

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 19, 2009

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR APRIL 20 - 26

Mon	7AM	Jack O'Leary, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Kevin Hutchinson
Tue	7AM	Annie & Minnie, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Sr. Annunciata O'Sullivan
Wed	7AM	Christina Piatti
	9AM	Emma & Bud Bradley
Thu	7AM	Maurice, Emma, Lori, & Alice
	9AM	Edward Tarrant
Fri	7AM	Jim & Diane Lang, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Emma & Bud Bradley
Sat	7AM	Joseph & Joanna Calleja
	9AM	Emma & Bud Bradley

### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Lorenzo Acciai, Marco Balistreri, MaryAnn Bellia, Bertha, Beverly, Joseph Calleja, Patricia Cane, Charles, Elizabeth Crowley, Bill & Vladia Cutler, Dick Degan, Doris Doty, Doug, Msgr. Bruce Dreier, Nanette Duffy, Ed, Luke Duval, Faith Gillis, Philip Hansen, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Michelle Huford, Eleanor Jean, Joseph, Germaine Khohaying, Karla Kincade, Jan Lamphere, Grace Lawrence, Frank Lucas, Manda Masse, Warren McGuire, Richard Mogas, Monte Maroevich, Tony, Valerie Milroy, Marie Palleschi, Mark Piatti, Joe Popovich, Stephanie, Steve Schlesselmann, Paul Smith, Rose Tannlund, Tim, Elizabeth Ward, Sibeal Whitty, Camilla Wolfe.

### ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Assessed Goal: \$65,200.

Received: \$49,334.

#### **Donors *this week*:**

**Charles Allyn, Helen Derham, Victoria Evans, M/M Ted Jonsson, David Korzec, Don Rossi, M/M Peter Allen Smith, Edith Walsh, M/M William Wilka**

***Our Thanks to all who have contributed.***

**Together, we can reach our goal.**

### STEWARDSHIP – A WAY OF LIFE

The Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles understood and practiced total stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything *in common*, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MON Life in Christ Series today – 9:30am Hall

TUE Scripture Class – Parish Hall – 9:30am

WED Parish School of Religion (PSR) Classes

### **Please pray for these children who will receive**

**their First Holy Communion**

next Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, at the 9AM Mass

Taylor Arnold

Adrian Batmale

Mia Bonkowski

Nina Cinelli

Jackson Crawford

Destiny Hale

Kamaleinani Kaleikini

Colin Kelly

Taylor Leslie

Sophie Lizarraga

Ryley Lorenz

Scott Matthews

Kai Reinhard

Taylor Rhoads

Isabel Talke

Lauren Winters

### SOME WORDS OF THANKS

We want to acknowledge the many people (unsung heroes) who helped us to celebrate Lent, the Triduum, and Easter so reverently last week:

Our Choir, those who cleaned the linens and church, set up the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday, Read from the Sacred Scriptures and helped distribute Holy Communion at Mass and to the home-bound and hospitalized, served at Mass, provided the flowers, took up the offerings, greeted and ushered our parishioners, and also united in prayer to our loving God. We thank God for you all!

### WORD OF LIFE

Approximately a third of women who have recourse to artificial procreation succeed in having a baby. It should be recognized, however, that given the proportion between the total number of embryos produced and those eventually born, the number of embryos sacrificed is extremely high. These losses are accepted by the practitioners of in-vitro fertilization as the price to be paid for positive results. In reality, it is deeply disturbing that research in this area aims principally at obtaining better results in terms of the percentage of babies born to women who begin the process, but does *not* manifest an interest in the *right to life* of each individual embryonic human being!

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE  
THE LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS SUCCESSFUL**

Soup makers were Anna Alessandria, Ray & Pat Beghetti, Annie Buckley, Cheryl Cinelli, Marie Crawford, Yvette Davis, Andra Dhein, Krista Geissberger, Virginia Gillis, Terry Haddad, Christina Hale, Julie Hanahan, Lee Jonsson, Millie Lutge, Joyce Massucco, Marian Previtali, Eliana Reeves, Coleen Rettig, Nina Ring, Rosemary Ring, Najwa Shuwayhat, Rosellen Staats, Norma Sweeny, Sylvia Thoelecke, Shannon Timpane, Barbara Wakida, & Dick Ward.

Thank you to the 8th Grade Confirmation students Andrew, Annie, Grace, Jackie, Jeff, Jonathan, Joseph, Kelly, Lucian, Maggie, Michael, Nick, and Spenser, who really earned their service hours.

To the faithful crew, Anne Nealon, Dick Ward, and Tony Compagno.

We are also grateful to Ralph and Paul Della Santina of Marin Joe's who donated their famous Minestrone soup every week, and to Noah's Bagels for their generosity in donating the bagels.

**SAINT SEBASTIAN'S BIBLE CAMP**

Bible Camp is planned for the week of August 10-15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm here at St. Sebastian's. Activities include Scripture study, catechesis, Eucharistic Adoration, along with related crafts, games, music, and snack time. The week will conclude with Mass and BBQ for all. To pre-register or for more information, please contact Marian Previtali at 479-5316 or Celeste Chapman at 789-9627.

Pink Pre-registration forms may be found in the pews; when completed, they may be placed in the collection basket during Mass.

**JOIN YOUNG AT HEART'S  
"UP ON THE ROOF" TOUR**

**Wednesday May 20**

Bus leaves St. Sebastian's at 9am and returns at 5pm.

We'll visit St. Francis Hotel, Crocker Rooftop Park on Wells Fargo Bank, Yerba Buena Gardens, (Carousel available if you wish to ride it), Hines Building Rooftop Garden, Embarcadero Center 1, Fairmont Hotel Rooftop Garden.

Midway through the tour, lunch will be at Pompei's Gardens. Deadline for reservation or refund is May 13. Call Rosellen 461-9003 or Barbara at 461-2735.

**Our New Parish Website  
[www.sebastian94904.com](http://www.sebastian94904.com)**

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AT ST. SEBASTIAN'S  
— APRIL 19 —**

Pope John Paul II declared that the Sunday after Easter would henceforth be known as "Divine Mercy Sunday" when he canonized St. Faustina Kowalska in the year 2000.

**On April 19 (Divine Mercy Sunday), here at St. Sebastian's from 3 – 4 pm** we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, pray the Chaplet, and have other devotions, along with a talk and veneration of the image of Jesus, the Divine Mercy. A Plenary Indulgence for Divine Mercy Sunday was decreed on Aug. 3, 2002, which people may obtain by confessing their sins near the time of Mercy Sunday, even during one's Lenten preparation for Easter, according to the cardinal of Krakow.

Jesus Himself promised complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on that day, even to the most terrible sinner imaginable. God in His great mercy is giving mankind a last chance for salvation.

**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" (*John 20:31*).

The letter of John echoes this idea by saying that "everyone 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.

**11TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC LOBBY DAY  
Tuesday, April 28, 2009**

Sacramento, CA

March with hundreds of California Catholics to visit our legislators in our State Capitol. \$20. includes transportation, lunch, and materials. There will be pick-up sites for bus riders in San Francisco and San Bruno.

For information:

(415) 614-5570 or (415) 614-5572  
or email [ribeiro@sfarchdiocese.org](mailto:ribeiro@sfarchdiocese.org)

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

### The Image of the Merciful Jesus

Its pattern was revealed in the vision [St.] Faustina had on February 22, 1931, in her convent cell at Płock. “In the evening, when I was in my cell,” she recorded in the *Diary*, “I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside from at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale. ... After a while, Jesus said to me, ‘Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You’” (*Diary*, 47). “I want this image ... to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy” (*Diary*, 49).

Jesus, appearing to St. Faustina, said, **“Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to God’s mercy.”**

One day, as Saint Faustina was offering all her prayers and sufferings so that this feast would be established, as Our Lord desired, she said to Him: “They tell me that there is already such a feast and so why should I talk about it?” Jesus answered: “And who knows anything about this feast? No one! Even those who should be proclaiming My mercy and teaching people about it often do not know about it themselves. That is why 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)

The idea of this special celebration of God’s mercy on the Sunday after Easter is not a new or radical idea stemming simply from private revelation. Our Lord, through Saint Faustina, is simply reemphasizing what was strongly urged by Saint Thomas the Apostle in the earliest liturgical document in existence, the “**Apostolic Constitutions.**” There we read: “After eight days (following the feast of Easter) let there be another feast observed with honor, the eighth day itself on which He gave me, Thomas, who was hard of belief, full assurance, by showing me the print of the nails, and the wound made in His side by the spear.”

This feast had been celebrated in the early Church.





## THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

In 1933, God gave Sister Faustina a striking vision of His Mercy; Sister tells us:

“I saw a great radiance, in the midst of it, God the Father. Between this radiance and the earth I saw Jesus, nailed to the Cross and in such a way that when God wanted to look at the earth, He had to look through the wounds of Jesus. And I understood that it was for the sake of Jesus that God blesses the earth.” (Diary 60)

Of another vision on Sept. 13, 1935, she writes:

“...I saw an Angel, the executor of divine wrath... about to strike the earth...I found myself pleading with God for the world with words heard interiorly. As I was praying in this manner, I saw the Angel’s helplessness; he could not carry out the just punishment...” (Diary 474)

The following day an inner voice taught her to say this prayer on ordinary rosary beads:

- 1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and The Apostles’ Creed.**
- 2. Then on the Our Father Beads say the following:  
Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.**
- 3. On the 10 Hail Mary Beads say the following:  
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.  
(Repeat step 2 and 3 for all five decades).**
- 4. Conclude with (three times):  
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (Diary 476)**

Jesus said later to Sister Faustina:

“Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great Mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this Chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My Infinite Mercy. I desire that the whole world know My Infinite Mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy...” (Diary 687)

“...When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Savior”.



Saint Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938)  
Canonized in A.D. 2000

