

April 26, 2020 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

St. Mary & St. John Churches

Fr. Craig's Homily - Sunday of Divine Mercy, April 19, 2020

Divine Mercy Sunday is on the last day of the Easter Octave (this year on April 19). St. John Paul II instituted this Solemn Feast for the Universal Church 20 years ago; he died on its Vigil 5 years later in 2005 (the first year that I attended Seminary); he was beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday in 2011; and he was canonized on the same Feast in 2014. St. John Paul II established this Feast on the same day he canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska, and he fulfilled the desire of Jesus expressed in visitations to St. Faustina nearly 70 years earlier.

Jesus' words recorded in St. Faustina's diary are filled with passionate love for us. Amid our "Stay at Home" order, we can cling to Jesus and His passionate love for each of us, His beloved children. Shortly after my conversion in 2001, I was given St. Faustina's diary and read it cover-to-cover. The phrase, "I desire" appears more than 60 times in her journal. The message is what is important to us right now - Jesus offers us His own heart, first and foremost in the Sacraments.

This past week, in a more intense way, I found myself being drawn to meditate on the Divine Mercy picture depicted to St. Faustina, hanging in my living room. Seeing the blood and water flow from His heart, gave me a great sense of peace in these most troubling times.

When Thomas, broken and distraught at the death of Jesus cannot, or will not, bring himself to accept the Resurrection, Jesus gently takes him from obstinate refusal to a moment of faith. He coaxes from Thomas one of the great confessions of faith, "My Lord and my God!" In that very moment, Thomas is healed and changed – healed of his grief and pain and changed from doubt to belief. *This is Divine Mercy*.

Having experienced that same forgiveness and healing in their own lives, the disciples now become carriers of these gifts for all who will hear and respond to their preaching. For what they say about the risen Christ is no mere fantasy. They witnessed His death on the cross, and now they witness with their very eyes and with the touch of their hands that He is fully alive. *Divine Mercy*.

Before His death, the Savior promised His friends, "I will not leave you orphan." On that Easter evening, our Lord made good on His promise. He did not allow closed doors, resentful temple authorities, infuriated pharisees and scribes to prevent Him from coming to His disciples. But it was not enough that Jesus came to His friends. He stood among them. That reminds us that when we are downcast, up to our eyebrows in difficulties, or lost and confused, that He allows nothing to stand between us and Him, and more wonderfully, He comes and stands in our midst. Is it any wonder that one of the greatest Antiphons of the Church is: "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Living Lord"

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued generous support! Contribution envelopes may be mailed to either Church, or online giving is available via Parish websites or MyParishApp (text APP to 88202). St. Mary has achieved its 2019-20 BAA Goal and excess contributions will be applied to the next campaign. St. John still has a deficit in the 2019-20 campaign, so all contributions are appreciated!

*St. Mary Office: 212 W. Hanover St., Marshall, 49068

*St. John Office: 1020 Irwin Ave., Albion, 49224

Sunday	READINGS Third Sunday of Easter	Thursday Friday	Saint Pius V, Pope Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51 Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker
Monday	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35 Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29	Saturday	Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59 or Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Mt 13:54-58 Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and
Tuesday	Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest Acts 7:51—8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab; Jn 6:30-35		Doctor of the Church Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Jn 6:60-69
Wednesday	Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40	Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

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Happenings In and Around Our Parish Home

Private Prayer Hours

St. Mary and St. John Churches are open for private prayer hours as follows: *St. Mary: Monday - Friday from 9am-12 noon, *St. John: Closed during the week of April 27 for cleaning.

LIVESTREAM SUNDAY MASS

St. Mary & St. John are now livestreaming Sunday Masses via Facebook:

- 9am Sunday Mass at St. John visit Facebook Group "St. John the Evangelist Albion and St. Mary Marshall Catholic Churches."
- 10am Sunday Mass at St. Mary visit Facebook Group "Church Friends." Church Friends is a closed group, so please call the Office if you have questions about accessing it.
- Visit stmarymarshall.org for recorded homilies.

Noncomplete American Communication (No. 1907) Military Prayer List

Please pray for family members of St. Mary/St. John parishioners who are currently serving in the military. Please email all names for inclusion in this list to: stmarymarshall@aol.com.

Cameron Cook, Matthew Fedewa, Brody Fitzgerald, David Haack, Blake Iobe, Jacob Konkol, David Mellino, Christian Sabados, Cody Sabados, Paul Shen, Rick Spells II, Christopher Staab, Jr.

Pope Francis' May Prayer Intention

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We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Please Pray For All Those Impacted By Coronavirus & Those Listed Below...

Barb Aaron Arnold Arquette Louann Atkins Mike Atkins

Bill Bachmann

Maeve & Richard Bartelson

Mark Beason Ron Bomia Bill Bramble Don Brankovich

Carol Buchner

Bernie Buller Russell Buller

Kaylie Carl

Pixie Coats

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Carol DeNicola Dave Delaney

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Lisa Fisher-Ragan Sara Fisher

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Cynthia Peters

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> Martha Smith Cris Solis, Jr.

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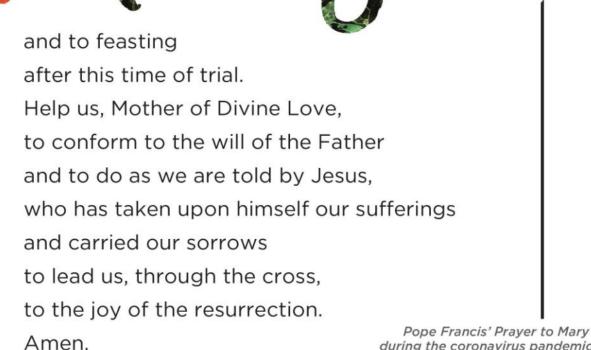
Fran Zimecki Julie Zink

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

O Mary,

you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. and we are sure you will provide so that, as in

Cana of Galilee. we may



during the coronavirus pandemic

O Great St. Rocco,
deliver us, we beseech thee,
from the scourges of God;
through thy intercession,
preserve our bodies from
contagious diseases, and
our souls from the contagion
of sin. Obtain for us salubrious
air; but, above all, purity of heart.
Assist us to make good use
of health, to

and, after thy example, to live in the practice of

to live in the practice of penance and charity, that we may one day enjoy the happiness which thou has merited by thy virtues.

St. Rocco, pray for us

The more a person loves God, the more reason he has to hope in Him. This hope produces in the Saints an unutterable peace, which they preserve even in adversity, because as they love God,

to those who love Him, they place all their

to those who love Him, they place all their confidence and find all their repose in Him alone."

- Saint Alphonsus Liguori





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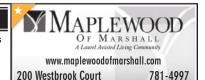
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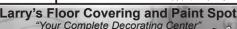
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