

GREETINGS FROM FR. SCOTT

Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Her devotion to the Divine Mercy began spreading throughout the world in the 1930's.

By a Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II, during his homily at the canonization of Sister Faustina declared: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'"

Saint Faustina's life carried a mission of sharing the Lord's divine mercy for the world. In this Sunday's Gospel we meet the Apostle Thomas, known as "the doubter" for his hesitation to believe the first-hand accounts of Jesus' resurrection from his fellow apostles. Thomas, then, has his own divine encounter with the Risen Lord, the Divine Mercy Himself. Many are familiar with the Divine Mercy image our Lord asked Saint Faustina to have painted in his memory. They all show the Divine Mercy image of Jesus portrayed with two rays coming from his heart. The rays symbolize the blood and water that flowed from his side after the lance was thrust into Jesus on the cross. The diary of St. Faustina describes the image this way: "The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls."

The Divine Mercy image reflects Jesus' post-resurrection body. In the image we see the scars from the nails of his crucifixion; he appears able to walk through locked doors. His wounds remain but his body is indeed different and very much full of life. The Divine Mercy message calls people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone, especially the greatest sinners. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

A — Ask for Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C — Completely Trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

Saint Caesarius of Arles stated, "There is earthly or human mercy. There is also heavenly or divine mercy. Human mercy has compassion on the miseries of the poor. Divine mercy grants forgiveness of sins."

STEWARDSHIP

March 31, 2013	\$9,884.35	Online \$180.00
Last Year	\$10,875.00	Online \$0.00
Holy Thursday	\$1,226.25	Online \$300.00
Good Friday	\$996.00	

Daily Mass Readings

Monday April 8

Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Ps 40:7-11 Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday April 9

Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1-2,5 Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday April 10

Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21

Thursday April 11

Acts 5:27-33 Ps 32:2,9,17-20 Jn 3:31-36

Friday April 12

Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1,4,13-14 Jn 6:1-15

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday April 6

5:00pm

Sunday April 7

9:00am

For the People of the Parish

11:30am

Monday April 8

9:00am

Tuesday April 9

9:00am

Wednesday April 10

9:00am

Thursday April 11

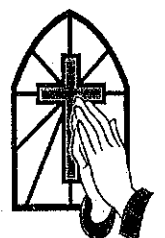
9:00am

+ Aloysius John

Friday April 12

9:00am

+ Shan Satterfield



FAITH FORMATION

Grades 1-8 meet from 10-11:15 am.
Pre-school and K meet at 11:30am

MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOGLE QUESTION

When is the Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrated this year?

1ST EUCHARIST CLASSES

Classes meet Saturday at 3pm.
Students must attend these preparation classes. Our retreat will be on April 20th from 9am to 1pm.
1st Eucharist will be April 28th at 11:30am.

CONFIRMATION—1-2:30pm

Students will be returning from their weekend retreat this Sunday at 11:30am Mass. Confirmation meets in the St. Christopher building and the All Saints Activity Center. Confirmation will be April 20th at 5pm.

DILLINGHAM YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Please sign up for this mission trip as soon as possible. This will be a wonderful, life changing experience. Teens entering 9th grade and older are invited. We still have several openings for this trip. Call the office as soon as possible.

YOUTH MASS

Beginning on April 27th, the parish will sponsor a youth mass on Saturdays at 5pm once a month. Youth will be hospitality, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and music. All youth and their families and friends are encouraged to join this spirit filled mass.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

LAST CHANCE! This weekend is your last chance to purchase tickets for Our Lady of the Valley's 6th Annual Dinner Auction following the masses. If you have not bought your tickets yet get them now to avoid being left out of the fun. The Dinner Auction will feature a delicious prime rib dinner, live entertainment, \$1.00 Treasure Raffles, 52 Card - Split the Pot, Wall of Guns, 1 in 100, Heads & Tails, as well as the silent and live auctions. Our donors have been extra generous this year. We have fabulous furs, framed Machentanz prints, an African sight-seeing safari, an Argentina dove hunt, a new 10x12 shed, a new outdoor playhouse, ivory engraved utensils, and so much more. Purchase your tickets from any OLV family or call the school office at 376-0883 or 715-2788.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

- 7 Middle School Sandwich Outreach
- 8 Contemplative Prayer 6:30 pm
- 9 Knights of Columbus 7 pm All Saints Center
- 10 Kateri Circle Native Ministry 11 am—1 pm
- 11 Rosary 7 pm
- 13 1st Eucharist Class 3 pm
OLV Auction Menard Center

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all the wonderful people who helped with the Holy Week & Easter week decorations this year by sewing the banners and actively enhancing our liturgical environment: Dory Smith, Jane Holler, Leslie Murray, Donna Green, Priscilla Belanger, Sandy Dean, Joyce & Ed Lamm, Barb Carney, Janice Marsh, Jeanie & Michael Schachle. I couldn't do it without you!

—Valerie Lindeman

CRS RICE BOWL

Thank you for your generous support of Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl project this Lent. You still have time to bring your Rice Bowl box to the parish after Mass or to the office during the week.

ST. THERESA'S CAMP FUND RAISER

I am hosting a fund raiser to help raise money for the purchase of a camp (57 acres on Niklason Lake). At this time there is no Catholic camp in Alaska. The event will be Tuesday, April 9th at 7pm at 3240 Seagull Drive, Palmer. Refreshments will be served. Please call 841-3534 for directions and or questions. Please take a moment to look at the cards in the social hall describing the location. Hope to see you — Carol Akerson

FOOD PANTRY

Items needed at the pantry:
toilet paper, flour, sugar,
cereal, oatmeal
all kinds of baby food
357-3769

**The Pantry needs lots
of grocery sacks.

KATERI CIRCLE

Kateri Circles are groups devoted to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Mohawk Indian Maiden. The groups pray together, share faith, and do ministry within their parishes, communities, and the Archdiocese. All are welcome to join our gatherings. Please contact Florence Clement, 376-4687 We meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month—April 10 at Sacred Heart and April 25 at St. Michael's

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWER ENVELOPES

Thank you for supporting our Easter Memorial lilies.