

*Saint Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
134 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
(570)823-4168*

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER—DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 11, 2021



THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ACTS 2:42-47
1 PETER 1:3-9
JOHN 20:19-31

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ACTS 2:14, 22-33
1 PETER 1:17-21
LUKE 24:13-35

PRAISED BE THE GOD
AND FATHER OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST,
WHO GAVE US NEW BIRTH
(second reading)
ADDING US TO THE LORD,
(first reading)
AND BESTOWING ON US
THE GIFT OF PEACE.
(gospel reading)
TRULY HIS MERCY
ENDURES FOREVER!
(responsorial psalm)
AMEN.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

April 11, 2021 — 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

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.

Mass Schedule

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE —IN CHURCH

Saturday, 4PM — Sunday, 10AM, 12:10PM and 7PM

With social distancing, seating is limited to 80 worshipers and face masks are required NO EXCEPTIONS.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE—ST. THERESE CHAPEL

Monday, and Friday 12:10PM

There will be no Wednesday Mass until further notice

With social distancing, seating is limited to 24 worshipers and face masks are required NO EXCEPTIONS.



Sacrificial Giving

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH God's Plan For Giving

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREASED OFFERINGS

**The weekly collection for EASTER SUNDAY,
April 4th will be posted to next Sunday's Bulletin.**

Eye Has Not Seen

They say seeing is believing. But if you've ever ordered a pair of pants online, you know that's not always the case. Whatever the photos promise us, what looked like a perfectly nice shade of navy blue on our computer screens comes in the mail as an unusual shade of blue green that only appears in the giant box of Crayola crayons.

The Apostle Thomas, who couldn't bring himself to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing him, is such an utterly relatable figure in the Gospels. Thomas is still reeling from a loss — not only of his good friend but his Lord, who was taken prisoner and crucified before his eyes. Thomas is guarding himself. He's not believing the hype. He's going to be the only judge of what is real and what is fiction.

Would any of us be any different? We've all had those thoughts. Can we believe it all — Jesus, salvation history, the Eucharist — when we haven't seen it with our own two eyes?

That's when we need to remember that those two eyes were absolutely positive they had ordered a pair of navy blue pants.

It's easy for us to sit back stroking our chins in judgment at Thomas, "you didn't believe the testimony of your friends!" But do we accept the testimony of our friends? The saints, the popes, the Church fathers themselves?

Sometimes the things that are most worthy of believing can't be seen with the naked eye.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

ST. NICHOLAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

SPRING CAR LOAN SALE IS BACK!!! Any used car loan will be at 3% instead of 5% for April, May and June. Now is the time to buy if you have been looking for a used car. Go find the vehicle you want, send us the sales slip, fill out the application, then we will get together to do some paperwork. (570-825-2640).



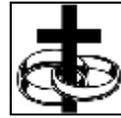
A Novena to St. Anthony of Padua will be conducted every Tuesday at 5:30PM at Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre. The devotion will be for 13 consecutive Tuesdays starting March 16th to June 8th. The theme of this year's Novena is "Venerable Matt Talbot, Patron Saint of those Fighting Addictions to Alcohol. For more information please call 570-824-7832.

FREE BABY CLOTHING

The Human Life Resource Center in Wilkes-Barre, due to the Pandemic lock-down, has an over-abundance of baby clothes, newborn to 24 months. Families are welcome to these free and often new items free of charge. Visit the Center at 31 Hanover Street, Wilkes-Barre, weekdays, 10AM to 3PM.

Wedding Anniversary Mass

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2021 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 6 at the Cathedral of St. Peter. The Mass will begin at 2:30PM, and attendance will require advance reservation. To register for the celebration you may go to the following website:



<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/enrichment/wedding-anniversary-mass-june-6-2021/>.

For questions or concerns, or if there are issues registering online, please reach out to Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development. (jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104)

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual wellbeing. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

PLEASE NOTE: FRIENDLY REMINDER

Face Masks are required at all Masses and must be worn properly. According to regulations, the mask must be covering the mouth and nose at all times when in a public gathering. The mask must remain until you exit the church and are no longer in the proximity of others. Thank you to everyone for your vigilance in this matter.



Masses For The Week

MONDAY– APRIL 12 (EASTER WEEKDAY)

12:10PM *Anthony Joseph Wasco, Jr.*

TUESDAY– 13 (EASTER WEEKDAY/

ST. MARTIN I)

****NO MASS****

WEDNESDAY– 14 (EASTER WEEKDAY)

****NO MASS****

THURSDAY– 15 (EASTER WEEKDAY)

****NO MASS****

FRIDAY–16 (EASTER WEEKDAY)

12:10PM *Anne Keefer*

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SATURDAY– APRIL 17

4:00PM *MASS*

SUNDAY– APRIL 18

10:00AM *MASS*

12:10PM *MASS*

7:00PM *MASS*

MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR*FOLD MISSION:

- ***TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;***
- ***TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;***
- ***TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;***
- ***TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.***



DIVINE MERCY **SUNDAY**

The Feast of Divine Mercy, celebrated on the Octave of Easter (The Second Sunday of Easter) is a relatively new addition to the Catholic liturgical calendar. Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, this feast was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope

John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina. A plenary indulgence (the forgiveness of all temporal punishment resulting from sins that have already been confessed) is granted on the Feast of Divine Mercy to all the faithful who go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, and “in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. ‘Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!’).”



Girl Scouts

Congratulations to **AMANDA MYZICK**, who was featured in the recent UGI insert. The UGI article reads: *“Girl Scout Week is celebrated in March to align with Girl Scouts birthday on March 12. At UGI, we believe in empowering our future leaders and have a history of sponsoring Girl Scout Gold Award events, as well as supporting one employee who has been a Girl Scout since she was 6 years old. AMANDA MYZICK, (who is a parishioner here at St. Mary’s) has 42 years of Girl Scout experience. Amanda began as a Brownie and moved her way up to a Junior and a Cadette/Senior Scout. Amanda was awarded the Gold Award in high school, which is the highest award you can receive in scouting, now she continues her participation in Girl Scouts as a Leader.”* In the article Amanda said: *“I have three generations of Girl Scouts in my family. I love being in Girl Scouting and volunteering my time at various opportunities that give young women a chance to reach their potential and mentor them to become leaders in our community. It is an honor to be a leader and assist these young women to build their courage, confidence, and character as they prepare for adulthood.”*

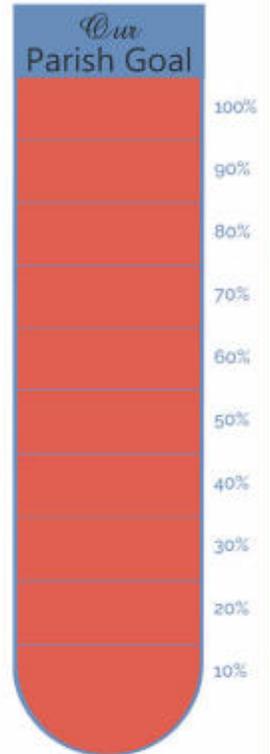
Congratulations to AMANDA!!!

Thank You for your support!

Thanks to your generous gifts, our parish has reached its goal for the 2020 Diocesan Annual Appeal



For anyone still looking to contribute, gifts can be made at www.AnnualAppeal.org



**Goal for
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
set by the Diocese \$44,000.00
To Date 160 parishioner (out of 852) have
pledged a total of \$44,180.00—
100.41% of our Goal!
Thank you to all**

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