

News from P.I.T. (Priest in Training)



One of my first experiences as a seminarian was a retreat about healing, and I was pretty skeptical. They kept talking about how we had all these wounds that needed to be healed. And I didn't doubt that I was a sinner, but I was skeptical that I had the kind of wounds they were talking about. I had a good childhood with maybe the usual bumps in the road of life, but nothing that I thought could qualify as a "wound." As a result, by the end of the retreat, my heart had not been touched though my

notebook was filled with some of the best doodles I had ever drawn.

In the Gospel, St. Thomas is absent when the Risen Jesus appears to the Apostles, and he gives the famous declaration that he will only believe if he touches the wounds of Christ. The problem with Thomas's doubt is that he has the eyewitness testimony of his ten close friends to contend with. But I think we can all sympathize with Thomas to some extent. Speaking for myself, I had those who were in charge of my seminary training saying the healing retreat was a good idea, so if nothing else, I should have at least tried to be open to it.

In the following years, with the help of many spiritual guides in seminary, I made the discovery that I, like everyone else, have wounds! In fact, I became so aware of my wounds that I would joke, "I'm just a big, walking wound!" It was a joke, but I think it revealed where my heart was. Whereas before I was unaware of the wounds in my life, now I had gone to the opposite extreme of overemphasizing them. Nobody is simply their wounds. But how should we approach our woundedness?

Jesus Himself shows us when He shows us His wounds after His resurrection. Even though His wounds are used to identify Him, He is not saying that He is His wounds. Instead, He is saying that He is the One Who was wounded on the Cross, but is now victorious over sin and death. He is still wounded, but His wounds are now made glorious. His wounds have become a place of encounter.

This Sunday we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Just as Jesus' glorious wounds were a place of encounter for Thomas, so are our wounds a place of encounter with the mercy of Jesus. They are the place where He wants to encounter and heal us. And just like Himself, our wounds do not vanish, nor would we want them to. Instead, they remind us of the victory that He has won within us. As Pope St. John Paul II, the great Pope of Divine Mercy, says, "We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son."

Father Frank



Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, April 8 - The Annunciation of the Lord

8:00 am Int Khristian Bersamin, by Family
6:30 pm † Gabriel de Jesus Velazquez, by The Hepburn Family
(Spanish Mass)

Tuesday, April 9 - Easter Weekday

8:00 am † Steven Henning, by Paulette & Carl Berg 6:30 pm Int Vincent L. Macikas, by The Adams Family 7:00 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Wednesday, April 10 - Easter Weekday

12:00 pm † Steven Henning, by Susan & Jude Zwick 12:30 pm Reconciliation (Until All Are Heard)

Thursday, April 11 - St Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

6:30 am † Bill Pinchiotti, II 8:00 am † Michael Salerno

Friday, April 12 - Easter Weekday

8:00 am † Stanley Kerkla, by Carolyn Kerkla

Saturday, April 13 - St Martin I, Pope & Martyr

8:30 am † Larry Delsignore, by Susan Delsignore
9:00am Reconciliation (Until 10:00 AM)
1:30 pm Reconciliation (Until 2:30 PM)
4:00 pm Vigil - Third Sunday of Easter
† Bob Humanski, by Toni Humanski

† James W. Ray Family, by Nancy Ray

Sunday, April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 am † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family † Dean Coit

10:00 am †Christopher Ianno, by Family

(Live Streamed)

12:00 pm Int of the People of Our Lady of Mercy

5:30 pm Int Nikbil, by Grace Mathew

Silent adoration takes place in the Adoration Chapel Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 10:00 pm.



Blessed Sacrament Chapel Lamps

Votive lamps will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament for the following intentions.

- 1. George Durante
- 2. Lord, Be With The Sick
- 3. Mary Frances Quick
- 4. Alison Perry
- 5. The Pluskota Family
- 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra
- 7. Good Health
- 8. The Deceased

- 9. Fr Don McLaughlin
- 10. Matthew C.
- 11. Special Intention-C.H.
- 12. The Sick
- 13. Special Intention-T.Z.
- 14. Vocations
- 15. Peace
- 16. The Homeless

If you wish to have a candle burning for your intention in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, you will find envelopes on the shelf in the Narthex near the Priest's Sacristy or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Our Lady of Mercy Weekend Masses

April 13 & 14

Father Michael will preach at all Masses.		
Saturday	4:00 pm	Fr Michael Kearney
Sunday	8:00 am	Fr Frank Pusateri
	10:00 am	Fr Michael Kearney
	12:00 pm	Fr Frank Pusateri
	5:30 pm	Fr Michael Kearney



Please contact the Parish Office if you or your immediate family member wish to be added to the Sick List.

For our sick, confined and their families.

David Bakke Michael Butler Alfredo Chavez Baby Riley Chick Robert Ciulla Michael Dandan Mary Dunbar **Bridget Garry** Patricia Gebhardt Jim Grav Kelly Greenheck **Nancy Higgins** Eric Hoerdemann Anya Horste Cera Horste **Bob Jones** Helen Joseph Baby Penelope Keene

Nina Keehn

Keith Kuchinski Michelle Maeirs

Kristen Manning Susan Massett Susan Mennenga Bill Morse La Moua Charlene Oates Flo Paprzycki Valerie Plesha Jim & Carol Pluskota Jackie Schiable Julia Schremp Christopher Shea Diane Singer **Hedy Sterling** Thomas F. Sterling John Swanston Rev. Gerald Tivy Bernice Tokarski Jason Toledo Kathy Walowski

Judy Wiltgen

Please note: Due to the government legislation regarding patient privacy, names of people to be prayed for at Mass or in the Bulletin can be listed only if that person, or in the case of their incapacitation, the person delegated to their medical care, calls to give permission.

Please let the Parish Office know of names which may be removed from the sick list.

Those in service to our country

TSgt Leah Harvey, USAF Airman Melanie Hodges, US Navy Nicholaus Laurie, US Marines SSG Sean Murphy, USMC Capt. Tara Trammell, US Army Roberto Ramos, US Army Lt. Joshua Puscas, US Navy SSG Gina Maro, USAF Juan Gabriel Sindac, USAF Aaron Godinez, US Marines LC/Cprl Ryan Ludwig, US Marines Capt. Brian Strohmaier, US Army Elizabeth Pattermann, US Marine LTJG Marion Bautista, US Navy SSG Karla Venegas, US Army SSG Jeremy Norris, US Army Capt. Carmen Lockett, US Army PO3 Joshua San Diego, US Navy LT Daniel Moran, US Army

Noticias del P.I.T. (Sacerdote en formación)



Una de mis primeras experiencias como seminarista fue un retiro sobre sanación y yo estaba bastante escéptico. Seguían hablando de que teníamos todas estas heridas que necesitaban ser sanadas. Y yo no dudaba que era un pecador, pero era escéptico de que tuviera el tipo de heridas de las que hablaban. Tuve una buena infancia, quizás con los obstáculos habituales en el camino de la vida, pero nada que pensé que pudiera calificarse como una "herida". Como resultado, al final del retiro, mi corazón no se había tocado, aunque mi cuaderno estaba lleno

de algunos de los mejores garabatos que jamás había dibujado.

En el Evangelio, Santo Tomás está ausente cuando Jesús Resucitado se aparece a los Apóstoles, y da la famosa declaración de que sólo creerá si toca las llagas de Cristo. El problema con la duda de Tomás es que tiene que lidiar con el testimonio de sus diez amigos cercanos. Pero creo que todos podemos simpatizar con Tomás hasta cierto punto. Hablando por mí mismo, aquellos que estaban a cargo de mi formación en el seminario dijeron que el retiro de sanación era una buena idea, así que al menos debería haber intentado estar abierto a ello.

En los años siguientes, con la ayuda de muchos guías espirituales en el seminario, descubrí que yo, como todos los demás, ¡tengo heridas! De hecho, me volví tan consciente de mis heridas que bromeaba: "¡Solo soy una herida grande que camina!". Fue una broma, pero creo que reveló dónde estaba mi corazón. Mientras que antes no era consciente de las heridas de mi vida, ahora había llegado al extremo opuesto de enfatizar-las demasiado. Nadie es simplemente sus heridas. Pero ¿cómo debemos abordar nuestras heridas?

Jesús Mismo nos lo enseña cuando Él nos muestra Sus llagas después de Su resurrección. Aunque se utilizan Sus heridas para identificarlo, Él no está diciendo que Él sea Sus heridas. En cambio, Él está diciendo que Él es Aquel Quien fue herido en la Cruz, pero que ahora es victorioso sobre el pecado y la muerte. Él todavía está herido, pero Sus heridas ahora se vuelven gloriosas. Sus heridas se han convertido en un lugar de encuentro.

Este domingo celebramos el Domingo de la Divina Misericordia. Así como las gloriosas llagas de Jesús fueron un lugar de encuentro para Tomás, así también nuestras heridas son un lugar de encuentro con la misericordia de Jesús. Son el lugar donde Él quiere encontrarnos y sanarnos. Y al igual que Él, nuestras heridas no desaparecen, ni quisiéramos que lo hicieran. Más bien, nos recuerdan la victoria que Él ha obtenido dentro de nosotros. Como dice el Papa San Juan Pablo II, el gran Papa de la Divina Misericordia: "No somos la suma de nuestras debilidades y fracasos; somos la suma del amor del Padre por nosotros y de nuestra capacidad real de llegar a ser la imagen de su Hijo".

Padre Frank



Lecturas de la Semana

Domingo Hch 4, 32-35;

Sal 117, 2-4. 16ab-18. 22-24;

1 Jn 5, 1-6; Jn 20, 19-31

Lunes Is 7, 10-14; 8, 10;

Sal 39, 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. 11;

Heb 10, 4-10; Lc 1, 26-38

Martes Hch 4, 32-37;

Sal 92, 1ab. 1c-2. 5;

Jn 3, 7-15

Miércoles Hch 5, 17-26;

Sal 33, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7. 8-9;

Jn 3, 16-21

Jueves Hch 5, 27-33;

Sal 33, 2 y 9. 17-18. 19-20;

Jn 3, 31-36

Viernes Hch 5, 34-42;

Sal 26, 1. 4. 13-14;

Jn 6, 1-15

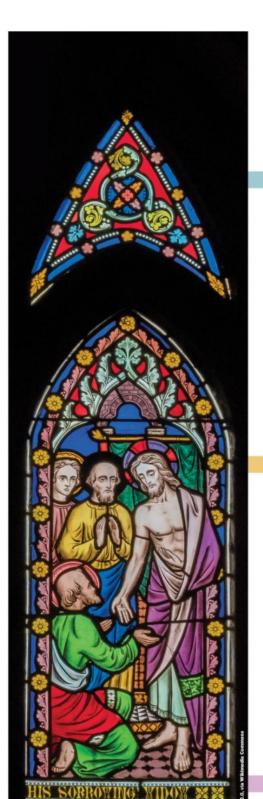
Sábado Hch 6, 1-7;

Sal 32, 1-2. 4-5. 18-19;

Jn 6, 16-21

Domingo Hch 3, 13-15. 17-19;

Sal 4, 2. 7. 9; 1 Jn 2, 1-5a; Lc 24, 35-48



April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 4:32-35 | 1 Jn 5:1-6 | Jn 20:19-31

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

We tend to beat up St. Thomas for his doubt, when what is really most amazing in the scene from today's Gospel is his understanding, and the first public pronouncement of, Jesus Christ's divinity. He *gets* it. And he proclaims it without hesitation: "My Lord and my God." I think about what Thomas' face might have looked like at that moment, and I imagine a countenance of conviction alongside humility – joyful tears in the eyes that reflect awe and wonder. The truth behind his realization and understanding is that God is faithful, God is loving, God is merciful. Of course, *knowing* that with our heart and mind needs to be translated into *doing* with our every action. The early Christian communities seemed to have lived this well, happily sharing their possessions and selling what they didn't need. Not because they had been forced to, but because the "commandments [were] not burdensome" for those who loved God. God loved us first, and by his grace, and his mercy, we are commanded and empowered to love one another.

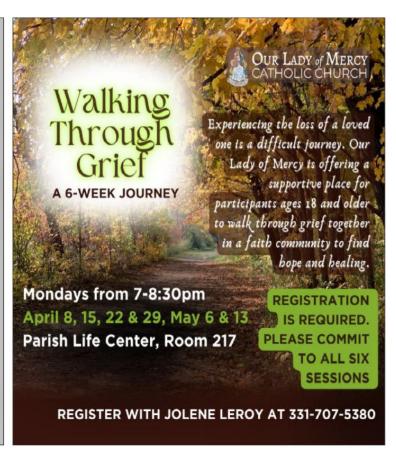
GO EVANGELIZE

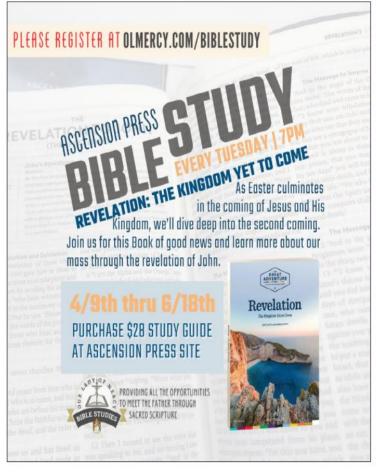
PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

God is merciful – Divine Mercy. And that is what we celebrate today, in addition to the second Sunday of Easter. The first Divine Mercy Sunday observance occurred in the year 2000, when St. John Paul II canonized Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska. The Polish sister received private revelations from the Lord about his great mercy in the 1930s, and she outlined these in a diary she kept at the instruction of her confessors. A passage from her diary says: "The graces of my mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is — trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive." (1578) The apostles in today's passage told Thomas that they had seen the Lord – the resurrected Lord. They trusted that Jesus' messages to them were true and that they indeed need not fear. The message of Divine Mercy should likewise comfort us and also provide a model for our actions. In the same way the apostles helped Thomas to trust and come to deep knowledge and understanding, let us strive to be "of one heart and mind" with our fellow disciples and love them as we have been loved by God.

PRAY The words of St. Faustina's diary have been used to create the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. This prayer is said using a rosary, but with some differences in the prayers. Once you know the words, the chaplet is a simple prayer to recite, and it is traditionally said at 3 p.m. in remembrance of Jesus' merciful act of dying on the cross for us. If you have never recited the chaplet, try praying it this week.









Divine Mercy Feast Day Sunday, April 7, at 2 p.m.



In honor of the Feast Day of Divine Mercy on Sunday, April 7, Our Lady of Mercy will hold a beautiful celebratory service in the Church starting at 2 p.m. Our service will include a group recitation in song of The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, a devotional prayer that Jesus revealed among His numerous apparitions to Saint Maria Faustina. Jesus also made what is famously

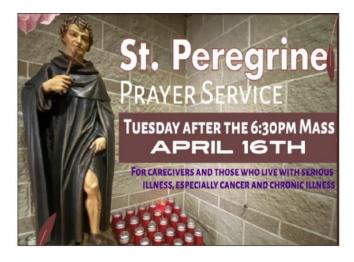
known among the faithful as His 'Extraordinary Promise':

"On that (Feast) Day, the depths of My mercy will be open to all The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

Our OLM observance of the Divine Mercy Feast Day will include the following:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic Adoration starting at 2 p.m.
- Period of Silent Meditation and Prayer
- Placing Divine Mercy Images at the steps of the altar for blessing (images should be placed at the altar steps before 1:45 p.m.)
- Taking of Personal Intentions for the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Recitation of the Chaplet in song at 3 p.m. (the Hour of Death)
- Blessing of participants' Divine Mercy Images at the altar
- Benediction, closing prayers to Jesus and Mary

A program and assorted pamphlets featuring the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, as well as other resources, will be available, but participants should be sure to bring their Rosary!







Easter Flower Memorials

Each beautiful Easter flower in our church not only reminds us of Christ's glorious resurrection, but also represents a special prayer to God for the repose of a soul, help for the living, or a prayer of gratitude for gifts received. The prayers are offered then, not by just one person, but by everyone who enjoys the look and fragrance of these lovely Easter flowers.

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

In Honor/Memory of...

Anthony M. Loquercio, Jr.
Frank Rostan
Grandpa Gatto
Rose Christine Sincora
Scott Williams
My Loved Ones
Charles Miller
Betty Miller
Austin Chase
Scott Chase
Nancy Basten
Marian & Wayne Leckey
Jean & Ralph Scott

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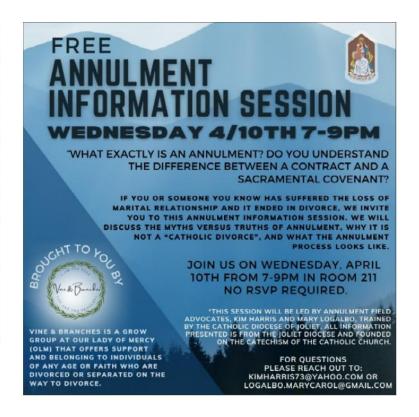


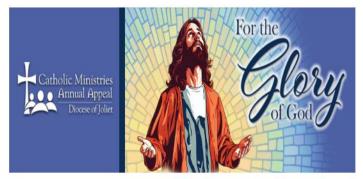
Parish Sacrificial Giving		
Actual Year-to-Date Collections	\$	1,167,420
Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget	\$	1,147,000
Amount in Excess of Budget		20,420
03/24/24 Sunday Collection	\$	33,580
Weekly Sunday Goal	\$	31,000
Amount in Excess of Goal		2,580

For the Budget Year 2023/24 we have Increased the Parish Sunday goal by 1.3%, to \$31,000/week, to help expand our numerous varied Ministries.

Thank you for your generosity!!

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Parish in your will and estate planning.





If you have already pledged your support to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), we sincerely thank you! If we all join together, we can meet our parish's goal of \$140,500 and every gift, regardless of size, truly matters and makes a difference.

If you still plan on making your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how best you can support the CMAA this year to help those in need throughout our diocese, For the Glory of God. Pledge envelopes are still available in the Narthex, or you can use the envelope you received in the mail from the diocese. We also welcome online gifts at jolietdioceseappeal.org.

Remember, if we raise more than our goal, the diocese will return 70 percent of the amount over goal to us to reinvest in our own parish. This is an incredible opportunity and blessing!



Donating Made Easy!

Whether you are a registered parishioner with us or visiting, we are set up to receive donations online.

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Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church

701 S. Eola Road † Aurora, IL 60504 www.olmercy.com

Parish Office

Tel: (630) 851-3444 • FAX: (630) 851-3468	
Monday-Thursday	8:30am-4:00pm
Friday	8:30am-1:00pm

Mass Schedule

day, Friday8:00am
6:30pm
8:00am, 6:30pm
12:00pm
6:30am, 8:00am
8:30am
Sunday) 4:00pm
8:00am, 10:00am,12:00pm, and 5:30pm

Holy Days of Obligations

Schedule varies. Consult the Mass Schedule in the bulletin or website.

Confessions

Tuesday	7:00-8:00pm
Saturday	9:00-10:00am, 1:30-2:30pm
1st Friday of the Month	8:30-9:15am
Last Wednesday of the Month at Ma	agnify7:30-8:20pm
Or by Appointment	

Prayer Chapel

Adoration

Monday & Thursday	8:30am-6:00pm
Wednesdays	8:00am-12:00pm
1st Friday of the Month	12:00pm
Last Wednesday of the Month at Magnify	7:00-8:30nm

Benediction

Monday & Th	nursday	6:00pm
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New Parishioners

We welcome you! Please register by visiting our website at www.olmercy.com. Click on "New Here" and choose "Join OLM" to fill out the online registration form.

Sick and Homebound

Contact the Parish Office so we may help you in any way possible.

Hospitalization

If you anticipate a hospitalization or are admitted to an area hospital and would like a visit from a priest or Eucharistic Minister, please notify the parish office.

Baptisms

Registered parishioners wishing their child baptized must complete a parent workshop. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent. Contact Lydia Schmitt at 331-707-5377.

Weddings

The bride, groom or either set of parents must be registered members of the parish for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding. Weddings may be scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirements. Contact Theresa Simeo at 331-707-5374.

Parish Directory

Parish Priests

Pastor Fr. Michael Kearney
630-851-3444, Ext. 228frmichael@olmercy.com
Parochial Vicar Fr. Frank Pusateri
630-851-3444, Ext. 226frfrank@olmercy.com
Permanent Deacons
Dcn Tim Kuepertkueper5@yahoo.com
Dcn Tony Leazzotonyl@olmercy.com
Dcn Tony Martinitonym@olmercy.com
Dcn Doug McIlvaine dougm@olmercy.com
Dcn Phil Rehmerdeaconphil@rehmer.com
Dcn Bugsy Sindacbugsys@olmercy.com
Dcn Art Tiongsonhope2640@yahoo.com
Pastoral Staff
Director of Music Ministries Frank Sauter
331-707-5379 franks@olmercy.com
Asst. to Pastor & CommunicationsTheresa Simeo
331-707-5374theresas@olmercy.com
Dir. of Evangelization & Communications Zara Tan
331-707-5381 zara@olmercy.com
Family Faith Formation
Director (Pre K-5) & OCIC Mary Jo Trapani
331-707-5378 maryjot@olmercy.com
Director (6-12) Dave Miserendino
331-707-5371 davem@olmercy.com
FFF Secretary Karen Schwartz
331-707-5369 karens@olmercy.com
Principal of All Saints Catholic Academy
630-961-6125Margie Marshall
Administrative Staff
Business Manager Bob Gancarz
331-707-5370robertg@olmercy.com
Parish Secretary Diane Reiter
630-851-3444 dianer@olmercy.com
Business Office AssistantLydia Schmitt
331-707-5377lydias@olmercy.com
Buildings & Grounds Phil Zwick
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