

APRIL 24, 2022
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

In the sacrament of reconciliation, we receive Christ’s divine mercy and peace.

Blessed Divine Mercy Sunday! Today, as we continue to celebrate the glorious resurrection of Christ, we remember in a special way his unimaginable gift of mercy. In today’s Gospel he appears to his disciples, offering them peace and showing them his wounds. Then he breathes on them, saying, Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we are united to Christ; the Holy Spirit dwells among and within us, stirring us to faith and allowing the divine life to take root in us. What mercy this is – that despite our sinfulness, we are drawn to our Triune God by an overflowing, never-ending love.

We celebrate this mercy in particular on this special feast day, deriving from Jesus’ revelations to the Polish nun Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska as outlined in her Diary. In one revelation, our Lord says, “On that day the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment” (Diary, 699).

We could all use some more grace! In his loving kindness, Jesus tells us exactly how to obtain these graces: by approaching the “fount of mercy,” going to confession, and receiving holy Communion. We know that only God forgives our sins – sins are, first and foremost, an offense against him – but we also see in today’s Gospel Jesus giving his Apostles the power to forgive sins in his name, in the sacrament of reconciliation. Jesus gave the Apostles and their successors, our priests and bishops, that authority.

The image of Divine Mercy, based on Saint Faustina’s visions, depicts Jesus with his left foot slightly in front of the other. He is stepping out toward us, to meet us wherever we are, just as he came to the Upper Room to meet the disciples, then returned later when Thomas was there. The disciples were afraid. The doors were locked. But Jesus came, bringing peace.

Whatever sin is locked in our hearts today – whatever sin is holding us down, binding us, and preventing us from loving God as we should – we need to invite Jesus into that space. Let us allow him to come and say, “Peace be with you.” And let us meet him in the confessional, where he waits, longing to immerse each of us in his divine mercy.



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OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM 7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

ST. PAUL’S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	April 23
5:00 PM	Mass: Living & Deceased Parishioners
Sunday	April 24
8:00 AM	Mass: Lillian O’Connell (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Deacon William Carl LaFleur (RIP)
Monday	April 25
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass:
Wednesday	April 27
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass:
Friday	April 29
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Mass: Carrie Dymek (RIP)
8:00 AM	Mass: Intentions of Fr. Doré
10:00 AM	Mass: Intentions of Fr. Doré on the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 24

We all know that the greatest story ever told is the story of our salvation through Jesus Christ in the Gospels. **But, do you know the second greatest story ever told?**

At the beginning of the 20th century, Mary appeared to three peasant farm children in Fatima Portugal, warning of great calamities if Russia wasn't consecrated to her Immaculate heart. In 1934, Jesus appeared to a young religious sister - soon to be St. Faustina Kowalska and told her that the world needed to appeal to God through His Divine Mercy.

The second greatest story ever told is the story of this most powerful devotion as revealed through great saints - from the Fatima Seers, to St. Faustina, to St. Maximilian Kolbe to St. John Paul II. It is the story of God's work in the 20th century to end the joint scourges of communism and fascism corrupting humanity. And His Divine Mercy is just as powerful against our troubles today.

We will have the Special Divine Mercy Devotion with The Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, right after our regular 10AM Mass.

40th Anniversary Ordination

Next Sunday, May 1 we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Fr. Dore's Ordination.

The 10AM Mass will be celebrated for Fr. Dore's intentions followed by a small reception downstairs.

Thank you to all who signed up to share a dish or made a donation toward items we will pick up for the celebration.

Second Collection April 30/May 1

Our second collection next week will help offset the cost of utilities. Thank you for your continued support.



St. Paul's Cookbook

ARE YOU READY TO HAVE FUN?

This year we're celebrating 50 years as the Catholic community in Foster. And we're invited to share our favorite family recipes for a commemorative cookbook to be available this October.

Exchanging recipes fosters community now and into future generations. So, please include the "story behind the recipe" –those recollections that make some of your recipes extra important to you. Include a photo or two, not just of the food but of the people who make your dish so special.

Submit Recipes by May 1, 2022

Go the parish website at stpaulsfoster.org/cookbook to submit your recipes online or to download a printable form

Second Collection—Help Ukraine

This weekend we will be taking up a special collection to support the Help Ukraine appeal.

"The situation is getting worse every day. We live now from hour to hour" - Bishop Honcharuk, Diocese of Ukraine.

All of us have been stunned by the horrifying images of suffering and death we have been seeing from Ukraine. For more than 70 years, Aid to the Church in Need, an international charity under the guidance of the Holy Father, has been helping persecuted and suffering faithful around the world, including in Ukraine, where we have a well-established network of priests and religious who, despite horrific circumstances, courageously continue addressing the needs of their people. **Help us help them.** Thank you for your support.

Fr. M.J. Bernard Doré

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – April 16/17
\$2,193.00

Easter Offering –April 16/17
\$1,052.00

Thank you for your support!

LIVING THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the Week

Life is about to get very interesting for the disciples. Finding themselves questioning what happened to Jesus and whether he actually was raised from the dead, they are afraid and uncertain. In the midst of this fear, questioning, and uncertainty, Jesus decides to surprise them with a visit! This visit, complete with the gift of peace, fills the disciples with great excitement and joy. But their detailed testimony is not enough to convince their absent friend Thomas. He wants to see for himself. We struggle with belief as well. It is hard for some to give themselves over to the testimony of another. We want to see the resurrected Christ in person. God, through the gift of eyes of faith, gives us the ability to do precisely that: when we witness the healing that comes from forgiveness, the beauty that flows from love, the wonder of creation, the new life that comes after we fall, and the unique soul that lives behind each person's life. Christ is risen. Life will get very interesting for us too, when we stop unbelieving and believe!

Kids Corner



Sharing the Gospel

After Jesus died on the cross, the disciples were afraid people would want to hurt them, too. They stayed together in a room and locked the door. Then Jesus came to his friends, to show them he was really alive again. Jesus changed their fear into gladness. Have you ever been so afraid that you just wanted to hide? Remember that Jesus is with you when you are afraid, too.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being with me when I am afraid.

Mission for the Week

I will talk to God whenever I am afraid.