



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

April 7, 2024 • Sunday of Divine Mercy

Divine Mercy Sunday

PHILIP KOSLOSKI



February 22, 1931, was the First Sunday of Lent, the day when St. Faustina received her Divine Mercy vision.

The Divine Mercy devotion promoted by St. Faustina was providentially revealed to her on the First Sunday of Lent.

St. Faustina records the date of her vision of Jesus on Sunday, **February 22, 1931**, which would have been the Sunday following Ash Wednesday of that year.

She explains what happened on that fateful Sunday night in her *Diary*.

In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the chest. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the chest, there were emanating two large rays, one red and the other pale. (...) After a while Jesus said to me, **“Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You.”** ~ *Diary*, 47

The artist Eugene Kazimirowski, who received instructions provided personally by Sister Faustina, painted the first depiction of Divine Mercy in 1934 in Vilnius. However, it is the image of Lagiewniki, Krakow, painted by Adolf Hyla, that has gained fame throughout the world.

It is fitting that St. Faustina received this instruction at the beginning of Lent, as the Divine Mercy devotion is **connected intimately with the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus**, displaying the love Jesus has for humanity through the rays of his wounds.

Lent is set apart as a special time in the Church’s calendar to meditate on Jesus’ Passion, and Divine Mercy Sunday occurs a week after Easter Sunday, on the Second Sunday of the Easter season.

While St. Faustina received many other private revelations throughout her life, this vision on the First Sunday of Lent is regarded as the most important one.

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PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM

Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM

Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM

Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held Saturdays 2:45-3:45

PARISH OFFICE

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<http://btsp.org>

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Prayer for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

Dear Jesus,

As you greeted your disciples after you rose, fill us, too, with your peace.

As you breathed your spirit on them, breathe on us, too.

As your presence was known to Thomas, make it known to us, too.

Help us to live in your peace, power, and presence.

Amen.

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ROAR of the
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May 10th - Friday
Straz Center: Morsani Hall
6pm-10pm

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April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 4:32-35 | 1 Jn 5:1-6 | Jn 20:19-31

Written by
THE
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GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

We tend to beat up St. Thomas for his doubt, when what is really most amazing in the scene from today's Gospel is his understanding, and the first public pronouncement of, Jesus Christ's divinity. He *gets* it. And he proclaims it without hesitation: "My Lord and my God." I think about what Thomas' face might have looked like at that moment, and I imagine a countenance of conviction alongside humility – joyful tears in the eyes that reflect awe and wonder. The truth behind his realization and understanding is that God is faithful, God is loving, God is merciful. Of course, *knowing* that with our heart and mind needs to be translated into *doing* with our every action. The early Christian communities seemed to have lived this well, happily sharing their possessions and selling what they didn't need. Not because they had been forced to, but because the "commandments [were] not burdensome" for those who loved God. God loved us first, and by his grace, and his mercy, we are commanded and empowered to love one another.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

God is merciful – Divine Mercy. And that is what we celebrate today, in addition to the second Sunday of Easter. The first Divine Mercy Sunday observance occurred in the year 2000, when St. John Paul II canonized Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska. The Polish sister received private revelations from the Lord about his great mercy in the 1930s, and she outlined these in a diary she kept at the instruction of her confessors. A passage from her diary says: "The graces of my mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is – trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." (1578) The apostles in today's passage told Thomas that they had *seen the Lord* – the resurrected Lord. They trusted that Jesus' messages to them were true and that they indeed need not fear. The message of Divine Mercy should likewise comfort us and also provide a model for our actions. In the same way the apostles helped Thomas to trust and come to deep knowledge and understanding, let us strive to be "of one heart and mind" with our fellow disciples and love them as we have been loved by God.

PRAY The words of St. Faustina's diary have been used to create the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This prayer is said using a rosary, but with some differences in the prayers. Once you know the words, the chaplet is a simple prayer to recite, and it is traditionally said at 3 p.m. in remembrance of Jesus' merciful act of dying on the cross for us. If you have never recited the chaplet, try praying it this week.



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Journeying Through Grief

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 6, Saturday in the Octave of Easter
8:00 a.m. Connor Gibb (liv), Megan Gibb (dec) and Bridget Ruth Gibb (dec)

Saturday, April 6, Vigil for Divine Mercy Sunday
4:00 p.m. The Comeau and La Rosa Families (dec)

Sunday, April 7, Divine Mercy Sunday
8:00 a.m. Deacon Lionel Roberts (dec)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (dec)

Monday, April 8, Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Thomas D. Carr III (dec)

Tuesday, April 9, Tuesday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. Jeffrey Albert Molter (dec)

Wednesday, April 10, Wednesday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, April 11, Memorial of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr
8:00 a.m. Edward Crader (dec)

Friday, April 12, Friday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. Mary Dexter (dec)

Saturday, April 13, Saturday of the Second Week of Easter
8:00 a.m. Mary Ciszek (dec)

Saturday, April 13, Vigil for Third Sunday of Easter
4:00 p.m. James Lawler and Patricia Sullivan (dec)

Sunday, April 14, Third Sunday of Easter
8:00 a.m. Vicki DeZarn (dec)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Adele Frallicciardi (liv)

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Everyday Stewardship

What do you own and what owns you? You can find this question asked many times in several different contexts. Are you looking to find some kind of financial freedom? How about trying to live simply in a complex world? Has a mountain of stuff invaded your home garage to the point where parking a car inside is only a dream?

The early Church practiced a radical form of fellowship called koinonia, which literally means "sharing in common." Those who had homes and other major possessions would sell them and then place the proceeds in the care of the Apostles to be shared with the entire community. People focus mostly on the fact that people sold all their possessions for the benefit of the community. However the real point is the action that occurred after every selling: the proceeds were given to Church authority, in essence, to God first. I wasn't just selling my house and then giving the money to random people. My offering was to God and it was for the Apostles (those who personally encountered Jesus and now represented him on earth) to decide how to divide up the wealth.

Why do such a thing? One could say it was so that no one wanted for anything. If we push that thinking too far, as some in history have done, we can create a system that takes from some to give to others. Nothing was taken from anyone in that first Christian community. It was freely given. And perhaps the reason why people were moved to do so lies at the heart of stewardship: because all we have already belongs to God anyway.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Weekly Offering

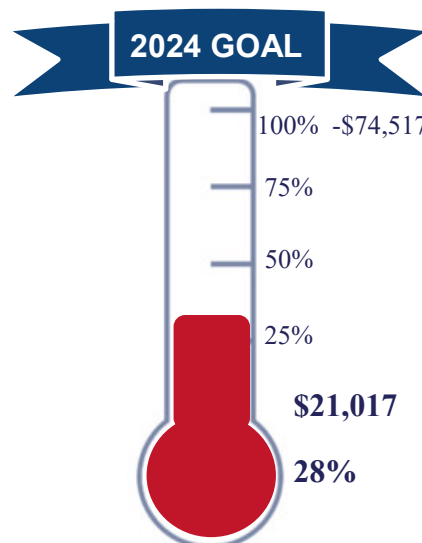
**Weekend of March 31
Including Online Giving from
03/25-03/31**

Offertory	\$ 12,983
Other Donations	\$ 9,708
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 957

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Upcoming Events

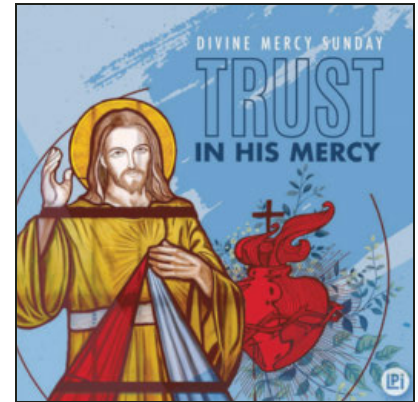
Sunday, April 7 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, April 8 6:30 pm	“Life in the Spirit” Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, April 9 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Thursday, April 11 6:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	MR
Sunday, April 14 9:00 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, April 15 6:30 pm	“Life in the Spirit” Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, April 16 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Thursday, April 18 4:00 pm	SVDP Meeting	CYH-1
Sunday, April 21 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, April 22 6:30 pm	“Life in the Spirit” Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, April 23 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Thursday, April 25 6:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	MR
Sunday, April 28 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, April 29 6:30 pm	“Life in the Spirit” Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, April 30 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Thursday, May 2 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	SVDP Meeting Choir Rehearsal	CYH-1 MR
Saturday, May 4 5:00-7:00 pm	K.O.C. Cinco de Mayo Dinner	PH
Sunday, May 5 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, May 6 6:30 pm	“Life in the Spirit” Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, May 7 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH

Key for Events

PH= Parish Hall, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church, CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1

Scripture Class

Blessed Trinity Scripture Class will begin a new study, continuing with Q Place "Change, Facing the Unexpected," started March 12 and will end April 30. Class is held in Courtyard Hall on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 am. Books are \$12.00. For further information please call Barbara Townsend (727) 867-3605.



Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father,

We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world.

Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you.

In Jesus name, we pray.

Amen.

04/07 • Rev. Alan C. Tupa
 04/08 • Rev. Anthony Ustick
 04/09 • Tyler Gates, Seminarian
 04/10 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life
 04/11 • Rev. Garry A. Welsh
 04/12 • For All Retired Priests
 04/13 • Rev. Franco Pinto

“Life in the Spirit” Prayer Group

Monday evenings at 6:30 pm in Courtyard Hall.

All are welcome!

For more information please call 727-867-3663.



Text BTSP to 84576 or online at btsp.flocknote.com



DIVINE MERCY

OUR GOD, RICH IN MERCY

Mercy is one of God's most characteristic attitudes toward us. "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5). So it was most appropriate when Pope St. John Paul II in 2000 renamed the 2nd Sunday after Easter as **Divine Mercy Sunday** when he canonized the Polish nun and mystic St. Faustina Kowalska, who was particularly devoted to Divine Mercy.

God's Mercy in the Bible

In the Old Testament, mercy identifies a complex Hebrew idea describing God's special covenant love (Hebrew, *hesed*). God's mercy includes loyalty, dependability, trustworthiness and an eagerness to help when situations turn bad. God's desire to be in a covenant relationship with us keeps God alert to our cries for help and eager to deliver us from whatever separates us from God (sin). Mercy is not just the response felt toward those who are suffering, but even more God's fierce covenant attachment to be with us and save us. Like a loving Father or Patron of a family, God is an especially generous benefactor who lavishes gifts (Greek: *charis*, Latin: *gratia*) on the covenant people. These gifts are not distributed because of the people's merits, but strictly out of God's freely-given favor or mercy.

Jesus Reveals God's Mercy

In the New Testament, Jesus is the face of the Father's mercy and reveals God as a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. Jesus offered a new vision for life in the covenant community, which he called the kingdom of God. He proclaimed God as king: the heavenly patron or benefactor who has mercy on us and generously gives us what we need. So Jesus stressed that our basic response is giving thanks (Greek, *eucharist*) for God's gifts and the task of sharing them with others. He reminded us that mercy is not only God's action, but as God's children we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us.

BEING BEARERS OF MERCY

“As we can see in Sacred Scripture, *mercy* is a key word that indicates God’s action towards us. God does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes and behaviors that are shown in daily living. God’s mercy is his loving concern for each one of us. God feels responsible; that is, God desires our wellbeing and wants to see us happy, full of joy and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do we God’s children. Just as God is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other. Mercy expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert and believe. God’s forgiveness knows no bounds.

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.”

— Pope Francis
Misericordiae Vultus (April 11, 2015)

POPE FRANCIS’S PRAYER TO BECOME BEARERS OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees God.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let us be your visible face in the world.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so we, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. Amen.

—Pope Francis



St. Faustina Prayer

(Polish born Helena Kowalska (1905–1938), was the third of ten children. When almost twenty, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, became Sr. Maria Faustina and devoted her life to the message of God’s mercy. She traced her spiritual experiences with Christ in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*. She was canonized in 2000.)

I want to be completely transformed into your mercy and to be your living reflection, O Lord. Help me, that my eyes may be merciful, so I may never suspect or judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors’ souls and come to their rescue. Help me, that my ears may be merciful, so I may heed my neighbors’ needs and not be indifferent to their pains. Help me, that my tongue may be merciful, so I should never speak negatively of my neighbor, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness. Help me, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so I may do only good to my neighbors by doing the difficult tasks. Help me, that my heart may be merciful so I may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor. Jesus, I trust in you! *Amen.*

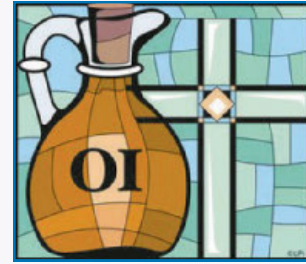
Faustina’s Mission

St. Faustina’s life-long dedication to God’s mercy was the direct result of her mystic encounter with Jesus, who gave her this mission. “Today I am sending you with my mercy to the people of the whole world. Speak to the world about my mercy. Let all mankind recognize my unfathomable mercy. Let them have recourse to the fount of my mercy. Let them profit from the blood and water which gushed forth for them. Before I come as a just judge, I first open wide the doors of my mercy. One who refuses to pass through the doors of my mercy must pass through the doors of my justice. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy.”

Arnold, Barbara
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 Barr, Bill
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 Christ, Kathryn
 Cisek, Marilyn
 Comeau, Teresa
 Coston, Robert
 Daniels, Joshua
 D'Azzo, Lina
 DiStefano, Judy
 Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
 Ferrara, Antoinette
 Fitzgerald, Dan
 Gawlik, Frank
 Gawlik, Sofia
 Genreux, Carol
 Grimberg, Carol
 Hart, Mary
 Hawkins, Ashlyn
 Hawkins, Barbara
 Helbig, Len
 Hoffman, Bette

Huff, Walt
 Irvin, John
 Joyal, Christina
 Kindel, Helen
 Kirchgessner, Marie
 Klima, Sue
 Krieger, Mary
 Lanigan, John
 Lashley, Diana
 Lawler, Matthew
 LeVan, George
 Lewis, Cynthia
 Maharne, Cecile
 Manley, Jan
 Manley, Paul
 Matthews, Daniel
 Mays, Hank
 Mays, Susan
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 O'Connor, Mary
 Oliphant, Sean

Ott, Michael
 Parmigiani, Valerie
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 Preeper, Helen
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 Romani, Angelo
 Schulz, Ingrid
 Shelby, Montez
 Stankiewicz, Cy
 Taylor, Sister Elaine
 Thompson, Susan E.
 Vanderbeck, Cindy
 Vanderbeck, Jay
 Walsh, Thomas
 Wojcicki, Frank
 Youngman, Ruth
 Zaweski, Albin



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.

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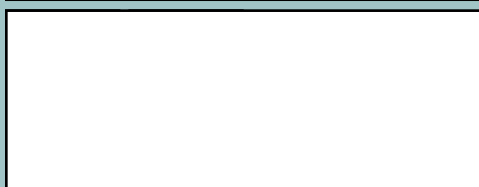



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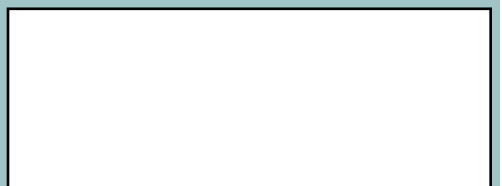
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