



## The Community of St. Joseph Cathedral & Holy Cross Church

St. Joseph Cathedral 212 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215 | 614-224-1295

Holy Cross Church 204 S. Fifth Street, Columbus, OH 43215 | 614-224-3416

[www.sjchcc.org](http://www.sjchcc.org)

*“The tomb of Christ, who is living, The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;  
bright angels attesting, The shroud and napkin resting.  
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you.”*

*-Victimae paschali laudes*

## SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS CHURCH

+ Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus

+ Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell  
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus

+ Most Reverend James A. Griffin  
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus

### PRIESTS

Reverend JCP Sullivan  
Cathedral Rector

Reverend Michael Hinterschied  
Parochial Vicar

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### SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Masses are scheduled by calling the Parish Office. Contact Cathedral office at 614-224-1295.

### MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS: APRIL

#### FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### HOLY CROSS

Sunday, April 7

9:00 a.m. Soul of Elizabeth K. Morbitzer

#### ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Sunday, April 7

10:30 a.m. The People of St. Joseph Cathedral  
and Holy Cross Church

12:30 p.m. Soul of Jane Pribis

5:15 p.m. Soul of Marilyn Shea Kennedy

#### ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Monday, April 8

12:05 p.m. Soul of Rich Paul

Tuesday, April 9

12:05 p.m. Intention of Bob Carle

Wednesday, April 10

12:05 p.m. For the Harrison Family

Thursday, April 11

12:05 p.m. Soul of Darlene Thomas

Friday, April 12

12:05 p.m. For the Podolia Family

#### HOLY CROSS

Saturday, April 13

11:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Cullinan Family

### WEEKLY READINGS

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024 ~

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

*Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31*

Monday, April 8, 2024

The Annunciation of the Lord

*Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38*

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

*Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15*

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

*Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21*

Thursday, April 11, 2024 ~ *Saint Stanislaus*

*Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36*

Friday, April 12, 2024

*Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15*

Saturday, April 13, 2024 ~ *Saint Martin I*

*Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21*

<b>THIS SUNDAY'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE</b>				
<b>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY ~ APRIL 7</b>				
	<b>HCC 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>SJC 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>SJC 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>SJC 5:15 p.m.</b>
<b>MC</b>				
<b>Altar Servers</b>	John Feher	Bonnie Maupin	Antonio Tomasi	Ed Hueckel
		Jason Yax	Jim Pierce	
		Trevor Foley		
		Lisa Emrich		
<b>Lector – One</b>	Kelly Wagoner	Sharon Reichard	Marilyn Tomasi	Linda Ruth
<b>Lector – Two</b>		Donna Lent	Deborah Duffy	Josie Gonot
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>		Fritz Harding		
<b>Hospitality/Ushers</b>	Ann Seren	Steve Horner	Nate Foley	Gordian Igwilo
	Denise Harris	Evelina Horner	Thom Gall	Robert Schoenfeld
		Elvis Niangoran		

**OUTREACH TO HELPING THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS**

Twice-Daily Food Distribution at Saint Joseph Cathedral ~ 614-224-1295  
 Saint Lawrence Haven, on the grounds of Holy Cross Church ~ Heather Swiger at hswiger@columbuscatholic.org  
 Joint Office for Inner-city Needs (J.O.I.N.) ~ 614-241-2530

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC**

**Office of Compline** – 9:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the Month. The next one is April 7, 2024.

**OFFICES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS**

For Diocesan offices, please call 614-228-2457 during regular business hours or visit [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org).

**LOW-GLUTEN\* HOSTS** will be served at **All Masses**. Worshippers can receive low-gluten Holy Communion from the center aisle (please identify yourself to the Celebrant). \* Contains less than 0.01% gluten content and meets the standard set by the Holy See and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS CHURCH**

**PLEASE KEEP THESE PARISHIONERS IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Tim Acton, John Ankrom, Ed Chong, Barbara Cicua, Christopher Clark, Dorothy Deems, Sherri Dembinski, Larry Edwards, Theresa Elliott, Peter Garrett's Mother, Robert & Peggy Halley, Edith Ingram, Dr. Lianna Goetz, Brittany Grinder, Kim Haring, Ruth Harper, Chris and Anna Katanyuta, Denise Lager, Teresa Mallon, Colleen Olson, Kathy Perkins, Marie Naseman, Maria Paras, Linda Pauley, The Pemberton Family, Maribeth Riepenhoff, John Ryan, Susan Bateman Severs, David Simmons, Sarah Stollenwerk, Sandra Valencia and James Worley.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**(CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS)**

Please contact Carol at the Cathedral, 614-224-1295.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

**(CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS)**

Please email Mandy at [weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org](mailto:weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org).

**NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION**

**FOR THE CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS**

Welcome to Saint Joseph Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Columbus! We are glad that you are here and invite you to become part of our parish family to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament, and also to become involved in one or more of our parish ministries. To become a registered member, you can pick up a form by the main entrance of our historic church, visit our website, or contact us through the Parish Office. Welcome!

**FUNERAL MINISTRY (CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS)**

For parishioners who have died, the family should contact the rector at St. Joseph Cathedral at 614-224-1295 before meeting with the funeral director.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS)**

Those wishing Holy Communion in the Home due to illness or confinement, or for visits to a hospital or nursing center, please call 614-224-1295.

# Divine Mercy Sunday

GAYLE SOMERS

## Gospel (Read Jn 20:19-31)

The celebration of our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday usually focuses on the sheer ecstasy of His victory over death. All during Holy Week, we are absorbed with the details of His horrific Passion. When we reach Easter, our hearts nearly burst with joy that Jesus is alive and vindicated as God's Son. In other words, it's easy to dwell on the **fact** of the Resurrection and be so dazzled by it that we do not think much beyond that. The mercy of Divine Mercy Sunday is that now we begin to meditate on the **meaning** of the Resurrection. Today's Gospel gets us started.

When Jesus miraculously appears among the apostles, we find they are locked in a room "for fear of the Jews." These fellows have not lately impressed us, have they? His closest friends (Peter, James, and John) slept instead of keeping watch and praying in Gethsemane. All the apostles except John fled the Crucifixion, and they were all reluctant to believe the witness of the women to whom Jesus first appeared. Yet the word Jesus speaks to them is, "Peace." Then He commissions them to continue the work the Father sent Him to do. If the Gospel reading stopped right here, we would still have enough information to knock us over backwards with joy: Jesus loves sinners! These men were often feckless and self-absorbed, yet when He goes to them, He gives them peace and joy. Can any scene in the Gospels demonstrate more clearly than this one the meaning of Easter?

Jesus then does something truly astounding. "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.'" What?? Are we prepared to see this in the story? Jesus breathed His own breath on the very people who failed Him in His hour of need. This action reminds us of God breathing into Adam's nostrils His own breath at Creation, confirming him in "the image and likeness of God." Jesus establishes the apostles as those who will continue His divine work on earth. In them, God will forgive or retain sin. What can explain Jesus building a Church that is both human and divine other than the boundless mercy of God?

We find that one of the apostles, Thomas, was missing from this momentous occasion. When he gets the report of it, he refuses to believe it. He must see and touch the wounds of Jesus to be convinced. We don't know why Thomas doubted the men with whom he'd spent the last three years and who, along with himself, had been chosen as Jesus' closest intimates. His refusal to believe makes us uncomfortable, doesn't it? His doubt and cynicism don't seem to come from a good place, yet Jesus appears and gives him precisely what he needs for faith. Mercy! This river of mercy is starting to gain momentum. Jesus then helps us to understand where the river is headed: "Have you come to believe because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and believed." This happy river is coming **our** way. It will flow out to everyone, everywhere, in all times. Those who believe in Jesus without ever seeing Him are going to be swept up in the torrent of God's mercy for sinners.

If we have been slow on the uptake, St. John puts it all together for us: "These [signs of the Risen Jesus] are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief, you might have life in His Name". The meaning of the Resurrection is the triumph of mercy and new life for sinners. Isn't this a great Day?

Possible response: Lord Jesus, I know myself to be as weak, fickle, and hard-hearted as the apostles sometimes were; thank You for the mercy You offered to them and to me.

## First Reading (Read Acts 4:32-35)

Our Gospel reading ended with St. John inviting his readers to believe the testimony of the apostles "that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." This belief leads to "new life in His Name." In Acts, St. Luke describes for us what this "new life" looked like in the very first converts to Christian faith. If we had to summarize this brief reading about the early Christians, what would we say? They loved each other! We cannot miss the fact that their conversion bore the fruit of brotherly love. They were of "one heart and mind." Their generosity was astonishing, as they resolved to have "no needy person among them." They willingly sold personal possessions so that they could materially care for everyone.

What explains this kind of behavior? How do people get to the point of being able to lay down everything for the sake of others? The answer is in our Gospel reading: “As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.” In its context, this is Jesus’ charge to the apostles to carry on His work after His departure. Theirs is, of course, a unique work with its unique charism from the Holy Spirit. Yet we can see the principle underlying it is Jesus’ desire for His followers to be like Him in the world. He showed mercy to sinners by holding nothing back. These early converts, having understood the mercy offered to them in Jesus, also lived this new life of mercy and self-donation.

Once we really understand the mercy God has shown to us, can we ever be the same?

Possible response: Lord Jesus, please help me offer as much mercy to others as I hope to receive from You.

### **Psalm (Read Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24)**

Today, the psalmist simply cannot stop praising the mercy of God. How appropriate that this should be our liturgical response on Divine Mercy Sunday. The psalmist explains the cause of his joy in very few words: “I was hard pressed and was falling, but the Lord helped me.” Don’t these words describe the plight of all mankind, from Adam to us? Ever since the Fall, we have staggered and tripped in our sin, completely unable to help ourselves. Even the apostles, when Jesus most needed them, caved into fear and self-preservation. Nevertheless, Jesus died for them and for us: “By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.”

Of course, it is! That is why our responsorial today calls us to **“Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love is everlasting.”**

Possible response: The psalm is, itself, a response to our other readings. Read it again prayerfully to make it your own.

### **Second Reading (Read 1 Jn 5:1-6)**

In Acts, we saw St. Luke’s description of how the river of mercy released by Jesus in His Resurrection flowed into and transformed the early converts. Now, St. John explains the inner dynamic of how this river works in us. “Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by Him.” Here we see the unbreakable link between our belief in Jesus—that is, we believe He has shown great mercy to us—and our love of one another.

See that St. John is realistic enough to know that love for others requires a battle: “Whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.” By “the world,” St. John means everything that is indifferent or resistant to both God and man. We all have a dose of this “world” in us. That is why it is hard to love others, even when we want to, unless we have faith: “the victory that conquers the world is our faith.” Our ability to love others must always be grounded in our belief “that Jesus is the Christ,” because that belief enables us to see, as Thomas did in the Gospel, that He is **“my Lord and my God.”** He died for me! We bathe ourselves in that river of mercy, and we know it wants to keep on flowing. This is the true test of our conversion: “We know that we love the children of God when we love God and keep His commandments.”

Knowing this, we can echo today’s Collect prayer in the Mass: “that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed.” Amen.

Possible response: Father, sometimes “the world” seems stronger than my faith. Help me remember that it isn’t.

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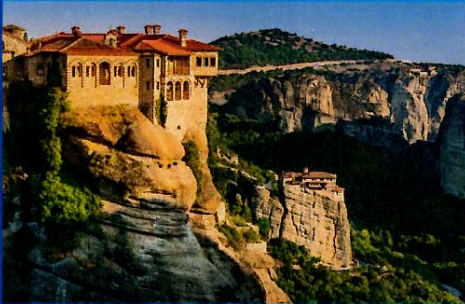
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# Divine Mercy: Yours for the Asking

MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO, PH.D.



Several years ago, the Catholic Church declared the Sunday after Easter “Divine Mercy Sunday.” So, what exactly is “mercy” anyway, and what does it have to do with the Easter season?

Mercy is not just pity. Neither is it simply sparing someone the punishment that they deserve. No, mercy is love’s response to suffering. When mercy encounters suffering, it ultimately seeks to alleviate it. God the Father is so “rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4) that Paul calls him “the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort” (2 Cor 1:3).

Jesus is the perfect human image of the Father’s mercy. When he meets those suffering from hunger, he feeds them. When he encounters someone suffering from physical sickness, he heals them.

True mercy is not superficial, but radical. And Jesus sees that the deepest suffering in human life, the root cause of all other suffering, is sin. Sin debases us, robbing us of our dignity, weakening and even rupturing our connection with God, our loving Father and the source of our life. Sin is not just a transgression of some arbitrary law; it creates a wound in us that can fester and, if not attended to, corrupt us entirely. It gives the Prince of Darkness a hold in our lives that he tries to turn into complete control of our lives. True mercy seeks to alleviate this deeper suffering that can lead to eternal suffering.

Jesus died to do precisely this. And the risen Christ instituted the sacrament of penance and reconciliation to apply the medicine of mercy, won on Calvary, to each individual sinner at the moment of their deepest need.

Wait a minute. So Jesus, not the Church, established this sacrament? Where does the Bible say he did that? Right there, in John’s gospel, on Easter Sunday afternoon. Despite the locked doors, he stands amidst the apostles and says “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Jesus is the original “apostle” of the Father – the word means “one who is sent.” As he was sent on a mission of mercy, so he sends out his “apostles” on the same mission. He breathes on them and says “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive men’s sins, they are forgiven them; if you hold them bound, they are held bound.” (Jn 20:19-22).

If you have a problem with the Church intruding on what you think ought to be just between just you and God, you’ll have to take that one up with Jesus. It was his idea. From the looks of this text, he gave the apostles and their successors, whom we call bishops, a great deal of authority in this matter. But he also gave them a great deal of power. The same Holy Spirit responsible for bringing order out of chaos (Gen 1) and causing a virgin to conceive and bear a son, is breathed upon the apostles. He is the Spirit of Mercy, the Spirit of healing, the Spirit of reconciliation, liberation and resurrection.

Going to confession is not just meeting an official of the institutional church. It is meeting a man who has been anointed with the Spirit of Mercy to stand in the place of Christ (*in persona Christi*) and serve as an instrument of the divine physician. True, this instrument is himself a sinner in need of mercy. Peter and doubting Thomas make that abundantly clear right from the start. But they are instruments of God’s healing, merciful love, nonetheless. That is the case whether or not they are wise counselors and whether or not they are exceptionally holy.

The Spirit Christ breathed on the apostles on the first Easter afternoon has been passed on to these men through the sacrament of Holy Orders. That means that Christ is the one you meet in the sacrament of confession. And he comes not just to forgive, but to heal, to liberate, strengthen and transform.

His merciful love means that he died not just to “cover our sins,” to wipe them off God’s record book, leaving us the same miserable creatures we’d always been. No, his mercy kills the infection, heals the wound, and breaks the bonds.

In the sacrament of reconciliation, Jesus invites us penitents, like he did Lazarus, to come out of the place of darkness and decay. And he says to his priestly confessors the same thing he said to the people standing around Lazarus’s tomb: “unbind him, and let him go free!”

That’s divine mercy. I don’t know about you, but I want as much of it as I can get!



Image by D Casp from Pixabay

# Ten Ways To Live Out the Doctrine of Divine Mercy

FR. ED BROOM, OMV



The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. Among the most important highlights in the Pontificate of Pope St. John Paul II was the end of April in the year 2000. This great modern saint accomplished two extraordinary feats on that same day. He carried out the first canonization of the new millennium, raising to the altar of Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938)—known as the *Secretary of Divine Mercy*. Then the Holy Pontiff proclaimed the Second Sunday after Easter to be *Divine Mercy Sunday*. According to inner sources, this was the happiest day in the life of Saint Pope John Paul II. He felt that one of his primary missions entering into the new millennium was the indispensable need to promote the message of Divine Mercy. Now it was done.

Therefore, let us present a succinct summary of some of the most salient points of the Doctrine of Divine Mercy promoted by Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and officially proclaimed by His Holiness, Saint Pope John Paul II.

1. Be Merciful As Your Heavenly Father Is Merciful: When somebody offends you, the natural reaction is to get even or to get revenge. But this is not the Heart of Jesus. As He hung on the cross, Jesus' first word was that of mercy: "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing.*" (Lk. 23:34)

Let us try to forgive immediately; this is most pleasing to the Heart of Jesus and a sure means to attain God's mercy for us. The key to victory is to forgive right away. The Bible teaches us to not allow the sun to go down on our anger.

2. Honor and Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy: Jesus told Saint Faustina Kowalska that He wanted an image of Divine Mercy to be painted. Then He told the saint that He wanted this image to be venerated in the entire world. See if you can purchase an attractive image of Divine Mercy. Have it blessed by a priest and then enthroned in your home.

Make sure the image is enthroned in a prominent place. This is very pleasing to the Heart of Jesus. By doing so, you are saying implicitly to all who enter your home that Jesus is the King of your home, your family, and your heart.

3. Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Get in the habit of praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Short and easy to memorize, this Chaplet can be prayed in any time and any place. Jesus told Saint Faustina to pray it frequently. If done, this will result in a constant raining down from Heaven of God's infinite mercy upon the world at large. You can pray the Chaplet by yourself, with others, in the family, in front of the Blessed Sacrament, in the car, even while waiting in line in the Supermarket.

4. Hour of Mercy: Call to mind, if possible, the Mercy Hour. This is 3:00 p.m. This was the Hour when Jesus from the altar of the cross breathed forth His spirit into the hands of His Heavenly Father. "*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*" (Lk. 23: 46) At this Hour, Jesus told Saint Faustina to make the Stations of the Cross or to visit the Blessed Sacrament. If, due to occupation, this was impossible, then Jesus told the Saint—as well as us—to call to mind the passion and suffering of Jesus and be united to Jesus' last agony and moments.

If done, through union with Jesus' suffering, whatever we ask of the Father, if it is His will, it will be granted. Some wise individuals set an alarm on their watches or phones as a reminder—not a bad idea!

5. Pray for the Dying

The most important moment in our life is the moment that we are dying. How we die, meaning the state of our soul, will determine our destiny for all eternity. Therefore, we should pray constantly for the dying throughout the world. However, if you have a chance to be present when somebody is dying, then pray for them very fervently. Most especially pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for them, so that they will die in God's grace and be saved for all eternity. Jesus promised Saint Faustina that if a person is dying, and another person prays the Chaplet for them at that time, then that dying person will attain salvation.

6. Confession and God's Mercy: God's mercy emanates most fully and efficaciously through the Mystical Body of Christ and through the Sacraments. Each Sacrament communicates a specific grace. The Sacrament of Confession communicates God's infinite mercy. In every Sacramental Confession, the Precious Blood of Jesus shed on Calvary descends into the soul of the penitent and washes them clean. The better the preparation for Confession, the more abundant the graces of healing and mercy! Get into the habit of frequent Confession.



7. Get To Know the Message of Divine Mercy—The Diary! Without doubt, one of the best ways in which we can become familiar with the message of Divine Mercy would be to purchase the *Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul* of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. Then get in the habit of reading and meditating on at least one number daily (there are 1828 numbers or entries). The Diary is a gold-mine of spiritual riches and treasures. Then share what you have read with others. A sure way to grow in our faith is to share our faith with others.

8. Holy Mass & Divine Mercy: The two rays that emanate from the Divine Mercy image have a deep symbolic meaning and interpretation. When the Sacred Heart of Jesus was pierced with the lance on the cross, Blood and Water gushed forth. The light-colored ray symbolizes the two Sacraments of purification and healing: Baptism and Confession. The red ray emanating from the Heart of Jesus symbolizes the most Holy Eucharist.

May we all have an ardent yearning to receive the most Holy Eucharist frequently and with fervor! May these words of the Psalmist characterize our own yearning: “*As the deer yearns for the running streams, so my soul yearns for you, my God.*” (Psalm 42:1).

9. Divine Mercy Sunday and the Promises of Divine Mercy: Jesus promised that those who attend Holy Mass on the Sunday after Easter, which is Divine Mercy Sunday, and receive the Holy Eucharist with a good disposition—meaning they are not in the state of mortal sin, can receive the extraordinary grace of forgiveness for all their sins, as well as remission from all temporal punishment due to their sins, including past sins. This is an extraordinary grace and gift and we should take advantage of this free gift.

This also means we should make a sincere Sacramental Confession close to the Solemnity of Divine Mercy Sunday. If we were to die that day, we would go straight to Heaven. “*Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever.*” (Ps. 136:1) And even if we don’t die, we only accrue punishment for sins committed from that day forward. An extraordinary grace and gift!

10. Our Lady of Mercy: One of Our Lady’s many titles is that of “*Our Lady of Mercy.*” Actually, in the prayer that we say at the end of the most Holy Rosary, the Hail Holy Queen, we cry out to Mary in these words: “*Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope....*” In our moments of trial, let us lift our gaze to Mary. When we fall, let us cry out to her and she will help to lift us up. May the words of Saint Bernard in the *Memorare* inspire us to place our trust in Our Lady of Mercy: “*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.*”

#### Conclusion

Let us all meditate upon, pray over, cherish and love the greatest of all of the attributes of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus—His Divine Mercy. Let us not only understand in our mind Divine Mercy, but also live it in our lives. One more important step: let us make the decision, in imitation of Saint Faustina Kowalska, to become true *Apostles of Divine Mercy*.

When all is said and done, the eternal salvation of our immortal soul, and the souls of all, depend upon relying on and trusting in Divine Mercy. Let these words echo day and night in our minds, hearts and souls: *Jesus, I Trust in You! Jesus, I Trust in You! Jesus, I Trust in You!*



image: [Vivida Photo PC / Shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)

**The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy can be found on the USCCB website using the following link:**

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/chaplet-divine-mercy>

# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

*The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit.*

***“The most potent and acceptable prayer is the prayer that leaves the best effects. I don't mean it must immediately fill the soul with desire . . . The best effects (are) those that are followed up by actions; when the soul not only desires the honor of God, but really strives for it.”*** +SAINT TERESA OF AVILA

### **Monday, April 8 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**Meditation:** We see the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy and the unfolding of God's plan of redemption in the events leading up to the Incarnation, the birth of the Messiah. The new era of salvation begins with the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. This child to be born is conceived by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, who finds favor with God. As Eve was the mother of all humanity doomed to sin, now Mary becomes the mother of the new Adam who will father a new humanity by his grace (Romans 5:12-21). This child to be conceived in her womb is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He will be “great” and “Son of the Most High” and “King” (Luke 1:32-33), and his name shall be called “Jesus”, which means “the Lord saves.” “He will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The promise of an everlasting kingdom to the house of David (Isaiah 9:6-7) is fulfilled in the King to be born in Mary's womb.

**Prayer:** O God, who willed that your Word should take on the reality of human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, grant, we pray, that we, who confess our Redeemer to be God and man, may merit to become partakers even in his divine nature. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** When the word of God is delivered by the angel Gabriel to Mary, she knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, “how shall this be, since I have no husband” is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of “yes” to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willingness, obedience, and heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands he also gives the help, strength, and

means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do you believe in God's promises? Do you yield to his grace?

## Tuesday, April 9 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter

**Holy Gospel: John 3:7b-15** Jesus said to Nicodemus: "'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to him, 'How can this happen?' Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

**Meditation:** Jesus spoke to Nicodemus of the power of his cross and a "new birth in the Spirit." The Hebrew word for "spirit" means both "wind" and "breath." Jesus said to Nicodemus: "You can hear, feel, and see the effects of the wind, but you do not know where it comes from. In like manner, you can see the effects of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those the Spirit touches." Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus the necessity of the crucifixion and resurrection by analogy with Moses and the bronze serpent in the desert. When the people of Israel were afflicted with serpents in the wilderness because of their sin, God instructed Moses: "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live" (Book of Numbers 21:8).

**Prayer:** Enable us, we pray, almighty God, to proclaim the power of the risen Lord, that we, who have received the pledge of his gift, may come to possess all he gives when it is fully revealed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The bronze serpent points to the cross of Christ which defeats sin and death and obtains everlasting life for those who believe. The result of Jesus "being lifted up on the cross" and his rising and exaltation to the Father's right hand in heaven, is our "new birth in the Spirit" and adoption as sons and daughters of God. God not only redeems us, but he fills us with his own divine life and power that we might share in his glory. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit that we may have power to be his witnesses and to spread and defend the gospel by word and action, and to never be ashamed of the Cross of Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us his seven-fold gifts of wisdom and understanding, right judgment and courage, knowledge and reverence for God and his ways, and a holy fear in God's presence (ref. Isaiah 11) that we may live for God and serve him in the power of his strength. Do you thirst for new life in the Spirit?

## Wednesday, April 10 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter

**Holy Gospel: John 3:16-21** God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

**Meditation:** Do you know the love which surpasses all else? A true lover holds nothing back but gives the best that can be offered, even everything in their possession for the beloved. God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer – his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world. Abraham's willing sacrifice of his only son, Isaac prefigures the perfect offering and sacrifice of God's beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. This passage in the gospel of John tells us of the great breadth and width of God's love. Not an excluding love for just a few or for a single nation, but a redemptive love that embraces the whole world, and a personal love for each and every individual whom God has created. God is a loving Father who cannot rest until his wandering children have returned home to him. Saint Augustine says, God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us to love. God gives us the freedom to choose whom and what we will love.

**Prayer:** As we recall year by year the mysteries by which, through the restoration of its original dignity, human nature has received the hope of rising again, we earnestly beseech your mercy, Lord, that what we celebrate in faith we may possess in unending love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. This all takes place by the choices we make – our “free will.” If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else? Does he take first place in your life, in your thoughts, and actions? Are your choices guided by the love of God? If not, why not?

**Thursday, April 11 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter  
Memorial: Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr**

**Holy Gospel: John 3:31-36** The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things. But the one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever does accept his testimony certifies that God is trustworthy. For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.

**Meditation:** God's truth has consequences and he gives us the freedom to choose how we will respond. The choice he gives us has eternal consequences – everlasting life or everlasting death. God challenged his people in the Old Covenant: “See I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil...I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him” (Deuteronomy 30:15-20). And he issues the same challenge to the people of the New Covenant today. And so we must ask ourselves... Do you weigh the consequences of your choices? Do they lead you towards life or towards death? If you choose to obey God's voice and to do his will, then you will know and experience that life which comes from God himself. If you choose to follow your own way apart from God and his will, then you choose for death – a spiritual death which poisons and then kills the soul until there is nothing left but an empty person devoid of love, truth, goodness, purity, peace, and joy. Do your choices lead you towards God or away from God?

**Prayer:** O God, restorer and lover of innocence, direct the hearts of your servants towards yourself, that those you have set free from the darkness of unbelief may never stray from the light of your truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer (Saint Stanislaus):** O God, for whose honor the Bishop Saint Stanislaus fell beneath the swords of his persecutors, grant we pray, that we may persevere strong in faith even until death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Contemplation:** Do you hunger for the true life which God offers through the gift of his Holy Spirit? The Jews understood that God gave a certain portion of his Spirit to his prophets. When Elijah was about to depart for heaven, his servant Elisha asked for a double portion of the Spirit (2 Kings 2:9). Jesus tells his disciples that they can believe the words he speaks because God the Father has poured his Spirit on him in full measure, without keeping anything back. The function of the Holy Spirit is to reveal God's truth to us. When we receive the Holy Spirit he enables us to recognize and understand God's truth. Jesus is the Word of God and he gives us his Holy Spirit so that we can recognize his truth and live according to it.

**Friday, April 12 ~ Second Week in the Season of Easter**

**Holy Gospel: John 6:1-15** John Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, “Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?” He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Two hundred days’ wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people recline.” Now there was

a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

**Meditation:** Can anything on this earth truly satisfy the deepest longing and hunger we experience God? A great multitude had gathered to hear Jesus, no doubt because they were hungry for the word of life. Jesus' disciples wanted to send them away at the end of the day because they did not have the resources to feed them. They even complained how much money it would take to feed such a crowd – at least six month's wages! Jesus, the Bread of Life, took the little they had – five loaves and two fish – and giving thanks to his heavenly Father, distributed to all until they were satisfied of their hunger. The people of Israel had been waiting for the prophet whom Moses had promised: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren – him shall you heed (Deuteronomy 18:15). The signs which Jesus did, including the miraculous feeding of the five thousand signified that God has indeed sent him as anointed Prophet and King. Jesus' feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle recorded in all four gospels. What is the significance of this miracle? The miraculous feeding of such a great multitude pointed to God's provision of manna in the wilderness for the people of Israel under Moses' leadership. This food foreshadowed the true heavenly bread which Jesus would offer his followers. Jesus makes a claim only God can make: He is the true bread of heaven that can satisfy the deepest hunger we experience. The sign of the multiplication of the loaves when the Lord says the blessing, breaks and distributes through his disciples prefigures the superabundance of the unique bread of his Eucharist or Lord's Supper. When we receive from the Lord's table we unite ourselves to Jesus Christ, who makes us sharers in his sacred body and blood. Saint Ignatius of Antioch calls it the "one bread that provides the medicine of immortality, the antidote for death, and the food that makes us live for ever in Jesus Christ" (Ad Eph. 20,2). This supernatural food is healing for both body and soul and strength for our journey heavenward. When you approach the Table of the Lord, what do you expect to receive? Healing, pardon, comfort, and rest for your soul? The Lord has much more for us, more than we can ask or imagine. The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist is an intimate union with Christ. As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens us in charity and enables us to break with disordered attachments to creatures and to be more firmly rooted in the love of Christ.

**Prayer:** O God, who for the salvation of the world brought about the paschal sacrifice, be favorable to the supplications of your people, so that Christ our High Priest, interceding on our behalf, may by his likeness to ourselves bring us reconciliation, and by his equality with you free us from our sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The feeding of the five thousand shows the remarkable generosity of God and his great kindness towards us. When God gives, he gives abundantly. He gives more than we need for ourselves that we may have something to share with others, especially those who lack what they need. God takes the little we have and multiplies it for the good of others. Do you trust in God's provision for you? Do you share freely with others, especially those who lack even the most basic necessities, such as food and clothing? How about doing some spring cleaning, and take what you're not using in your home (items that are clean and in good condition, of course) and give them to any number of Catholic organizations reaching out to help those in need – especially our Saint Vincent de Paul Chapter.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;  
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;  
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2024



## TAKING PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH AND HOLY CROSS

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE:** St. Joseph Cathedral & Holy Cross happily announces the coming nuptials of Genevieve Harding and Christian Bray on April 20, 2024 and Leksi Murnieks & Dylan Van Tassell on April 27, 2024 at the Cathedral. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their weddings.

**THIS WEEKEND IS FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL:** Coffee/Tea/Punch and Light Refreshments will be served at a reception following this Sunday's 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please come to meet and welcome our new parishioners and enjoy a time of Christian fellowship and sandwich-making for the Backdoor Ministry Program. Take the elevator or follow the signs to the staircase leading to the lower level.

**THIS WEEKEND IS FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY AT HOLY CROSS:** As it is the first Sunday of the month, Fellowship Sunday will be held today after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the first floor of the school building. Please join us for coffee and donuts. Thank you to Claire Miller and her granddaughter, AnnaMaria Dezusman, for preparing and hosting this month's fellowship reception. All are welcome!

**LITTLE LARRY SANDWICH-MAKING AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH:** On April 21st after the 9:00 a.m. Mass, we will be making sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven. Join us!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH COFFEE-MAKING AND SETTING UP FOR FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS.** Please contact Ed Huecke at [Emmett2381@yahoo.com](mailto:Emmett2381@yahoo.com).

**WE INVITE YOU TO BE PART OF THE BEAUTIFUL LITURGIES AT ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS CHURCH.** Consider joining the Liturgical Ministry Volunteers as altar servers, lectors, and hospitality ministers. Please fill out a form in the sacristy or email the form to JP at [sjcministryscheduler@gmail.com](mailto:sjcministryscheduler@gmail.com).

**CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS BIBLE STUDY:** The Bible Study meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral in the Undercroft. There is interest in having a daytime Bible Study as well. If you are interested in joining either session, please contact Carol at 614-224-1295 or at [cathedral@sjchcc.org](mailto:cathedral@sjchcc.org).

## IN, AROUND AND NEAR THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

**A FESTIVAL OF ALLELUIAS:** Come celebrate the octave of Easter with an Organ concert titled "A Festival of Alleluias" at Holy Family Church (584 W. Broad Street) on Saturday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. There will be an opportunity to sing Easter hymns and hear glorious Easter music by organists, Shawn Kenney and Nicole Simental. "Let everything that has breath give praise to the Lord! Alleluia! ~ Psalm 150:6.

**CITY-WIDE MASS AND ADORATION (ATTACHMENT):** There will be a City-wide Mass and Praise Adoration on April 13th, 10:00 a.m. to Noon at St. Catharine Parish (500 S. Gould Road, Columbus 43209) Fr. Patrick Toner is the Celebrant and Dr. Steve Kebe will be doing a teaching before the Praise Adoration. There will be Confession available and Healing Prayer Teams. This event is sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Renewal.



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**TOUR DAY AT THE JOSEPHINUM:** The Pontifical College Josephinum welcomes you to its annual Tour Day on Saturday, April 27, from Noon-3:00 p.m. Learn about the fascinating history and unique mission of the only pontifical seminary outside of Italy as you explore the Josephinum's grounds, main administration building, and Saint Turibius Chapel. Tours will highlight many beautiful characteristics of this historic 1931 structure, including extensive woodwork, stained glass windows, terrazzo floors, intricate brickwork, and sacred art. Register online at [apps.pcj.edu/tourday2024](https://apps.pcj.edu/tourday2024).



**DID YOU KNOW? WORLD'S LARGEST DIAPER DRIVE 2024:** Diaper need in our community continues to grow. World's Largest Diaper Drive 2024 (WLDD 2024) is just around the corner, and we need your help. The goal for WLDD 2024 is to collect 1,000,000,000 diapers through diaper drives and monetary donations during the month of May. To host a diaper drive, please call Beth Snoke at 614-554-5664 or sign up at [www.registermydiaperdrive.com](https://www.registermydiaperdrive.com).



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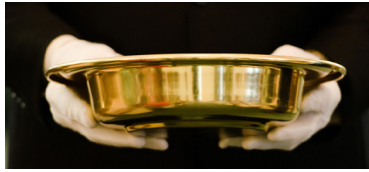
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**SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL**  
Updated March 31, 2024  
2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese \$ 42,645.24  
TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE \$ 66,021.76  
EXCEEDS DIOCESAN GOAL BY \$ 23,376.52

**OFFERTORY FOR SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL**

**MARCH 24** \$ 5,400.00  
**MARCH 31** \$ 10,461.96  
8% Diocese \$ (1,268.96)  
Net to Parish \$ 14,593.00

**HOLY LANDS** \$ 1,919.00  
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**HOLY CROSS CHURCH**  
Updated March 31, 2024  
2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese \$ 21,018.43  
Enhanced Goal \$ 26,018.43  
TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE \$ 27,168.43  
EXCEEDS ENHANCED GOAL BY \$ 1,150.00

**OFFERTORY FOR HOLY CROSS**

**MARCH 24** \$ 3,176.00  
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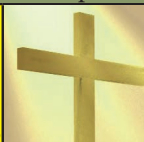


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