

# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 3, 2016

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**Our Lady of Fatima Parish**  
2010 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
[www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com](http://www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com)

Rectory Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Parish Office: 814-942-0371

#### Our Lady of Fatima Mass Schedule

Sunday: 10:30 AM    Holy Days: 6:00PM  
Rosary: 10:05 AM    Rosary: 5:40 PM

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator**  
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur

**Parish Secretary**

Carol Z. Smith

**Secretaries Assistant**  
Ellen Kelly

**Eucharist for the home bound - weekly:**  
Patty Flanagan 942-0371 to make arrangements.

**Our Lady of Fatima Church is open**  
Monday through Friday: 9AM - 6PM  
for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

**Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be held at**  
**Our Lady of Fatima.**

**Preparation for Baptism, and Weddings will be held at**  
the Cathedral. 944-4603

**Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**  
Parishioners wishing to receive the sacrament of  
healing may call the Cathedral Parish Office to  
make arrangements. 944-4603

***Our Lady of Fatima***  
*Pleaded that we pray the Holy Rosary*  
*before Sunday Mass and*  
*privately from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm daily.*



April 4, 2016



**Cathedral Church Office: 814-944-4603**

**One Cathedral Square**

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak Bishop**

**Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector**

**Reverend Father Dennis M. Kudziel, Parochial Vicar**

**Christian Initiation Team: 944-4603**

**Catholics returning Home: 944-4603**

**Altoona Central Catholic School:**

**Pre-K thru Grade 5    381-7011**

**Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School:**

**Web: [www.bishopguilfoyle.org](http://www.bishopguilfoyle.org) – 944-4014**

**Directors of Religious Education:**

**Chris Laraia – Pre-K thru 8 - 946-3475**

**Jean Koury – 9 thru 12 – 949-2777**

**Religious Education Office: Sundays – 943-7424**

**Confessions @ Cathedral: 7:00 PM Wednesday**  
**12:30 PM Saturday**

**Religious Education @ Cathedral: Pre-K through 11**

**Sacramental Formation @ Cathedral: First Reconciliation**

**First Communion**

**Confirmation**

**Sacramental Formation @ the Cathedral: Baptismal Prep**

**Marriage Prep**

**Christian Initiation**

**Hospital Visitation: Call the Cathedral: 944-4603**

**Cathedral Eucharist:**

**Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil)    Holy Days: 5:30 PM (Vigil)    Weekdays: 6:45 AM**

8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
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10:00 AM	12:00 Noon	12:00 Noon
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12:00 Noon	5:30 PM	Saturday : 8:00 AM
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5:00 PM		12:00 Noon
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## Divine Mercy

During the course of Jesus' revelations to Saint Faustina on the Divine Mercy He asked on numerous occasions that a feast day be dedicated to the Divine Mercy and that this feast be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. The liturgical texts of that day, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, concern the institution of the Sacrament of Penance, the Tribunal of the Divine Mercy, and are thus already suited to the request of Our Lord. This Feast, which had already been granted to the nation of Poland and been celebrated within Vatican City, was granted to the Universal Church by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of Sr. Faustina on 30 April 2000. In a decree dated 23 May 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that "throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come." These papal acts represent the highest endorsement that the Church can give to a private revelation, an act of papal infallibility proclaiming the certain sanctity of the mystic, and the granting of a universal feast, as requested by Our Lord to St. Faustina.

Concerning the Feast of Mercy Jesus said:

Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (*Diary* 300)

I want the image 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)

This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies. (*Diary* 420)

On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and 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.\*** [our emphasis] On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (*Diary* 699)

Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to our neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to absolve yourself from it. (*Diary* 742)

I want to grant complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy. (*Diary* 1109)

As you can see the Lord's desire for the Feast includes the solemn, public veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy by the Church, as well as personal acts of veneration and mercy. The great promise for the individual soul is that a devotional act of sacramental penance and Communion will obtain for that soul the plenitude of the divine mercy on the Feast.

\*The Cardinal of Krakow, Cardinal Macharski, whose diocese is the center of the spread of the devotion and the sponsor of the Cause of Sr. Faustina, has written that we should use Lent as preparation for the Feast and confess even before Holy Week! So, it is clear that the confessional requirement does not have to be met on the Feast itself. That would be an impossible burden for the clergy if it did. The Communion requirement is easily met that day, however, since it is a day of obligation, being Sunday. We would only need confession again, if received earlier in Lenten or Easter Season, if we were in the state of mortal sin on the Feast.

## FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

*On the feast of the Annunciation, April 4, the Church celebrates when Mary gave her “yes” to God. This was the moment of the Incarnation when Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in our Lady’s womb.*

*Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta saw a direct connection between the Annunciation and our own universal call to know, love, and serve God.*

*“Like Mary, let us be full of zeal to go in haste to give Jesus to others. She was full of grace when, at the Annunciation, she received Jesus. Like her, we too become full of grace every time we receive Holy Communion. It is the same Jesus whom she received and whom we receive at Mass. As soon as she received him she went with haste to give him to John, the disciple. For us also, as soon as we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, let us go in haste to give him to our brothers and sisters, to our poor, to the sick, to the dying, to the lepers, to the unwanted, and the unloved. By this we make Jesus present in the world today.”*

*Blessed Mother Teresa had an immense love for our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, and it is estimated that she handed out tens of thousands of Miraculous Medals in her lifetime. She trusted that Mary, through her medal, would lead her children to Jesus.*



*O Mary Conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*

*Blessed Miraculous Medals are available in the vestibule*





## 2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

**DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**

**OLF GOAL FOR 2016 = \$13,948.00**

**PLEDGED THRU MARCH 21 = \$3,975.00**

**NEEDED TO REACH = \$9,973.00**

**# OF PLEDGES = 29**

Connie Angeski	Ronald and Bernice Biem	Anthony Bruno
Vincent and Judy Burr, Jr.	Michael A. and Sharon Byrne	Helen and Wilson Carper
Howard C. Colledge	Frieda Conrad	Karen Conrad
Carol and John Corle	Colleen A. Douglass	Eileen R. Edwards
Tina Helsel	Charles and Ceil Hennigan	Thomas and Marianne Hofer, Sr
Joseph P. and Marcella Ianniello	Genevieve Musto	John G. and Regina Noonan, Jr
Carol Riggleman	James R. Riley	Lorraine Shuma
Thomas A. Smith	Michael and Mary Wall	Patricia Wall
Doris Smith	(Additional ACA donors will be noted in next weeks bulletin.)	2 Anonymous

*Easter Memorial gifts missed by czs*

<b>Robert &amp; Dorothy Tierney</b> By Tierney & Wall Families	<b>Carrie Ann</b> By Wall Family	 shutterstock - 177779498	<b>Arthur W. Wall</b> By Wife & Family	<b>Coy R. Smith, Sr</b> By Carol Smith
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**Happy Birthday**

**Happy Anniversary**

**04/08 Kayla Scalice**

**04/07 Emma & Paul Kowalski**

### MONEY MATTERS

### DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS

Collection	This year	Last Year	Collection	This year	Last Year
Palm Sunday	\$1479.80	\$2403.20	Ash Wed/Mandeville Coll.	\$190.00	\$248.00
Holy Thursday	135.00	203.55	Black/Indian Coll.	35.00	25.00
Good Friday-Holy Land	16.00	97.00	Catholic Relief Service Coll.	35.00	23.00
Easter Day Coll	2711.58	4682.45	CRS (Rice Bowls)	417.94	417.76
Easter Flower Memorials	*580.00	818.00	Total	\$677.94	\$713.76
Total	\$4922.38	\$8204.20			

Just so you are aware the Holy Week Flower Expense was \* \$1,350.00. In the coming weeks we will give you a breakdown of our Income/Expense since July of 2015 (Fiscal Year). If we are to remain open as a parish we need to increase our tithing.

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 3, 2016

### Our Lady of Fatima Mass Intention

Readings: Acts 5:12-16; Rev 1:9-11,12-13,17-19; Jn 20:19-31

**Today's Intention:** Mary Wozniak

### April 10, Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 5:27-32,40-41; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

\*10:30 AM Carl Frank (Karen and Steve Koehle)

### Cathedral Mass Intentions

#### April 4, Monday: The Annunciation of the Lord

Readings: Is 7:1-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

6:45 AM Bill Stehman (Fred Martynuska)

8:00 AM M. Virginia Jones (Carl R. Colyer, Sr.)

12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Lorraine and Bob Beck)

#### April 5, Tuesday: Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest

Readings: Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15

6:45 AM Helen Zurilla, Birthday (Family)

8:00 AM Stan Coleman (Axinn Family)

12:00 PM Jim and Ellie Cutts & Son

**7:00 PM Confirmation**

#### April 6, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

6:45 AM Cancer Patients and Caregivers

8:00 AM Joe Milliron (Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kilcoyne)

12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Mike Laratonda)

#### April 7, Thursday: Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest

Readings: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

6:45 AM M/M Ludwig Schoch (M/M Francis Dambeck)

\*8:00 AM Coy R. Smith, Sr., Anniv. (Wife)

12:00 PM Health of Robert Schmitt (Bobbi Schmitt Fam.)

**7:00 PM Confirmation**

#### April 8, Friday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

6:45 AM Deceased Members of McGreal Family

8:00 AM Deacon John Rys, Anniversary (Family)

\***12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Cecelia Hollern)**

#### April 9, Saturday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 6: 1-7; Jn 6:16-21

8:00 AM George Weamer (Barbara Karl)

12:00 PM Rita Katoski (Janet Tomlinson)

#### Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 5:27-32,40-41; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

5:00 PM John Schmitt, Birthday (Bobbi and Girls)

April 3, 2016

### Scripture Reflection

The readings for the Sundays of Easter explore the Paschal Mystery--the dying and rising of Christ. Originally the texts were selected for the newly baptized, offering a follow-up catechesis after initiation. But it became clear that they provided continuing catechesis for everyone. Each year we more deeply embrace the astonishing grace of the resurrection. The First Readings, from Acts describe the life of the fledgling Christian community celebrating the mission and teaching of Jesus. The Second Readings are from Revelation. The Gospel accounts come mainly from John: some recount post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus; others are taken from Jesus' earthly ministry, but have implications for the disciples after Jesus is raised from the dead.

The Gospel describes Jesus' commissioning of the disciples and then the conversion of Thomas. Thomas's doubt anticipates the readers' question: was Jesus' presence after the Resurrection physical or spiritual? John's account is not an answer but a proclamation that faith in the Risen Lord was the beginning of a new life among the disciples.

John's Gospel describes the risen Christ among the disciples, in which the breath of the Lord carries the gift of the Spirit, empowering them as the church to carry out Christ's mission of forgiveness. This was the power of the witness of life, of death conquered, of new life given, of the glorified life to come; it could overwhelm and frighten but had an inescapable pull. It was the challenge of the church to bear witness to this life, a confounding reality that even the apostle Thomas struggled to understand even as Jesus stood before him. The church was asked to bear witness to the very challenge Christ issued to Thomas: "Do not doubt but believe." The witness of the church was to life, through the preaching of Christ raised up, through the forgiveness of sins, through the healing of the sick and desperate. It was life that always drove the church, for the message always had a single purpose: "So that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

**Stand with Thomas. The Risen Christ calls him forward to believe in resurrection. Do you believe?**

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AMERICA MAGAZINE: March 28, 2016 Issue, John W. Martins.



**Mother Teresa** was always her own person, startlingly independent, obedient, yet challenging some preconceived notions and expectations. Her own life story includes many illustrations of her willingness to listen to and follow her own conscience, even when it seemed to contradict what was expected. This strong and independent woman, who will be declared a saint later this year, was born Gonxha (Agnes) Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Yugoslavia, on August 27, 1910. Five children were born to Nikola and Dronda Bojaxhiu, yet only three survived. Gonxha was the youngest, with an older sister, Aga, and brother, Lazar.

This brother describes the family's early years as "well-off," not the life of peasants reported inaccurately by some. "We lacked for nothing." In fact, the family lived in one of the two houses they owned.

Nikola was a contractor, working with a partner in a successful construction business. He was also heavily involved in the politics of the day. Lazar tells of his father's rather sudden and shocking death, which may have been due to poisoning because of his political involvement. With this event, life changed overnight as their mom assumed total responsibility for the family, Aga, only 14, Lazar, 9, and Gonxha, 7.

Though so much of her young life was centered in the Church, [Mother Teresa](#) later revealed that until she reached 18, she had never thought of being a nun. During her early years, however, she was fascinated with stories of missionary life and service. She could locate any number of missions on the map, and tell others of the service being given in each place.

## Called to Religious Life

At 18, Gonxha decided to follow the path that seems to have been unconsciously unfolding throughout her life. She chose the Loreto Sisters of Dublin, missionaries and educators founded in the 17th century to educate young girls.

In 1928, the future [Mother Teresa](#) began her religious life in Ireland, far from her family and the life she'd known, never seeing her mother again in this life, speaking a language few understood. During this period a sister novice remembered her as "very small, quiet and shy," and another member of the congregation described her as "ordinary."

She herself, even with the later decision to begin her own community of religious, continued to value her beginnings with the Loreto sisters and to maintain close ties. Unwavering commitment and self-discipline, always a part of her life and reinforced in her association with the Loreto sisters, seemed to stay with her throughout her life.

One year later, in 1929, Gonxha was sent to Darjeeling to the novitiate of the Sisters of Loreto. In 1931, she made her first vows there, choosing the name of Teresa, honoring Teresa of Avila and Therese of Lisieux. In keeping with the usual procedures of the congregation and her deepest desires, it was time for the new Sister Teresa to begin her years of service to God's people. She was sent to St. Mary's, a high school for girls in a district of Calcutta.

Here she began a career teaching history and geography, which she reportedly did with dedication and enjoyment for the next 15 years. It was in the protected environment of this school for the daughters of the wealthy that Teresa's new "vocation" developed and grew.

This was the clear message, the invitation to her "second calling," that Teresa heard on that fateful day in 1946 when she traveled to Darjeeling for retreat.

## A Formal Process of Canonization

If she had lived in earlier centuries, the Church might have gathered at her funeral to declare her a saint. That's the way things worked in ancient Christianity. Now achieving that level is more complicated—and not without its own brand of politics and other human imperfections. But just as she seemed above politics in her life, her utter and simple devotion to the poor will transcend bureaucratic obstacles.

Why the formal process of canonization? Why the delay? It has been observed that the Catholic Church thinks in centuries, not in years. It is good for the Church to test the enthusiasm of the day, to wait awhile, to discern whether one seen as a saint today will stand the test of time. As Archbishop D'Souza said last year, the Church "must be sure that someone who is declared to be a saint is truly such." The formal investigation will document details of her life that may have gone unnoticed, and thus provide a wealth of information for generations to come.

D'Souza, though, a longtime friend, expressed little doubt that "God would provide the miracles" to prove her cause. It was Teresa's single-mindedness, her simplicity and consistency that captured the world's imagination. One can only recall the beatitude of Jesus, "How happy are the pure of heart." That pureness of heart is a simple, single-minded commitment to the ways of God. We computer-dependent citizens of the 20th-century long for simplicity; She lived it.

## Francis' Example

In a 1981 interview, she spoke about another champion of the poor: St. Francis of Assisi. In a famous story of a turning point in Francis' life, he encounters a leper by the side of the road and passes him by. Then he realizes that if he is going to devote his life to the poor he must embrace the leper—he must welcome him into his life as a brother. Francis then runs to the leper's aid. She commented, "The encounter with the leper made St. Francis."

It is the calling of Christians to serve the poor, to make room at the table for everyone. Francis came to see that. He reveled in the foolishness of God who has special love for those whom most of us would rather avoid. Teresa learned that, too, during mid-life. She will have a "St." in front of her name because she cleared away life's clutter and allowed God to work through her in a powerful way. We should imitate her.

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA NOTES....

### **OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH** has available several **\$AVE AROUND COUPON BOOKS** at **\$12.00 EACH.**

Please see Paul Masic or call the Rectory @ 942-0371 to purchase. These books are valid until Dec 31, 2016. There are hundreds of \$\$\$\$\$ worth of coupons left to use in Altoona, State College, and Johnstown areas.

### **JUBILEE OF MERCY INVITATION**

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** is invited to participate in an Evening of Reflection on the Spiritual Works of Mercy. These reflection opportunities are scheduled throughout the Diocese during the Jubilee of Mercy. Catholics from the greater Altoona area are invited to Saint Mark Hall (below church), 416 Sixth Avenue, Altoona on **Tuesday, April 12** from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. There will be prayer, prepared reflections of mercy, and time for group discussion. All are invited to take part in this opportunity to reflect on God's mercy in our lives. Please call Parish Office at 942-0371 to reserve a place on Tuesday, April 12 at Saint Mark Church.

## OUT AND ABOUT....

### **ST JOSEPH PARISH DINNER-Williamsburg, PA**

A Stuffed Pork Chop dinner will be served at St. Joseph's Parish in Williamsburg on **Sunday, April 17, 2016**. Take-Out orders begin at 11:00 am; Dine In orders begin at 12:30pm. The price is \$10.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Children. Tickets are sold after all Masses, or you may call Dee at 832-2723 or Jim at 832-2139 to purchase tickets.

Everyone is welcome!

### **CCW 14th Annual Paschal Festival – “Hands & Hear its Heartbeat”**

The Carmelite Community of the Word invites you to our 14th Annual Paschal Festival, also known as our Hands & Hearts Haiti Fèt (Celebration), on **Sunday, April 17, 2016**, at Our Lady of Loretto Hall, 279 St. Elizabeth St., Loretto, PA 15940. The afternoon will include a buffet dinner, silent auction, an opportunity to purchase Haitian art and a program to highlight our recent Haiti Mission. Doors open at 1:45 p.m.; Dinner will be served at 2:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 13. Contact the CCW Incarnation Center at 814-886-4098 for tickets or for more information. Ticket deadline is April 8, 2016. All proceeds will help us continue our ministry in Haiti.

### **ST. BENEDICT PARISH MISSION, JOHNSTOWN...**

St. Benedict Parish, Johnstown will hold a J-DAY Mission, **April 4-6, 2016**, beginning each night at 7:00 pm. Thomas Smith will share his valuable insights in an exploration of Loving the Lord and others, through Word, Worship & Works of Mercy. A gifted speaker, retreat director and author, Thomas is a repeat guest of EWTN and Catholic radio. He is the co-author of Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come, The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy, and an international presenter of the Great Adventure Bible Timeline. He has taught as an adjunct professor at the St. Francis School of Theology in Denver, and is the former Director Catholic Biblical School and the Denver Catechetical School. Come be inspired to build your life more fully on "Word, Worship, and Works of Mercy", as Thomas explores these three pillars of the spiritual life. No tickets are required; a love offering will be collected. For more information contact Deacon Michael Russo at 814 288-3036. All are welcome!

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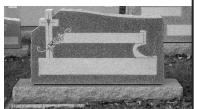


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