



What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

The late Pope John Paul II popularized devotion to the *Divine Mercy* of God. He even declared on April 22, 2001 that the universal church celebrates the Sunday after Easter as *Divine Mercy Sunday*. The pontiff addressed the pilgrims at St. Peter's Square, "*Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift the Church receives from the risen Christ, and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium.*"

Back in the 1930's just before outbreak of World War II, Saint Faustina Kowalska of Poland received private revelations on how God is pleased when his divine mercy is honored. We can partake of the great graces when we observe the *Feast of Mercy* which is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Jesus says to Saint Faustina, "*My daughter, tell the whole world about my inconceivable mercy. I desire that the **Feast of Mercy** be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. 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. Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet*" (Diary #699).

In summary, all we have to do is honor Our Lord's divine mercy by devoutly receiving Holy Communion this Sunday and going to Confession (within a week from today) and we will receive the grace of complete forgiveness and remission of our sins (i.e., our purgatory time is canceled!). Now, who would not want to pass up this great opportunity?!

I would like to invite all of you to come to our parish this Sunday afternoon when we hold a special observance of the *Divine Mercy*. From 2:45pm until pm we will have Eucharistic Adoration and the recitation of the Holy Rosary and the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* (3pm). A permanent image of the *Divine Mercy* has been donated to Saint Francis de Sales for the parishioners to venerate. There are also many graces that can be gained from just honoring this sacred image. It was revealed to Saint Faustina that the *Divine Mercy* image be made known to everyone especially in every parish: "*I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it*" (Diary #341).

Your shepherd in Christ,
Father Escalante

Western Loudoun Relay for Life
LIFE IS A CELEBRATION

May 30th and 31st

Heritage High School, Leesburg

Please join the St. Francis team,
Walking in Faith. One day. One night.

One community. The Relay for Life is about celebration, remembrance, and hope. By participating, you honor cancer survivors, pay tribute to the lives we've lost to the disease, and raise money to help fight cancer all right here in your community. You won't want to miss one moment of this life and community-affirming event!

There are several ways you can be a part of our team – you can become a team member and relay with us, you can donate money to the team via either the team website (easiest,) or cash or check to a team member, you can purchase raffle tickets for a Redskin quilt with over 50 signatures of past and current team members and coaches, or you can buy flowers from us after Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday and Mother's Day. For more information, please contact Sheila Cowling at 571-216-3024 or e-mail Sheila@flythrough.com. To access the team website, you will find a link on the St. Francis Website, or Google: Western Loudoun Relay for Life, go to Teams and choose team Walking in Faith.



PARISH NURSE (Health Wellness Ministry)

This past Thursday, April 16th was Advance Medical Directives Awareness Day. This document provides information regarding your healthcare wishes to your family, physicians, hospital, and other healthcare providers. We have a limited number of Advance Directives folders provided by the Arlington Diocese with instructions on how to fill out the form. Please stop by the Parish Office to pick one up. Questions? Call Nancy Grish 540-338-8004.

Blood Pressures will be taken this weekend 4/18-4/19

For all who signed up for CPR/AED certification course, the dates are Saturday, May 30 and Saturday, June 20, 9am-1pm. Since class size is limited to twelve, I need to know which date you are available. The signup sheet is in the narthex, you can check off which date, email or phone me. I encourage all staff, ushers, mass coordinators, and catechists to take advantage of this lifesaving course. Contact Nancy Grish at nmg1298@aol.com or phone 540-338-8004.

CARVER CENTER PROGRAM

Offered by Blue Ridge Hospice

April 23, 10-11am

Betsy Murphy, hospice educator, author and speaker will focus on caregiving in the final months of life from the perspective of the caregiver.

2009 WORKCAMP FUNDRAISER GOLF TIME!

6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Friday, May 8th at 9 am



Stoneleigh Golf Course
To sponsor a hole or to play in the
tournament, please contact Jane
Treado at janedhs78@aol.com.

POP Fund Seeks Parishioner Ideas on New Groups to Gift

Did you know that since 2001 St. Francis de Sales Parish has donated more than \$172,000 to groups serving the poor in our local community as well as on every continent? This incredible generosity has happened because 5% of the weekly offertory collection is set aside in a Preferential Option for the Poor (POP) Fund, from which these gifts are made.

Parishioner nominations are now being accepted for Spring 2009 gifts. If you know of an organization striving to lessen the hardships of the poor that might benefit from a POP Fund gift, please submit your written nomination to the church office. Nominations should include a suggested donation amount; a description of the organization and the parishioner's personal connection to the group; and a brochure or web site information for the organization. Nominations are due in the church office by May 19.

PRAY FOR PEACE AND SAFETY Let us join our prayers for peace and safety for our loved ones deployed overseas. Kenneth Kyle McWilliams has returned safely from the war Iraq. Kyle's family would like to thank everyone for their prayers while he was deployed. Kyle said that he could feel God's protection as he served in Baghdad, but was safe from danger. Praise be to God!

Our Thoughts and Prayers Are With ...

The Deployed: Major Karl M. Wojtkun, Capt. Andrew Kellner, 2LT Brendan McCormick, LTC Michael F. Goodnow, Sr. Arm Yonatan Holz, Arm 1stC Brian Rickert, SSGT Sara Wiest

The Sick: Norma O'Grady, Hannah Brown, Albert Cippel, Grover 'Corky' Corcoran

The Deceased: Fr. Michael C. Kelly, Isabella Hayes Isaacs, Chase Harrison, Maria Keran, Patricia Evelyn Weaver, Charlotte Wells, Robert Saunders, Miriam Moore, Stephanie Jackson, William Leonard, Andrew Michael Wilson, Janet Law, Jose Vera Tudela, James Emmet Lanaghan, Samuel Phillips



SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL MEMORIAL STATUE We have collected a little over \$3000. We will probably need at least \$1000 more with the installation and plaque with the Prayer of St. Michael engraving and dedication to Fr. Michael Kelly. Please send donations to church office.

Gift Cards & Food Desperately Needed for Leesburg Catholic Charities office & local Families!

- Please take a tag from the "Giving Tree" and leave your donation in the basket labeled "Giving Tree" and gift cards in the container labeled "Giving Tree." We need a few people to take tags for sweatsuits for the Heritage Hall residents. These residents are ones who do not have families helping them with special needs. Thank you!!
- Catholic Charities is in dire need of the following food items: rice, beans, pasta, canned meats, canned fruits.

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR PEOPLE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS

A retreat specially planned for men and women facing serious physical illness will be held at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean on May 22-24. A Team of doctors, nurses, priests, sisters and helpers will be present around the clock. Scheduling allows plenty of time for rest and reflection. This retreat is free of charge. This is a non-smoking weekend. Registration closes May 12. Please call as soon as possible. Call 703-356-4243 or Doug Sebek, 703-860-4929.

VIRTUS TRAINING SEMINAR

Wednesday, April 22 at 6m in the Parish Hall. All volunteers in the parish who have significant contact with children, i.e. Workcamp, Vacation Bible School, Religious Education, Nursery. If you not yet attended this seminar, now is the time! To register go to www.virtus.org, click on 'registration', and follow the prompts. There are only 21 remaining spots available, please sign up now.



TODAY in the Parish Hall. The second drive of six scheduled for 2009 continues the great charitable tradition that our parish so generously maintains. Join us to provide needed blood products for our parish faith community and friends and neighbors in distress.

SOUL STITCH MEETS Wednesday, April 22, 9:30-11:30am in the parish all. We are currently knitting washclothes for the Haiti shoebox project and mittens and blankets for Afghan children. Questions? Contact Monica Deaver at 540-338-6057 or mojoknits@comcast.net.

Religious Education

Melissa Gobs, DRE

338-4497 or m.gobs@saintfrancisparish.org

2008-2009 The Year of St. Paul

Brothers and sisters:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. (1 Col 3:1-4.)



An Ocean of Mercy

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday! A great gift from our Risen Lord to His Church. Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when "all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened". (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church. We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and the additional Plenary Indulgence on this great Feast of Mercy "Divine Mercy Sunday". Please see the Father Escalante's column for more details on how we will be celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday as a parish. Also note that to gain the Plenary Indulgence you must receive Holy Communion on the feast day, and go to confession either within 8 days prior to the feast or within 8 days after the feast.

RE Calendar

Sun., Apr. 19	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS Gr. K-8, RCIC - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Apr. 20	Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Apr., 21	Gr. K, 2, 4, 8 - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Apr. 22	Grades 3,5,6 - 4:15pm, at the church
Thu., Apr. 23	RCIT - 7pm, Oratory Room
Sun., Apr. 26	Gr. K-8 - Session 1 - 8:45am at LVHS Gr. K-8, RCIC - Session 2 - 10:30am at LVHS
Mon., Apr. 27	Gr. 1, 7, RCIC, and Special Needs - 4:15pm at the church
Tue., Apr., 28	Gr. K, 2, 4, 8 - 4:15pm, at the church
Wed. Apr. 29	Grades 3,5,6 - 4:15pm, at the church
Thu., Apr. 30	RCIT - 7pm, Oratory Room



TEEN FAITH NEWS

TEEN MASS - at 6pm every Sunday, All welcome-please bring friends. Teens are welcome to sit in the front left 3 rows of church.

Mandatory Workcamp Meeting - April 19th. All teens going to Workcamp should be at this meeting! We already handed out the registrations for workcamp and you should bring the filled out registration to this meeting. By now, your deposit should be paid, your appeal letters should be written, and bring your item for the auction to this meeting. If you weren't assigned an item or can't remember what you are to bring, e-mail me at Janedhs78@aol.com. If you don't have your registration papers, you can pick them up in the office.

Wine Tasting and Sales - THANK YOU to Corcoran Vineyards and Bluemont Vineyards for hosting a Wine Tasting and sales benefiting Workcamp. We are very grateful and fortunate for your generosity and support.

Service Group - Tuesday, April 28th, We will be baby-sitting at the Homeless Shelter. Call or e-mail for details if you would like to help.

RETREAT!!! - Sign up now for our Spring Retreat, May 1-3. The theme of our retreat this year is *The Journey*. We have planned a wonderful retreat in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

Golf Tournament - Friday, May 8th. Contact me if you are interested in sponsoring a hole or playing in the tournament.

Auction Items Needed And Talent Needed!!!- For Talent Show and Auction. The workcampers are hosting a Talent Show and Auction on June 6th and will need talent for the show and items for the auction. Please



J.A.M. Field trip - On Saturday May 16th 3pm-11pm, we have a special J.A.M. trip planned. We will be going down to JP11 in Dumfries for a Middle School Bash with *special guest, Chris Stefanick*. All Middle Schoolers are invited and need to sign up before May 9th. Parents, we will need drivers for this event.

Jane Treado Youth Director
540-338-6381 or Janedhs78@aol.com

MASSSES for the WEEK

† deceased

Sat., April 18

9:00 am

Sat., April 18

5:00 pm

Sun., April 19

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:30 pm

6:00 pm

Mon., April 20

6:30 am

9:00 am

Tue., April 21

6:30 am

9:00 am

Wed., April 22

6:30 am

9:00 am

Thurs., April 23

6:30 am

9:00 am

Fri., April 24

6:30 am

12 noon

Sat., April 25

9:00 am

Sat., April 25

5:00 pm

Sun., April 26

7:00 am

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:30 pm

6:00 pm

Easter Saturday

† Fr. Michael Kelly

Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Easter;

Divine Mercy Sunday

Malone Family

2nd Sunday of Easter

Divine Mercy Sunday

Deceased members of the D'Elia, Curran, Sommer and Butts families

† Franklin Rowland

Kevin and Ann Lees

People of the Parish

Margaret Jones and Family

Easter Weekday

† Wallace and † Helen Slivonik

† Richard Hahn

Easter Weekday

† Mary Joynes

† Andrew Michael Wilson

Easter Weekday

Mary Ann and Jeff Liddy

Leah Christina McCaffrey

Easter Weekday

† Rev. Stanley Slivonik

† Nancy Mae St. Clair

Easter Weekday

† Clinton Humphries

In Thanksgiving for the Eucharist

Saint Mark

Special Intention

Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Easter;

† Fr. Michael Kelly

3rd Sunday of Easter

† Deceased members of the D'Elia, Curran, Butts and Sommer families

Dave and Jamie Dittmeier

The Fisher Family

People of the Parish

Frank Bartlett

This Week

Mon., Apr. 20

RCIA - 7:30pm

Wed., Apr. 22

"Living Life in the Spirit" - 6:30pm

Charismatic Prayer Group - 7:30pm

Oratory Room

PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS: 4/5/09

OFFERTORY - this week	\$ 31,065
YEAR TO DATE	\$ 252,828
2nd Collection	\$ 2,684

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009

2nd Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? - 1 John 5:5

SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

It is not often that the author of one of the books of the Bible comes right out and tells us directly why he is writing what he is writing. In this Sunday's Gospel reading, taken from the conclusion of John's Gospel, the author tells us that he has chosen to record these events so "that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (20:31).

The letter of John echoes this idea by saying that "[e]veryone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God" (5:1)—what we might refer to as being "born again." Our reading from the Acts of the Apostles for this Second Sunday of Easter shows us exactly what it looks like when believers are born again through faith.

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Join St. Francis de Sales Parish TODAY

**as we recognize Divine Mercy Sunday.
Meet us in the church at 2:45pm for a
short talk given by Father Escalante.
Father will then lead us in praying the
Divine Mercy Chaplet in song and the
Holy Rosary.**

Readings for the Week

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
Sunday:	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48