



Divine Mercy

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

From the Pastor's Desk

On the Second Sunday of Easter of 2000, at the Mass for the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II proclaimed to the world that “from now on throughout the Church this Sunday will be called Divine Mercy Sunday.”

Pope John Paul had actively promoted the message of St. Faustina. In his 1980 encyclical on God's mercy, *Rich in Mercy*, he developed a scriptural and doctrinal basis for our faith in the mercy of God. By linking the revealed truth about God's mercy to one of the most solemn Sundays after Easter itself, he illumined the fact that the liturgy already proclaimed the divine mercy. The truth has been embedded for two millennia in the worship of the Church. Once again we see an illustration of the ancient saying, “The law of faith is the law of prayer.”

On the Second Sunday of Easter, the responsorial psalm and Gospel center on the theme of mercy. We sing three times, “His mercy endures forever.” The Gospel, from John 20:19-31, begins with the risen Christ appearing to the apostles on Easter night. Jesus calms his disciples by saying and giving them “Peace.” He shows them the scars of his Passion, his wounded hands and side. His glorified body retains the evidence of his saving work through his suffering, death and resurrection. Then He breathes on them and explains what the divine breathing means with the words, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” He gives the apostles the power of God's mercy for the sinner, the gift of forgiving sins from God's treasury of mercy. The other texts speak of healing and give the assurance there is nothing to fear.

“I spoke as a brother”

A Time Magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a black turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's attempted assassin; the other man was Pope John Paul II, the intended victim. The pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet tore into the pope's body. In the cell, unseen in the picture, were the pope's secretary and two security agents, along with a still photographer and videographer. John Paul wanted this scene to be shown around a world filled with nuclear arsenals and unforgiving hatreds. This was a living icon of mercy. The pope had been preaching forgiveness and reconciliation constantly. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly. When the pope left the cell he said, **“What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust.”**

Pope Francis has declared 2016 a Jubilee Year of Mercy. He has urged the Church to be a witness to mercy. He has encouraged us to do works of mercy. At his Holy Thursday

From the Pastor Continued . . .

Mass of the Last Supper he washed the feet of refugees, as a sign to the world that what we need is brotherhood and mercy and to reach across the divide that so many governments and institutions have created.

On October 6, 2006, an armed man entered an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. He chased out the little boys and lined up the 10 little girls in front of the blackboard. He shot all of them and then killed himself. Five of the girls died. After the medics and police left, the families of the fallen came and carried their slain children home. They removed their bloody clothes and washed the bodies. In each home they emptied a room of furniture except for a table and chairs. They sat for a time and mourned their beloved children. After a while they walked to the home of the man who killed their children. They told his widow they forgave her husband for what he had done, and they consoled her for the loss of her spouse. They buried their anger before they buried their children. These Amish Christian's parents taught us that forgiveness is central. They believed in a real sense that God's forgiveness depends on their extending forgiveness to other people. That's what the mercy of God is all about. That mercy is why we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

God bless, Fr. Dennis

Announcements

**Franciscan Life Process Center
A Day with Father Vincent O'Malley**

Father Vincent O'Malley, former director of St. Lazare Retreat House, returns to West Michigan to lead a day long retreat on Saturday, April 16 OR Sunday, April 17 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. at the Lowell Campus – 11650 Downes St. NE. Father will speak on **“Anti-Christian Persecution around the World: Its Extent and our Response”** in the morning and **“Mercy and Compassion”** in the afternoon. The day will begin with rosary and with Mass. Attendees may attend the full day (\$60), the morning only (\$35), or the afternoon only (\$35). Lunch: \$10.00. To register, please go to [www. lifeprocesscenter.org](http://www.lifeprocesscenter.org).

DSA

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the DSA so far. Please prayerfully consider making a gift so that the Diocese can continue its ministry.

Our 2016 Goal \$60,286.00

Pledged so far \$40,440.00

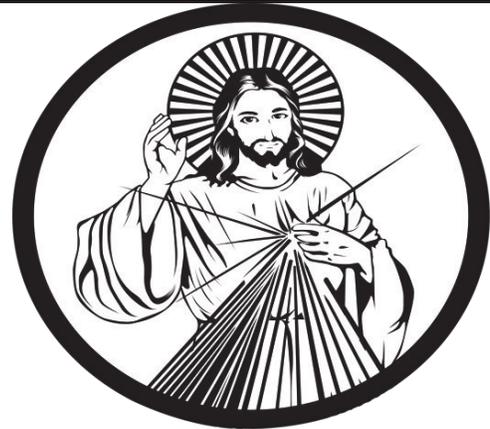
67% toward our goal



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, **May 21st** after the 4:30pm Mass we will be celebrating our parish feast day!

Food, games, and music will be provided. More details to come!



Divine Mercy Celebration

Most Holy Trinity in Fowler, St. Mary's in Westphalia and St. Joseph's in St. Johns

Invites you to our regional celebration

Sunday, April 3rd beginning at 2:30 pm.

**St. Mary's Parish in Westphalia
Confessions
Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

**Come out and join us during
this special Jubilee Year of Mercy**

Plenary Indulgence for Divine Mercy Sunday

In order to ensure that the faithful would observe this day, Divine Mercy Sunday with intense devotion, the Holy Father desires all the faithful to be enriched by a plenary indulgence...so that they might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit. In this way, they can foster a growing love for God and for their neighbor, and after they have obtained God's pardon, they in turn might be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to their brothers and sisters.

The plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions:

1. Sacramental confession
2. Eucharistic Communion
3. A Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father
4. Recite the Our Father and the Creed, and also adding a devout prayer, for example: Jesus, I trust in you!

The Church also encourages all the faithful to practice acts of mercy whenever possible.

For those who are unable to join us for the celebration in Westphalia, the plenary indulgence can be obtained if the faithful complete the same requirements at home (are in a state of grace – recite the act of contrition if confession is not possible, receive Holy Communion, etc.)

Jesus I Trust in You!

Sponsor of the Week

Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish.

Clinton Ophthalmology

The week I have asked Paul Fahey to share with us.

God bless,

Fr. Dennis



Last weekend we celebrated the Triduum, the most holy days of the year, which reaches a pinnacle at the Saturday night Easter Vigil. The Church says that the Easter Vigil is the "mother of all vigils" and is the "greatest and most noble of all solemnities..." It's also my favorite Mass of the whole year, and has taken on a new meaning since I began leading RCIA here at Most Holy Trinity.

One of the most notable features of the Easter Vigil are the many readings from scripture. The church gives us up to seven readings from the Old Testament before we even get to the epistle and the gospel (here at MHT Father has us read five of those seven readings). These readings tell the story of salvation history, that is, the story of God saving his people. The first reading recounts the seven days of creation reiterating how good life in Eden was, and that the harmony that existed between God, mankind, and creation in the beginning is how things are supposed to be...but the choices of Adam and Eve brought sin and death into the world.

The rest of salvation history is God's "rescue plan," so to speak, to save His people from sin and death. At Easter Vigil we hear about the tremendous faith of Abraham who becomes the father of God's chosen people. We then hear about God saving His people from slavery in Egypt by parting the Red Sea. Then we hear from various prophets who called God's people to repentance and who hoped for a coming Savior to right all of our wrongs. It's a great story, it's The Story, and it culminates in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The most amazing thing about salvation history though is that it's our story too. By that I mean that each and every one of us has our own story of salvation, our own history of God revealing Himself to us and saving us from our sins. St. Paul compared the crossing of the Red Sea to the sacrament of baptism. In baptism we pass through water from slavery to sin and into freedom in Christ, original sin is destroyed in the baptismal font no less than pharaoh's army was destroyed in the Red Sea. In these dramatic stories of the Old Testament we can see our own stories. God is working in the lives of His people now just as much as He was in the time of Abraham and Moses. Not only that, many times God allows some of us measly sinners to be a part of someone else's salvation history.

This past year I have had the privilege of being apart of the RCIA team here at the parish. Last weekend I watched four people, Jessie Frantz, Chelsea Miller, and Kurt & Elizabeth Marvel, receive Confirmation and Holy Communion, and earlier that week I saw them receive their first Confession. Seeing God work in these candidates' lives in calling each of them to the Catholic faith, regardless of the obstacles, is inspiring. Being there when they first received the sacraments and graces that sometimes I take for granted renews my own faith. It is truly an honor to be a part of someone else's story of salvation...but this honor isn't just for those on the RCIA team.

God wants to use you as an instrument in someone else's

salvation history. So often the reason why people who went through RCIA even looked into Catholicism to begin with is because there was a Catholic in their life who invited them to Mass. Or there was someone in their life willing to really talk with them about Jesus. Or there was someone who could answer their questions about the Catholic faith. Or the one person in their life who just listened to them and cared about them was a Catholic.

So this Easter season I want to encourage you to do two things. First, take some time to think about your own story of salvation. Remember the many ways that God has worked in your life and how He continues to call you forward in holiness. Second, reach out of your comfort zone and have a conversation with a friend or coworker about Jesus, invite someone who isn't Catholic (or who no longer practices) to come to Mass with you, or simply listen and be present to someone in need of God's mercy. Salvation history continues today, and it is through these simple actions that God allows us to participate in His saving love and mercy.

Have a blessed Easter!

Paul

**Principal of Most Holy Trinity School
Anne Hufnagel—AnneH@mhtparish.com**

MHT School – Connecting Faith to Life

Important Dates:

Monday, April 11	School Resumes
Tuesday, April 12	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.
Tuesday, April 19	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.

Open Invitation: Families interested in learning more about MHT School can do so in a number of ways. Our Wednesday ambassador program features two eighth grade students giving tours from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. On the first Sunday of most months you can stop by the school for coffee and visit with the principal or other staff member from 9:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, May 1. If neither of these work for you, please stop in the school office or contact us at 593-2616 and school@mhtparish.com to schedule an appointment at your convenience.

Registration: Registration for Most Holy Trinity School is now underway. Letters will be sent home via email with more information or you can use the following URL or QR code. <http://goo.gl/forms/Hxq5uzMXKS>



If we try to see everyone and everything through God's eyes with humility, we will begin to accept an attitude of humility in our hearts and we will begin to be humble. – from Sacred Silence

**Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Schomisich - mhtyouthmary@gmail.com**

Steubenville Save-the-Date: We are going the weekend of June 24-26. The cost per student is \$285. Sign-up information is available on the parish website under youth ministry page. Forms for Steubenville need to be filled out online, printed, and then turned in with \$100 deposit. Forms and deposit can be turned into the parish office, Sunday and Wednesday night youth group, or at Monday night Religious Education classes.

News & Events From Our Parish & Other Areas

Welcome

Knights of Columbus would like to congratulate the newest members to our parish family.

Annual MHT Sub Sale

Subs will be assembled and available for delivery and/or pick-up on Tuesday, April 19th between 3pm and 7pm.

Cemetery Clean Up

The cemetery clean-up is scheduled for April 4th at 9:00 a.m. In case of inclement weather, it will be on the next day, April 5. Please bring your own rakes.

We are also still in need of volunteers for lawn mowing at the cemetery this summer. To volunteer, please call 593-2162 or 593-2612.

Please contact Adam at the parish office if you would like to have a foundation installed in the cemetery before Memorial Day. All orders should be placed by May 1 to insure that there is plenty of time for the foundation to settle before the stone will be placed on it.

Quilting

Quilters are needed to complete a quilt. Quilting will begin on April 18, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Msgr. Esper room. For further information, call Lorraine at 593-2136.

MHT Scrip – Spring Break Schedule

No orders will be placed this week. Scrip that is kept in stock will be available at the rectory from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Scrip orders will resume on Monday, April 11. Scrip-Now and Reload orders **will** be processed.

Scrip offers a wide range of gift cards for all of your Spring Break needs; shopping, dining, entertainment and hotels. Visit shopwithscrip.com for a complete list.

Kroger Community Rewards: It is time to re-enroll your Kroger Plus Card to continue supporting MHT School. Even if you have previously signed up for this reward program, you must re-enroll after **April 1st** to continue earning rewards during the coming cycle, May 2016 to April 2017. Simply visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com, click on "Michigan" and click on "Enroll". Please use code **82831** to have your rewards credited towards MHT School. Please remind and encourage family and friends to enroll or re-enroll. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

Parish Festival

We're looking for volunteers to help lead the festival this year. Ken and Kay Pohl are going to take on a smaller role and we are planning on breaking up the Chair and Co-chair responsibilities to make it more of a team led weekend and eliminating having so much pressure on one or two couples. Please contact Adam Halfman if you would like to help.

Students and parishioners at Most Holy Trinity School and our religious education programs would like to thank everyone for the continued support you provide through donations to the Most Holy Trinity Trust Educational Trust Fund. Religious education for all members of our parish is vital to the strength of our church for years to come.



Clergy Appreciation Dinner
April 22, 2016 - 6:30 pm Dinner
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Social Hour
(Cash Bar)



Council #3281 St. Johns
Columbian Hall

1108 N. US 127, St. Johns, MI

Please help celebrate our Clergy and their dedication to our church.

 Clergy Dinner RSVP

Name _____ Council # _____

Number of Guests _____ x \$10.00 Total _____
 (checks made payable to K of C #3281)

Please respond by April 15, 2016.

Mail to: 1108 N. US 127 St. Johns, MI 48879

Email: GK3281@mikofc.org

For additional information or to register please contact Dean Schrauben at 593-2545.

"Easter Reflections: The Joy of the Risen Lord."

Upcoming: Wednesday, April 13; 9:30am-3:30pm; one-day, retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Directed by Tony Sperendi. Jesus brings life even out of death! He's promised to be with us always and to share his Easter joy. We will reflect on the Easter themes of the Gospels and enter into the peace of the Holy Spirit. Info and Registration: 517-669-8321 or <http://www.stfrancis.ws/>.

3rd Annual Superhero 5K Run, Walk, or Fly!

A family friendly event for all ages and abilities Saturday, April 30th; 5K route through the scenic St. Johns City Park. Lots of fun for all--costume contest, chip timing, age bracket medals, free professional race photos, and activities during registration. Visit our website to register ClintonCountyCASA.org

Clinton County Recycling

Medication Disposal Programs: Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the spring Clean Community Event in St Johns. Protect your family, pets, the community and the environment by properly disposing of unwanted or expired medications. Please keep your medications in their original containers but be sure to black out any personal information.

Clean Community Event: Saturday, April 30, 2016 - An appointment is required to attend! Acceptable items include household hazardous waste, unwanted medications, farm & landscaping chemicals, motor oil & antifreeze, electronics, bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, clothing, tires, yard waste, reusable household items, books & building materials. Most items are accepted free of charge but nominal fees do apply (cash or check only).

Clinton County residents are encouraged to take part in either event date - please make an appointment for either event up to one week prior to the event <http://www.clinton-county.org/Departments/DepartmentofWasteManagementHomePage/CleanCommunityEvents/CCERegistration.aspx> or by calling the office (989) 224-5186.

i.d. 9:16 Disciples' Night For Young Adults

Disciples' Night on Thursday, April 7 at 5:45 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection in Lansing. We'll have praise & worship, Mass, dinner & drinks and the live-streamed talk. Our talk will feature Connor Flanagan, whose talk is titled, "Death by Netflix." Child care is available from 7 to 9 p.m.,

What is i.d. 9:16? We're a community of young adults in their 20s and 30s-- single or married. The i.d. stands for "intentional disciples" and 9:16 refers to 1 Corinthians 9:16: "For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!"

Please find our event on the Facebook group "i.d. 916 Lansing" or RSVP to id916lansing@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.id916.com.



3rd Publication: Bradley Becker & Abigail Halfman

Readings for the Week of April 3, 2016

Monday	Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10; Psalms 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday	Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37; Psalms 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; John 3:7b-15
Wednesday	Acts of the Apostles 5:17-26; Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 3:16-21
Thursday	Acts of the Apostles 5:27-33; Psalms 34:2, 9, 17-18, 19-20; John 3:31-36
Friday	Acts of the Apostles 5:34-42; Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14; John 6:1-15
Saturday	Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7; Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; John 6:16-21

**Our Parish Stewardship
God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity**

Amount needed each week.....	\$13,200.00
March 26 & 27 Collection.....	14,323.50
Overage.....	+ 1,123.50
Envelopes used: 228	

Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering especially: Frieda Gallagher, Carl Stump, Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Evan Pung, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Jeffrey Lee Thelen, Luke Martin, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulte, Kenny Briganti, Jeff Pline, Sharon (Thelen) Droste, Theresa Fox, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Linda Rogala, Sarah Weber, Jean Schafer, Don Simon, Roman Arens, Roy Frechen, Julie Wieber Schafer, Irene (Luttig) Weber, Maryann Esch, Bill Barns, Bob Marshall, Dennis Smith, Sandy Herta, Fr. Bill Koenigsknecht, Dick Rehmann, Cindy Russell, Pam (Thelen) Stump, Janet Simmon, Scott Kus, Steve Thelen, Tracy Schmitt and a special intention.

Please contact the parish office to inform us when we can add or remove a person's name from the list. Thank you.

Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.

The Rosary is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is to pray for the men and women who lead governments, may they act with compassion on behalf of the poor and the oppressed.

**Monday - April 4**

7:00 p.m. + Richard VanElls

Tuesday - April 5

8:15 a.m. + Alan J. Thelen & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Wednesday - April 6

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations
7:00 p.m. + Vernon J. Miller (19th Anniversary) & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Thursday - April 7

8:15 a.m. + Joyce Halfmann & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Friday - April 8

8:15 a.m. + Burlene Schafer, Including Bernard & Antoinette Ulrich, Marian, Bernard & Dolores

Saturday - April 9

8:15 a.m. + Aimee Antes, Including Ken Koenigsknecht, Marina Feldpausch & Susan Thelen
1:00pm Wedding: Bradley Becker & Abigail Halfman

4:30 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday - April 10

8:30 a.m. + Deanna Piggott & Living & Deceased Members of the Family
10:30 a.m. + Kevin Smith & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

Ushers for Saturday & Sunday, April 9 & 10

4:30 p.m. - Jim Koenigsknecht, Luke Hufnagel, Kevin Feldpausch, Volunteer

8:30 a.m. - Jim Braman, Jerome Spitzley, John Hufnagel, Kurt Thelen

10:30 a.m. - Dan Pung, Duane Pung, Ken Halfman, Volunteer

Mass Servers for Saturday & Sunday, April 9 & 10

4:30 p.m. - David & Brian Armbrustmacher, Megan & Nickolai Conner

8:30 a.m. - Tony Hufnagel, Randy Koenigsknecht, Mason Pline, Katherine Smith

10:30 a.m. - Madison & McKenzie Koenigsknecht, Jared Snyder, Michael Despres

Mass Servers During This Week

Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Roman Schafer, Savanah Martin

Tues., 8:15 a.m. - Cyrus Carbone, Keegan Klein

Wed., 7:00 p.m. - Austin & Alayna Vandegriff

Thur., 8:15 a.m. - Brycen, Emma & Zachary Halfmann

Fri., 8:15 a.m. - Drew Armbrustmacher, Alexander Warnke

Sat., 8:15 a.m. - Macy & Kylie Spicer

Most Holy Trinity

April 3, 2016

Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard

Parish Office Hours 8am-12pm & 1pm-3pm

To Contact Us:

Parish Office: 593-2162

Fax: 593-2171

E-Mail: office@mhtparish.com

Website: mhtparish.com

Most Holy Trinity School: 593-2616