



# POPE FRANCIS AND THE YEAR OF MERCY...

Today, the Second Sunday of Easter, is also known as "Divine Mercy Sunday." What is Divine Mercy all about? Well, it really goes back to a very humble, uneducated Polish nun by the name of Sister Faustina Kowalska. Sr. Faustina, because of her lack of education was usually given the most menial tasks in the convent. Despite her humble position, the Lord showered upon her some extraordinary revelations about His mercy and compassion for sinners.

Jesus appeared to Sr. Faustina and pointed to His heart out of which emanated two rays, one red and the other white. The two rays represented the blood and water that flowed from our Lord's pierced side as He hung upon the cross. Sister recorded her spiritual experiences in a diary which runs over 600 pages.

In her diary, Sr. Faustina related that Jesus asked that a special picture of this vision be painted. Perhaps many of you are familiar with the beautiful image of the Divine Mercy. We have one in the vestibule of the church. Furthermore, Jesus told Sr. Faustina that the hour of three o'clock was to be known as the "Hour of Mercy." Of course, it was at this hour of 3PM that the Lord died upon the cross.



Divine Mercy

Therefore on this Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday, at 3PM we shall gather here at Sacred Heart and say the Divine Mercy Chaplet. It is my hope that many will come out and join in this devotion on this special Sunday. In the Chaplet we utter this beautiful prayer:

"O Jesus, You expired, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O fount of life, unfathomable Divine Mercy envelop the whole world and empty yourself upon us."

Thinking about that prayer brings to mind the wound that our Lord suffered immediately after His death. A soldier pierced His side with a lance and immediately blood and water flowed out. It was St. Thomas the Apostle whom we read about in the Gospel for this Sunday, who was

Privileged to touch our Lord's wounded side. By touching our Lord's wounds, Thomas was healed of the wound of his disbelief.

I think that this Gospel is an appropriate one for Divine Mercy Sunday. Perhaps many people like St. Thomas are "doubters" when it comes to believing in the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus. Maybe some of us see God as a harsh "judge" ready to pounce on us for every single infraction and weakness. No! For example, how many times in the Gospel did our Lord reveal Himself as compassionate and forgiving?

Not only did He preach mercy, the Lord expressed it fully when He stretched out His arms on the cross for us and opened for us the way to salvation. All of us need a greater consciousness of the Lord's tender mercy.

In line with this idea, the Holy Father Pope Francis has decided to call an Extraordinary Jubilee - the Holy Year of Mercy. Usually holy years are called by the Pope every 25 years-the last one was in 2000. However, the Holy Father truly believes that our age must come to know more fully the merciful Christ and that is why he has called this Extraordinary Year.

The Holy Year will begin on Dec. 8, 2015 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) and will conclude on Nov. 20, 2016 (Feast of Christ the King). Said Pope Francis, "I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God." As we continue to celebrate the Easter Season, may we come to know more fully the kindness and tender mercy of the Lord for each and every single one of us!

Sincerely in Christ, Father Jerome

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*Thank you* to all who made our Holy Week Services a beautiful and tremendous success - Fr. Reilly, Msgr. Mustaciuolo, Pamela Witre and our spectacular Choir, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Ladies of the Altar Rosary Society, and all our wonderful parishioners.

*Happy Easter Season,* Father Jerome



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL** registration for 2015-2016 is taking place.

Grades: Pre-K3, Free UPK, Kindergarten and 1-8. Please call the

school office for an application and information. School resumes April 13

**CCD** Classes resume April 15

April Classes - 15, 22, 29

Apr. 13 Confirmation II Practice 7PM in the church

Apr. 14 Confirmation 5PM in the church

**SACRED HEART YOUTH GROUP** Next Mass and Meeting - April 19<sup>th</sup> - 5PM Mass. The meeting follows after the Mass.

**CARDINAL'S APPEAL**

GOAL	\$87,000.00
PLEDGE	\$70,571.00
NUMBER OF GIFTS	106

**ANNUAL GOLDEN WEDDING MASS**

**CELEBRATION** Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2015 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00PM. **Pre-registration is required.** Please contact the rectory at 718-442-0058 for registration. **The closing date to register for the Mass is Tuesday, May 19, 2015.** This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

**ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE APRIL 18 & 19**

**Saturday, April 18**

5:00 Christopher & Joseph Basile

**Sunday, April 19**

7:00 Patrick & Keifer Regan

8:30 Vicky Bruno, Thomas Laub

10:00 Kelly & Ryan O'Neil

11:30 Nicholas Fortunato, Samantha Baniswal

1:00 Albert Cardone, Patrick Buzzard

5:00 Laura Laureano, Bernard Daniels

**Choir News**

A Million Thanks

We are so fortunate here at Sacred Heart to have so many parishioners involved in creating such beautiful and inspiring music through their participation in at least one choir for Holy Week 2015 and all year long!!

It's virtually impossible for me to express my awe, joy and wonder as each choir arrives to the loft to contribute the choral offerings they have rehearsed to offer for Mass!!

Parish Choir, France Voyager Choir, Kids Praise Choir, Family Choir - 68 parishioners, spanning 3 generations participated in these extraordinary liturgies for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday this year!! We are so blessed to have their gifts of song, financial support and enthusiasm!!

Is it your turn to participate in one of our choirs? Hop on board!! There are many wonderful choral liturgies ahead this spring-see you in the loft!!

Easter Blessings and Peace

Pamela and the Choirs

(Questions?? VM 24)

PS And an extra special thank you to our Pastor, Fr. Jerome (song leader extraordinaire!!) for his inspiring rendition of the Exultet at the Easter Vigil!! Magnificent!!

Join a choir today! Put away a hymnbook! Purchase a CD! Join our Choir tour/Pilgrimage Great Cathedrals France 2016!

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL REGION OF STATEN ISLAND**

**INAUGURAL GALA** honoring His Eminence, Timothy M. Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York -Apr. 16 at Hilton Garden Inn. For tickets and information contact [catholicschoolsgala.eventbrite.com](http://catholicschoolsgala.eventbrite.com) or [Diana.Gatto@archny.org](mailto:Diana.Gatto@archny.org).

**FR. JOHN COMISKEY MEMORIAL MILE** at Msgr.

Farrell HS, Apr. 19th 9AM. Fee \$15 pre-race/\$20 race day. Contact Mr. John Fox [jfox@msgrfarrellhs.org](mailto:jfox@msgrfarrellhs.org)

**REUNION ST. JOSEPH BY-THE-SEA HS** Class of '75

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 7PM at The Staaten. For information contact:[MadameT828@aol.com](mailto:MadameT828@aol.com).