



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today, the Gospel reading relates the account of Thomas doubting the news that Jesus had appeared to the other Apostles. Jesus then appears again, and invites Thomas to put his hand in the wounds of the Crucifixion to know they are real. The Gospel doesn't tell us if Thomas ever did put his hand in Jesus' wounds, but that doesn't matter. Either way, he and the other Apostles received all Jesus had to give from his pierced heart: the gift of divine mercy that we celebrate today.

Here at the end of the Easter Octave, we're called to reflect on how divine mercy sums up the whole mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Notice how Jesus immediately greets the Apostles on that first Easter with peace, and shares his bountiful mercy – giving them his own power of forgiveness. It is the deepest truth God has shared about himself: he is mercy, he loves us even when we don't deserve it.

This is tremendously freeing. It frees us from worrying that we're not good enough to earn his love, from distancing ourselves from him out of shame for our sins and defects – as if we could ever hide them from him! Above all, it sets us free from the great sin of despair, of thinking that we're too far gone for God to save us. How could a human creature's mistakes outweigh the forgiveness of the infinite Creator?

When our Lord appeared to Saint Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, he instructed her to paint what is now the famous image of himself with two rays coming from his heart, red and white for the blood and water that flowed from his side on the cross, with the inscription, "Jesus, I trust in you." The water stands for the washing away of our sins in baptism and reconciliation, the blood for the new life that we receive in the Eucharist. As our second reading tells us, it's Jesus, the one who came through water and blood, who has conquered the world.

God's mercy not only cleanses us from our past, it gives us a way forward. When we allow it into our hearts, it manifests in our works of mercy for others. The peace and mercy Jesus gives the Apostles comes with a command to go and share it: As the Father has sent me, so I send you. These men who had been hiding in a locked room then became such powerful witnesses to the Resurrection that they established a community unequalled in solidarity and generosity.

This may seem impossible to us because we know how weak we are. We may have as much difficulty as Thomas did in having faith in what Christ has promised us. And to truly love each other as God's children? To be of

one heart and mind like the community of the Apostles, setting aside our own attachments to serve the needs of others? There are few things more difficult than this kind of sacrificial love. Yet Saint John insists that these commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God – that is, whomever has faith – conquers the world. So let us fix in our minds these five words: Jesus, I trust in you.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Marco

**LIFE IN CHRIST SERIES** Families in Christ Jesus Community will be having a Virtual Life in Christ Series-1 starting on Saturday, April 17th from 7:30-9:00 PM. The LCS-1 is a series of talks intended to lead you into a renewed understanding of God's call in your lives. This will help us connect and reconnect with our creator to an even closer relationship with Him. This will also help enlighten our spiritual experience and provide real lasting joy and peace amidst this turbulence. For more information and registration, please contact Edwin and Ida Delmoro at 240-925-3110.

**FARMERS TO FAMILY FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION** For those who are food challenged there will be Department of Agriculture Farmers to Families Food Box Program distribution at the St. Mary's Square Shopping Center, Great Mills Road, Lexington Park. Food boxes will be passed out to families and individual who are in need, from 1 PM to 5 PM or earlier if the all boxes are gone. on Friday April 23rd. The 30 lbs. food box contains fresh fruits, vegetables, cooked meats/seafood, and dairy products.

**2021 JUBILARIAN MASS** Are you celebrating a special wedding anniversary? Each year the Archdiocese of Washington honors couples married 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70+ years at the annual Jubilarian Mass. This year's Mass will be held Sunday, June 27 at 3:00pm at the Cathedral of St. Matthew. Seating is limited to allow for social distancing and the Mass will be live-streamed. To receive a signed Jubilarian anniversary certificate or to register to attend the Mass, please contact the parish office before May 14, 2021

# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



April 12 — April 18

<b>Monday</b>	Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-9/ Jn 3:1-8
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Laura Theofilis (D)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1-2, 5/ Jn 3:7-15
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Angela Brown (D)</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-9/ Jn 3:16-21
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Clay Sonford (D)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20/ Jn 3:31-36
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Reinardo Garcia (D)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/ Jn 6:1-15
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Buck Hewitt (D)</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/ Jn 6:16-21
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Hannah Thompson (L)</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Janet Hodkiewicz and Family (L)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9/ 1 Jn 2:1-5/Lk 24:35-48
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Kelly Cutchember (D)</b>
<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>Lorraine Strond and Family (D)</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>All IHM Parishioners</b>

**ST. MARY'S RYKEN SUMMER CAMPS** Looking for the best summer camp experience in St. Mary's County? Join us at St. Mary's Ryken for athletic, academic and enrichment camps. Camps begin June 21 and are taught by SMR faculty and coaches. Learn more and register today at <https://www.smrhs.org/summerknights>

**LIVESTREAM MASS** Join us for our livestream Masses: the 4 pm Mass on Saturdays in English, and 1 pm on Sundays in Spanish at [mass.ihmrcc.org](http://mass.ihmrcc.org).

**ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES** If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at [cindy@ihmrcc.org](mailto:cindy@ihmrcc.org).

**SING ALONG DURING MASS** For those attending Mass in church, online, or in the parking lot, please join us in song at [songs.ihmrcc.org](http://songs.ihmrcc.org).

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** Please email your submission to [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org) by Wednesday at 10:00 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

**NEW BIBLE SERIES FOR WOMEN** This 5-week, in-person series for women is the next installment of The Encounter Grace Bible Series. Join us as we spend time each week with the parables - learning more about why Jesus used them and how they bring to life complex and difficult teachings in a relatable way. Two session locations to choose from: Mondays: 3/29-5/3 (no session on 4/5) at St. Mary's Church, Bryantown MD. 7 pm - 830 pm. Tuesdays: 3/30-5/4 (no session on 4/6) at St. Aloysius Parish Hall, Leonardtown MD. 7 pm - 830 pm. \$49.00. Register: [www.encountergrace.co/events-1](http://www.encountergrace.co/events-1)

**MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS** Mass with Healing Prayers is on Tuesday, April 20th. Confession starts at 5 pm, with Mass at 5:30 pm. Healing Service with Eucharistic Adoration starts at 6:15 pm.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** to Donna and Jim Brown, 62 years! "I'll always remember the time we met, someone I'd never forget. God has blessed us— Love you!" Jim Brown

**PAX CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT RETREAT** All young adults (18-39) are invited to PAX Catholic's day retreat from 9 am-5 pm on April 17th at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church (in Solomons.) Join us for a recollective day featuring talks, small groups, fellowship, Adoration, Mass, confessions, and a healing prayers service. Our retreat master will be Fr. Chris Seith, Director of Spiritual Formation at St. John Paul II Seminary. Register now at: <https://www.paxcatholicmd.org/spring-retreat> Questions? Email Will Bolin at [paxcatholicstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:paxcatholicstmarys@gmail.com)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### THE SICK

#### THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Regan Corliss, Jack Makin, Belle Riddell, Corrine Geraty, Jane Keyon, Linda F. Gieser, Jim Brown, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Adele Bavani, Dinnette Briscoe, Bill Wagoner, Paula Coxson, Cathy Lyon Moore, Vincent Campanella  
*Please note: names will remain on these lists for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org), or call the Parish Office.*

#### PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

Follow us on



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# APRIL 10 & 11, 2021

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**GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY** We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

**CARE NET "DRIVE THROUGH" BABY SHOWER** The IHM Confirmation Class of 2021 is sponsoring a Drive Through Baby Shower to benefit the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Southern Maryland. The baby shower will be held at IHM on the weekend of April 24th and 25th, 2021. We are asking parishioners to please help us support babies and families in need. Items needed include baby formula, diapers, baby wipes, diaper rash ointment, baby shampoo, baby body wash, baby lotion, blankets, and clothing. Items may be dropped off before or after the Mass on April 24th at 4 p.m., or April 25th from 8:30 a.m. through 2pm. The Confirmation Students will be collecting donations at the front door and the door by the hall. Thank you in advance for your support of this important cause!

**CHESTERTON ACADEMY** Do you want your child to attend a classical liberal arts high school that is affordable? Where the environment is joyful comradery? Where teachers take the oath of fidelity to the magisterium of the Catholic Church? Can you lend support to a school where students are immersed in truth, surrounded by goodness and beauty, and where the lost arts of learning - reading, writing, and rhetoric - are the foundations? You are seeking the Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's! Attend the Chesterton Chat, an information session, this Tuesday at Holy Angels! Pre-enrollment is open on our website! Chesterton Chat, an information session on Tuesday, April 13th at 7pm (also on Zoom) at Holy Angel's School. For Zoom link, visit: <https://www.chestertonstmarys.org> 301-800-0227

**GOLF TOURNAMENT** St. John's School is hosting its annual golf tournament on Thursday, May 6, at Breton Bay Golf & Country Club. Check-in begins at 8 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. Scramble tournament. \$125 per individual or \$500 per foursome. \$30 cheat packages (mulligans, throw, and string). Food and beverages included. Sponsorship opportunities available. Register at [www.sjshollywood.org](http://www.sjshollywood.org).

**APOLOGETICS CLASS** The next class is on April 11th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at St. John's in Hollywood, in the St. Jude Room, of the Msgr. Harris Center. The next class will be "Have the Gospels been tampered with?" Class is also available via Zoom: see the St. John's parish website.

**THEOLOGY ON TAP** Join us this Wednesday from 6-8pm at the Old Town Pub in Leonardtown for this month's Theology on Tap. Fr. Mark Ivany, the Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Washington, will speak to us about "Discernment of Spirits."

**A ONE DAY RETREAT** St. Joseph: Tools for Our Journey, will be held on Saturday, May 1st (Feast of St. Joseph the Worker) at St. Joseph Church in Morganza. Registration with donuts and juice begins at 7:15 am, the first talk begins at 8 am followed by Mass, two more talks with lunch served in between and ending with healing prayers. This year dedicated to this great saint is an invitation for us to learn more about him with the help of Fr. Drew Royals and Fr. Martin Flum. Tickets are available through Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.com/e/st-joseph-retreat-tools-for-our-journey-tickets-149071692445](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-joseph-retreat-tools-for-our-journey-tickets-149071692445) or call Bread of Life Center for Peace at (301) 475-7139. You can also stop by Heavenly Presents to register in person. The cost is \$15 which covers the cost of lunch and Eventbrite fees. There is limited seating due to COVID restrictions. Registration ends on Tuesday, April 27th.

**ST. JOHN'S SUMMER PROGRAM** SOMD's largest summer camp, will open online registration on Sunday, March 21st at 1:00pm. This year's new classes include Babysitter Training, Lucky Dog Camp, Coaster Park Design, Paintball, Combat Archery, Cake Boss, Camper vs. Wild, among others, as well as many favorites from previous years. The Program's goal is to help our children grow in knowledge and love of Christ and our Catholic faith, while enjoying an amazing summer with young, strong Catholic role models as instructors. We open every day with song and prayer and Fridays with Mass. Extended care is available, and we are a Maryland licensed summer camp. Please visit [www.StJohnsSummerProgram.com](http://www.StJohnsSummerProgram.com) to view the new summer schedule and to find more information about St. John's Summer Program.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2021** This year's World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, April 25, 2021, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life, or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found on the USCCB website: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/world-day-prayer-vocations>.

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# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM** Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.

**VIRTUAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTION WITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR** During this time of physical separation, Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center is providing virtual retreats so that you can connect with others and feed your soul. Currently, these programs are being offered at no cost, and a suggested donation of only \$75 per person is greatly appreciated. For more information and to register, go to [ourladyofbethesda.org](http://ourladyofbethesda.org).



If you or someone you know is inquiring about the Catholic faith, please let them know to email our RCIA coordinator at [RCIA@ihmrcc.org](mailto:RCIA@ihmrcc.org).



Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), St. Mary's County Chapter is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3). We are volunteers who build beds for kids ages 3-17 who don't have a bed of their own in St. Mary's and southern Calvert counties. All beds are delivered with NEW bedding – a pillow, twin sheets, and a comforter. All sponsorship money is tax deductible, remains local, and goes toward improving the well-being of kids in southern Maryland. Our mission is to make sure "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in our Town." We are in need of support: monetary donations for lumber and mattresses; donations of NEW bedding: pillows, twin sheets, and comforters; volunteers to cut, sand, drill, assemble, stain, and deliver beds. With generous donations and a few volunteers, we provide needy children with safe, comfortable places to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. <https://www.shpbeds.org/chapter/md-st-marys-co>.

Facebook@shpStMarysCo, [deborah.faller@shpbeds.org](mailto:deborah.faller@shpbeds.org), 844-432-BEDS (2337) ext. 5949

PO Box 112, Lexington Park, MD 20653, Request beds here: [shpbeds.org/request-bed](http://shpbeds.org/request-bed)

**HEALTH SERIES** Discuss current nutrition and health topics, learn about low-cost, healthy recipes, and discover new ways to stay active and independent. Join Erin Jewell ([erinj@umd.edu](mailto:erinj@umd.edu), 301-475-4485) for Fresh Conversations, a nutrition education bi-monthly program series for older adults (50+). Register for upcoming sessions at: <https://go.umd.edu/FreshConversationsSTM2020>.

**YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE ABUSED** Domestic violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. It can consist of repeated severe beatings or subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control. If you experience any form of abuse, please know that there is help. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. To learn more about domestic violence, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/familypeace).

**HELP OUR MARRIAGE** Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped many couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program, please visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), call (443) 400-7017, or email: [3015@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:3015@HelpOurMarriage.org)

**IHM MUSIC MINISTRY** If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the parish, there is a place for you in this ministry! Please call Mary at 240-434-8876 (leave a message!).

**LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC**, A Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, MD is open for various retreat weekends, for both men and women. Directed and Private Retreats are also available. See our complete Retreat Schedule at: [www.loyolaonthepotomac.com](http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com) (301) 392-0800

**PERPETUAL ADORATION** Did you know our very own Immaculate Heart of Mary offers you the opportunity to participate in Perpetual Adoration? Some may ask "What is Perpetual Adoration?" Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members unite in the adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament with the goal of adoring The Blessed Sacrament perpetually (24 hours a day). If you are interested, please call our adoration coordinator, Jeff Harmon, at 240-538-5017 or email [adoration@ihmrcc.org](mailto:adoration@ihmrcc.org) for more information.