

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

8 APRIL 2018

Readings for Sunday, April 8: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31.

Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen him, we believe that Jesus is the Christ, begotten by God. We give thanks to the Lord that he has formed us into a community of believers, united in the Spirit.

Readings for Sunday, April 15: Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48.

St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
9 Apr.	MON. 9:00 AM	Roger Villano	Wife & family
11 Apr.	WED. 9:00 AM	Donna Rasy	Paula & Dennis Bolonski
12 Apr.	THU. 9:00 AM	Msgr. Richard Wright	
13 Apr.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Ludwika Louise Zazulak	Stanley Nedzia
14 Apr.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Robert & Joan Sabo	Cliff & Barb Keller
15 Apr.	SUN. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially JOHN KRUSZEWSKI.

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.

REMEMBER OUR TROOPS: Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.



SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, April 8 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and/or juice and some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING on Tuesday, April 10 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.

THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP leads the recitation of the Rosary every Sunday before the 9:00 AM Mass. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are welcome to join in these special Marian devotions.

“CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL!” For further information, please call the parish office.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - April 14/15:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Phyllis Villano
 Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, Terry Donnelly, Shelly Stockmal
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Nikki Gambino and Ginger Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Sylvia Marcheskie
 Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Cristin Buccaglia
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
 Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Divine Mercy Sunday

“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore” (Rev 1:17-18).

We heard these comforting words in the Second Reading taken from the Book of Revelation. They invite us to turn our gaze to Christ, to experience His reassuring presence. To each person, whatever his condition, even if it were the most complicated and dramatic, the Risen One repeats: “Fear not! I died on the Cross but now I am alive for evermore”; “I am the first and the last, and the living one.”

“The first,” that is, the source of every being and the first-fruits of the new creation; “the last,” the definitive end of history; “the living one,” the inexhaustible source of life that triumphed over death forever.

In the Messiah, crucified and risen, we recognize the features of the Lamb sacrificed on Golgotha, who implores forgiveness for His torturers and opens the gates of heaven to repentant sinners; we glimpse the face of the immortal King who now has “the keys of Death and Hades” (Rev 1:18).

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever! (Ps 117:1). Let us make our own the Psalmist’s exclamation which we sang in the Responsorial Psalm: “The Lord’s mercy endures forever!” In order to understand thoroughly the truth of these words, let us be led by the liturgy to the heart of the event of salvation, which unites Christ’s Death and Resurrection with our lives and with the world’s history. This miracle of mercy has radically changed humanity’s destiny. It is a miracle in which is unfolded the fullness of the love of the Father who, for our redemption, does not even draw back before the sacrifice of His Only-begotten Son.

In the humiliated and suffering Christ, believers and non-believers can admire a surprising solidarity, which binds Him to our human condition beyond all imaginable measure. The Cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, “speaks and never ceases to speak of God the Father, who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man...Believing in this love means believing in mercy” (*Rich in Mercy*, 7).

Let us thank the Lord for His love, which is stronger than death and sin. It is revealed and put into practice as mercy in our daily lives, and prompts every person in turn to have “mercy” towards the Crucified One. Is not loving God and loving one’s neighbor and even one’s “enemies,” after Jesus’ example, the program of life of every baptized person and of the whole Church?

With these sentiments, we are celebrating the Second Sunday of Easter, which since the year of the Great Jubilee, is also called “Divine Mercy Sunday.” It is a great joy for all of us to commemorate the canonization of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, witness and messenger of the Lord’s merciful love.

Indeed the message she brought is the appropriate and incisive answer that God wanted to offer to the questions and expectations of human beings in our time, marked by terrible tragedies. Jesus said to Sr. Faustina one day: “Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy” (Diary, 300). Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium.

The Gospel, which has just been proclaimed, helps us to grasp the full sense and value of this gift. The Evangelist John makes us share in the emotion felt by the Apostles in their meeting with Christ after His Resurrection. Our attention focuses on the gesture of the Master, who transmits to the fearful, astounded disciples the mission of being ministers of Divine Mercy. He shows them His hands and His side, which bear the marks of the Passion, and tells them: “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you” (Jn 20:21).

Immediately afterwards, "He breathed on them, and said to them, 'receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' " (Jn 20:22-23). Jesus entrusted to them the gift of "forgiving sins," a gift that flows from the wounds in His hands, His feet, and especially from His pierced side. From there a wave of mercy is poured out over all humanity.

Let us relive this moment with great spiritual intensity. Today the Lord also shows us His glorious wounds and His Heart, an inexhaustible source of light and truth, of love and forgiveness.

His "Sacred Heart" has given all people everything: redemption, salvation, sanctification. Saint Faustina Kowalska saw coming from this Heart that was overflowing with generous love, two rays of light which illuminated the world.

The two rays, [according to what Jesus Himself told her], denote blood and water (Diary, 299). The blood recalls the sacrifice of Golgotha and the mystery of the Eucharist; the water, according to the rich symbolism of the Evangelist John, makes us think of Baptism and the Gift of the Holy Spirit (See Jn 3:5; 4:14).

Through the mystery of this wounded Heart, the restorative tide of God's merciful love continues to spread over the men and women of our time. Here alone can those who long for true and lasting happiness find its secret.

This prayer, dear to so many of the devout, clearly expresses the attitude with which we too would like to abandon ourselves trustfully in your hands, O Lord, our only Savior.

You are burning with the desire to be loved and those in tune with the sentiments of Your Heart learn how to build the new civilization of love. A simple act of abandonment is enough to overcome the barriers of darkness and sorrow, of doubt and desperation. The rays of Your Divine Mercy restore hope, in a special way, to those who feel overwhelmed by the burden of sin.

Mary, Mother of Mercy, help us always to have this trust in your Son, our Redeemer. Help us too, St. Faustina, whom we remember today with special affection. Fixing our weak gaze on the divine Savior's face, we would like to repeat with you: "Jesus, I trust in you."

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, we are privileged that the Holy Spirit has come upon Nicole Griffin in a special way as she was confirmed this weekend and received First Holy Communion and came into full communion with the Church. This is not only a joy for her but for every member of the parish. Congratulations to the entire Griffin family. The Spirit is alive and well in Stowe and is touching many people. Take time to congratulate Nicole but also take the time to reflect how the Holy Spirit is moving in your own life.

Have a good week!!!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fr. Gregg Hickey

HELP WANTED!! The Women's Society needs individual(s) with basic carpentry skills to assemble room dividers. All materials will be supplied. Please call Lori LaRosa (610-326-6030) if you can help.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

April 29 - Ladies Springtime Tea at 1:00 PM in the social hall. Tickets \$10.00 - on sale after Masses. Must have ticket to attend. Ticket sales continue until April 22.

THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY is looking for donations to be used as door prizes for our Ladies Tea. Due to the almost non-existent donations from community businesses, we are asking for your help with items, gift cards, etc. Thank you for any help. Donations can be dropped at the church office.

MAGNIFICAT - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their MAY issue at the parish office.

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 25, 2018.....	\$3,848
Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,758	
Parish Giving - \$90	
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,152)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$195,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$172,001
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,410
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$22,999)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$590)

MARCH 26, 2017

Deposit.....	\$4,110
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$24,092)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,093

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR APRIL 1, 2018.....	\$9,905
Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,237	
Parish Giving - \$90	
Holy Thursday Collection - \$642	
Easter Flowers Collection - \$240	
Easter Sunday Collection - \$5,696	
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$4,905
Year to Date Budget.....	\$200,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$181,906
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,548
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$18,094)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$452)

APRIL 2, 2017

Deposit.....	\$4,011
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$25,081)
Difference from previous year.....	\$6,987

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 24/25:

4:00 PM Mass - 207
 9:00 AM Mass - 198
 Total Attendance - 405
 Mass Attendance for March 25/26, 2017 - 356

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 31/April 1:

7:30 PM Mass - 104
 9:00 AM Mass - 273
 Total Attendance - 377
 Mass Attendance for April 1-2, 2017 - 381



Raffle Drawing

PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **This is our major fund raiser for the parish. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

March 19 - #417 - Steve Yarmush - \$50.00
 March 20 - #991 - unsold
 March 21 - #493 - LuAnn Houck - \$50.00
 March 22 - #094 - unsold
 March 23 - #231 - Joe Gierschick - \$50.00
 March 24 - #292 - unsold
 March 25 - #569 - Michael P. Onifrek - \$100.00
 March 26 - #156 - unsold
 March 27 - #851 - unsold
 March 28 - #629 - unsold
 March 29 - #648 - unsold
 March 30 - #430 - Jim & Denise Bucciaglia - \$50.00
 March 31 - #978 - unsold
 MARCH FIGURES: 339 tickets sold - \$1,695.00. Payout to winners - \$650.00. Printing of tickets - \$100.00. March Profit - \$945.00. Thank you for your support!

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
FRANCES RULLI from Mary Ann Karpinski;
HOLLY HEIMBACH from Tony & Theresa Vitacco;
SANDRA SMITH from Ron & Carol Fry.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, STOWE is having a 4 mile race on April 21 at 10:00 AM. The title is "Crush the Snake" and will be fun with food, drinks and prizes for all ages. Contact Pretzel City Sports or just show up.