

## **INSIDE OUR PARISH** MAY IS THE MONTH OF OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY. We will be reciting the Holy Rosary twenty-five minutes before each weekend Mass beginning on Sunday, May 1st. We need volunteers to lead the Rosary. If you can volunteer, please see the sign up sheet in the narthex beginning on Apr 23/24. WE WILL CONDUCT THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL IN OUR PARISH over the next few weeks. All of our diocesan programs and ministries serve people in ways that we as a parish alone could never do. Please prayerfully consider what you as an individual and as a family can pledge to support the educational, pastoral and religious programs and services offered by our diocese. Our parish goal is \$64,792 and 100% participation. Remember, no gift is too large or too small. THE SOUTH COUNTY FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED of canned beans such as kidney, great northern, pinto, and black beans, Jello gelatin, breakfast cereal, and jelly. (The pantry cannot accept home canned items.) Toothpaste is also needed. Thank you for your continued support of our local food pantry! LET MI KIDS LEARN PETITION: Watch a video about this petition on our website at www.stmartinvicksburg.org. Please prayerfully consider signing the two required petitions to create the scholarship program and tax credits to improve the education of Michigan's school children. This petition is available for signatures in the parish office Monday—Friday from 9a-3p. THE ST. ISADORE GUILD STILL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS If you can help out in any way, once a week, once a month, spring and fall clean up, whatever time you can donate, we need you! Any day, any time works. We can arrange to offer direction and assistance. No experience necessary! Kids are welcome! Call Sharon 679.5328 for info. "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." - Mother Theresa -NEXT FARMERS BREAKFAST IS SUNDAY, MAY 08 from 9:00a-1:00p in the Parish Hall. All are welcome. WORD OF LIFE If you or someone you know has had an abor-FORMED tion, be assured that it is never too late to seek PICK OF THE WEEK God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Recon-April 24, 2022 ciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" PRAYER: A SURGE OF THE HEART from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org Now that Lent is over, finding time to to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry pray can be difficult. Modern life is near you. PRAYER very busy with so many distractions at every turn, and there's always USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities another job to be done. This "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion" inspiring presentation challenges us www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy to make more time for God in our lives and highlights the importance of an ever-deepening life of prayer. PARISH SUPPORT APRIL 17, 2022 Envelopes: 78 Weekly Goal:\$6,730 To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Collection envelopes: \$6.888.00 Mailed in envelopes: \$225.00 On Line Giving: \$0 PLEASE PRAY FOR: Alfredo Montes Total Collection: \$7.113.00 PEACE BE Matt Coash Maureen Montes Purchase Scrip after all Masses Sue Coash Marge Rice and in the Church office M-F 9a-4p Ch YOU Jody Cunningham Susan Sirna Kassidy Evans Jennifer Stocki **DIVINE MERCY** Karen Garcea John Trumtower April 24, 2022 Ethel Markan TJ Williams Divine Mercy Sunday is a very special Fred Maxa Aiden Woodard Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven are wide-opened and Jesus offers us the total for-giveness of all sins and FOR IMMEDIATE AND CONFIDENTIAL punishment to any soul, who goes to PRAYERS Confession and receives Him in Holy Email deena.christine@yahoo.com or Communion, on that day. call our parish praver line at 269-303-8016.

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## NEWS AROUND OUR DIOCESE

THANK YOU Our community changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, and we want to say THANK YOU! Don't forget to place your CRS Rice Bowl in the collection basket this Sunday after Masses or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give. THIS WEEKEND WE CELEBRATE THE SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY. God's greatest desire is to forgive us, pouring out His infinite mercy upon us so that we may be healed. If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. Contact Project Rachel, sponsored by the Diocese of Kalamazoo, at 616-340-1824 or mwalsh@ccwestmi.org THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE that we have been awarded a \$10,000 matching grant from the Catholic Marriage Initiative Fund. The grant will be primarily used for "Promoting Eucharistic Marriage" a program to strengthen marriages and focus on Eucharistic Marriages in all parishes of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Promoting Eucharistic Marriage / Come-and-See Event DATE: MAY 5 TIME: 6-7P LOCATION: Crowley Center/St. Augustine Cathedral Campus This event is for priests, deacons and wives, and any couples interested in learning how they can strengthen their marriages, and help other couples do the same. To pre-register or more information contact: Socorro Truchan atstruchan@diokzoo.orgor 269-349-8714 ext. 1112 ANNUAL SCOUT MASS WITH BISHOP BRADLEY - MAY 15 The Diocese of Kalamazoo Catholic Committee on Scouting invites you to the annual Scout Mass with Bishop Bradley on Sunday, May 15 at 11:30a at St. Augustine's Cathedral. All youth and adult members of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, and Trail Life USA are invited to attend. Presentation of youth religious emblems, adult awards, and unit awards will follow the Mass. Please visit www.catholicscoutingkzoo.org or email chair@catholicscoutingkzoo.org for more information. Applications for the Bishop Donovan Quality Unit Award are being accepted. The application can be found at: https://www.catholicscoutingkzoo.org/bishop-donovan-unit-award or https://airtable.com/shrKQDr5xuEOim9Gg (direct link to the form)

## THE MERCY OF GOD IN SUPERABUNDANCE! DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**What** a grace-filled day this is! It is the eighth and final day of the Octave of Easter. On this eighth day of Easter we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a day when the flood-gates of mercy are opened wide and God lavishes us with more than we could ever hope for.

Divine Mercy Sunday has been celebrated for years as a private devotion. But in the year 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II, who himself was an extraordinary instrument of God's mercy, put this feast on the Church's official calendar as he raised Sister Faustina to sainthood. Saint Faustina was a member of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Krakow, Poland. She died in 1938. She came from a simple and poor family of farmers, had only three years of simple education and performed the humblest of tasks in her convent. But she also was a mystic who was privileged to have many private revelations from our

Lord which she recorded in her diary of Divine Mercy.

She writes of her experience on February 22, 1931: In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, 'paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.'

Later, Jesus explained to her in another vision: "The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross....Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."

Jesus spoke again to her of His desire that the Solemnity of Divine Mercy be established: "On that day (the 8th day of Easter each year) the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, intensely reflect upon the abundance of this gift that God wishes to pour forth upon us. There is no limit to how much we are loved by our God of perfect mercy. And today, on this the eighth day of Easter, we should especially be aware of the fact that the floodgates of Heaven are opened to us to an unimaginable degree. Turn your eyes toward our merciful Lord and be open to all that He wishes to bestow.

Lord of Mercy, help me today to begin to understand what mercy is all about. Help me to first be open to the mercy You wish to bestow upon me. As I receive Your own Divine Mercy, help me also to be an instrument of that mercy for all to see.

Jesus, I trust in You.

