing you AND all the beautiful dresses you've created for the little girls who will be so happy to have a new dress!

If that date is not convenient for you, you may bring your dresses to one of our Wednesday afternoon meetings in Quinn Hall from 1-3PM OR simply drop them by the Parish Office on Dune Drive in Avalon. Thank you for your time and effort in this labor of love!

SAVE THE DATE!

CELEBRATION
OF
MSGR. QUINN'S
60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ORDINATION
JUNE 9, 2022
3:00pm MASS
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

WATCH BULLETIN
FOR
MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM



GIVE A GIFT OF HOPE

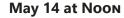
Our mission has been on hold since the start of 2020 which affected us and the Catholic families back in Bethlehem badly because 70% of the Catholics in Bethlehem rely on Olive Wood sales, Pilgrimage and Tourism. Many of our families don't have enough to put food on the table anymore, we have zero support from the government, and all our missionaries have been unable to work since March 2020.

Bring Your Gift List!

We will display the carvings after the scheduled Masses on **April 30 & May 1**.

In these terrible times nothing can comfort our hearts more than the word of God and Prayers. A piece from the Holy Land will make a great gift for you or your loved ones during this time of healing.

America needs Fatima National Public Rosary





at the Grotto in front of Maris Stella Church

Join us for the Rosary -

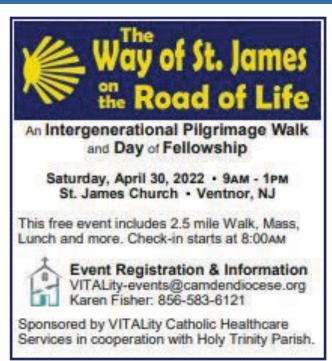
for peace in Ukraine and the world in these troubling times.

> Rain or Shine! (We will go into the church if it rains.)

The book for the 2022 season of Seven Mile Island University is:

UNDOING THE KNOTS—FIVE GENERATIONS OF AMERICAN CATHOLIC ANTI-BLACKNESS by Maureen H. O'Connell, Beacon Press, 2022, ISBN -13: 978-0-8070-1665-7.

Facilitated by Father Jack Baron, those interested in participating will gather at Maris Stella Church from 7:30-9:00PM on Wednesday July 20, 27, and August 3.



AVALON GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AND BAKE SALE

Avalon Greenhouse- 39 Street (between Dune and Ocean) Saturday, **April 30th** 8AM-3PM Sunday, **May 1st**, 10AM-1PM Cash or check only Rain or Shine



BLUE MASS

On Monday, **May 16** at 7PM there will be a special Mass at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 4680 Dante Ave., Vineland to honor all law enforcement officers.

All police officers, canine officers, retired officers, and relatives & friends of officers who have served and have answered the final call are invited.

Refreshments in Rosary Hall will follow the Mass.

Join in honoring the men and women who work to keep us and our communities safe.

Call the Parish office at 856-691-7526 to register.



Travel ~ Northern Italy

Experience The Passion Play in Sordevolo

With Fr. Tom Barcellona ~ September 12 - 22, 2022

10 days/9 nights - \$4560 Land, Air and Airport Transfers. Non Stop Round trip flights from Newark-Milan. Round trip transfers to Newark airport. Double Occ. Single Supplement \$675. More information is available by contacting Gail Licata of FANTASY TRAVEL Call: (609)314-1032 or Email: glicata@fantasytravelnet.com.

Second Sunday of Easter

Ask the Parish Council a question or address any issue you have: parishcouncil@stbrendanavalon.org



MARCH COLLECTIONS

March 5/6: in pew: \$10,626.50 online giving: **

March 12/13: in pew: \$6,513.59 online giving: **

March 19/20: in pew: \$8,237.50 online giving: **

March 26/27: in pew: \$8,074.85 online giving: \$1,730

(new system)

Total in Pew: \$33,182.35.35 **Total Online**: \$1,730

Grand Total: \$35,182.35

Thank you for your stewardship. We are most grateful.

** Not available

We're happy that online giving is back up and running!

A STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

(John 20:21)

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As Stewards of Jesus, we are called to be compassionate and merciful; and not with just those who are our friends, but also with our "enemies." Think of someone in your life who you need to reconcile with. Call them right now or better yet, go visit them.

Support the **CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL** today! Right now over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territory, because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities here in the US. Please be generous. More information can be found at: www.usccb.org/home-missions.

COMPASSIONATE CARE OUTREACH

Monies that our parish receives from the 1100 Raffle Proceeds as well as House of Charity are used for our Compassionate Care Outreach.

The following recipients (all from Cape May County, except one *) have benefitted from YOUR GENEROSITY. Thank you for living a life of staggering generosity and helping so many.

No act of kindness ever goes unnoticed by God :-)

Compassionate Care Recipients: Bishop McHugh Regional School, Wildwood Catholic Academy, Prayers and Squares, C.A.R.A, Covenant House of NJ, Family Promise, Friends in Need, Good Counsel Home, Habitat for Humanity, Holy Redeemer Food Bank, Right to Life, Sacred Heart Parish Camden Food Bank*, Branches, Hope Pregnancy, Villa Maria By the Sea, Volunteers in Medicine, Saint Casimir Food Pantry, Catholic Radio Station

Thank you again and thank you to our parish
Compassionate Care Committee: Sue Keen, Joan
Piotrowski, Rosemary Mancinelli, Carol Matt, and Fr. Kelly

We have exciting news!

St Brendan the Navigator recently updated our online giving services to better serve our parishioners. We are providing this option in addition to cash or check donations. You can still give through traditional methods, but now you can make recurring or one-time gifts online with a credit/debit card or electronic check, text a donation right from your phone or through our QR codes.

These programs are beneficial to you, in that you do not need to worry about having cash or check on hand at Mass of if you are away on vacation and it benefits the Parish by reducing the time needed to process donations and run financial reports.

To give online through our new platform, visit our giving page: https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stbrendanavalon.

You can give through text message by sending "Give" to 609-928-8020!

You can also make a donation using this QR code. Simply grab your cell phone, open up the camera and highlight the QR code. You can make your donation right from your phone.



"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.

I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death.

I Myself will defend [that soul] as My own glory."

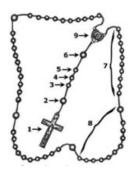
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young women, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, "a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come."





THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades.

HOW TO PRAY THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY:

- 1) Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
- 2) Opening Prayers:

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 word 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
- 4) Hail Mary
- 5) Apostle's Creed
- 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 Prayer**: 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 You holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

WHAT WE BELIEVE - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Who Can Offer Anointing of the Sick?

The Letter of James speaks to us of the ancient tradition of a special anointing and blessing of those who are sick: "Is there anyone sick among you? Let him send for the presbyters of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord ... If he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven him" (5:14, 15b). This passage forms the foundation for the theology of the sacrament that we call "Anointing of the Sick." In keeping with what we read in the Letter of James and the ancient tradition of the Church, the anointing of a person of who sick or dying may only be performed by a priest or bishop.

Although deacons and other members of the Church are not able to celebrate the sacrament with a person who is sick, they can read Sacred Scripture and pray with and for those who are ill. Resources like the Book of Blessings also contain special blessings that can be celebrated by deacons or lay ministers. In the end, we want to be sure that we show a special care and concern for the sick, helping them to always experience God's loving comfort through made tangible through our acts of charity and service.

Enrich your soul in the great goodness of God:

The Father is your table,

the Son is your food, and

the Holy Spirit waits on you and

then makes His dwelling in you.

- Saint Catherine of Siena

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Life is about to get very interesting for the disciples. Finding themselves questioning what happened to Jesus and whether He actually was raised from the dead, they are afraid and uncertain. In the midst of this fear, questioning, and uncertainty, Jesus decides to surprise them with a visit! This visit, complete with the gift of peace, fills the disciples with great excitement and joy. But their detailed testimony is not enough to convince their absent friend Thomas. He wants to see for himself. We struggle with belief as well. It is hard for some to give themselves over to the testimony of another. We want to see the resurrected Christ in person. God, through the gift of eyes of faith, gives us the ability to do precisely that: when we witness the healing that comes from forgiveness, the beauty that flows from love, the wonder of creation, the new life that comes after we fall, and the unique soul that lives behind each person's life. Christ is risen. Life will get very interesting for us too, when we stop unbelieving and believe! **©LPi**

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

FIRST READING: Luke tells us of the success and healing power of the apostles in the Jerusalem church in the early days, weeks, and months following Jesus' resurrection. Where do you see this level of enthusiasm for the faith today?

SECOND READING: The resurrected Jesus appears to John on the island of Patmos during his exile for bearing witness to the faith. In this encounter, John is initially fearful but then reassured by Jesus. When have you turned to Jesus in moments of fear in your life?

SAINT OF THE WEEK - EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH: St. Catherine of Siena | April 29

St. Catherine of Siena was born during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy on March 25, 1347. She was the 25th child born to her mother. At the age of seven she had a vision in which Jesus appeared with Peter, Paul, and John; Jesus blessed her, and she consecrated herself to Him. Despite Catherine's religious nature, she did not choose to enter a convent and instead she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, which allowed her to associate with a religious society while living at home.

She often visited hospitals and homes where the poor and sick were found. Her activities quickly attracted followers who helped her in her mission to serve the poor and sick.

St. Catherine was drawn further into the world as she worked, and eventually she began to travel, calling for reform of the Church and for people to confess and to love God totally. On one occasion, she visited a condemned political prisoner and was credited with saving his soul, which she saw being taken up to heaven at the moment of his death.

Even though she barely reached the age of thirty-three, her accomplishments place her among the great women of the Middle Ages.



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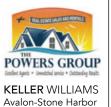
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