

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 3, 2016



Dear parishioners,

I personally knew nothing of the history of Divine Mercy Sunday. I share some of my findings here with you.

On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 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: "People will never know peace until they trust the mercy of God."

Helena Kowalska was born in Poland on August 25, 1905. She was the third child of a devout Catholic family. As a small child she reported seeing bright lights during her night prayers. At age 16 she went to work as a servant in a neighboring city. She soon resigned after a fainting spell, even though a doctor said she was healthy. Helena told her parents that she wanted to enter religious life but failed to obtain her father's permission because he felt she was too young. She took a post as a servant and made friends with a circle of young women. At a dance, she experienced a vision of Christ suffering that touched her conscience and revived her desire to be a nun.

In 1925, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, taking the name Faustina. She served as a cook, gardener and doorkeeper in Krakow and several other community convents. On February 22, 1931, Sister Faustina experienced a new and life-changing vision of Christ. She saw him wearing a white robe and raising his right hand in blessing with his left hand resting on his heart from which flowed two rays of light. Jesus told her, "Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the prayer, Jesus, I trust in you."

Sister Carol

Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 2	4:00 p.m.	Bill Shackelford Sr.
Sun Apr 3	10:00 a.m.	Tim Kahle and Ralph Wischmeyer
Sat Apr 9	4:00 p.m.	Ed Murphy
Sun Apr 10	10:00 a.m.	Leonard and Sally Rieman

Communion Services

Tue Apr 5	10:30 a.m.	Richland
Wed Apr 6	10:30 a.m.	Hilty
Fri Apr 8	8:00 a.m.	St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$1,643.00	Loose	\$1,357.00
Children	\$111.32	Total	\$3,111.32
44 envelopes returned = 21%			
Easter to date:			\$4,318.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you also to those who give electronically!!

Assignments for April 9 & 10, 2016

Money Counters: Jason Granger and Tonya Meyer

4:00 p.m.

Greeter: Jan and Diana Emmert

Cantor: Jenny Roby

Ushers: Dave and Joel Siefker

Lector: Jason Swartzlander

E.M.: Jessica Wischmeyer, Jeanne Parinello,
Jack Marcum

Servers: Derek Swartzlander and Courtney McLaughlin

10:00 a.m.

Greeter-East door: Sherry Heitmeyer

Greeter-West Door: Mel Heitmeyer

Cantor: Kevin Vance

Ushers: Mike and Serena Maag

Lectors: Brian Miller and Matt Ellerbrock

E.M.: Julia Miller, Jenna Kimmel, Cathy Hermiller,
Crystal Ellerbrock and Candace Vance

Servers: Kaden Reneker, Julia Mehaffie, and
Jonathan Schriener

Readings for April 10, 2016

Third Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

2nd Reading Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19

Remember to keep bringing in your Community Market receipts so we can turn them in for Reward dollars.


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Parish mini-retreat

Part of the "Living the Eucharist" faith sharing experience is a closing retreat. The planners want to invite anyone interested to share in this mini-retreat next Sunday, April 10. We will share lunch immediately after Mass, hear a presentation, discuss the presentation, and close with *lectio divina*.

The Red Cross blood drive will take place at St. Mary's on Thursday, April 7, noon until 6 o'clock.  Volunteers are needed for registration and refreshments. Cookie bakers are also needed. The sign-up sheet is on the shelf in the main entrance. And, of course, donors are needed!



Training for those who want to volunteer for Family Promise will be Thursday evening, April 7, at 7 o'clock, in the new classrooms. As you know Family Promise is a program hosted by churches that

helps homeless families find a home and employment. St. Mary's will be hosting the families for the first time June 12-19. If you have questions, talk to our coordinators Bethany Barnhart and Julia Miller.

The Pastoral Council will meet Tuesday evening, April 5, at 7 o'clock in the parish library. Come prepared to discuss what you learned from Pope Francis' book Walking with Jesus that helps you in your leadership of the parish.

Nominations for Pastoral Council Next weekend, April 9 and 10, nominations will be taken for two new members for Pastoral Council for the term 2016-2019. Pastoral Council assists the pastoral leader in guiding the pastoral work of the parish. Expectations are that the nominee be a person in good standing in the Church, is a regular participant in the life of St. Mary's Parish, will regularly attend the monthly meeting of the Pastoral Council, will prepare for and participate in the meetings, and will assist with projects that the Pastoral Council undertakes. You will be asked to nominate two people who are not presently members of the Council. The present members are: Bethany Barnhart, John Brutvan, Greg Conkling, Shar Dunlap, Wes Lovett, Elizabeth Luersman, Brian Miller, and Lisa Welch.

Thank you to all who helped make the Holy Week and Easter liturgies lovely with your participation--especially all the liturgical ministers. I know some went the extra mile at some sacrifice. We very much appreciate it! **Thank you** to Sheila, Tammy, the cantors, the Robys, and the choir for leading the singing. **Thank you** to Chris Denecker, Lisa Welch, and Deb Hohenbrink for decorating for the celebrations. **Thank you** to Tom and Jan Schulte for getting the flowers collected for Easter. **Thank you** to Rhonda Maag for making the beautiful and tasty cake for the vigil reception. **Thank you** to Dave and Don for much work on many tasks here and at our two rentals to put things in good shape.

Items needed for the Bluffton Food Pantry

We will be collecting the following items for the next two weekends, April 9 and 10 and again April 16 and 17, 2016 for the food pantry. Lotions and creams, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, boxes of tissues, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, liquid hand soap, canned fruits (especially mandarin oranges, peaches, pears, and applesauce), canned vegetables (No corn or green beans, please - there are plenty in the pantry), baked beans, chili beans and tomato sauce, (Not needed: garbanzo beans, navy beans, cannellini beans, pinto beans, and black beans - there are plenty in the pantry supply), chunky soups such as Progresso, Our Family, or Campbells Chunky (No water added soups are needed at this time - Campbells, etc.), Spaghettios and similar canned items, noodles and broth, spaghetti and spaghetti sauces, Hamburger helper, Tuna helper, tuna (No macaroni and cheese, macaroni noodles, or Ramen noodles are needed at this time.), taco mixes, shells, puddings, jellos, cake mixes, frostings, crackers, cookies, cereal, oatmeal and similar breakfast foods, breakfast pop-ups, pancake mix and syrup, canned meats - chicken, pork, and beef. Thanks for your help!

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 o'clock Mass.

K-6: Next class is Wednesday, April 6th from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Mass is at 7:00 p.m.

Jr. Hi & God Squad: Class is today, Sunday, April 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.