SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT
Our mission is to build up the Kingdom of God by offering ourselves with Jesus for the true good of every person.

St. Florian Parish

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

REV. JOHN A. SEDLAK
Pastor/Trust Administrator
jsedlak@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mass Schedule
Weekday & Sat. Morning: 8:00 am
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 9:00 & 11:00 am
Holy Days: As Announced

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Weekday & Sat. Morning: 7:30-7:50 am
Saturday Vigil: 4:00-4:45 pm
Sunday: 8:30-8:45 am & 10:30-10:45 am
(30 minutes before all other Masses)

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 8:15 am - 3:45 pm

Mailing Address
PO Box 187
4263 Route 981
United PA 15689

Website
www.saintflorian.org

Phone Numbers
Parish Office/Rectory: 724-423-4431
FAX: 724-423-4438
Pastoral Emergencies: 412-582-0425
Catechesis, Faith Formation & Evangelization (CFFE) Office: 724-423-5087
Preschool: 724-423-4437
Social Hall: 724-423-9008
St. Vincent de Paul Helpline: 724-205-4406

Staff
CFFE Director: Dr. Joseph Dreliszak
Preschool Director: Lottie Hirak
Preschool Aide: Karen Dlugos
Music Director: Steven Makar
Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper: Angela Reese

Pastoral Council
Terry Foriska Tammy Sofranko*
Mike Reese Nicole Stull
Don Scekeres Dave Shimko
*Recorder

Finance Council
John Boggsess Kathy Sobinsky
Stephanie Soflak Mike Johnson
Jerry Yasher David Lazor*
Emily Uhrin *Chair

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY
April 28, 2019

EUCHARISTIC SELF-OFFERING PRAYER
I am all Yours, O most loving Jesus, through Mary, Your Mother.

©LPi
ATTENTION: A Woman’s ring was found in the Church recently. If you have lost a ring, please contact the parish office to determine if the ring is yours.
Faith Formation News

Faith Formation News:
Elementary Classes for Grades K-7
April 29nd — 6:00 to 7:15 pm
Children are encouraged to dress up for their annual May Crowning that will begin at 6:30 pm in church. Parents and other parishioners and friends are welcome to attend.

Two special reminders:

Confirmation candidates, parents, and sponsors are encouraged to share some time in Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesday, April 30, one week before their Celebration of Confirmation on May 7 at St. Anne Parish, Rostraver. They are also reminded of practice for Confirmation on Sunday, May 5 beginning at 2:00 pm at St. Anne. Please contact Dr. Dreliszak if you have any questions.

Children preparing for First Communion will meet with Fr. John on Saturday, May 4 at 9:00 am in church. At least one parent should also be in attendance. May we pray for these children as they will receive their First Communion during the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, May 5

Vacation Bible School 2019

June 24-28 for students – kindergarten – grade 6 –
Volunteers with all clearances are needed for music, crafts, Bible stories, etc. Contact the Faith Formation Office if you are able to help. Our next VBS planning meeting is set for Sunday, April 28 following the 11:00 am Mass.

We are also planning a “Vacation Bible School for Senior Citizens” from June 17-21. We are making history by attempting to provide a week for seniors to gather and share in the wonder of our faith. Our focus will be on the “Sacraments”. More information to come!

“Helping Moms Project”
Continues until May 1. For the past number of years, our parish has been working with Catholic Charities to help moms and their babies in time for Mother’s Day. The following items are most needed:

- Diapers (size 3-6)
- Any size of clothes for newborns to 6 month
- Clothes for infants/toddlers – new or slightly used
- Baby blankets
- Booties

You may place your items on the marked table at the entrance of the Church. Items will be delivered to Catholic Charities on May 2. Thank You

Divine Mercy Chaplet
A new practice has begun in our parish and ALL are welcome to join us as individuals pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet AFTER our 8:00 am morning Mass on Tuesdays and Fridays. The prayer takes no longer than 15-20 minutes and is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on God’s mercy and love for us.

Re-scheduled showing of the movie on the Life of St. Faustina will take place on Wednesday, May 1 following the 8:00 am Mass and will end by 10:30 am. For planning purposes, please contact Dr. Dreliszak if you would like to attend!

Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Faith Sharing: Sunday, April 28th following the 9:00 am Mass. The group will meet until May 19 and then resume in September.

Book Club: Our Book Club will be reading a special book on Mary with the title: Rethinking Mary in the New Testament by Edward Sri. Cost of the book is $15.00 and may also be used at home. What a great way to celebrate the month of May! Group sessions will begin on Wednesday, May 8 after the 8:00 am Mass to 10:00 am. For more info, contact the Faith Formation Center.

Prayer Chain
Please Note: If you have a particular prayer intention, please contact the Faith Formation Center at 724-423-5087 and your request will be forwarded to those who have agreed to take part in this special ministry. New members on our Parish Prayer Chain are always welcome to join!

Erin | Anna | Karen | Don | Bill
Bob | Joan | Scott | Kimberly | Alicia
Gabriel | Ryan | Joan | Cindy | Kelly
Trish | Jim | Dolly | Rose | Bill
Ann | Kim | Sam | Brandon | Keith

May we continue to remember these individuals in our daily prayers!
The Divine Mercy Sunday

Pope John Paul II, on April 30, 2000, declared the second Sunday of Easter throughout the Church will also be called Divine Mercy Sunday. Our Lord expressed the desire for this celebration to Saint Faustina as stated in her diary.

A theme to the relationship between the Acts and John’s Gospel calls us to open our eyes to experience the many ways that God’s mercy touches us. In the Acts people come from the many villages that surround Jerusalem to receive God’s mercy in the form of healings. John’s Gospel centers on Jesus’ blessing, “Peace be with you.” This gift of peace is connected with the power of the Holy Spirit and the mandate that God’s mercy be shared with others.

The first reading for this Sunday narrates how the Apostles have begin to minister to the people in the same way Jesus had done. They have been empowered by the Holy Spirit “to serve the people in Jesus’ name.” Just before this reading Ananias and Sapphira, a husband and wife couple, have sold a piece of property and have brought only a portion of the proceeds to he Apostles. They tell the Apostles that all the proceeds from this sale are there. Peter confronts them and tells them that they have not lied to the Apostles but to God. They are immediately struck dead.

Lead by Peter, the Apostles have begun a routine of signs and wonders (miracles) at a place on the eastern part of the Temple called Solomon’s portico. This Temple area is a place of meeting. It is suggested that the Ananias and Sapphira event has deterred the people from coming to the meetings. However, the people attribute a sense of divine awe surrounding the Apostles that prevented the people from coming on their own. God manages to conquer their fear. The people place themselves so that Peter’s “shadow might fall on” them. His shadow has the same effect as the hem of Jesus’ garment (Mark 6:55-56) and Paul’s handkerchiefs (Acts 19:11-12). The power of faith in the Living God has produced the effect the people have desired. Faith alone has shown that “all are cured,” not just those upon whom a shadow has fallen.

John’s Gospel presents Jesus’ first appearance to His Apostles. Jesus’ spiritual qualities of His resurrected body suddenly appear in spite of the Apostles’ locked and sequestered room. They fear for their lives after experiencing what has happened to Jesus their leader.

Jesus’ greeting “Peace be with you” is the Hebrew “shalom” which is an extended blessing in all aspects of one’s life. The blessing is repeated. This second peace greeting is a promised gift in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”

Jesus then gives them the commission of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for He has been sent by God to reconcile people with God and has the authority to forgive sin to accomplish this reconciliation. He gives the gift of “grace” form the Holy Spirit. His words and signs create a sacrament according to the definition from the Baltimore Catechism. His breathing on them is “the outward sign instituted by Christ, to give grace.” Jesus gives His Church the responsibility and authority to continue His judicial character in the matter of sin. We have heard the origin of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To achieve the effect of redemption, the Apostles must hear the sins. Jesus has not given the charism of clairvoyance. This is the origin of oral confession.

The final verse from this passage summarizes the purpose of this passage: “have faith in Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God as the source to eternal life.”

For the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday we hear God’s mercy continuing from His Son to the Son's Church. The mercy of physical healing and the mercy of spiritual healing become evident from God the Father’s beloved Son Jesus the Christ whom He has sent to be among us.

JOSEPH EMANUELE MEMORIAL BENCH

will be prayerfully dedicated next Sunday immediately after the 9 am Mass. This gift to the parish from the family and friends of Joseph will serve as an aid for our walking-impaired Mass participants as they wait for their rides. It represents Joseph’s readiness to offer help to the elderly.

Eucharistic Adoration

For April 16-17, the following hours had only one adorer: 5 pm, 1 am, 2 am and 6 am. Please call the parish office or (after hours) Fr. John’s cell phone if the next adorers do not show up. Please continue to pray for the good government and the spiritual renewal of the Church.

Festival 2019

Our parish festival 2019 is set for Sunday, August 11. Keep this date open and encourage friends and family to join us for this special event. It is not too early to begin plans for making your “baskets” for this event. Last year, our festival was a great success and we hope to make it even better this year. If you are interested in joining, please contact Dr. Dreliszak at the Faith Formation Center. All volunteers need to have all Diocesan Clearances but we will be offering one more training in July to help you obtain the necessary paper work. We need you in order to make this a successful project!

We would like to add “face painting” this year for our children. If you have this talent, please contact Dr. Dreliszak. If you are 17 or under, you don’t need clearances. However those 18 and older must have all diocesan required clearances.

Mark Your Calendars! What a Great Family Tradition to Begin....We will once again be placing flags on the graves of our veterans buried at St. Florian, St. Stanislaus and Forty Martyrs cemeteries on Friday, May 17. You are asked to gather at our parking lot at 5:45 pm and we will depart by 6:00 pm. Please spend an hour to honor those who gave their lives for our country. Please contact the Faith Formation Center if you are able to attend. All are Welcome!
ST. FLORIAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN pledge total stands at $724,071.97 and the amount collected as of April 8th is $701,512 which is $50,000 more than our original Campaign Goal! How wonderful! We are truly grateful to God and to all who have contributed to or prayed for the success of our Campaign, and to our Campaign Chairperson and co-leaders. Please continue to fulfill pledges, and to make extra gifts, when able. All new or extra gifts add to our total pledged and collected.

A One-Year Campaign Extension has been granted by Bishop Malesic to help St. Florian pay down its loan. Our Capital Campaign will now officially end April 30, 2020. This provides an opportunity: 1) to fulfill past pledges, 2) to continue making regular payments beyond the original pledge amount, and 3) to occasionally make additional Campaign gifts. All Campaign donations are assessment-free and will help us to pay off our loan as soon as possible e.g., in 5 years instead of 10 years which would save us $17,000 in interest. A monthly Capital Campaign envelope will continue to be included in your packet until June, 2020.

**Financial Report for March 2019**

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*Extraordinary Income includes $80.00 in Book Club fees, $72.00 in Cookbook Sales, $50.00 in Hall Rental Fees and $22.00 in outside donations and $0.61 in interest.
**Extraordinary Expenses include $12,794.12 in loan payments.

Operating Surplus / (Deficit) (5,488.34)
Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)  (11,390.98)
St. Vincent de Paul Donations for March 2019: $584.00

**DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL (DLA) 2019:**
Our DLA pledges and gifts now total **$42,267**, surpassing our Diocesan Target by almost $13,026 and our Total Goal by $3,026. THANK YOU SO MUCH! All gifts over our DLA goal will help to pay off our loan ahead of schedule in order to save on interest. One hundred thirty-seven (153) households have now contributed which is 68% of our Participation Goal (225). To make a DLA gift or pledge, please use the envelopes in the pews or the personalized pledge form found at the bottom of Fr. John’s March 1st letter to you. Monthly payments can be made. Credits cards can be used. To make an online DLA donation go to dioceseofgreensburg.org/HOPE.

**TEN-YEAR LOAN REPAYMENT REPORT:** Watch for it in our May 12th Bulletin!

**CATHOLICS COME HOME!** As we enter the second season of our Outreach Campaign to invite lapsed Catholics to return to Mass and un-churched persons to consider becoming a Catholic, we are to continue to pray, sacrifice, and offer ourselves for those to whom we have already reached out or will be reaching out. However, we will also be making use of methods and materials developed by Tom Peterson, the founder of Catholics Come Home. His program airs on EWTN three times a week: Sundays at 8:30 pm, Mondays at 6:30 pm and Saturdays at 5:30 pm. Over 200,000 Catholics have come back to the practice of our faith through the Catholics Come Home outreach. Watch his program and encourage the fallen away Catholics you know to do so. Also, if they like to read, consider giving them a free copy of Peterson’s book, Catholics Come Home. There is a limited supply on one of the tables in the back of church by the main interior doors. Also, consider using the Catholics Come Home website cards on the table as a way to silently encourage people to go online for help in getting back to faithful Mass attendance.

**IT’S TIME TO SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE “WHO KEEP US SAFE”**
Our annual tradition to honor those who keep us safe: fire personnel, first responders, police, etc. are invited to a special ceremony on Monday, May 6 beginning at 6:30 pm. This is our final Faith Formation Session for the year and in honor of the Feast of St. Florian (May 4), the patron of firefighters; we would like to say “thank you” to all who help and serve our community in a special way. The evening will end with an ice cream social in our hall. If you are able to attend, please contact the Rectory Office or the Faith Formation Office.

**SUPPORT THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME**
The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington has established a special site to accept donations to be used for the restoration of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris: www.supportnotredame.org.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK HANDYMAN JOE, JOE SISKA JR. Please support our sponsors.
NEW MASS INTENTION POLICY

All Mass intentions must be in writing along with donation.

Requests must include:
Offered by: ___________________________________________ Phone: ______________________________

Intention for: ________________________________________ Living _______ Deceased _______

Date requested: First Choice:___________________________ Second Choice ______________________

Donation:____________________________________________

All requests must be dropped into the offertory basket in their own envelope marked "Mass Intention" or mailed to or dropped off at the parish office. No phone requests please.