

A blessed Second Sunday of Easter to you! Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, instituted by St. John Paul II, to remind us of the eternal Easter Gift present with us every day of our lives: Mercy. Mercy is defined as a gift that we are given that is not deserved. Easter is a reminder and a challenge of Mercy. It is a reminder of Mercy because God, out of Love sent his Son to redeem us. Easter is a challenge of Mercy because it can be difficult to live out but bring freedom when embraced. A great resolution of the Easter Season is to take advantage of the Lord's mercy in our lives and share that mercy in whatever way we can with all that we meet.

The devotion to the Lord's Mercy on this Sunday stems from the Divine Mercy Devotion from St. Faustina who gave us the Divine Mercy Chaplet (a short prayer that is prayed on the Rosary Beads). If you are looking for another effective way to pray in this Easter Season this is for you! **Join us from 3p-3:30p to pray this devotion (Sunday, April 12)!**

Congratulations again to Randy and Cheryl Fye who were welcomed into the Church on Easter Vigil. They are a wonderful couple who enhances our community and we look forward to journeying with them. Please take time to introduce yourself to them and welcome them into the community. Further, Easter is the Season of re-birth and New Life. We also celebrate that in the Church with the new life that the Sacraments bring. As I mentioned a few weeks back if you know of anyone who is looking to become in full communion with the Church through receiving the Sacraments; or if you as an adult have not had the opportunity of receiving First Communion or Confirmation please contact us so we can help you. Feel free to reach out to Linda Summerville as she coordinates our OCIA programming and then will inform myself/the team so we can help you!

Over the easter season I hope to offer a few brief comments on the Sacramental life of the Church. As I mentioned over the Triduum and on Easter Sunday, *anamnesis (making present the one past event in the present of Jesus life, death, and resurrection; more than remembrance of the past; but the one event of the past being revealed in the present)* is how we know Jesus keeps his promises by making present what he really said. I hope to offer a few points from both Scripture and Tradition (with the help of the Catechism and Church Documents) to help us understand the gifts of the sacrament that we receive. (on the back)

I want to say thank you again for all your participation and help in making our first Triduum/Easter Sunday celebrations possible. I am blessed to journey with you! Further, a thank you to all Ushers/Greeters; Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Musicians and Michael our Cantor, those who helped me decorate, our OCIA team and all volunteers who have helped us over those days (including the Holy Water Botter fillers). Another thank you to our Staff and Deacon Joe for all of their help in the preparations as well.

I have been encouraging us throughout Lent to start some good habit and to keep it going well beyond Easter Day. As we continue our journey into this beautiful season, I am hoping the schedule* below of spending time with our Risen Lord through Mass, Prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Confession opportunities help us to keep the good that we began during Lent. **(KEEP THIS SCHEDULE HANDY SOMEWHERE)**

Weekday Mass	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
<i>Regular Schedule:</i> +Monday's Wednesday's and Friday's: 7:30am +Tuesdays and Thursday's: 8:30am+	<i>Regular Schedule:</i> +Every Saturday from 3p-3:40p	<i>Regular Schedule:</i> +First Friday 8a-12:15p and +Third Thursday/month: 5:30p-6:30p
<i>Additional Weekday Masses during the Easter Season:</i>	<i>Additional Confession Opportunities during the Easter Season</i>	<i>Additional Adoration Times during the Easter Season:</i>
Tuesday, April 14: 12:10pm	Sunday, April 12: after 8:30am Mass	Sunday, April 12: 3p-3:30p with Divine Mercy Devotions
	Tuesday, April 14: after 12:10pm Mass	Thursday, April 16: 5:30p-6:30p
Monday, April 20: 6pm	Sunday, April 19: after 11am Mass	Wednesday, April 22: 7p-8p
Tuesday, April 28: 12:10p	Tuesday, April 28: after 12:10p mass	Friday, May 1: 8a-12:15p
	Friday, May 1: 11:30am-Noon	
Tuesday, May 5: 12:10p Mass	Saturday, May 2: after 4pm Mass	Tuesday, May 5: 7p-8p
	Tuesday, May 5: 8p: after Adoration	
	Sunday, May 10: after 8:30a Mass	Tuesday, May 12: 6p-7p
	Tuesday May 12: 7p: after adoration	
Thursday, April 14: Ascension (Schedule TBD)	Sunday, May 17: after 11am Mass	Thursday, May 21: 5:30p-6:30p
Tuesday, May 19: 12:10p	Tuesday, May 19: after 12:10p Mass	Saturday-Sunday May 23,24: All-night vigil (after 4p mass until 8:30am Mass)
	Saturday, May 23: after 4p Mass	
	Sunday, May 24: after 8:30am Mass	

*All Schedules Subject to Change; for up-to-date information visit calendar on www.icclarion.org

Other important dates:

1. *Small Groups Meeting: Tuesday, April 14: 6:30p in the Church.*
2. *1:38 Women's Conference: Saturday, April 18 (See back of this page)*

All of the above is about seeing the Risen Lord, and like the early church offering post resurrection encounters with the Risen Lord. Please see the bulletin, website, and emails for our complete Easter Season Schedule.

As I have mentioned a few times, all women of the parish are invited to join us in person (either in Erie or on our campus by joining via livestream) on **Saturday, April 18 for the 138 Women's Conference**. If you would like to attend on our campus, please contact our office; if you would like to attend in Erie please register online. This day promises to be a day of renewal and hope. Please challenge another mother, daughter, sister, niece, neighbor, friend, etc., to join you. I have been blessed to be the Spiritual Director with Fr. Larry Richards for this conference for a few years now and my hope is that our parish can take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity. Please join us!

Continue to celebrate these 50 days of Easter Joy and don't forget his gift of Divine Mercy in our Lives! Enjoy the Second week of Easter! Fr. Jason

Sacrament of Baptism:

From Scripture: The main reason why we get baptized is salvation as we hear from John 3:6: "No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of the Water and the Holy Spirit". This is understood in the context of following what Jesus himself received. Although he didn't have to be baptized, he modeled how we are to follow. From the Old Testament Baptism was inferred beginning in the creation/flood accounts, and parting of the Red Sea by Moses in the Book of Genesis.

From tradition of the church through her teaching: "Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ. No sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation. Given once for all Baptism cannot be repeated" (CCC, no. 1272). This means that we have been given a permanent gift that is up to us to open by how we live our lives. Further, Baptism provides a common foundation among all Christians, including those not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church. The Church recognizes the validity of Baptism in other Christian Churches as long as the rite involved the pouring of or immersion in water, a Trinitarian formula, and the intention to baptize. Those who have been baptized have been saved by their faith in Christ and the grace of Baptism. "They therefore have a right to be called Christians and with good reason are accepted as brothers by the children of the Catholic Church" (CCC, no. 1271, citing UR, no. 3).*

Sacrament of Confirmation:

This helps us to understand the Sacrament of Confirmation. If the Sacrament of Baptism is a gift that is meant to be opened by how we live our lives; Confirmation gives us the refined tool to do so. Confirmation is distinct from Baptism and sends us on Mission by the fullness of the Spirit but cannot happen without baptism. Starting with the *Tradition of the Church*: When we are baptized, we receive the "spirit" (remember John 3:5). Confirmation gives us the fullness (or turns the spigot from a small stream to full power). Confirmation is not a substitute of Baptism, but the fulfillment of Baptism. This is why it is not considered a choice but a necessity to live out our baptismal call. What this Sacrament helps us to do is to live out the Spirit through the gifts and fruits given. While Baptism wins us new life in Christ, confirmation allows us to find growth in that new life by the Spirit given (in baptism) and fulfilled (in confirmation). These sacraments are inseparable and follow the same understanding of being a permanent/one time reception. This is also why the church offers a few different times to receive this sacrament: right after baptism; after the age of reason (7); or later in elementary/high school. But make no mistake this sacrament is about fulfillment of baptism and not readiness of reception or alleviation of doubt/sin. This is also why Confirmation is essential to be a Sponsor or Godparent. I would like to offer two points from the CCC:

+ "Baptism, the Eucharist, and together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (CCC 1285)

+ "When we are responsive to the grace of Confirmation and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, we begin to bear the fruits of the Spirit. The tradition of the Church names twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity (cf. CCC, no. 1832; Gal 5:22)."

The basic *scriptural roots* of this Sacrament are: Act 2:1-4 (the event of Pentecost); Laying on of Hands (Acts 8: 14-17); and Isaiah 11:1-4 (prophesy of the spirit).

What these two sacraments do is offer salvation and initiation (baptism); and sends us on mission to live out what we have been initiated in (confirmation). If you would like to receive these sacraments let us know!

* (excerpts taken from: <https://www.archspm.org/why-is-baptism-important-what-change-does-it-make-in-me/>)