


 I decided to provide an explanation of the importance of Divine Mercy which we celebrated last Sunday. As a priest, I've encountered many people who believe they are not worthy of God's mercy nor would God ever forgive them. Post abortive couples go through tremendous anguish when they realize they have been misled by pro-abortion advocates. Some of us throughout the world continue to carry memories of our sinful youth and regretted decisions we have made.

The Lord Jesus is ALWAYS there to love and forgive those who turn to him in need, contrite and sincere of heart. May the mercy of Jesus Christ, the Divine Mercy comfort you always.

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Among all of the elements of devotion to The Divine Mercy requested by our Lord through St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, the Feast of Mercy holds first place. The Lord's will with regard to its establishment was already made known in His first revelation to the saint, as recorded in her *Diary*. In all, there were 14 revelations concerning the desired feast.

Our Lord's explicit desire is that this feast be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. This Sunday is designated in "The Liturgy of the Hours and the Celebration of the Eucharist" as the "Octave Day of Easter." It was officially called the *Second Sunday of Easter* after the liturgical reform of Vatican II. Now, by the Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the name of this liturgical day has been changed to: "Second Sunday of Easter, or Divine Mercy Sunday."

'Now On Throughout the Church'

Pope John Paul II made the surprise announcement of this change in his homily at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000. There, he 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.'*"

By the words "the whole message," Pope John Paul II was referring to the connection between the "Easter Mystery of the Redemption" — in other words, the suffering, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, followed by the sending of the Holy Spirit — and this Feast of Divine Mercy, the Octave Day of Easter, which fulfills the grace of atonement as lived through by Christ Jesus and offered to all who come to Him with trust.

This connection is evident from the scripture readings appointed for this Sunday. As John Paul said, citing the Responsorial Psalm of the Liturgy, "The Church sings ... as if receiving from Christ's lips these words of the Psalm." "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His steadfast love (= mercy) endures forever" (Ps 118:1). And then, Pope John Paul II developed the connection further: "[This comes] from the lips of the risen Christ, who bears the great message of Divine Mercy and entrusts its ministry to the Apostles in the Upper Room: 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you. ... 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 20:21-23).

As we continue our Easter celebration may we remember to pray for all peoples of the earth especially those lost and persecuted, those without hope and suicidal, that they may turn to their Lord and Savior who heals them through his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

In Christ Jesus and St. Augustine,
Fr. Gregory Heidenblut, O.S.A.



**SAVE THE DATE
MAY 16th, 2015
Live & Silent Auction
Dinner & Dancing**

Our Lady of Grace Spring Auction is coming soon. Help raise funds for our parish and school – and enjoy an adults only sophisticated evening of sumptuous food, and entertaining music. Share the excitement and fun of a fast paced auction with friends and family. Ticket reservations can be made by contacting the Parish Office, 537-0806.

To inquire about making an auction donation or to volunteer for one of the committees please contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish Office.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

All those remembered by friends and family through the Easter Flower Offering envelopes are listed in the Easter Flower Memorial leaflet at the entrances of the church. Please remember in thought and prayer and join us in celebrating the lives of these Saints of God. It is through a gift of love in their memory that we have so many beautiful flowers decorating our worship space. The beautiful plants, and cut flowers that will decorate the church all throughout Easter season are memorial gifts honoring our deceased loved ones.



**TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING
AT OUR LADY OF GRACE**

All are invited to be involved in a joint-effort to do some “Spring Cleaning” at Our Lady of Grace on Saturday, **April 25th** from 9:30am until 12:00Noon. This will be a joint effort on the part of our Parish, School, and CYO communities. With as much use as the various facilities and grounds of the parish get, we have both an opportunity and an obligation to be good stewards of our parish and its environs.

There will be plenty for everyone to do - and if many of us do it, the time will pass quickly and the results will be greatly appreciated by everyone who comes to Our Lady of Grace. See you next Saturday, **April 25th** at 9:30am. We will begin by meeting in the church however, there will be opportunities to help in the church and, gym as well as outside. Please bring your garden gloves if you have them as well as a bucket and rags as well.

GOT AN AUCTION ITEM?

100% of our auction items are donated. Do you have a vacation cabin? Connections with a local sports team? Frequent Flyer miles? In the past we have received donations for vacation rentals, automobiles, hosted dinner, fine wines, and spirits, spa days and sports and concert tickets. Please be creative and consider what you can donate. Please contact Colleen Lindberg in the parish office with your donation items.



**ICF ANNIVERSARY DINNER
DANCE**

Time to get out your dancing shoes and polish up those fancy dance steps, the ICF will celebrate their 36th anniversary with a dinner dance on Saturday, **April 25th**. The fun begins at 6:00pm with cocktails, dinner at 7:00pm and dancing to the big band sounds from 8:00 to 10:30. There will be raffle baskets and games. Tickets are \$35.00 and the deadline for reservations is **April 19th**. Please call Roz Crudo at 510-537-6657 or Al Proietti at 510-886-8664 to reserve your spot.



**FIRST COMMUNION AT
OUR LADY OF GRACE**

At masses on **April 25th, 26th** and **May 2nd and 3rd**, 50 children from our parish will be receiving their First Communion.

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers and join with us as we welcome them to The Table of the Lord’s Banquet.

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EASTER OFFERING

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter Collection. \$15,709.00 has been collected in Easter envelopes as well as cash and checks made in the offering on Easter Sunday.

The Good Friday collection for the Holy Land totaled \$900.00.

**REGISTER TODAY FOR FESCO'S
18th ANNUAL SHUFFLE WALKATHON
San Leandro Marina--May 2nd**

As coalition members of FESCO Our Lady of Grace is grateful to support FESCO in their 18th Annual Shuffle Walkathon. FESCO continues to provide homeless families with shelter, nutritious meals and a hand up in becoming self-sufficient. With your help and support, FESCO can continue to help homeless families. Register today for the annual walk-a-thon Saturday, **May 2nd**, this is a family, pet friendly event. OLG Team Captain's, Chris Ippolito and Colleen Lindberg are asking for your help in support of FESCO, you can walk, be a benchwarmer cheerleader or make a donation to Team OLG. Please send a message to our community that you are committed to ending family homelessness in Alameda County by pledging your support as a donor to FESCO's 18th Annual Shuffle Walkathon. Registration materials are available in the parish office or contact Colleen at olgcv@sbcglobal.net. Chris Ippolito and Colleen will be outside mass on **Sunday, April 12th, 19th and 26th** if you would like to stop by and offer your support.

OLG MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study facilitated by Fr. Greg continues, **April 21st** at 7:00pm now meeting in the Parish Office. The study will continue every other Tuesday for an hour at each session and is open to all men of the parish 18 years and older. You may join in the study at anytime.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity for example, God will help you live on the rest.

Offerings of April 12th:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday Plate: | \$ 8,171.00 |
| Last Year this week | \$ 9,509.00 |
| Weekly Budgeted Goal: | \$ 8,815.00 |
| Year-to-date this year: | \$115,212.00 |
| Year-to-date last year: | \$103,958.00 |

April Budgeted Expenses \$49,000.00

May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Jose Cisneros | Nicholas Guinea |
| Kathleen Denning | Raymond Lowe |
| Estela Enriquez | Richard Martin |
| Mary Franks | Florence Sharp |
| Byron Griffith | James Van Wert |
| Liz Griffith | Yvonne Wheeler |

As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:

DAVID SANCHEZ MICHAEL SANCHEZ

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

**DIANA BEATRICE GRANT
FRED & CONSUELO MASSA
JOHN SERRETA**

**Gospel for 4th Sunday of Easter, April 26th
John 10:11-18**

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."



HELP WANTED

Individual needed for gardening, clean up and light repair work 6 to 8 hours a week. Must be available during office hours. Please contact Colleen Lindberg in the Parish office, 537-0806 for additional information.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION

The last Sunday of every month our St. Vincent de Paul Society members are outside to receive your financial donations. Your generosity enables this ministry to help the less fortunate in our parish community. With your support our community families will be more able to handle the economic challenges that are impacting their lives. Thank you for your past support and current generosity.

**Misa en Español
A las 2:00pm
SPANISH MASS**

Fr. Greg will be offering a mass in Spanish one Sunday of every month at 2:00pm in the Church. The next Spanish Mass will be Sunday, **April 19th** at 2:00pm.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 19th

*Coffee & Donuts
After all Masses*

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:00am Mass

Youth Group
After 9:00am Mass--Stack Center

Religious Education Classes
10:15am--Stack Center

Spanish Mass
2:00pm--Church

Tuesday, April 21st:

Bible Study
9:30am--Parish Office

Men's Bible Study
7:00pm--Parish Office

Thursday, April 23rd:

Serenity Group
8:15pm— Stack Center

Saturday, April 25th:

ICF Dinner Dance
6:00pm--Stack Center

Sunday, April 26th:

FIRST COMMUNION WEEKEND

*Coffee & Donuts
After all Masses*

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:00am Mass

Youth Group
After 9:00am Mass--Stack Center

Religious Education Classes
10:15am--Stack Center

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, May 16th:

Spring Auction
6:00pm--Stack Center

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note: During the school year, our 8:30am Monday Mass will be celebrated in the Church. Unless otherwise noted all other weekday masses will be held in the Chapel.

MONDAY, APRIL 20th (CHURCH)

8:30am Debi Telles (D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 21st

St. Anselm, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
7:00am Vincenzo & Angela Latora (D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22nd

7:00am Jose Daniel Tellez (D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 23rd

*Blessed Helen Udine, Augustinian secular;
St. George, O.S.A., Martyr; St. Adalbert, O.S.A.,
Bishop, Martyr*
7:00am Henry Maravella (D)

FRIDAY, APRIL 24th

**THE CONVERSION OF OUR
HOLY FATHER ST. AUGUSTINE**
St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest, Martyr
7:00am Ramon O. Periquet, Sr. (D)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25th

ST. MARK, EVANGELIST
8:30am Mildred Cutts (D)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

April 20th through April 26th

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51--8:1a; John 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59
Saturday: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20
Sunday: Acts 4:8-12; 1John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

CURSILLO

This is your invitation to make a Cursillo weekend, which is a three day learning, sharing experience of living in a Christian Community. It is a chance to share how God shows up in your life and how you respond to that presence. The next Men's weekend is Thursday, **April 30th thru Sunday, May 3rd**. The weekend is being hosted at Holy Redeemer Center in Oakland. For information you may go to www.oak-cursillo.org. If you need additional information contact Patrick Devine at 650-787-8378

WINGS

(Women in God's Spirit)

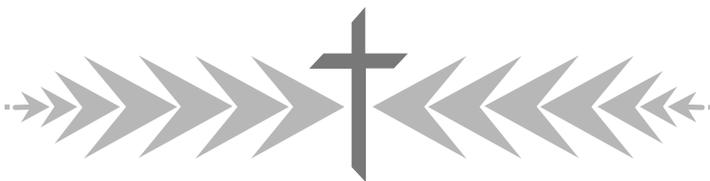
We invite all women to join us for **WINGS**. **WINGS** is a faith enhancement group that encourages Spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, catechesis, life sharing and community. We meet at Transfiguration Church Marion Room

April 23, 2015

9:15 to 11:15am

Speaker: June M. Kirk

Topic: Spirituality - The Gift
That Keeps on Giving



EXECUTION ALERTS

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **April**:

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|----|
| April 23rd | Richard Vasquez | TX |
| April 28th | Robert Pruett | TX |

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our advertisers who make our weekly bulletin possible and so generously support our parish. We are grateful to them !

This week we extend our gratitude to:

**VIKA DOBBS
PARISHIONER
ADORA BELLA SALON**