



O Mary, conceived without sin. Pray
for us who have recourse to you.

"News for the Soul"

A Monthly Newsletter Sponsored by the
Legion of Mary
St. Matthew the Apostle Parish
Gahanna, Ohio

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER



Easter Is Almost Here – But First – Remember Holy Week!

This year, 14 April is also Holy Thursday. Prepare for a blessed Easter by concluding your Lenten journey with special time over these days of April to contemplate Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Holy Thursday – 14 April - Remembering the Lord's Last Supper, the first Eucharist, Jesus' agony in the garden, and the betrayal of Jesus – **Mass at 7:00 p.m.**

Good Friday – 15 April - Day of fasting and abstinence. Remembering the passion and death of the Lord – **3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

Holy Saturday – 16 April - A day of reflection and hope. Lighting of the Easter candle, renewal of baptismal promises, welcoming new Catholics to the Faith – **Easter Vigil Mass begins at 8:00 p.m.**

Easter Sunday – 17 April - Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! **Mass at 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. and 12. p.m.**

The Stations of the Cross - How Did They Come to Be?

From the earliest of days, followers of Jesus told the story of his passion, death, and resurrection. Pilgrims to Jerusalem were anxious to see the sites where Jesus had been. These sites become important personal connections with Jesus. After many years and people moving around, it was no longer easy or even possible to visit the holy sites. By the 1500s, people all over the world started creating "replicas" of the places along the route in Jerusalem, also known as "the Way of the Cross" or "Way of Sorrows" ("*Via Dolorosa*," in Latin). Eventually, these shrines became the 14 stations we now know and celebrate. You may be wondering why the sites are called Stations of the Cross. The word "station" comes from the Latin word that means "to stand." We are walking from Christ's trial to His crucifixion at Calvary, and we stop and stand at certain sites ("stations") that commemorate various events that took place along the way. When you pray the Stations, as you come to each station, you stop, pray, read the scriptures, pray the prayers, and contemplate the situation before moving on. As you walk from one station to the next, your walking becomes a devotional act, because you are walking with Jesus as He walks to Calvary.

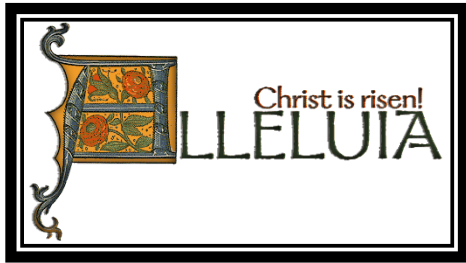
The Stations of the Cross are a perfect reflection of Jesus' suffering for us.

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries his cross
3. Jesus falls the first time
4. Jesus meets his mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls a third time
10. Jesus' clothes are taken away
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross

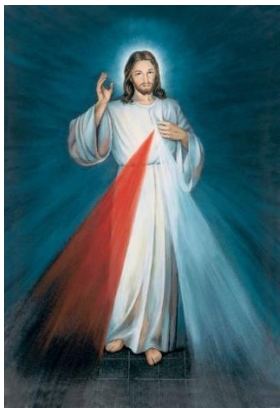
13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

Prayer: We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee, because by Thy holy cross Thou has redeemed the world.



Divine Mercy Sunday Is 24 April – Join Us from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



We celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on the first Sunday following Easter – but why? The history of Divine Mercy Sunday stems from the diary kept by a Polish nun in the 1930s. Sister Faustina Kowalska was a member of the cloister of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw. She was instructed by God to keep a diary,

where she recorded her visions and God's messages to her: *"I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy."* (Diary 49)

In the image that came from Sister Faustina's vision, red and white / pale rays represent the blood and water that came from Jesus' side while He was on the cross. Red rays are the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and white / pale rays are the Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation.

The words of the Chaplet come directly from Sister Faustina's diary:

"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." (Diary 476)

Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with us on April 24. St. Matthew's celebration will be from 2-4 p.m. that day with confession, a holy hour with exposition of

the blessed sacrament veneration of the Divine Mercy Image, Divine Mercy Chaplet and a reflection from Fr. Thomas Blau OP on Divine Mercy. For more information on recommended practices for celebrating the day and to fulfill the reception of a plenary indulgence look to stmatthew.net/divine-mercy.



Please pray for the Pope's intentions for the month of April:

Healthcare Workers

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries

April Devotions – The Blessed Sacrament

Since the 16th century, Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The Church traditionally encouraged the month of April for increased devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. *"The Church in the course of the centuries has introduced various forms of this Eucharistic worship which are ever increasing in beauty and helpfulness; as, for example, visits of devotion to the tabernacles, even every day; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; solemn processions, especially at the time of Eucharistic Congresses, which pass through cities and villages; and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament publicly exposed . . . These exercises of piety have brought a wonderful increase in faith and supernatural life to the Church militant upon earth and they are re-echoed to a certain extent by the Church triumphant in heaven, which sings continually a hymn of praise to God and to the Lamb Who was slain."* --Pope Pius XII

Marian / Legion of Mary Feast Days for April:

April 26 – Our Lady of Good Counsel

April 28 – St. Louis-Marie de Montfort

Source: Prayer Book, The by Reverend John P. O'Connell, M.A., S.T.D. and Jex Martin, M.A., The Catholic Press, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. 1954.