

Dear Parishioners,

+JMJ

It's Monday of Holy Week as I'm writing this letter; so I'm meditating on today's Gospel, John 12:1-11. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead, and Mary and Martha are throwing a banquet for Jesus. This occurs six days before Jesus' Good Friday death. At the heart of the banquet are Jesus and Lazarus, reclining at table together. The household has become – in the wake of Lazarus's resurrection – an oasis of life lived in a divine dimension.

Imagine the table conversation between Jesus and Lazarus. Lazarus might say: “Lord, nothing is the same for me anymore. Darkness and light are so much clearer. Even the simplest things that I do now, I do with gratitude, knowing that the life I live has been given me anew by You. Not a day goes by without wonder at the fact that I'm alive, nor without the desire to live motivated by Your love. I wouldn't say that nothing matters anymore... but everything matters because of You, in light of You.”

Jesus might say, “My heavenly Father gave me a very special love for you; and I knew that His plan was to raise you from the dead, so that you might be an instrument for Him, a witness. You and your sisters, Martha and Mary, are to be a home already transformed by Heaven's Love, which will be poured out on Calvary soon.”

Mary—probably Mary Magdalene – whose life has been transformed from profligacy – anoints Jesus already for his burial. Jesus has not been silent about the horror that is to come upon him. Mary's anointing with precious spikenard is a symbol of extravagant love for Jesus... an act of life divinely lived... something to be expected from somebody who has been raised from the dead spiritually, if not physically.

Martha accommodates the entire light-filled banquet by her extraordinary service. Hers is also an extravagant love, in light of her brother's resurrection.

A large crowd is at the banquet, even surrounding the home. They have come to see not only Jesus, but also Lazarus who was raised from the dead. And many are starting to believe in Jesus, which means they are starting to be alive. The home has become an oasis of divine life.

In God's mysterious plan, not everybody is transformed. No less a personage than Judas, an apostle of Jesus, and the money keeper, seems unmoved by the resurrection of Lazarus, also unmoved by the transformation of lives around Jesus. Judas contests the extravagant show of love by Mary—the anointing with aromatic spikenard. Judas's inclination to thievery remains mysteriously intact. And some of the Jewish leaders only grow in their contempt for Jesus in light of Lazarus's resurrection. They even plot to kill Lazarus himself, as if to hide the miracle. Can we mere mortals really hide God's miracles, if He wants them to be known? So not every heart is transformed by encountering the oasis of life, which is the home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary.

But the oasis is still glorious, and it serves God as He desires for certain lives. By our baptism into Jesus, you and I have died and risen with him. May our transformed lives be still more at His service this Easter season. May our homes be oasis of life lived in a divine dimension.

Have a blessed Easter!

In cordibus Iesu et Mariae,
Fr. Poggemeyer

Weekly Schedule of Services

April 4 - 12, 2015
St. Maximilian Kolbe Deanery
"The Pastor's Daily Scripture Inspirations
on Twitter: @frdivinemercy"

***** Easter Blessings to All *****

SATURDAY, April 4 – Holy Saturday

8PM Easter Vigil Mass in Paulding – Pat Stults and
Lennie Roth

SUNDAY, April 5 – Easter, Resurrection of the Lord

8:30AM Mass in Payne – Pauline Klinker and
Gary Wolf & the Hansen Family

10:30AM Mass in Antwerp – Jerald Rodriguez and
Frank & Celsa Gonzalez

MONDAY, April 6

No Services Today

TUESDAY, April 7

No Services Today

WEDNESDAY, April 8

No Services Today

8AM-7PM Adoration in Paulding

7PM Benediction in Paulding

THURSDAY, April 9 – Welcome Father Stites

11AM Rosary in Paulding

11:30 Mass in Paulding – Ann Marie Minnick

Followed by Fab 50s Gathering

FRIDAY, April 10

No Services Today

SATURDAY, April 11

4PM Mass in Payne – Vern, Brandon & Justin Vogel

and Janeil Malfait

5:30PM Mass in Paulding – For the Parish

SUNDAY, April 12 - Divine Mercy Sunday

8:30AM Mass in Antwerp – Lani Lloyd and

Jim & Kate Clark

NO 10:30AM Mass in Paulding today

3PM Mass in Paulding – Ron Gochenour and

Mike Johanns

LENTEN NAILS

Baskets are available for you to return (if you wish) the Lenten nails that were passed out on Ash Wednesday. Thank You.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped at the Lenten Luncheon hosted by Divine Mercy last Wednesday. The desserts and all the food was delicious and enjoyed by all.

Saints on the Eucharist

"The devotion to the Eucharist is the most noble because it has God at its object; it is the most profitable for salvation, because It gives us the Author of Grace; it is the sweetest, because the Lord is Sweetness Itself."

St. Pius X

SAVE THE DATE FOR "TEA WITH THEE"

Sunday, May 3rd after the 10:30AM Mass the F.I.A.T. Committee is hosting a ladies "Tea With Thee" in the church basement. Each table will be decorated with a different theme by anyone who wishes to join the fun. Ask your family, prayer group or friends to come up with a clever theme for a table. Call Laura Priest (419-587-3858) for info or to volunteer to share your time & talent for our ladies special "Tea With Thee" event.

FAB 50s LUNCHEON

Join us on Thursday, April 9 for 11AM Rosary and 11:30AM Mass celebrated by Fr. Stites. A catered lunch by Puckerbrush from Payne will follow. Cost is \$7 and features assorted pizzas, Greek salad, cheesecake, iced tea and lemonade. Register by calling the parish office by noon, Tuesday, April 7 (419-399-2576). Join us for food, fellowship and fun.

CONDOLENCES

Madonna Koenn – March 1, 2015

NEW PARISH WEBSITE & APP COMING SOON

In the coming weeks, Divine Mercy will launch a new website and our own app for iPhone and Android smart phones. This will allow us to better communicate with you throughout the week and keep you updated with relevant parish information, news and updates. The website and app are very well designed and very intuitive. They will be great resources for parishioners by providing daily Mass readings, Catholic news and prayers, convenient prayer and Confession reminders, our bulletins, and more. We hope for our new website and app to be tools for fostering stronger parish life at Divine Mercy and better engaging the New Evangelization. Please watch in the coming weeks for our official launch announcement.

Divine Mercy Parish Offerings

2014-2015 budget per week = \$ 9,540.00

March 29, 2015 offertory = \$ 8,842.99

Children collection – 14 envelopes = \$ 37.80

2nd Collection for Seminarians = \$ 517.56

ACA Goal for Divine Mercy = \$ 29,000

Pledged thus far = \$ 28,073.00

Electronic Offertory Contribution is an option to consider. For more information Call Dianne at the Parish Office.

Antwerp

Rosary Leader April 12: Marilyn Adams

Clean Church week of April 5:

Mindy Peffley, Karri Diehl, Tam Pollock

April Ushers: Denny Brinkman and Joe Reinhart

April Visitors to Shut-in: Volunteer Needed

April Communion to Shut-ins: Carolyn Gross

Paulding

Church Cleaners March 30 – April 12:

Mike & Mary Nieto and Jim & Lillian Genero

Sacristan April 5 - 11:

April Ushers – **5:30PM Mass** - ****Perry Sinn**, Greg Johanns, Mike & Catie Strable, Robert Vogel **10:30AM** **** Bill Priest**, Alan & Kylee Miller, Craig Miller, Dennis Miller, Derek Miller

Payne

Rosary Leader April 11: John Molitor

April 6 – 11 Church Cleaners:

Cindy Litzenberg and Rose Ann Glass

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign the sheet in the back of church at Payne and in the Narthex at Paulding to help clean the church. In Paulding you do **NOT** have to clean bathrooms, the basement or Narthex, just the church. For questions regarding the Payne location call Jeanette at 419-263-2655. Sign up for this “clean & shiny” ministry.

PRE-SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS

Mrs. Lopshire is taking applications for the 2015-2016 Pre-School. Sessions are from 9-11:30AM, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Please call her at 419-263-2841 for information or to register your child. Pre-school is located at Divine Mercy Catholic School.

COMMUNION TO SICK & SHUT-INS OF THE PARISH

Divine Mercy has a network of dedicated volunteers who will bring communion to you. If you or a loved one would like to receive communion, please call Deacon Bob Nighswander at 419-258-2408 in Antwerp, Rita Diaz, our Parish Nurse, at 419-399-5476 in Paulding and Deacon Dave Jordan at 419-786-9788 in Payne. They will be happy to set up a time for someone to visit you.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Father Poggemeyer is on retreat this week.
Please keep him in your prayers.*

Saturday, April 4

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Blessings to All !!!

Happy Birthday Deacon Bob Nighswander

Monday, April 6

Parish Office is Closed Today

10AM Divine Mercy Prayer Group will

meet in the Paulding Narthex today

4PM Totus Tuus Prayer Group in Paulding

NO RCIA in Paulding

7PM Medjugorje Prayer Group in Payne

Tuesday, April 7

1PM Anima Christi Prayer Group in Paulding

Wednesday, April 8

8AM - 7PM Adoration in Paulding

7PM Benediction in Paulding

PSR CLASSES

4PM Grades K – 5 in Paulding

6:30PM Grades K – 5 in Antwerp

7PM Grades 6 – 8 in Paulding

7PM Grades 7 – 8 in Payne

7:45PM Grades 6 – 8 in Antwerp

Thursday, April 9 – Welcome Fr. Stites

11AM Rosary in Paulding

11:30AM Mass in Paulding followed by

Fab 50s catered luncheon, fun & fellowship

Friday, April 10

Saturday, April 11

Sunday, April 12

+++++++ Divine Mercy Sunday +++++++

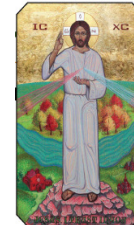
NO 10:30AM Mass in Paulding

1PM Confessions in Paulding

1PM Veneration of St. Faustina Relic in Pldg.

3PM Divine Mercy Mass in Paulding

Potluck after Mass



Parish Potluck Suggestions:

The parish will furnish the meat and drinks.

Last Names Beginning With - - -

A – G: please bring salads or vegetable dishes

H – N: please bring hot dishes

O – Z: please bring dessert

PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

A pilgrimage to Green Bay, WI to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help (the ONLY apparition site in the U.S. approved by the Church) has been scheduled for June 26, 27 & 28, 2015. We have rented a 29 passenger bus for this pilgrimage. The cost of the 3 day bus trip is only \$115, rooms range from \$27.50 - \$51 a night. This is first come, first served. Call Lorraine 419-263-2950 or Donna 419-263-0120 to sign up or for more information.

ROME PILGRIMAGE UPDATE

Anyone who put their name on the list to travel to Rome on February 15 - 26, 2016 with Father Poggemeyer is asked to have their down payment sent to Margaret McDaniel by May 31, 2015. After that date there will be open invitations to fill any empty seats. If you have any questions please call Margie at 419-290-8782.



THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH

To all of the people who stepped forward and helped make the noodles for the Craft Fair, we truly thank you.

OVER-NIGHT OPTION FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN SEPTEMBER

We are looking into additional options that may include an overnight trip, leaving Saturday morning, attending the Papal Mass on Sunday and returning home. Cost is \$500 per couple, bus and room. Call the parish office at 419-399-2576 or email Dianne Jones for more information at Finance@divinemergycatholic.com.

MYSTERIUM CHRISTI SESSION

Father Poggemeyer is presenting a diocesan Mysterium Christi program on *Morality*, Saturday, May 2, 9AM-2:30PM at the Educational Center in Paulding. Please join us as we learn about the foundational Truths of the Catholic Faith. The program is free to anyone who wishes to attend this upcoming educational presentation.

YOUTH CHOIR AT PAULDING

The Divine Mercy Youth Choir will ***NOT*** be practicing or singing the first two Sundays in April. Instead, we will be singing for the 10:30AM Mass on Sunday, April 19 and practicing that same morning at 9AM. If you have any questions please call Carmen St. John at 419-399-2286.

GRADUATING SENIORS

All graduating seniors should have received a "save the date" postcard for the Baccalaureate Mass and dinner on Wednesday, May 13. If you did not receive this information please contact Theresa Conley at 419-399-2576 or dre@divinemergycatholic.com.

DEFIANCE COUNTY FURNITURE BANK

The Furniture Bank is a faith-based ministry managed by St. Mary Catholic Community of Defiance and serves those in need from Defiance, Henry and Paulding County. Requests must come from an appropriate social service agency. Help is needed for donations of good usable basic furniture (couches, chairs, dressers, etc.) beds, linens, working appliances (stoves, microwaves, toaster ovens, washer, dryers, etc.) and house wares (pots, pans, dishes, etc.). Donations can be made by calling 419-782-2776 or dropped off at 1941 E. Second Street on Fridays from 10-11AM or by appointment. Volunteers to pick up and deliver in each county are needed. Cash donations are always welcome. Thank you

DIOCESAN & AREA EVENTS

** **"God's Mercy" Retreat** at Domus Angelorum Retreat House, 21706 SR 114, Cloverdale will be Saturday, April 11. Mass is 8:30AM. Cost is \$10. Bring sack lunch.

** **Natural Family Planning** – Learning NFP consists of attending 3 classes which will be held at Holy Trinity Parish. First class is Tuesday, April 7 from 6-8PM in Holy Family Room of the Parish Center. Register by visiting <http://www.ccli.org> and click on Learn/Register and then "Register for Class". For info: lizstrang16@gmail.com

** **To Protect & Preserve Life in a Culture of Death**, "Brain death", organ transplant and end of life issues. April 17 – 19, 2015 at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8220 W. State Route 48, Bloomington, IN 47404. Please register before April 13, retreat is open to everyone. For more information contact Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 812-825-4642, ext. 200.

** **St. Louis Besancon**, New Haven, IN welcomes authors Jane & Ellen Knuth, Thursday, April 30 at 7PM. All are welcome and there is no charge to enjoy the humor, observations and spiritual path of a mother and daughter and their book, *"Love Will Steer Me True"*.

** **Women of the parish invited** to the Magnificat Brunch from 9:30AM – 12:30PM, April 18 at Anjulina's Catering and Banquet Hall, 2270 Hayes Ave., Fremont. Speaker is Julia Brown, theology teacher at Sandusky Central Catholic School. Contact Diane, 419-602-0627 for info.

** **Mercy & Healing After Abortion** - Do you fear God could never forgive you after an abortion? You don't need to suffer in silence alone. Project Rachel offers help and hope through a monthly support group, retreats and counseling referrals. A "Come to the Waters of Healing" retreat will be offered on Saturday, April 25. For more information contact projectrachel@toledodiocese.org or call 888-456-HOPE.

"Joy-Filled Marriage" Engaged Couples Workshop. If you are engaged to be married, this workshop fulfills the "marriage class" component, which is part of the requirements for marriage in the Catholic Church. Divine Mercy will host a workshop on April 25 & 26, 2015. To register or for information contact Monica Martinez at 419-244-6711, email mmartinez@toledodiocese.org or visit www.jfmdo.eventbrite.com.

