



## **GIFT – April 2021**

### **Theme: Divine Mercy – Works of Mercy**

#### **Recap of April GIFT:**

During this month's session we continued looking at our theme of God is Love, through focusing on Divine Mercy and learning more about the Works of Mercy. During the session we:

- Discussed the Easter Season and Divine Mercy Sunday
- Heard a reflection from Deacon Mike about Mercy
- Went through the lists of Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Broke into small groups to discuss how to live out each of the Works of Mercy
- Learned about our Saint of the Month: St. Kateri Tekakwitha

If your family was unable to attend the session, or you would like to revisit what this month's session was about, please go through the following pages to experience some of our activities from the April session.

[Click here](#) to get the PDF of all the slides from the session.

#### **Opening Prayer:**

We opened our session by using a beautiful Easter prayer calling us to rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus and follow his example of peace and love for all people as we continue throughout this Easter season.

A blue rectangular slide with white text and a floral illustration. The text is an opening prayer for Easter. In the top right corner is the Saint Brigid Parish logo. In the bottom right corner is a cluster of white lilies with green leaves and stems. At the bottom left, there is a small URL.

**Opening Prayer:  
An Easter Prayer**

Good and gracious God, our most glorious Creator,  
As we greet the signs in nature around us: of Spring once again regaling us  
in bloom, in the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted.  
We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of  
your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.  
The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of  
immortality. For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph  
over treason, light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.  
As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the  
promise given to us.  
By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the  
marginalized, the least among us, as we strive to be neighbor  
to all those we meet, we praise you in this Easter season.  
Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of  
Easter joy and hope.  
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ,  
our risen Lord forever.  
Amen.

<https://www.xavier.edu/resultresource/online-resources/prayer-index/easter-prayers>

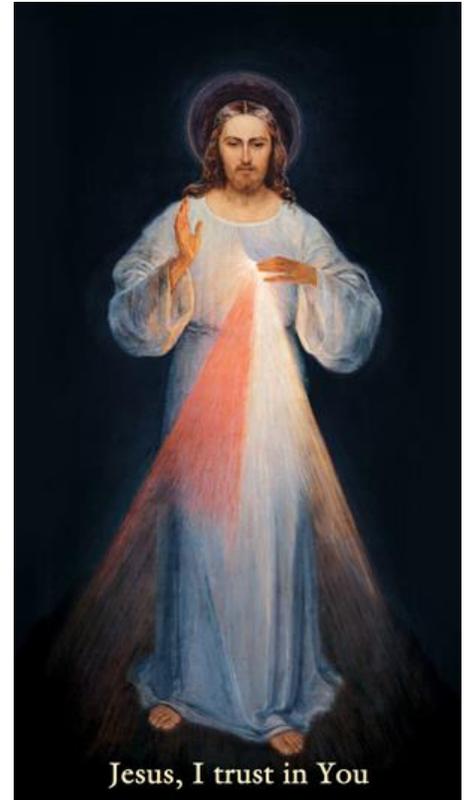
#### **Discussion of the Easter Season and Divine Mercy Sunday:**

Welcome to Easter! For seven weeks we will be in the season of Easter. The season lasts 50 days, all the way until we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. During the Easter season, the priest will wear white at Mass and the church is often decorated with white flowers and other white decorations to remind us we

are in a season of celebration and feasting. Over these next weeks, we will hear about Jesus' encounters with the disciples after his Resurrection. During the first reading at Mass, we hear from the book of Acts of the Apostles, which tells about the early church, , instead of hearing a reading from the Old Testament.

Many of the Sundays during Easter have a special theme. The second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday and it is an opportunity for us celebrate how merciful and loving God is. While God's mercy has always been celebrated, this special feast has only been celebrated in its current form since 2000. Some of the things we see at church that day include the image of Divine Mercy that was given to St. Faustina in the early 1900s.

For more info about the Divine Mercy image and the prayers of Divine Mercy, visit <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/>



### Deacon Mike's Reflection on Mercy:

Watch Deacon Mike's reflection on what mercy means and how we can live out mercy in our lives. Listen for the definition he gives of "corporal" and see how many of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy he mentions (hint: he doesn't say them all by name, but describes some of them).

Watch his video here: <https://vimeo.com/537441811/28f93ef53b>



### Listing the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy:

During our session, we named a work of mercy and had people guess if it was a corporal or spiritual work of mercy. The lists of Corporal and Spiritual Works are below. Try quizzing family members on which is which without letting them see the lists.

Corporal Works of Mercy	Spiritual Works of Mercy
feed the hungry	counsel the doubtful
give drink to the thirsty	instruct the ignorant
clothe the naked	admonish sinners
shelter the homeless	comfort the afflicted
visit the sick	forgive offenses
visit the imprisoned	bear wrongs patiently
bury the dead	pray for the living and the dead

### Breakout Rooms to discuss living out the Works of Mercy:

In our breakout rooms, each room had a couple for the works of mercy to discuss and brainstorm ways we can live them out in our lives. Here are some examples:

*Clothe the naked* - give or donate old clothes to families in need or Goodwill, participate in a baby drive or give baby items to moms in need, or have a garage sale and donate the money

*Pray for the living and the dead* - Pray for people who are going through hard times, pray when you hear an ambulance, pray for love ones who have died, listen for intuitions about people as they come to mind for you

[Click here](#) for the complete list of examples from our sessions. Pick a couple to work on as a family over the coming months. Choose something to do once and something that could be ongoing for your family.

The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy cards in your family's home kit have some additional ideas and for even more suggestions, you can visit the USCCB's pages on the [Spiritual](#) and [Corporal Works](#) or visit [LooktoHimandbeRadiant.com](http://LooktoHimandbeRadiant.com) for some filled in charts and other activities (we used her blank charts in our sessions).

## Saint of the Month: St. Kateri Tekakwitha

We learned about the of our Saint of the Month – St. Kateri Tekakwitha, and how she overcame difficulties in her life, while always showing mercy to those around her. Watch Mr. Bob’s video to learn more: <https://vimeo.com/537440505/c3e1a3a70d>

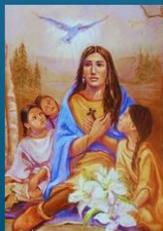
**Saint of the Month:**  
Saint Kateri [kä'tu-rē] Tekakwitha [tek'u-kwith'u]

*Could you become a saint? Kateri struggled at a very young age losing her family to smallpox and being scarred and nearly blinded but was able to overcome her difficulties when she learned about Jesus from Jesuit missionaries. She later dedicated her life to Jesus. She was a very hard worker, relied on prayer, and was known for her kindness to children and elderly through her commitment to Jesus.*

- Born: 1656 in New York State
- Died: April 17, 1680
- Feast Day: July 14
- Patron Saint: of the environment, ecology, and Native Americans
- Became a Saint: 2012 by Pope Benedict
- First Native American Saint in North America, also know as “the Lily of the Mohawks”



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## Closing Prayer:

In honor of celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday during this week, we used some of the prayers from the Divine Mercy Chaplet to close our session. [Watch the video from Ms. Julie](#) to sing along to some of the prayers and use the handout from your home kit on the Divine Mercy Chaplet to learn how to pray the whole thing.

**Closing Prayer**



Jesus, I trust in You



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**Divine Mercy Chaplet Prayers:**

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

For the PDF of all slides from the session – [click here!](#)