

Corpus Christi Catholic Community

Building the Body of Christ

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday Reflection



THE MYSTERIOUS PRESENCE OF LOVE

A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained *(continued on page 3)*



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Divine Mercy is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity. The need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century — civilization had begun to experience an "eclipse of the sense of God," as the ideologies of nazism and communism began taking shape.

In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary, including requests that a Feast of Mercy be observed. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was also given to St. Faustina: "Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you" (Diary, no. 1541).

On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

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Corpus Christi Directory

Rev. Patrick Gonyeau, Administrator
313-537-5770

Parish Office Hours:

Mon - Thu, 9:30 am – 8:00 pm, Fri, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm
Sat, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Sun 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Weekend Masses: Sat 4 pm, Sun 9 am & 11 am
Daily/ Holy Day Masses: See next column.

Parish Address: 19800 Pembroke Ave, Detroit MI 48219-2145
Phone: (313) 537-5770 **Fax:** (313) 537-5773
E-mail: corpuschristidetroit@comcast.net
Website: www.corpuschristi-detroit.org

Convent Building 19910 Evergreen Rd (313) 535-2340
Outreach Center 16000 Pembroke Ave (313) 272-0990
School Building 19900 Evergreen Rd

Bookkeeper.....(313) 272-0990
Mrs. Shanita Brown sbcorpuschristi@yahoo.com
Business Management Consultant(313) 272-0990
Mrs. Catherine Long clong123@gmail.com
Christian Service Director.....(313) 272-0990
Mr. Curtis Simpson Jr curtis_simpson_jr@yahoo.com
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Ms. Carolyn Wilson cmwilson2288@gmail.com
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Sr. Therese Mac Kinnon tmdc3@yahoo.com
Maintenance Assistant.....(313) 537-5770
Mr. Brandon Patton
Maintenance Coordinator.....(313) 537-5770
Mr. Greg Spight gregory_spight@yahoo.com
Ministers of Music(313) 537-5770
Ms. Michelle Baines 3riversmichelle@gmail.com
Ms. Fannie Larkins wheats1314@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistant.....(313) 537-5770
Mrs. Miriam Hudson corpuschristimiriam@comcast.net
Pastoral Associate(313) 537-5770
Rev. Mr. Paul Mueller dcnpaulmueller@gmail.com
Pastoral Minister(313) 272-0990
Ms. Mary Davis m.davis52@att.net
Youth Minister.....(313) 306-0004
Mrs. Marilyn Webb caritas@disciples.com

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Aaron Poyer (734) 718-0150
deaconaaronpoyer@gmail.com

Rev. Mr. Mark Springer (248) 921-1567
deaconmarkspringer@gmail.com

Parish Council President

Ms. Christeena Livingston-Long (734) 512-9570
christeena04@gmail.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Available on Saturdays from 2:00 to 3:45 pm; by appointment (call the Parish Office); during the parish Advent and Lent penance services.

Sick Calls and Communion Calls: Please call the Parish Office when there is serious illness in your household so that we may place the sick on our prayer list and arrange for the Sacrament of Anointing.

Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office for more information.

Weddings: Please call the Parish Office 6 months before wedding.

Bulletin Copy: Please contact Miriam Hudson by phone or email.

Prayer During An Epidemic

written by Michael Heinlein, Our Sunday Visitor

Lord Jesus,
Hear our pleas
our good shepherd and divine physician.
We implore your mercy in the wake
of an outbreak of serious illness and disease.
Guide our efforts to prevent contagion and make
preparations to care for those most vulnerable.
Assist all professionals and volunteers who work
to eradicate the epidemic now spreading.
May our actions be marked by your steadfast love
and selfless service and never by panic or fear.
Bestow your comfort and healing to the sick,
sustain and strengthen them by your grace.
May they know your closeness
as they carry the cross of illness.
And may all you have called from this life
come to worship you eternally with all the saints
as you grant consolation and peace to their mourners.
Amen.
Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us.
St. Joseph, Hope of the Sick, pray for us.
St. Rocco, protector against epidemics, pray for us.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those Who Are Sick

Venetia Sims, sister of Elaina Moore
Jonai Rimbart, granddaughter of Sally Rimbart
Cassell Williams, father of Nita Brown
Lamont Williams, cousin of Nita Brown
Sherri McClendon, sister in law of Nita Brown
Henrietta Barnhill, mother of Troy Anderson
Elizabeth Williams, parish member
Ann Word, sister of Shelly Bradford
Darlene Conway, sister in law of Shelly Bradford
Claudette Twyman, sister in law of Shelly Bradford

Those Who Have Died

Willard Mitchell (4/7), neighbor of Pat Tillery
Jim Dekeyser (4/10), bro. in law of Carol Greening



So Your Joy May Be Complete

This year, perhaps more than ever, we may be in touch with a sense of the world's uncertainty and suffering. Yet the Easter season provides the opportunity to access joy in the midst of pain and confidence in the promise of resurrection--that life and love that triumph over death, forever.

Psalm 30:5 reminds us that "weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning." Similarly, after Jesus died, followers of Jesus who were "downcast", were walking the road to Emmaus, and through encountering the resurrected Jesus, became "incredulous for joy and amazed." (Luke 24:41)

The Catholic Foundation of Michigan is here to help you give with joy, and support our community in life-giving ways that will endure in perpetuity. To respond quickly to the emergency needs related to the effects of COVID-19, CFM is gathering all Catholics to provide critical support for Catholic parishes, schools and nonprofit organizations responding to immediate physical and spiritual demands. Learn more about CFM's work at catholicfoundationmichigan.org.

Although we cannot gather for Mass and other parish activities, love continues to pour out of Corpus Christi Catholic Church. Please give today to the [Catholic Faithful Response Fund](#) to purchase food and gift cards for the most vulnerable in our community during these extraordinary times. Visit the parish website, www.corpuschristi-detroit.org to make an online donation

Can't give today? Corpus Christi Parish is also seeking healthy people to run errands for and/or call those who are high-risk. Non-perishable food items are also needed. For more information, please send an email to curtis_simpson_jr@yahoo.com.

Sunday Reflection *(continued from page 1)*

or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace. ©LPi

Young Adult News

Easter Is Not Over: Thoughts On The Octave Easter

— "Jesus did not come to give us vague hope. The empty tomb is not the end of the story," writes Caitlin Kennell Kim. "Jesus is not gone. He lives. Really and truly lives. Not figuratively. Not in some hyper-spiritualized, otherworldly sense. He is alive.." Read her entire article, and other related articles, at <https://bustedhalo.com/>. Busted Halo is a unique media resource that utilizes a relevant and accessible voice to help people understand the Catholic faith, put it into practice in their everyday lives, and share it with others.

Socially Distancing Spiritually Connecting #Newman United

— The Newman Connection wants to help you stay inspired and grow spiritually as you are informed of the statistics and restrictions on daily life. Newman Connection is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a national support structure and unified brand to Catholic campus ministry. Visit <http://www.newmanconnection.com/> for more details.



Church of the Home

Mercy.

■ **Take Time To Chat**
Spend some time together today reflecting on Jesus and Thomas (John 20:19-31). Choose someone to read the Gospel, then take time to chat and pray the Chaplet of Divine

Go back in time and put yourself in Thomas' shoes. Would you have believed that Jesus was alive if you weren't there to see it with your own eyes? How would you have felt if you were Thomas the second time?

How would you feel if Jesus appeared to you and said, "Peace be with you"?

If you were having a party where Jesus was going to appear, who would you invite? Why?

Born as Helena Kowalska in west-central Poland, St. Faustina was the third oldest of 10 children. She eventually joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and took the name St. Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament. Sister Faustina had a deep spiritual life. Her name is now linked to the annual feast of the Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and the Divine Mercy prayer recited each day at 3 pm by many people.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Using Rosary beads, the Chaplet begins with the Sign of the Cross, followed by one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.

On the Our Father 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 Hail Mary Beads:

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

Conclude by reciting three times:

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

(above material excerpted from "52 Sundays" @.52Sundays.com.)

JUST 4 YOUTH!

Being a teenager is difficult no matter what, and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is making it even harder. With school closures and cancelled events, many teens are missing out on some of the biggest moments of their young lives — as well as everyday moments like chatting with friends and participating in class. For teenagers facing life changes due to the outbreak who are feeling anxious, isolated and disappointed, know this: you are not alone.

Dr. Lisa Damour, an adolescent psychologist, best-selling author, and monthly New York Times columnist suggests some things you can do to practice self-care and look after your mental health.

You can read her article at:

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-teenagers-can-protect-their-mental-health-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

■ Videos For Corpus Christi Kids

At the suggestion of some of our Corpus Christi parents, Fr. Patrick will be offering some simple videos for our children. The first is an Easter message with a meditation on encountering the risen Jesus. Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of9gpEcOR5Y>

■ Everyday Stewardship

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers. (cont. on page 5)



Stewardship UPDATE



Collection Report

Weekly Budget	\$ 8475.00
Sunday Offerings 4-12-2020	\$ 11,116.00
Shortfall for the Budget Year	\$ 10,021.71

Everyday Stewardship *(continued from page 4)*

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Scriptures for the Week

Readings for the Week of April 18, 2020

Sunday:	Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
Monday:	Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday:	1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

Questions of the Week

First Reading

According to Luke, the original community of believers in Jerusalem met daily to pray, break bread, and commit themselves to the teaching of the Apostles. When have you experienced a similar level of communal harmony?

Second Reading

The First Letter of Peter opens with a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings received from the resurrection of Jesus. In what ways do you show gratitude for Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

Gospel Reading

John is the only evangelist to record the episode of Thomas' initial doubt in Jesus' resurrection. What role does doubt have in your spiritual journey?

**Please Pray
For Our
Deceased
Loved Ones**

Synia Benjamin (3/31), member of the parish
Justin Gayle (4/2), spouse of Winnifred Gayle
Ethan Allen (4/6), nephew of Alelia Busby
Fr. Chester Smith (4/8), the Society of Divine Word
Rhonda Russell, member of the parish



Please Pray For Those In The Military:

Jared Brooks (Marines), Caija Campbell (Army), Anthony Carson (Army), Anthony Ford (Army), Thomas Dixon (Navy), Anthony Hollins, Jr (Army), Jonah LaTour, Jon LaTour, John Maurer (Air Force), Robbie Mayes (Marines), Christopher Moniere (National Guard), Corey Sullivan (Army), and Lance Walker II (Army).



Mass Intentions April 20 - 26

Monday	8:30 am	+ Tevita Jackson (req by Corpus Christi Parish)
Tuesday	8:30 am	+ Alan Arnett (req by Corpus Christi Parish)
Wednesday	8:30 am	A Special Intention (req by Jane DeHart)
Thursday	8:30 am	+ Demetric Rimbart (req by Corpus Christi Parish)
Friday		<i>No Mass</i>
Saturday		<i>No Mass</i>
Sunday	11:00 am	For The People of Corpus Christi

Please call the parish office (313-537-5770) to add or remove a name from our prayer lists.

Please Pray For Our Sick Members:

Tony Baines	Curtis Dickerson	Fannie Larkins	Joy Robinson	Angeline Butler	John Onwudinjo
Ken Banka	Renita Fletcher	Myrna Leonard	Elyse Ryder	Michelle Cagle	Sue Padalino
Doris Billion	Roy Ford	Marilyn Lewandowski	Michael Sands	Joseph Cagle Sr	Evangeline Pruett
Paul Billion	Dionne Garner	Bob Lindsay	Pauline Simpson	Clairmina Danjou	Milford Raines
Marcelle Blackmon	Rosemary Givens	Nancy Loper	Donna Storie	Vivian Dorsey	Hulda Reed
Alelia Busby	Gary Greening	Kathy Montgomery	Colletta Sykes	Margaret Gassoway	Juanita Robinson
Faye Chennault-	Virginia Harkey	Shirley Myles	Brendia Thomas	Ella Goldsmith	Leatrice Robinson
Johnson	Clint Harris	Yve Nemeth	Charlotte Turner	Sr Rachele Harper	Isiah Searls
Jefferie Cook Sr	Sr Stephanie Holub	Shirley Oldenburg	Adele Waddell	Ruth Hill	Joseph Shelton
Karen Cook	Irma Horton	Sharon Ortman	Kathy Wilson	Ronald Hills	Mary Pat Shelton
Terrie C-Henderson	Mary C. Hustoles	Soraya Parent		Marie Leonard	Bernice Slaughter
Sheri Dargin	Edward Hustoles	Helen Parkman	Homebound:	Sharon Lewis	
Cid Davis	Gloria James	Vernard Plain	Jackie Bodenhorn	Beverly Miller	
Kevin DeMatas	John Johnson	Thelma Polley	Evelyn Brantley	Beatrice Neail	
David Derouselle Sr	Roswitha Jordan	Sally Rimbart	Beverly B-Johnson	Margaret Nielsen	



Please Pray For Our Relatives and Friends:

Susan Absher	Chris Downing	Jean Houck	Robert Miller Jr	Alicia Penman	Donald Sims Sr
Kelley Adams	Elizabeth Downing	Robert Jarey	Darwin Mills	Ethel Person	Emily Smale
Duncan Alfes	Lloyd Earl	Aliyaa John	Florence Mills	Marquon Perry	Kathy Smith
Cynthia Archer-Gift	Virginia Etherly	Anrim Johnson	Willard Mitchell	Matt Phillips	Beverly Sneed
Jim Agnello	Stephen Farkus	Fred Johnson	James Molloy	Reginald Phillips	Tom/Dorothy Sobota
Sue Bates	Phillip Faucher	El Caleb Jones	Karen Momper	Anthony Plain	Nicholas Stephens
Marie Beard	Ronald Fletcher	Dorie Kaiser	Elizabeth Moore	Erin Plain	Rochelle Stewart
Joan Beckley-Fletcher	Barbara Ford	Bill Kelley	Shirley V Moore	David Remo	Trevor Sullivan
Edward Bejesky	Kyle Foster	Shirley Kenney	Glinda Moorer	Sandra Reynolds	Kevin Sweeney
Katy Bessey	Jerry & Patricia Franks	Mary Alice Kenny	Verita Morris	Michael Rice	Frances Sykes
Kenneth Black	Mavis Frazer	Kristen Kingzett	Louis Morzynske	Matthew Rich	Patt Taylor-Braxton
Malcom Boudreaux	Barbara Gay	Katie Lutz Kissell	Mike Mueller	Viola Richburge	Rick Thompson
Bryan Bowman	Nestelyn Gay	Erin Knight	Pierce Mueller	Dorothy Roberson	Carolyn Thrash
James Bryant	Elwood Gneckow	Fred Kolp	Joyce Mulhall	Eugene Rohde	Gerry Tremonti
Bria Brown	Shawn Gore	Emilia Kullman	Mignon Murray	Alfredo Rojas	Amy Turner
Ron Brown	Marlene Grant	Marta Lagos	Sara Nell-Wallace	Patrick Ryder	Eleanor Ursulan
Auby Bryson	Morty Green	Antoinette Litzinger	Margaret Nelson	Anthony Salem	Robert Vanden Berg
Jenny Churchill	Cora Harper	Cheryl Lofton	Ernestine Nimmons	Frank Salem	Al Victors
Scott Clinton	Alfonzo Harris	Anthony Lorenger	Charles Nutt	Sherry Samuel	Alicia Walker
Leah Closson	Millie Harris	Harold Lowe	Charlotte, Donna,	Ethel Mae Sanders	Kelley Walker
Perry Conway	Sharon Harris	William Mapp	John & Tyler O'Neill	Larry Schneider	Lance Walker
Ronald Crane	Lisa Harston-LeDoux	Michael Mathis	Patty Page	Helen Schroeder	Brady Wesley
Betty Cross	Bob & Jane Hazen	Scott McDonald	Celena Parker	Mildred Scott	Jamal Williams
Chuck Davis	Donna Hebel	Anthony McNeal	Willie Parker Jr	Alice Sheehan	Ruth Wilson
Natacha Desir	Summer Henry	Michael McNeece	Paula Parham	Larry Shelton	Barbara Woods
Shannon Dodd	Carol Holm	John/Mary Jo Meakin	Cyndi Pask	Lenny Simmons	Doris Woody
Jerry Douglas	Sullivan Horton	Jerry Mercier Jr	James Pefley	Curtis Simpson Sr	Kyle Yanke

From Fr. Patrick Gonyeau

A word from the heart

Divine Mercy Sunday

Hello Corpus Christi Family! I pray this note finds you staying safe and healthy and lovingly serving as best as you can. 😊

On this 2nd Sunday of Easter, we celebrate **Divine Mercy Sunday**. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would be known and celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday.

While the essence of the message of Divine Mercy given to St. Faustina is the original Gospel truth that Jesus loves us and died to forgive our sins and that a new life is possible by turning to him and repenting and living our lives with him, the Divine Mercy message was given by the Lord to Sr. Faustina during a time when heavy darkness was spreading across the world. St. John Paul II describes the timing of the message given to St. Faustina in the 1930 as follows:

“This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, nazism and communism, were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of off-setting the evil of those ideologies, that fact that God is mercy—the truth of the merciful Christ.”

The idea of a feast day specifically dedicated to Divine Mercy came from Jesus. St. Faustina recorded in her journal that Jesus told her “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of my tender mercy are open ... those souls who approach the fount of my mercy shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.”

Personally, I love the devotion to Divine Mercy! Jesus taught St. Faustina a prayer that is now known as the Divine Chaplet of Mercy, a powerful prayer that I like to say at 3:00 pm — the hour Jesus gave his life on the cross. It is simple, takes about 7 minutes, and helps us to continue to develop a passionate devotion to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by taking time to thank him daily for what he did on the cross for us.

Jesus instructed St. Faustina: “At three o’clock, implore my mercy, especially for sinners ... as often as you hear the clock strike the third hour, immerse yourself completely in my mercy, adoring and glorifying it, invoking its omnipotence for the whole world ... this is the hour of great mercy for the whole world.”

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us continue to cherish God’s Divine Mercy and do our best to share it with a hurting world. Love you and bless you!

— **Fr. Patrick**

Holy Homework



This week, try to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day, offering it for an end to the Covid-19 virus and mercy on all those affected by this pandemic.

To learn more about the devotion to Divine Mercy, visit thedivinemercy.org.

HOW TO PRAY THE



Chaplet of Divine Mercy

● FOR THE SAKE OF HIS SORROWFUL PASSION, HAVE MERCY ON US AND ON THE WHOLE WORLD.

● 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.

● APOSTLES CREED

● HAIL MARY

● OUR FATHER



Start

Finally



● HOLY GOD, HOLY MIGHTY ONE, HOLY IMMORTAL ONE, HAVE MERCY ON US AND ON THE WHOLE WORLD. (REPEAT 3 TIMES)



Masses, parish meetings, and gatherings remain cancelled through Thursday, April 30. The answering machine is being monitored remotely, and your call will be returned as soon as possible (please be sure to leave your name and speak clearly and slowly when leaving a message). The parish office phone number is [313-537-5770](tel:313-537-5770).

Sunday offerings may be mailed to [19800 Pembroke Ave, Detroit MI 48219-2145](mailto:19800PembrokeAve@corpurchristi-detroit.org) or you may make your donations online at www.corpuschristi-detroit.org.

The church is open on Saturdays from 2 to 4 pm for those who wish to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). You may also stop by to pray, drop off your Sunday offering, or pick up a Little White Book during these hours; please plan to practice social distancing when you come into the church.

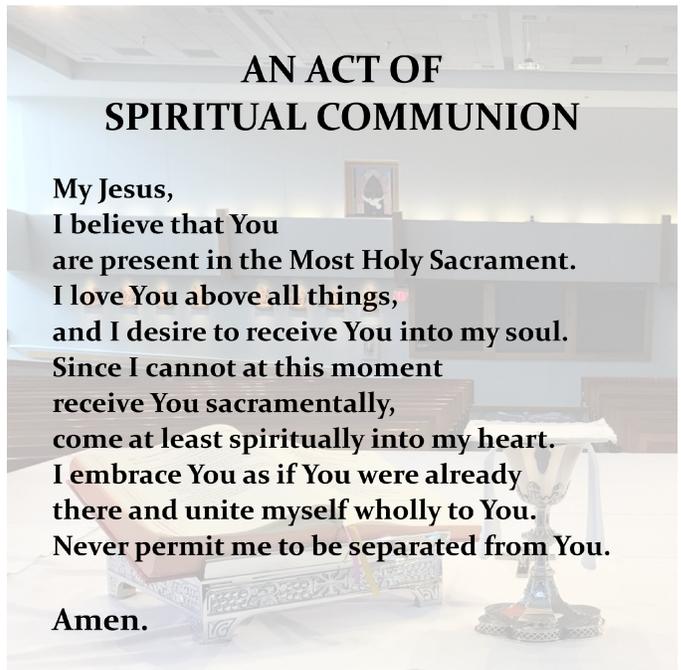
The Parish Leadership Team is continuing in its efforts to make sure that all parish members are receiving the weekly parish update emails. If you are not receiving the updates via email, please send an email to corpurchristidetroit@comcast.net or call the parish office at 313-537-5770 (be sure to speak slowly and clearly) to tell us your email address.

If you do not have access to the internet, do not use social media, or do not have an email address, please let us know so that we can arrange for you to receive updates and other information.

MDHHS Warmline
1-888-733-7753
Mon - Fri, 10 am - 2 am

Are you living with persistent mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression and trauma? Talk to someone who has lived these challenges themselves while staying safe and staying home.

In crisis? Considering suicide? Call the Disaster Distress Helpline 24/7 at 800-985-5990 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7 at 800-273-8255.



written by Fr. Stephen Pullis, April 13, 2020

On the day Jesus rose from the dead, we hear numerous accounts of what the disciples – the apostles especially but others, like Mary Magdalene, as well – experienced. They were confronted with the inescapable reality of Jesus, whom they had assuredly seen murdered in the most brutal fashion alive the Romans could devise. They were not given the full story. How was he alive? What did this mean? What were they supposed to do about it? What would Jesus do with them since they had abandoned him in his hour of need? They only knew one fact. Jesus was dead and now he was alive.

He was not merely “back from the dead” as Lazarus had been when Jesus raised him. He was alive in a similar but distinct manner. Mary Magdalene did not even recognize him. The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked several miles with him engrossed in conversation and did not recognize him. The apostles were locked in a room and Jesus appeared to them. This was not the appearance of a ghost but Jesus in the flesh. What did all of this mean?

The accounts of Scripture leave only one true conclusion: Jesus was alive on Easter Sunday. The

resurrection of Jesus was a historical event – it happened on the third day after his death – but it transcends history. It was not a moment in history. It was the moment in human history. It was the moment when everything about humanity changed. But the disciples could not fully grasp it yet. They were simply struggling to understand what had just happened.

The Church continues to proclaim this event as a mystery. It is something we know to be true – more true than anything we can see with our eyes or touch with our hands – but yet it is something beyond our full comprehension. The resurrection of Jesus expands our capacity for understanding the depth of the promise God has made to us. It is the unshakable truth that Jesus has conquered death, once and for all. Death has lost its sting because our savior, Our Lord, our friend has gone through death and emerged, not simply unscathed, but triumphant and glorified. It is a mystery that accepts all of our questions, doubts, and apprehension but which responds with one simple word: alleluia.

This simple word we fast from all during Lent and proclaim with abundance during the Easter season encapsulates the reality of Easter. Alleluia is a cry of a people who know the depth of sin, suffering, and death. It is a cry of a people who have experienced the unflinching sadness of Good Friday; the day in the life of Jesus, to be sure, but also the Good Friday of our own lives. This is the death of a parent, sibling, spouse, and even a child. It is the suffering of a lost job, a strained relationship, or anxiety about the future of a young person. For us in the Catholic Church these past 20 years, it cannot but also mean the hurt of sexual abuse at the hands of some priests and bishops, the complicity of some in Church leadership, and the pain we each carry when the bride of Christ whom we love is mocked, ridiculed, and abandoned for the sins of her members.

But Good Friday is only one day. The resurrection of Jesus cannot be contained in one day. It has its own season that surpasses the length of Lent and the Passion because Christ has won a victory that cannot be undone. Our Easter joy cannot be overshadowed by a quarantine, a global pandemic, or even a temporary inability to gather as a community of disciples for Mass. Our Easter joy finds its way through this world's trials and suffering like water finding its way through a forest to bring new life to everything it touches, or like light

breaking through the cracks and the seams of our nihilistic culture which seeks to truncate God to one hour a week within the walls of certain buildings set apart of this “outdated practice.”

The joyful cry of Easter is this simple word “alleluia.” It does not translate into English because it is a cry of the human soul set free from the bonds of sin and death. It is the inexpressible cry of one who knows that hope is not some far-off aspiration but a confident call to the God who “so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that all who believe in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” It is the cry of a believer who knows that nothing can touch him so long as he keeps his eyes and his heart fixed on Jesus.

When we are confused by what God has allowed to happen in our world, in our city and in our Church as a result of the coronavirus, our response should still be alleluia. It is not an uncritical response of fideism that ignores all of the suffering and pain which this pandemic has caused. Alleluia is our response of hope and steel-faced confidence in the midst of the worst of what this world can throw at us. We grieve, we mourn, and we are compassionate in the face of suffering. We practice social distancing, follow the best counsel of medical experts, and work for a cure and a vaccine. But we also proclaim the unshakable truth of Christ's ultimate victory of Easter Sunday. And we proclaim his offer for those of us to trust in him to share in this victory as well.

At the Easter Vigil during the Exsultet we proclaim “Let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.” Our church buildings did not shake with the sound of the peoples this year. They are empty and silent now. But the command of Christ to go to every nation and proclaim the good news still holds true. We are encouraged, compelled, and commanded to proclaim that death did not win, does not win, that Jesus is alive and he wants to give his death-defying life to you and me and to the whole world this Easter season. In the midst of our global pandemic, we do this not with the wall-shattering noise of the crowds of our typical Easter Masses. This year, we proclaim this truth with the alleluia of quarantined disciples sharing the Gospel message in our families, in Zoom rooms, on social media, and by the witness of our lives to our neighbors. It is a quiet alleluia but no less powerful and life-changing. Christ is Risen. Alleluia.

This article was posted in Spiritual Closeness.

Q

What does it mean to discern a vocation?

A

The word vocation comes from the Latin word vocare, meaning “to call.” A vocation is a calling or invitation from God to serve in a particular way. For Catholics, that calling might be as a priest, sister, or married person. Vocation is the way we respond to the invitation to share in God’s grace and witness to God’s love in the world.

Discerning a vocation is the process in which we pray for God’s guidance. We listen for God’s message that is often quiet and unassuming in a world filled with noise and distractions. We look at our gifts and talents, seek the advice of others, examine our motives, and listen to see what God is asking of us. The goal of discernment is to follow what the Lord wills, not what we think is the best idea. Many men enter a seminary to discern if that is their vocation, only to discover that their calling is to marriage. Others have resisted the idea for long periods of time, until finally they could resist no more. Some great saints have described that dilemma. Vocation is a human process of divine origin, and each of us must strive constantly to hear the call of God in our lives.

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