

19 APRIL 2020

THE PARISHES OF SACRED HEART & SAINT RAPHAEL



bestPGHparish.org

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." - Jn 20:29



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Envisioning Our Oneness Emerge

All things work together for good for those who love God... Romans 8:28

My Dear Friends,

I've been reflecting upon St. Paul's words above and celebrating that you, beloved parishioners, have already been busy "working together for good" within this time of unprecedented upheaval.

Your innate goodness as children of God has emerged! It shows up daily in your ongoing acts of kindness towards lonely, troubled, frail neighbors. As I trust you know, I am abidingly grateful to you for shining your Lights into our collective darkness.

As I continue to observe and hear reports of your good deeds, I've begun to notice even more good emerging - a new spirit of connectedness between the two parishes. As we support each other through the drastic changes coronavirus imposes, I'm seeing glimmers of oneness within our community. Alleluia!

When non-essentials (that we deemed essential!) were stripped away, almost overnight, profound change was inevitable. And, as we well know, changing is difficult. It usually involves the hard work of letting go of old patterns, practices, places and gradually giving birth to new ways of being and doing. Yes, change can be akin to "giving birth" - it is often painful and labor-intensive.

Yet, like birth, change can also give rise to New Life. And that is what I'm beginning to see, my friends - an emerging sense of unity between our grouping's two parishes! "A Resurrection of hearts," to borrow a phrase of Pope Francis. "Disruption and chaos invite us to listen at a deeper level and may force our souls to go to a new place", according to spiritual author Richard Rohr.

Please join me in praying that our community will continue to move towards a "new place," a place without neighborhood boundaries, a place where peace, harmony, and love prevail.

Do not...consider the things of old. Behold, I am about to do a new thing...now it springs forth!

Do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43: 18-19

Father Joe

St. Faustina Kowalski was instructed by the Lord Jesus, in a vision, in the 1930's, to paint the image of His Divine Mercy, and to tell sinners - "not to be afraid to approach Me - because the flames of Mercy are burning Me - clamoring to be spent - I want to pour them out on souls." That picture St. Faustina painted - which is seen here - has become famous through the world. On today's Divine Mercy Sunday, which Pope St. John Paul II designated it to be, we know that the Divine Mercy of Jesus is still burning in His Heart - and He is still pouring it out on each of us sinners. In the very unusual circumstances that we are living through now, Jesus is calling us, more than ever - to "trust in Me," as He said to St. Faustina. The First Reading of the Mass today says that the first Christians "were together, in communal life, in the breaking of the Bread, and in prayer." Because of the restrictions we are living through now - out of concern for others - we are not able to live as communal a life that we would want - something we truly experienced as families this past Easter Sunday. And we cannot yet "break the bread" of the Eucharist together - at least not in person - but we can be there in prayer for each other and can make a "spiritual communion" together in the Holy Spirit.

St. Peter says, in the Second Reading today, that the Lord Jesus "gives us a living hope. And though you may have to suffer through various trials - your faith can be tested by fire - and you can see your faith as more precious than gold." We are praying that, through our current trials, we may come to see our Catholic faith as even a greater treasure - as more precious than gold, more than all the other things we have usually relied on. Even though you cannot yet receive the Lord Jesus in person, Sacramentally, at Mass - believe that you can "keep attaining the goal of your faith - salvation in Jesus." As Jesus said to Thomas in today's Gospel - "blessed are those who do not see, and yet believe." As we look forward to the time - hopefully soon - that these restrictions are lifted - and we can gather together again, may the Lord Jesus help us to take Hope, as we allow His Divine Mercy to pour out on us.

The Lord says: "My people - yes - I ask you to see My Divine Mercy pouring out from My Heart - upon each of you. My Mercy cleanses you - heals you, brings you hope and strength. "Stand under" the fount of My Mercy, and allow My love to pour out upon you, your families and loved ones, upon My Church - and upon your nation - and your world. My Divine Mercy will cleanse your world, will free you. Trust in Me - in all things - and help your brothers and sisters to trust Me, and to look to Me - as the source of their healing and strength, in these days." - Fr. John Sweeney



Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

Jesus told St. Faustina that He would rather be merciful than just towards sinners. In order to spread devotion to His mercy, He has given us many tools and gifts. One of the most important messages and powerful gifts Jesus gave to St. Faustina was a very special prayer: The Divine Mercy Chaplet. He calls it the last refuge for hardened sinners and it is a powerful tool in the fight for souls. Because of this, Jesus instructed St. Faustina to pray it often.

Here is how to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, for recitation on ordinary rosary beads:

Begin with:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



On the five large beads:

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.

On the ten small beads:

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

Conclude with (3 times):

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

"Corona Time" Outreach

We continue to find ourselves following the "stay-at-home order" and "social distancing" because of the Corona Virus pandemic. For the last several weeks, volunteers under the direction of Jack Shaw - our Evangelization and Outreach staff member - have been making phone calls to our members of St. Raphael and Sacred Heart. The purpose of the phone call is to "touch base" and assure people at home that they are held in prayer each and every day, especially at the daily Mass. The volunteer listens for any needs the people may have. Father Steve - our parish chaplain - is available to respond with pastoral care over the phone or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. If there is a need for groceries, arrangements can be made. We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus and anonymous donors who have provided funds for needy families whose children are enrolled at Sacred Heart Elementary School or our Faith Formation program.

If you - or a neighbor - have a need that could be addressed by our St. Raphael - Sacred Heart Grouping, **please give Jack Shaw a call - 412-508-5383.**

SAINT ANTHONY NOVENA

Weekly brief meditation on the life of Saint Anthony

The Novena will be preached by Father Joe.

It will be incorporated into the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Please consider joining us for eight more weeks this Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

Plan to attend this powerful Novena in honor of Saint Anthony of Padua. It will include Novena prayers, a brief reflection, the litany of Saint Anthony, a variety of liturgical music each week and the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Anthony is beloved around the world. There is rarely a church that doesn't have a statue or Saint Anthony because he is popular. He is ready to help you from heaven to discover the amazing power of Christ and the Lord's desire to answer every prayer made in faith!

The novena will be conducted from Saint Raphael Church **every Tuesday, for eight more weeks at 6:30pm**. To Live Stream the Novena, you need to click on the following link and connect to your own Facebook Account: <https://www.facebook.com/105616694431715/live/>.

Please note that only for those who do not have a Facebook account you can use this Facebook Login information: User Name: pghstreaming, Password: shsr2020



Prayer for Health Care Workers

God of everlasting goodness, you sent your Son among us to bring healing, peace, and reconciliation to our weary world. Be with all health care workers and their assistants in this time of the Coronavirus pandemic.

As they continue Jesus' ministry of care, renew them in mind, body, and spirit. Keep them safe from infection and illness, and may Christ's healing presence flow through them as they serve those entrusted to their care.

We ask this in his name, Christ the healer, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.



Saint Raphael

April 4-12, 2020

Sacred Heart

	<u>Env. Count</u>		<u>Env. Count</u>	
\$6,144.00	71	Sunday Offertory	82	\$7,219.50
--		Loose Cash / Checks		\$121.00
\$720.00	14	PSP	18	\$4,680.00
\$10.00	1	Easter Flowers Collection	2	\$85.00
\$3,140.00	34	Easter Offertory	35	\$4,631.00
\$75.00	6	Cath. Campaign Human Development	3	\$35.00
\$399.00	15	Good Friday/Holy Land Collection	17	\$562.00

Parish Share Program

\$25,245.00		March 31, 2020 (Year-to-Date)		\$53,358.00
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Faith Direct - March

\$8,016.42		Net Deposit (Total contributions minus Faith Direct & bank fees)		\$8,348.61
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Thank you for your generosity!

SAINT RAPHAEL CHURCH
1154 CHISLETT ST.
PITTSBURGH, PA 15206

SACRED HEART CHURCH
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PITTSBURGH, PA 15206

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 - SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Living & Deceased Members of Coraluppi and Tonzig Families
by Luisa Coraluppi
Giuseppe & Rosaria Castellano by Ray Castellano
4:00PM For the People

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 - SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

9:00AM Living & Deceased Members of Shieb, Cukas & Mighogna Families by Diane & Charles Schieb
11:00AM Robert Parker (month's mind)

MONDAY, APRIL 20 - EASTER WEEKDAY

Joseph Crisanti by Dr. John Perry
Joram Holloman by Sandra McCardle
Vincent M. Spellman, Sr. by William H. Sullivan

TUESDAY, APRIL 21- SAINT ANSELM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR

Johanna F. Roppelt by Family Members of Dolores Roppelt

Adalgisa Conte by Conte Family
Sisters of Charity in Greensburg by friend

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 - EASTER WEEKDAY

Carmela Farrah by Caterina Marcello

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 - SAINT GEORGE, MARTYR, SAINT ADALBERT, BISHOP AND MARTYR

David Bragg by Bill & Karen McGiven

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 - SAINT FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN

Santo Marcello by Concetta Liberto
McCague & Gordon Families by James McCague

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 - SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST

Jack & Jean Welsh by Family
4:00PM Robert Nelson by Carrie Rose

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 - THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00AM JoAnn Barkovich by James and Family
11:00AM For the People

Sanctuary Candles - April 19 to April 25

Saint Raphael Antonio Marcello (*Joanna Marcello*)
Sacred Heart Vincent M. Spellman, Sr
(*William H. Sullivan*)



Please pray for our recently deceased and their beloved families

Christine E. Russo

Patrick Fenton

Vincent M. Spellman, Sr.

Readings for the week of April 19, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20



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inspiring secure giving®

The **Faith Direct** program allows you to support your church through automatic debits from your bank account or charges to your credit/debit card. To connect and enroll to **eGiving** with Faith Direct or make a one-time gift go to <https://membership.faithdirect.net/PA723> for Saint Raphael or <https://membership.faithdirect.net/PA1027> for Sacred Heart. To families and individuals, Faith Direct offers:

• Peace of mind because you'll be able to support your parish each and every week, even if you're unable to attend services;

- The convenience of not having to write a check every week;
- The security of knowing your data is protected, that every transaction is secure;
- The knowledge that you are helping your parish have a steady, predictable cash flow;
- The simplicity of being able to arrange all of your gifts to your parish in one secure program;
- The efficiency of having an annual statement that simplifies your taxes.

Thank you!

We want to express our gratitude to all those who generously contributed to our Easter Collection!

