

DIVINE

MERCY

Sunday

ST. MARK PARISH



Thoughts from Fr. Stanley:

On the Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate with the entire Church the Feast of the Divine Mercy. During the revelations to St. Faustina, Jesus asked that a feast day be dedicated to the Divine Mercy. Pope John Paul II granted this feast to the Universal Church on the occasion of the canonization of Sister Faustina on April 30, 2000. In 2002, during the Dedication of the Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow, Poland, the Holy Father prayed: "Merciful Father, in Jesus Christ you have revealed your love and poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit. Heal our weakness, conquer all evil, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may experience your mercy."

Divine Mercy is at the heart of the Bible! "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be crimson red, they will become white as wool" (Isaiah 1, 18). "When sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5, 20). We read in the Diary of Sister Faustina: "Tell the whole world about my tender love and mercy. I pour out an ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. There must also be deeds of mercy. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere." Pope Francis wrote: "God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden and can restore life to dry bones. Let us be renewed by God's mercy! Let us become channels of mercy as we enable the power of Jesus' love to transform our lives."

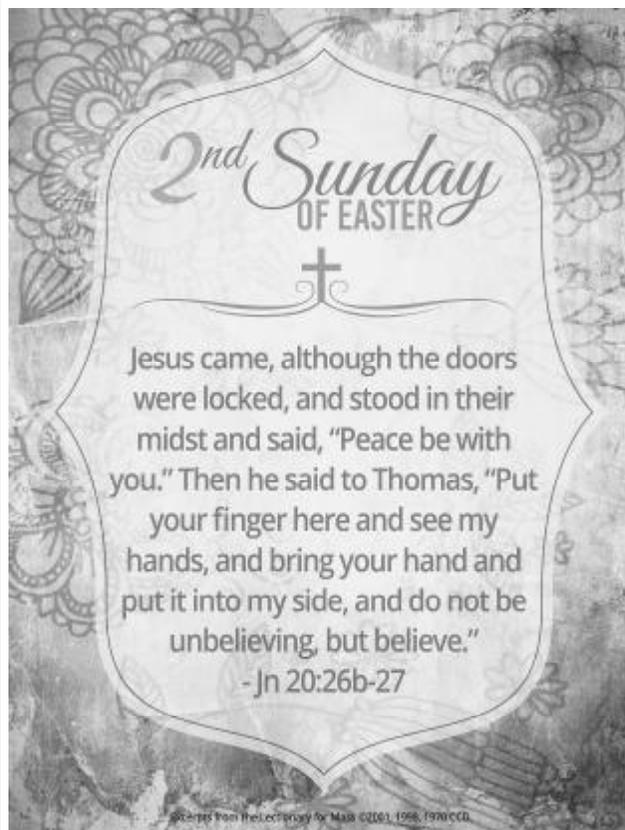
I encourage you to participate in the celebration of the Divine Mercy at St. Faustina Parish (12-Mile Rd and Schoencherr Rd). The services will begin with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 12 Noon, Confessions at 1pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Mass at 2pm.

Jesus I trust in You,
Fr. Stanley

MISSION STATEMENT

As the Eucharistic family of St. Mark Parish, we are called to welcome, love and serve. We continue the mission of Jesus Christ: "to transform our lives and believe in the Good News."

(Mark 1:15)



APRIL 11, 2021

REFLECTIONS

LIVE THE LITURGY

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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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Second 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.

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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
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Dear Parish Family,

What beautiful celebrations we have experienced these past few days, here at St. Mark. This is a very special thank you to all of you who joined us, and to the many hands that went into creating our lovely spiritual home and inspirational Liturgies.

Thank you to our lectors, ministers of communion, cross bearers, music ministry, and of course Fr. Stanley and Deacon Brian for providing services throughout Lent and Easter.

Thank you to all of you who continually disinfect, sacristans, Steve, and Father for keeping our spiritual home spic and span! We all feel safer from COVID, knowing we are spared many germs.

Thank you to the volunteers who distributed palms, count money from the collection baskets, and to Amanda for all of her talent in preparing our online bulletin.

Thank you to our great Pastoral Team for the many hours of behind the scenes help.

May our loving God bless you.

Mary Jo



THE WORD

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



Saturday, April 10

- 4:00 pm Aloysius Schwartz
- Herbert Dempz
- Isabelle McLaughlin
- Cecelia Dempz
- Frances Szpont
- Ester Stevenson
- Blevins Family

Sunday, April 11

- 8:30 am Emily Ozimek
- Paul & Veroncia Pataky
- Khoshaba Slaiwa
- Aaron Prillwitz
- 11:00 am Ray Kusza
- Argyro Zannis
- Linda Galindo
- Frank Suwienski

Wednesday, April 14

- 9:30 am The People of St. Mark

Saturday, April 17

- 4:00 pm Christopher Gharaeb
- Ashley Montgomery
- Virginia Williams

Sunday, April 11

- 8:30 am Jim & Mary Ann Stevens
- Harry Tyldesley Sr.
- Richard Nye
- 11:00 am Ray Kusza
- Nancy Peterson
- George Sandau
- Richard Prentis

ST. MARK OUTREACH



THE PANTRY NEEDS:

- Pinto or Northern Beans
- Rice Sides
- Pasta Sides



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

Luke gives us a glimpse into the solidarity of heart and mind with the original community of believers in Jerusalem. How does your current community of faith compare to this first-generation Jerusalem church?

Second Reading:

John speaks of the power of faith and love for believers in conquering evil in the world. How does the faith and love in your life sustain you?

Gospel:

The story of Thomas' doubt in the resurrected Jesus is one of the most well-known resurrection narratives. Why do you think Christians throughout the ages are drawn to this story?

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PRAYER INTENTIONS

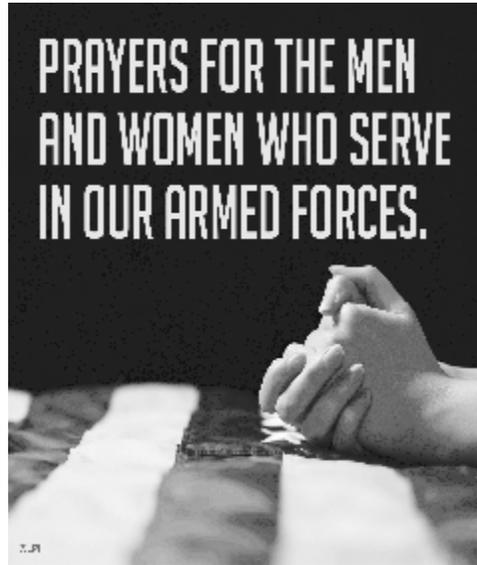


Julia Dehring

Ed Podgorny

Deacon George Posavetz

Only immediate family members may request a 'prayers for the sick' listing. Call the Parish Center: 586-759-3020. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks.



WE PRAY FOR ALL OF OUR MILITARY, & PARTICULARLY:

Sr. CPO Michael Brightman

Lt. Commander Adam Craig

LCPL Sarah J Page

Sgt. Steven Parisi

Major Michael F. Weigle

Family members who wish to have their loved ones prayed for may do so by submitting names to the parish office.

Prayer Resources

Act of Spiritual Communion

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 in 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.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen.

POPE TWEETS

"Let us never tire of seeking the risen Christ who gives life in abundance to those who meet him. To find Christ means to discover peace in our hearts. #Easter #ReginaCoeli"

- Pope Francis

@Pontifex Twitter (April 5, 2021)



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Parish Fax: 586-759-3024

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Parish: www.stmarkparishwarren.com

Central Macomb Vicariate: www.cmvic.net

Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org



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Mary Jo Ruebelman,

Office Manager / Worship Coordinator

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

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Cynthia Filipovich

Diane Hamilton

Tom Harm

Phyllis Wisniewski (Christian Formation)

Karen Kowalski (Stewardship)

Michael Powell (Worship)



OUR FINANCIAL SACRIFICE TO ST. MARK PARISH

We thank you for your generosity.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

Parents are asked to contact the Parish Center Office to arrange for Baptism instruction and a date for the Baptism.

MARRIAGES

Couples wishing to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony at St. Mark Parish are asked to allow at least six months to complete arrangements.

RECONCILIATION

Private Confessions: Saturday 3:00 PM.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

LAST Sunday of every month after all Masses.

View this bulletin online at www.parishesonline.com
Photographs are taken at all public parish events for use on the St. Mark Parish website. For questions or concerns, please contact the Parish Center Office.

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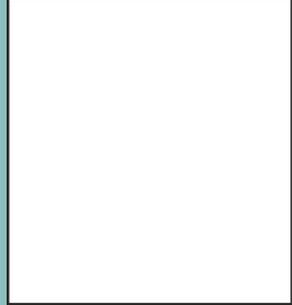
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