

St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

"Fear not, I Am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I Am alive for evermore" (Rv 1: 17-18). We heard these comforting words in the second reading taken from the Book of Revelation. They invite us to turn our gaze to Christ, to experience His reassuring presence. To each person, whatever his condition, even if it were the most complicated and dramatic, the Risen One repeats: "Fear not!"; "I died on the Cross but now "I Am alive for evermore"; "I Am the first and the last, and the living one".

"The first", that is, the source of every being and the first-fruits of the new creation; "the last", the definitive end of history; "the living one", the inexhaustible source of life that triumphed over death for ever. In the Messiah, crucified and risen, we recognize the features of the Lamb sacrificed on Golgotha, who implores forgiveness for His torturers and opens the gates of heaven to repentant sinners; we glimpse the face of the immortal King who now has "the keys of Death and Hades" (Rv 1: 18).

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!" (Ps 117: 1). Let us make our own the Psalmist's exclamation which we sang in the Responsorial Psalm: *the Lord's mercy endures forever!* In order to understand thoroughly the truth of these words, let us be led by the liturgy to the heart of the event of salvation, which unites Christ's Death and Resurrection with our lives and with the world's history. This miracle of mercy has radically changed humanity's destiny. It is a miracle in which is unfolded the fullness of the love of the Father who, for our redemption, does not even draw back before the sacrifice of His Only-begotten Son.

In the humiliated and suffering Christ, believers and non-believers can admire a surprising solidarity, which binds Him to our human condition beyond all imaginable measure. The Cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, "speaks and never ceases to speak of God the Father, who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man.... Believing in this love means believing in mercy (*Dives in misericordia*, n. 7).

Let us thank the Lord for His love, which is stronger than death and sin. It is revealed and put into practice as mercy in our daily lives, and prompts every person in turn to have "mercy" towards the Crucified One. Is not loving God & loving one's neighbour & even one's "enemies", after Jesus' example, the programme of life of every baptized person & of the whole Church?

With these sentiments we are celebrating the Second Sunday of Easter, which ... is also called "*Divine Mercy Sunday*". It is a great joy for me to be able to join all of you, dear pilgrims and faithful who have come from various nations to commemorate, after one year, the canonization of Sr Faustina Kowalska, witness and messenger of the Lord's merciful love. The elevation to the honours of the altar of this humble religious, a daughter of my land, is not only a gift for Poland but for all humanity. Indeed the message she brought is the appropriate and incisive answer that God wanted to offer to the questions and

expectations of human beings in our time, marked by terrible tragedies. Jesus said to Sr Faustina one day: "Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy" (*Diary*, p. 132). Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium.

The Gospel, which has just been proclaimed, helps us to grasp the full sense and value of this gift. The Evangelist John makes us share in the emotion felt by the Apostles in their meeting with Christ after His Resurrection. Our attention focuses on the gesture of the Master, who transmits to the fearful, astounded disciples the mission of being ministers of divine Mercy. He shows them His hands and His side, which bear the marks of the Passion, and tells them: "*As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you*" (Jn 20: 21). Immediately afterwards "He breathed on them, and said to them, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained*" " (Jn 20: 22-23). Jesus entrusted to them the gift of "forgiving sins", a gift that flows from the wounds in His hands, His feet, and especially from His pierced side. From there a wave of mercy is poured out over all humanity. Let us relive this moment with great spiritual intensity. Today the Lord also shows us His glorious wounds and His heart, an inexhaustible source of light and truth, of love and forgiveness.

The Heart of Christ! His "Sacred Heart" has given men everything: redemption, salvation, sanctification. St Faustina Kowalska saw coming from this Heart that was overflowing with generous love, two rays of light which illuminated the world. "The two rays", according to what Jesus Himself told her, "represent the blood and the water" (*Diary*, p. 132). The blood recalls the sacrifice of Golgotha and the mystery of the Eucharist; the water, according to the rich symbolism of the Evangelist John, makes us think of Baptism and the Gift of the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn 3:5; 4:14). Through the mystery of this wounded heart, the restorative tide of God's merciful love continues to spread over the men and women of our time. Here alone can those who long for true and lasting happiness find its secret.

"Jesus, I trust in You". This prayer, dear to so many of the devout, clearly expresses the attitude with which we too would like to abandon ourselves trustfully in Your hands, O Lord, our only Saviour. You are burning with the desire to be loved and those in tune with the sentiments of Your heart learn how to build the new civilization of love. A simple act of abandonment is enough to overcome the barriers of darkness and sorrow, of doubt and desperation. The rays of your divine mercy restore hope, in a special way, to those who feel overwhelmed by the burden of sin.

Mary, Mother of Mercy, help us always to have this trust in your Son, our Redeemer. Help us too, St Faustina, whom we remember today with special affection. Fixing our weak gaze on the divine Saviour's face, we would like to repeat with you: "Jesus, I trust in You". Now and forever. Amen.

Bl. Pope John Paul II, 2001 Divine Mercy Homily

REGINA CAELI

V. Queen of heaven, rejoice! Alleluia.

R. For He Whom you did merit to bear. Alleluia.

V. Has risen, as He said. Alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.

R. For the Lord is truly risen. Alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, Who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant, we beseech You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

(This prayer replaces the Angelus during Easter time)

SHARELIFE SUNDAY today. Please give generously.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION on Sunday, May 1st at 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. (Exposition and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet) followed by veneration of the relic of St. Faustina.

LIVING ROSARY hosted by the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, May 14th after the 5 p.m. Mass around the statue of Our Lady outside. Everyone is invited.

PARISH MOVIE NIGHT Fr. Steven and the Youth Group of our Parish will be showing the 1952 movie "Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima" in the parish hall on Sun. May 15th at 5:45 p.m. (right after the 4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass). This movie presents an excellent account of the miraculous events in Fatima in 1917. All Catholics should be familiar with this spectacular event in the history of the world. The significance of this event is very relevant for our times. Discussion topics after the movie with Fr. Steven may include: chastisements; 2012; the three days darkness; Fr. Gruner; the Anti Christ, the 3rd secret of Fatima, the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart; what does the future hold, and how can we best prepare. Tickets are \$5. Pizza, popcorn, pop and other snacks will be available for purchase. All proceeds are to help raise funds for the youth of our parish to be able to attend the World Youth Day in Spain. Remember, these Movie Nights are for parishioners of all ages.

MAJOR RELIQUARY OF ST. BROTHER ANDRE St. David's Church, 2601 Major Mackenzie Dr., Maple is honoured to welcome the major reliquary of our newest Canadian saint on Friday, May 6th from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Come in for personal veneration during those hours and join us for Mass at 7:30 p.m. For info, please call 905-832-5595.

REDEMPTORIS MATER MISSIONARY SEMINARY 9th Annual Fundraising Dinner at Le Parc Dining & Banquet Hall on Friday, May 27th. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m., Dinner at 7:30 p.m., cash bar. \$80 each. For info, pls. speak with Fr. Silvio. A tax receipt of \$38 will be issued upon request.

PROJECT RACHEL a ministry of healing for adults who are suffering from an abortion experience in their past. Are you waiting for the Lord to relieve your burden? We can help. A weekend retreat will be held May 13-15. Call 416-629-8264. **Private and Confidential.**

DETAILS OF THE BEATIFICATION OF POPE JOHN

PAUL II The ceremonies for the beatification have been divided into three phases. The first event is an open air vigil of preparation that will take place on the evening of Saturday, April 30 at the Circus Maximus. It will be led by Cardinal Agostino Vallini, vicar general for the diocese of Rome. Pope Benedict XVI will join spiritually through a live video link. The second phase is beatification ceremony itself, Sunday, May 1 in St. Peter's Square at 10am. The celebration, which will be presided by the Holy Father. Immediately after the ceremony, the remains of the newly Blessed will be placed in front of the High Altar in St. Peter's Basilica, for the veneration of the faithful. On Monday, May 2, Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, will preside Mass of thanksgiving at 10:30 am in St. Peter's Square. Following this Pope John Paul II's remains will be "privately" reinterred in the side chapel of St Sebastian, in St Peter's Basilica.

NEW BEGINNINGS: For those who are Separated, Divorced and Widowed. Come and join us for an informative evening with Fr. Brian Clough, J.C.D. on Tuesday May 3rd at 8 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Bonaventure's Church, 1300 Leslie St., Toronto. Fr. Clough has a doctor's degree in Canon Law and was director of the Marriage tribunal for the Archdioceses of Toronto. He has an in-depth knowledge of Marriage and the annulment process. Topic: Annulment: Healing the wounds of Divorce. No registration required. Info: Dcn. James Shaughnessy at 416-921-1163 ext. 2227.

COINS FOR LIFE Did you know that there have been over 3 million recorded abortions in Canada since 1969? Coins for Life, a fundraising initiative, is one way of getting involved promoting the "Culture of Life". **Please bring your box to the Sacristy before or after the Masses.** For those who do not have a box but would like to give a donation, please drop your cheque (made out to "Campaign Life") off in the Sacristy as well. Thank you for your contribution and for spreading the message on behalf of those who have no voice – the unborn. Above all, please remember to pray for the unborn, and for those who have been affected by abortion. For info or if you are interested in volunteering please visit www.coinsforlife.org.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL invites you to its annual fundraising Gala dinner on May 14th at 7 p.m. at the Lithuanian Banquet Hall (Keele & Bloor). Tickets are \$75 each. Join us for a 5 course Italian meal, silent auction, balloon surprises and lively entertainment! Call Stephanie at 416-531-7897 for more information.

**"QUESTO E' IL GIORNO CHE HA FATTO IL
SIGNORE: RALLEGRAMOCI ED ESULTIAMO."**

1. Si programma un pellegrinaggio a Fatima il 14 maggio. Per ulteriori informazioni chiamate Antonietta (905-737-3210) o Ezia (905-884-3896).
2. CORO MASCHILE MAIELLA DI PACENTRO, L'AQUILA ITALIA. 21 cantori de coro Maschile Maiella e il loro direttore Anna Galterio in occasione delle celebrazioni per i 150 anni dell'unita d'Italia. Domenica 1 Maggio

MASS INTENTIONS**May 1 - 7**

- SUN. 9:30 a.m.** + Maria Galeoto-Bosco
+Emilio Grossi
+Walter Gargaro
+Pertutti e defunti della
famiglia Rossetti
+Vincenzo Lagamba
Madonna delle Grazie
+Paul Joseph Ricciardi
+Sara Di Biase
+Giuseppe Tino
+Lina Naccarato Anderson
- MON. 8:00 a.m.** +Seng Hay Oen
- TUE. 8:00 a.m.** In Thanksgiving (Andrew
Jung)
- WED. 8:00 a.m.** +Holy Souls in Purgatory
7:00 p.m. In honour of St. Joseph
+Camillo di Cesare
+Salvatore & Maria Di Nardo
+Michele Crocitto
le anime del purgatorio
- THURS. 8:00 a.m.** +Holy Souls in Purgatory
- FRI. 8:00 a.m.** +Holy Souls in Purgatory
7:00 p.m. In honour of the Sacred Heart
of Jesus
+Brenda de Freitas
In Thanksgiving (Caroline Jung)
Intentions of the Rulli Family
+Benedetta Vettese
+Deceased members of teh
Naughton Family
+Herbert, Catherine & Patrick
Paxton
+Holy Souls in Purgatory
- SAT. 9:00 a.m.** In honour of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary
+Alphonsus Lambe
In Thanksgiving and for a
Special Intention
+Deceased Members of the
Paxton Family
+Deceased Members of the
Madden and Winton Family
+Holy Souls in Purgatory

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK

Doris Anderson, Winifred Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, David Canivet, Enrico Carusi, Esmey, Peter Christoff, Manuela Clement, James Davidson, Caterina & Dominic De Grano, Harry Dekharmenjan, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Godfrey Gosein, Gertiudes Henriques, Theresa Hogan, Margaret Kelly, Olivera Lambeta, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Esmey, Margaret McConnell, Paul Melotte, Anthony Morse, Susan, Myola Nunes, Michael & Michelle Osborne, Domenico Pileggi, Todd Santaguida, Werner Schachatsiek, Vincenzo Sorbara, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Abigail Walz, Sandra Weinholdt, Kathleen Whelan, Betsy Wong, Ted Zygmunt, Helen & Catherine.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary Joseph, may I sleep and rest in peace with you.

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