

Sacred Heart Church



260 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060-1404

Telephone: 609-267-0209 • FAX: 609-267-9293 • Website: www.parishofsacredheart.org

Office Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9:00am - 5:00pm (Closed for Lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm)

Evening Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 6:00pm - 9:00pm • Sunday 8:30am - 1:00pm

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am & 7:00pm

Weekday: Mon.-Fri. 7:00am & 8:30am

Saturday: 8:30am

Confessions

Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:00pm

(Reconciliation Rooms are to the right of the Eucharistic Chapel)

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. John P. Czahur ext. 308

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Roberto Padilla

Residence: Christ The Redeemer Church
113 South Avenue, Mt. Holly
(609) 261-0181

Deacons: Deacon Jim Casa
fisherking13@comcast.net
Deacon John Hoefling
Deacon Stan Orkis
Deacon William Rowley

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Michele O'Toole ext. 301

secretary@parishofsacredheart.org

Business Manager: Mrs. Deneen Thomas ext. 303

accountant@parishofsacredheart.org

Cemetery Manager: Mrs. Paula Powell ext. 304

cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org

Coord. of Ministries: Ms. Merry Marcellino ext. 305

ministry@parishofsacredheart.org

Parish Maintenance Mr. Jason D'Entremont ext. 319

jasonmd@parishofsacredheart.org

Sacred Heart School

250 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Telephone: 609-267-1728

Email: schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org

Website: www.sacred-heart-school.org

Principal: Ms. Kathryn Besheer ext. 340

Admin. Assist. Margo Lihvarcik ext. 316

Sacred Heart Religious Education

Telephone: 609-267-6319

Email: rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org

Director of Rel. Ed: Mrs. Jessica Donohue ext.307

Admin. Assistant: ext. 324

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9:00am – 2:00pm

Fall Program Class Times

Grades 1st - 8th Tuesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Grades 1st - 8th Wednesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

Parish Registration

Our Parish family warmly welcomes new members. Please register at your earliest convenience by stopping by the Parish House during the office hours.

The Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome new life into the Church through the sacramental sign of Baptism which is celebrated **every Sunday of the month at 1:00pm** with the exception of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We encourage parents who wish to have their child baptized to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole, at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 or stop in and pick up a Baptism packet.

Once the Baptismal Preparation class is attended, the form completed and the Godparent Eligibility Certificates are turned in then a date for your child's Baptism will be set.

Baptismal Preparation

Catholic Godparents are required to complete an Eligibility Certificate and have the certificates signed by the pastor of the parish where they are currently registered and practicing their faith.

We offer a Baptismal Prep Class for parents as a way of preparing them for their child's journey of faith. Classes are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. Please contact the Parish Secretary to register.

Sacramental Sponsorship Letter

This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. To receive this form the following requirements must be met:

- If married, be in a valid marriage according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Completed the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Be a registered, active participant of a Parish.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Couples wishing to celebrate and consecrate their love in the Sacrament of Marriage are asked to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole at 609-702-1848 ext. 301.

Arrangements are to be made with the Pastor a year in advance of the requested date. At least one person should be a registered member of the parish. All couples are required to attend preparation sessions.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Any Catholic who is seriously ill, advanced in age, or who feels the need for the comforting presence of the Church's sacramental prayer life may be anointed. Please contact the Parish Office at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 during office hours. In the case of an emergency, please call and follow the instructions listed on our telephone message.

Funerals

In all cases, the family of the deceased parishioner should contact the funeral home directly. They will contact the Church to make further arrangements. For information regarding our Parish Cemetery, please call the Cemetery Office at 609-702-1848 ext 304

Care of the Sick, Homebound and Elderly:

The sick, the homebound and the elderly are valued members of our parish. Please call the Parish House at 609-267-0209 ext. 305 for a visit.

Bulletin Articles

Articles for the Bulletin need to be submitted **No Later than Friday** to appear the next weekend (**9 days prior**). Articles can be emailed to

bulletins@parishofsacredheart.org

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

April 9th - April 15th



MONDAY

7:00am **Jeanne Livingston** Req. By John & Family
 8:30am **Julia & Isadora Dimaano** Req. By Christopher & Frances Grupico & Family

TUESDAY

7:00am **Bill Todd** Req. By Henry & Carol Karnas
 8:30am **Joan Grogan** Req. By Bernadine Eppolito

WEDNESDAY

7:00am **Joseph Rustia** Req. By The Rustia – Relevo Family
 8:30am **Margaret Caruso** Req. By The Caruso Family

THURSDAY

7:00am **Frank Campbell** Req. By Henry & Carol Karnas
 8:30am **Wendy L. Canale** Req. By Catherine & Dan Bozarth

FRIDAY

7:00am **Elisabeth & Heinrich Bettenhausen** Req. By Wilma Peterson
 8:30am **Thelma Pacitti** Req. By The Caruso Family

SATURDAY

8:30AM **Willie Williamson** Req. By John Mehling
Adela Dizon Req. By Maridel & Jessie Tuazon
The Special Intentions of Kevin Poniatowicz Req. By George & Ginger Trefz

4:30pm **The People of the Parish**

SUNDAY

7:30am **Leo Gillis** Req. By Dave & Rita Gillis
 9:30am **Brenda Lust** Req. By Bill & Queen Casey
 11:30am **Maryellen Connor** Req. By William Rowley
 3:00pm Confirmandi Mass **Vincent Sutera** Req. By Religious Education
 7:00pm **Artie Bertsch** Req. By The Elstone Family

The Devotional Candle in the Chapel of the Two Hearts



Will Burn in Loving Memory of Herbert Williams



Eucharistic Adoration – Come and spend time in the quiet with Our Lord in the Chapel of the Two Hearts located next to the Parish House. Our Chapel is open for you and Jesus to spend some time during the following hours:
 Monday through Friday 9:00am to 8:30pm
 Saturday 9:00am to noon.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
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: Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21
Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

PALM SUNDAY OFFERING

Weekly 3/24– 3/25 \$ 15, 878.52
Easter Flowers \$ 816.00

Thank you for the faithful and generous support that you continue to give to our Church.

Divine Mercy Sunday



Jesus I Trust In You

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

Please remember in your prayers:

Connie Vazquez, Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia,
 Brandon Trojak, Ruth Flynn, Anne Marie Whelan,
 Josephine Dowches, Michael Fitzpatrick,
 Donald McGhee, Jenise Labron, Vickie Robles,
 Richard Dow, Clarence Pugh, III,
 Margaret & Gaylord Jeffers, Joel Rivera,
 Fred Hammer, Stephanie James, Eric Wall,
 Caellie Boyd, Nicholas Gonzalez, Dawn Vota,
 Betty Doviak, Ed Ciletti, Michael Dow, Marie Chirico,
 Karen McDonald, Melissa Currie, Janice Staff,
 Christine Taintor, Pat Adornetto, Nadia Nieves,
 Trey Nieves, Talia Rosko, Bobby Sumanga,
 Garrett Schwab, Frank Anton, Christopher Pierce,
 Renate Conners, Freddie J. Faber, III, Arleen Bishop,
 Maria Wolfe, Matthew Ottenwess,
 Tracy & Erica Schwab, Matthew McDonald,
 Kristal Faber, Alice Farkas, Justin Beckett,
 Robert Lally, Tonya DeMaio, Olga Aponte,
 McKenzie Hunter, Gail Reilly, Alva Marino,
 Wayne Potts, Stephanie Martin, Corey Kaiser,
 Stella Grundahl, Daniel DeMaio, Doris Gallo,
 Matthew Wernoch, Kay Weiss, Casey Davitt,
 Fredrick Naphys, Clara Hynes, Herbert Cucuini,
 Daniel Toussaint, Zoey Reed, Mason Damico,
 David McCoy, Lois Pedrick, John Rubino,
 George Sampson, Evan Martinez, Sabrina Kaiser,
 Celeste Bunn, Jenny Hand, Annabelle Ochipinti,
 Arthur Netti, Loretta Minakee, Christine,
 Patricia Parker, Wilma Peterson, Morgan Ackerman,
 Raymond Bishop, Dylan Crespo, Patricia O'Connor,
 Sharon Carroll, George Schneider, Marie Donahue,
 Peggy Stewart, Don & Mary Hartman,
 Michelle Schafle Reed

As a parish family we remember all who are struggling or suffering in mind, body, or spirit, especially those who have requested our prayers.

Please pray for the men and women now serving in the military, especially the loved ones of our parishioners who are serving overseas:

TSgt. Paul J. Stoshak U.S.A.F
 Capt. Robert J. Boccio, U.S.A.F.
 Douglas Schwenck, Army Reserve
 Richard DeLorge U.S.M.C.
 Peter Liedman, Dorinia Dibuono
 Capt. James Rankin U.S.M.C.
 SSgt Daniel E. Naro, Sgt. Alison Lyport
 Sgt. Stephanie Robertson, U.S. Army
 Sgt. Russell Norton, NG Army
 Sgt. Marshall Norton, U.S.M.C.
 Corporal Maxwell Hughes, U.S.M.C.
 Lt. Matthew Carr, U.S.M.C.
 Lt. Victoria Carr, U.S.M.C.
 Capt. Anthony D'Errico II, U.S.A.F.



**The Feast of the Divine Mercy;
 April 8, 2018**

We are celebrating the Feast of the Divine Mercy here at Sacred Heart Parish with a novena devotion praying the chaplet of the Divine Mercy starting Good Friday through the 1st Sunday of Easter. Everyone is invited to join in this novena.

Divine Mercy Week

March 30th – April 8th

NOVENA SCHEDULE:

March 30 – After the 3:00PM Good Friday Service, we will gather in the Chapel
 March 31 – After 8:30 Morning Prayer -Chapel
 April 1 - After 11:30 Mass in the Church
 April 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, - After the 8:30 Mass /Church
 April 8 - Divine Mercy Sunday at 3:00 PM in the Church. Benediction follows ending novena.
 Please come and join us in celebrating the Feast of the Divine Mercy. For questions please call Deacon William Rowley c/o Merry Marcellino 609-702-1848 ext. 305

OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT

The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)



SERRA VOCATION PRAYER CHALICE

Prayer for Vocations

Father, we're your people,
the work of your hands.

So precious are we in your sight that you sent
your Son, Jesus.

Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted,
to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give
hope to those who despair,
and to rejoice in your steadfast love.

We, the baptized, realize our call to serve.
Help us to know how.

Call forth from among us priests, sisters,
brothers and lay ministers.

With our hearts you continue to
love your people.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. Amen.

*Thank you
for praying for vocations.*

*To learn more about the Vocation Prayer
Chalice, please call Ann (609)-267-5836*

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for praying for vocations.***

To learn more about the Vocation Prayer
Chalice, please call Ann (609)-267-5836



Divine Mercy Sunday

On April 30, 2000, at the
canonization of St. Maria
Faustina, our beloved Saint Pope
John Paul II designated the second Sunday of
Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. It was on the
eve of this Sunday that He was received into
eternal life.

Divine Mercy Sunday can be
seen as the convergence of all the mysteries
and graces of Holy Week and Easter Week
which focuses light on the Risen Christ into a
radiant beam of merciful love and grace for the
whole world.

In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our
Lord told her: "I demand from you deeds of
mercy, which are to arise out of love of me.
You are to show mercy to your neighbor
always and everywhere.... I am giving you
three ways of exercising mercy toward your
neighbor: the first – by deed, the second – by
word, the third – by prayer." (Diary #742).

May we all partake of the amazing flood
of graces that are available to us on Divine
Mercy Sunday.

**The SVDP Pantry is in need of the
following:**

CANNED SOUPS, and
Mac & Cheese, meal in a can, baked beans.

If you would like to make a monetary donation
please make checks payable to:

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
Thank you!

Join us for our

Designer Bagz Bingo

**Saturday, May 12th at Sacred Heart Auditorium
Fundraiser to Benefit Sacred Heart School PTA**

Tickets \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door

Includes 12 games for fabulous designer bags!

Light refreshments provided

**For more info/to buy tickets, please pick up a flyer
from our PTA bulletin board in the front vestibule
or email Jessica at SHSBagzBingo@gmail.com!**

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)



SACRED HEART SCHOOL

NOW ENROLLING PreK-8th Grade
Schedule your tour today!
609-267-1728
www.sacred-heart-school.org
Mount Holly, NJ

Catholic Education for the 21st Century

Sacred Heart School PTA 4th Annual Golf Classic Tuesday May 22, 2018

Registration: 11:30 am
Shot Gun Start: 1 pm
Award Reception Dinner: 6 pm
Rancocas Country Club
12 Club Ridge Lane, Willingboro, NJ 08046

The Golfer Package includes 18 hole round of golf, shared riding cart, and unlimited driving range. PLUS a full buffet with NY strip steak, boneless chicken breasts, sautéed mushrooms and onions, parsley buttered potatoes, macaroni salad, garden salad, rolls, dessert, and condiments with unlimited beverage (soda). Including 2 beers in the cart per golfer. Cash Bar for Dinner. Beer Tickets can be bought at Registration and used on the course in designated Tee areas.
Foursome Cost - \$400
Individual Golfer Cost - \$100

The dinner ONLY package features A full buffet with NY strip steak, boneless chicken breasts, sautéed mushrooms and onions, parsley buttered potatoes, macaroni salad, garden salad, rolls, dessert, and condiments with unlimited beverage (soda). Due to alcohol being consumed, this is a 21 year or older dinner. No one under 21 allowed.
Dinner Only - \$25

For more info and to download the form, click on this link <http://www.sacred-heart-school.org/4th-annual-golf-classic>



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting their Annual Program to assist the Special Needs Citizens of Burlington after all Masses on the weekends of April 14 /15, 2018 and on April 21/ 22, 2018 Donations will aid the various programs and facilities that provide education and life skills for the Adults and Youth of Burlington County.



To Win a Travel Gift Card

The Knights will be having their Annual Raffle to help assist the Seminarians of the Diocese of Trenton. The Raffle awards a \$ 5000.00 Travel Gift Card w/ AAA of Mt. Laurel. Donations are \$ 10.00. A Special Note that the Winning of last years Raffle was sold hear at Sacred Heart. Tickets will be available after Masses on the weekends of April 14/15,2018 and April 21 / 21, 2018.

Sacred Heart Yarn Ministry



We still need members to complete the prayer patches and I can give them yarn to complete them. Please reach out to Laura Jean Beierschmitt @ 609-560-0956 or laurajean42@comcast.net to request the pattern and learn more about The Yarn Ministry.

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)



Offerings at Francis House of Prayer

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center
Box 392 • Rancocas, NJ 08073

609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

Please check www.FHOP.org for directions and for our other offerings!

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, April 11 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Take a day away from the busyness of your life to rest a while in the Lord and experience God's presence. Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction. Please bring a bag lunch.

LOVERS OF JULIAN

Tuesday, April 17 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Julian of Norwich has so much to tell us about God's unwavering desire and attraction to us. Her experience of God as a tender mother speaks to us even today. Her writings are balm for the searching soul and hope for the drooping spirit. Can you come for this one night and witness her intense love for Jesus and let that same love overtake you, too? Donation: \$15, includes reading materials.

**FINDING GOD IN CREATION
EARTH: THE WOMB OF GOD**

Friday, April 20 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Join us as we explore God's love and nurturing revealed to us throughout Earth. We will pray with Scriptures and use the writings of St. Hildegard of Bingen and Thomas Merton to lead us to a closer relationship with God and a greater understanding of how we are interconnected with all of creation. Time will be spent both indoors and outdoors. We will use *Water, Wind, Earth and Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements* by Christine Valters Paintner as a guide. Donation: \$30, includes book, or \$15 without book.

**THE MATURING OF YOUR SOUL
PILGRIMAGE INTO THE LAST
THIRD OF LIFE**

Fridays, May 4 & 18 & Tuesday, May 22 9:30 AM–1:30 PM

To age is to transition into the last period of growth. The invitation from God in the final years of life is to deeper intimacy, and to living more courageously, consciously and contemplatively from your soul, as you prepare for your eventual transition into new life. We are offering a 3-part series for the 65+ who are in this most graced season of life. Come to as many as you can. Donation: \$25 per session, lunch included. You will receive some reading material for between sessions, and relevant books will be available for you if you wish to purchase them.

Topics throughout the 3 days will include:

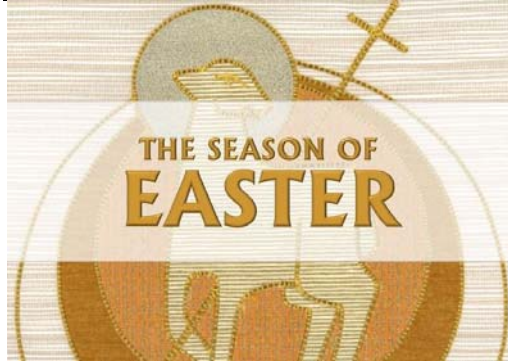
- Facing Aging and Dying
- Five Spiritual Practices for Aging Well
- Transforming Loneliness
- The Art of Life Completion
- Spiritual Eldering
- Living with Limitation
- The Importance of Prayer and Contemplation
- The Powerlessness of Aging
- Leaving Your Legacy

To register, call 609-877-0509. Please check www.FHOP.org for our other offerings!

“Carie Cares” Fundraiser

“Carie Cares” will have a fundraiser on April 19, 2018 at DiPaolos Red Lion Inn for the benefit of Dorna M. Saunders Foundation for Breast Cancer and Education. The event is from 3pm until closing. At 6pm you will be entertained with ballads, rock, pop and rock'n'roll music from the 80s and 90s. Please come out and have a lovely dinner, listen to music and support this worthy cause.

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)



BLUE MASS April 17, 2018



**AND
LUNCHEON
(MASS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT)**

Will be held in
St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral, 151 N.
Warren St., Trenton,
at 10:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon in the
church hall. The Mass will praise and thank
God for the work of those in federal, state, city
and municipal protective services. A special
remembrance will be offered for those who
have died in the line of duty. A luncheon
donation of \$20 per person is
requested. Immediate families of law
enforcement personnel are free. For tickets,
contact Jennifer Britton, Office of
Communications, 609-403-7199 or visit
<http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/bluemass>.

DynamicCatholic.com presents
PASSION & PURPOSE
for
MARRIAGE
THE Dynamic CATHOLIC INSTITUTE featuring Author and Speaker **Dr. Allen Hunt**
and Musical Guest **George Lower**

What are the key ingredients to a happy, healthy marriage? Whether you're engaged or happily married, this event will open your eyes to new and practical ways you can strengthen and enrich your relationship!

Join Dr. Allen Hunt for an inspiring event that will resonate with all couples. Through Hunt's humorous commentary and heartfelt real-life stories, you will discover how to fill your relationship with a passion and purpose that will change your life. This half-day event features live music and includes a free bag of Dynamic Catholic resources for every couple

Location

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish
3500 School Lane, Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Date

April 28, 2018

Time

9:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Click below to get your tickets and watch short video of Dr. Allen Hunt's talk

<https://dynamiccatholic.com/passion-and-purpose-for-marriage-drexel-hill-pa-apr-28-2018>



Women's Fellowship Tea and Reflection

May 6th – 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Sacred Heart Auditorium

Tea and Refreshments Served

Prayer and Reflection at 3:00 pm Honoring
Our Blessed Mother

Please join us and bring a friend!

RSVP/questions: Danielle Brenner

dnd672@gmail.com, 609-410-8209 or
Patty Borm pnbpeace@yahoo.com, 609-980-2589

Hosted by the Santa Maria Columbiettes

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

Living the Good News Today

"There was no needy person among them."

This weekend marks the conclusion of the octave of Easter—an eight-day celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Even as it offers more verses to Psalm 118 (which we also sang last week), the liturgy emphasizes the goodness, love, and divine mercy of our God.

Last week, I read an article by a Jesuit who had attended a private screening of the movie *"Paul, Apostle of Christ,"* now playing in theaters in our area. In this movie, the physician (evangelist) Luke hears of Paul's imprisonment in Rome and decides to visit him. Not only is Luke's visit comforting to the apostle to the Gentiles, but it inspires the physician to write about Paul's witness to the Good News, which became the *Acts of the Apostles* (the story of the early Church). If we pay attention during this 50-day Easter season, we will discover the delights of this New Testament book, which is proclaimed daily in our liturgy. How do we imitate that early community in living the Good News?

On the second Sunday of Easter, the *Acts of the Apostles* describes the unity of the early Christian community, who were known for their love for one another. The reading sets the standard for how we are to be to one another: *"There was no needy person among them."* They chose to incarnate mercy!

Just before Pope Francis declared the Jubilee Year of Mercy (12/8/15 to 11/20/16), our Franciscan spiritual assistant (friar) recommended that our lay Franciscan fraternity read a book by Cardinal Walter Kasper titled *Mercy: The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to Christian Life*. Cardinal Kasper was the President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity from 2001-2010. After his retirement, he was frequently requested to give retreats. In the foreword to his book, the cardinal explained his initial desire to give a series of talks on mercy at a retreat, but he couldn't get his thoughts to click. This led him *"to fundamental questions about the doctrine of God and God's attributes as well as to fundamental questions about Christian existence."* The result of his reflections became the book.

Here are some surprising things that I learned when I read this book:

- The original book was published in German in 2012 (one year before the election of Pope Francis), so it paved the way for the Church to address this theme of mercy among the work of contemporary theologians;
- When Pope Francis began his papal ministry on the feast of St. Joseph (2013), he emphasized mercy and compassion for the Church;
- In the fall of 2013, Pope Francis shared his vision of Church: *"I dream of a Church that is a mother and*

shepherdess. The Church's ministers must be merciful, take responsibility for the people, and accompany them like the Good Samaritan, who washes, cleans, and raises up his neighbor. This is pure Gospel."

- Pope Francis also reinforced this theme in his first apostolic exhortation *"The Joy of the Gospel"* (November 2013): *"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."*

Interestingly, though, this was not a new theme, especially because reflections on mercy historically have led to reflections on contemporary pain and suffering. In 1980 (the third year of his pontificate), St. John Paul II released his encyclical *"Rich in Mercy"* as a wake-up call to the world in light of the Cold War and other issues that threatened humanity. The Holy Father mused about what progress the Church had made 15 years after the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council, citing *Gaudium et Spes* as the inspiration for us to internalize what God has called us to in the revelation of Jesus Christ.

It is now 38 years since that encyclical, and the world continues to face threats and challenges that test our faith. It becomes even more urgent to learn from Christ's example how to live richly in mercy. St. John Paul II concluded with the love of the Risen Christ:

"In the name of Jesus Christ crucified and risen, in the spirit of His messianic mission, enduring in the history of humanity, we raise our voices and pray that the Love which is in the Father may once again be revealed at this stage of history, and that, through the work of the Son and Holy Spirit, it may be shown to be present in our modern world and to be more powerful than evil: more powerful than sin and death. We pray for this through the intercession of her [Mary] who does not cease to proclaim 'mercy...from generation to generation,' and also through the intercession of those for whom there have been completely fulfilled the words of the Sermon on the Mount: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.'"

Inspired by the *Acts of the Apostles*, it would be so easy then to sing *"Let There Be Peace on Earth,"* but with one deliberate substitution: replace the word *"peace"* with *"mercy."* Significant for us:

- God desires mercy on earth that begins with us;
- God's mercy was always meant to be;
- God is our Father and teaches us mercy;
- and so...we are all brothers and sisters;
- **Now** is the moment of mercy...every single moment;
- With every step (and action) we take, we make mercy a reality by vowing solemnly to live it;
- God's mercy is eternal, and it begins now with us.

True Gospel living compels us to be mothers of mercy, just like the Blessed Mother! Let us follow her example and be remembered like the early Church:

"With great power the apostles bore witness."

April 7 – April 8, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

WEEKLY PLANNER

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY April 8th
 RCIA Adults LIB
 Divine Mercy 3:00pm in the Church

MONDAY April 9th
 The Annunciation of the Lord
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm to 8:00pm PHMR
 Altar Server Training 6:30pm Church
 KOC Basketball 7:30pm AUD

TUESDAY April 10th
 Religious Ed. Classes
 SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR
 Knights of Columbus 7:30pm PHMR
 Columbiettes 7:30pm LIB

WEDNESDAY April 11th
 OLPH 7:15pm Chapel
 Bible Study 7:30pm - 9:00pm
 Reader Training 6:30pm Church

THURSDAY April 12th
 Mass Music Practice 6:00pm Church
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR
 Adult Choir 7:30pm Church

FRIDAY April 13th
 School Liturgy 8:30
 Middle School Youth Group 6:00pm AUD

SATURDAY April 14th
 Mass Music Practice 3:30pm Church
 Knights of Columbus Fundraiser

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY April 15th
 The Third Sunday of Easter
 Knights of Columbus Fundraiser
 RCIA Adults LIB
 SFO 12:30pm to 2:30pm PHMR
 Mass for Confirmandi 3:00pm in the Church

MONDAY April 16th
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm to 8:00pm PHMR
 Confirmation Practice 6:30pm & 7:30pm
 Church

TUESDAY April 17th
 Religious Ed. Classes
 SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR
 High School Youth Group 7:00pm LIB

WEDNESDAY April 18th
 OLPH 7:15pm Chapel

THURSDAY April 19th
 Confirmation 4:00pm & 6:00pm

FRIDAY April 20th



SATURDAY April 21st
 Youth Family Day of Service
 8:30am to 2:30pm Aud
 Mass Music Practice 3:30pm Church
 Knights of Columbus Fundraiser

GATHERING LOCATION KEY

AUD- Auditorium/Gym

LIB- Library

PHCR- Parish House Conference Room
 (Between the Library and the Chapel)

PHMO- Parish House Ministry Office
 (Merry's office)

PHMR- Parish House Meeting Room (below
 the LIB)

