

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
APRIL 8, 2018**



Sharon Acquaire    Noah Lorencovitz    Mike Durkin  
Sister Marie Louise    Florence Grim    Estella Soto  
Barbara Kincaid    Carmela Caropreso Bitondo  
Christine Morrison

**DECEASED:**    Our Deceased Loved Ones

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018**

5:30 P.M.    James Quinn  
Tom Norton  
Tom Karwacki  
Silverio Conte  
Christopher Patrick Smith, Jr.  
Christopher Patrick Smith, III

**SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018**

7:30 A.M.    Parishioners  
Intentions of Ricardo Tindoc  
Ada & Irving Rumsey

10:00 A.M.    Flora Assidio  
Regina Sullivan  
Francesco Leonardis  
Rudy Siano – 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary  
Hank Flynn

12:00 NOON    Arthur Boyd  
Rose Gerace  
Virginia Nochta  
Intentions of Janet

**MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018**

8:00 A.M.    Walter Donnelly

**TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018**

8:00 A.M.    Richard Assidio

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018**

8:00 A.M.    Ed Garbarino

**FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018**

8:00 A.M.    Theresa Callamari  
Joachim Ernst

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018**

5:30 P.M.    Kathy Weckler  
Silverio Conte  
Tom Norton  
Tom Karwacki

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018**

7:30 A.M.    Joseph Gazella, Sr.  
Anna Post  
Edward Rumsey

10:00 A.M.    Susan O'Keefe  
Regina Sullivan  
Ed Garbarino

12:00 NOON    Frank Destito  
Jean Rotella  
Eloy Martin  
Frank Caropreso

**Pray daily for the safety of our servicemen and women  
serving their country.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Mary Carton    Jacob Hicks    Evelyn Means    Barry Bach  
Tom Guzowski    Ava Rae Nebbia    Joan & Sal Ruffino  
Gary Ragusa    Alex Haines    Larry Perry    George Link  
Baby Michael Soojian    Jan Hongo    Susan Nichols-Boggio  
Baby Ryder Sasso    Frank Morici    Mike Tidaback  
Frances De Maria    Dorothea King    Jerome Foray  
Manuel Esguerra    Eileen McPartland    Karen Cisco  
Cenelia Soto    Sandra Pacifico    Robert Moreno

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

Easter Sunday – April 1, 2018 - \$19,619.50  
Thank you for your continued support.



**Dear friends in Christ,**

Pope St. John Paul II established the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Divine Mercy, of course, is the unconditional love of God seen from the point of view of the sinner. It is the fidelity of the love of God. This is the Good News of the Gospel.

Jesus said that he came not for just but for the sinner. He ate and drank with sinners. He forgave sins and delegated that same power to his apostles. He taught the parables of the lost coin, the Good Shepherd, and the prodigal son, all of which tell us that the Divine Mercy is not “the pardon of a judge, but the embrace of a lover.”

The first Christians knew and experienced the fidelity of love of God, the unconditional love of God, the divine mercy. Their lives were filled with peace, love and joy. They rejoiced at having been found worthy to suffer something for the name of Jesus. But human nature being what it is, over the centuries Christians began to forget this love of God.

Jesus who wanted to remind us of his unconditional love revealed to Margaret Mary the secrets of his Sacred Heart On the First Friday of each month Churches were packed with people celebrating the devotion to the Sacred Heart.

But as the years rolled on once again people began to forget the love, the mercy of God. Then it was that Jesus revealed to St. sister Faustina the secrets of his Divine Mercy, and requested that the Sunday after Easter be celebrated as the Feast of Divine Mercy.

We should go back to the Gospels and read it again. We didn't get the point! The fidelity of the love of God, the unconditional love of God, the mercy of God is very clear, and definitively expressed in the Gospels.

God is love. The unconditional love of God, the Divine Mercy, is a GIVEN. It is always available. The one unforgivable sin is to think that our sin is too great for the mercy of God.

**Saint Gemma Galgani**

**Feast Day: April 11**

Gemma Umberta Maria Galgani was born on March 12, 1878, in the hamlet of Camigliano in the provincial town of Capannori. At age 20, Gemma developed spinal meningitis, but was

healed, attributing her extraordinary cure to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of the Venerable Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows (later canonized), and Saint Marguerite Marie Alacoque.

Saint Gemma is said to have experienced stigmata on June 8, 1899, on the eve of the feast of the Sacred Heart. According to a biography written by her spiritual director, the Reverend Germanus Ruoppolo, CP (now a venerable), Gemma began to display signs of the stigmata on June 8, 1899, at the age of twenty-one. Throughout the rest of her brief life, Gemma continued to learn from her guardian angel and pray for people who were suffering; she herself suffered from tuberculosis.

At the beginning of Holy Week 1903, her health quickly deteriorated, and by Good Friday she was suffering tremendously. She died at age 25 in a small room across from the Giannini house on April 11, 1903, Holy Saturday in Lucca, Italy. Pope Pius XII canonized Gemma as a saint in 1940.

## Why are there lilies on the altar during Easter?

Did you know that in our Catholic faith, the lily is a symbol of chastity, innocence and purity? In pictures of the Annunciation, the Archangel Gabriel is sometimes depicted holding a Lily branch, or Mary herself may be holding a Lily: there is a Lily in the picture. There is an old tradition that the Lily sprang from the repentant tears shed by Eve when she was banished from paradise. We often refer to Mary as the New Eve, the Mother of life, who bore the fruit that redeemed us all from sin and every fall.

Pious legend also tells us that, after the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord, lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus went to pray the night before His Crucifixion. It is said that these flowers sprung up wherever drops of Christ's blood fell as He prayed. Most of us have seen a lily bulb that has not yet been planted. It looks lifeless, just as Jesus did in the tomb. On Easter, He rose again, and the blossoming of the beautiful lily is a reminder of His victory over death.

In the language of flowers, lily means, "Majesty". The white Lily, when it is fully open resembles a star. A single symbol can be a great focus for reflection and prayer. You might like to obtain a Lily and place it at your shrine or in your prayer space. A lily is not very easy to draw, but a symbolic Lily could easily be made out of white paper. If you would like to help your children learn more about their faith traditions and also learn a new way to pray, you could ask them to make a paper lily, write their prayer petitions on a slip of paper and put it in the center of the flower. Then, if you have a statue or image of the Blessed Virgin Mary in your home, the children could present the flower with their petitions to Her.

### LOCAL WOMAN NEEDS HELP

2 days per week – 3 hours per day with housekeeping and driving. If you have the time and would like to help someone in need, please call the rectory – 973-835-0480. Thank you!

### FAITH RENEWAL HOLY HOUR

Please join us on April 21<sup>st</sup> for our monthly Faith Renewal Holy Hour filled with adoration, contemporary music, meditation and prayer at 4:30PM followed by our Faith Renewal Mass at 5:30PM. Let us all come together and enter the mystery of our Lord's presence in the Eucharist and personally encounter Jesus Christ. Our Faith Renewal mass is for those who prefer an upbeat, more lively worship experience, this Mass with Contemporary Music offers live music with guitars, keyboard and vocalists. Our Faith Renewal Mass is held every third Saturday of the month. For young adults, teens, families with children, or Catholics of all ages who are young at heart, this Mass is a vibrant worship experience. We would like to invite you to become involved with our Faith Renewal Team and help us come up with new and wonderful, creative fellowship events. We are looking for talented musicians, either vocally or an instrument, who would like to share their talents. For more information or for ways to get involved in this ministry, please email us at [stfrancisfaithrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisfaithrenewal@gmail.com).

### Parish pilgrimage- save the date.



"On May 19th, there will be a parish pilgrimage to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The cost is \$35 per person. Please save the date."

### KIDNEY NEEDED

Fran Ferraro is a parishioner in our parish who needs, most of all, your prayers, but who is in need of a kidney. Sometimes just knowing of a need or talking about it, brings amazing results.

So, in your conversations, you may want to bring this topic up because you never know whose ears that this story falls upon, might be the lifesaving ones. But, above all, prayers are priceless. Thank you and God bless you.

### PARISH HAPPENINGS

#### April & May

- 4/7 SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY-  
2PM- Church
- 4/21 FAITH RENEWAL HOLY HOUR  
4:30 – 5:30 PM
- 4/28 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – 11:30AM
- 4/29 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST  
After all Masses – Church Hall  
(Communicants Free)
- 5/12 CLOTHING DRIVE 9AM – 2PM

## **DON BOSCO PREP HOLDS SPRING OPEN HOUSE**

Don Bosco Prep will host its spring Open House for prospective students on Thursday, April 26, 2018, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All seventh and eighth grade students and parents are invited to attend. Come and get a tour of the campus and hear about our exciting programs, classes, clubs, activities, sports teams, and financial aid opportunities. To register, visit [www.donboscoprep.org](http://www.donboscoprep.org).

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

#### **IT'S CARNIVAL TIME – AGAIN!**

**Tuesday**, July 17 to **Saturday**, July 21, 2018 – St. Francis 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Carnival.

A special request to anyone who would like to help out in the air conditioned kitchen preparing our delicious carnival food, please call the rectory – 973-835-0480. (Man or woman) We need your help. Thank you.

### **BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE**

2017 Goal: \$16,000.00 Cash Received through March 22, 2018: \$23,836.00

50% of Over-Goal Cash: \$7,236.00

Rebate as of March 22, 2018: \$3,618.00

Thank you to all who supported the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal and made this all possible.

## **History of the Message and Devotion to Divine Mercy**

The Message of the Divine Mercy that Sr. Faustina received from the Lord was not only directed toward her personal growth in faith but also toward the good of the people. With the command of our Lord to paint an image according to the pattern that Sr. Faustina had seen, came also a request to have this image venerated, first in the Sisters' chapel, and then throughout the world. The same is true with the revelations of the Chaplet. The Lord requested that this Chaplet be said not only by Sr. Faustina, but by others: "Encourage souls to say the Chaplet that I have given you."

The same is true of the revelation of the Feast of Mercy. "The Feast of Mercy emerged from my very depths of tenderness. It is my desire that it solemnly be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of My Mercy."

These requests of the Lord given to Sr. Faustina between 1931 and 1938 can be considered the beginning of the Divine Mercy Message and Devotion in the new forms.

Through the efforts of Sr. Faustina's spiritual directors, Fr. Michael Sopocho, and Fr. Joseph Andrasz, SJ, and others, this message began to spread throughout the world.

However, it is important to remember that this message of The Divine Mercy, revealed to St. Faustina and to our present generation is not new. It is a powerful reminder of who God is and has been from the very beginning. This truth that God is in His very nature Love and Mercy Itself, is given to us by our Judeo-Christian faith and God's self-revelation. The veil that has hidden the mystery of God from eternity was lifted by God

Himself. In His goodness and love God chose to reveal Himself to us, His creatures, and to make known His eternal plan of salvation. This He had done partly through the Old Testament Patriarchs, Moses and the Prophets, and fully through His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In the person of Jesus Christ, conceived through power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, the unseen God was made visible.

## **Jesus reveals God as Merciful Father**

The Old Testament speaks frequently and with great tenderness about God's mercy. Yet, it was Jesus, who through His words and actions, revealed to us in an extraordinary way, God as a loving Father, rich in mercy and abounding in great kindness and love. In Jesus' merciful love and care for the poor, the oppressed, the sick and the sinful, and especially in His freely choosing to take upon Himself the punishment for our sins (a truly horrible suffering and death on the Cross), so that all may be freed from destructive consequences and death, He manifested in a superabundant and radical way the greatness of God's love and mercy for humanity. In His person as God-Man, one in being with the Father, Jesus both reveals and is God's Love and Mercy Itself.

## **The message of God's Love and Mercy is especially made known by the Gospels.**

The good news revealed through Jesus Christ is that God's love for each person knows no bounds, and no sin or infidelity, no matter how horrible, will separate us from God and His love when we turn to Him in confidence, and seek his mercy. God's will is our salvation. He has done all on our behalf, but since He made us free, He invites us to choose Him and partake of His divine life. We become partakers of His divine life when we believe in His revealed truth and trust Him, when we love Him and remain true to His word, when we honor Him and seek His Kingdom, when we receive Him in Communion and turn away from sin; when we are mutually caring and forgiving

### **LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE**

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018**

Frank & Sandy Polglaze

#### **LECTORS**

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018**

5:30 P.M. Lynn Magnini

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018**

7:30 A.M. Barbara Garruto

10:00 A.M. John McMurray

12 NOON Linda O'Connell

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018**

5:30 P.M. Frank & Sandy Polglaze

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018**

7:30 A.M. Linda & Jim Hartigan

10:00 A.M. Annie Rivera & Melissa Rivera

12 NOON Linda O'Connell & Matt Kampff

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018**

5:30 P.M. Diana & Eric Szczecinski

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018**

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid

10:00 A.M. Cristopher Marren & Sebastian Wojtowicz

12 NOON Jon-Karlo & Joseph Villacis

# Sunday Morning Breakfast



*Sponsored by St. Francis Knights of Columbus*

Time: 8:00 am to 1:30 pm

Date: April 29, 2018

Place: St. Francis of Assisi  
Church Hall — Haskell, NJ

## **BREAKFAST INCLUDES**

**Pancakes - Scrambled Eggs**

**Bacon - Sausage**

**Juice - Coffee or Tea**

\$8.00 per adult

\$4.00 per child (10 & under)

First Communicants FREE

For Tickets Contact: Pete Kramer 973-839-5731  
or Available at Door