

Divine Mercy Sunday

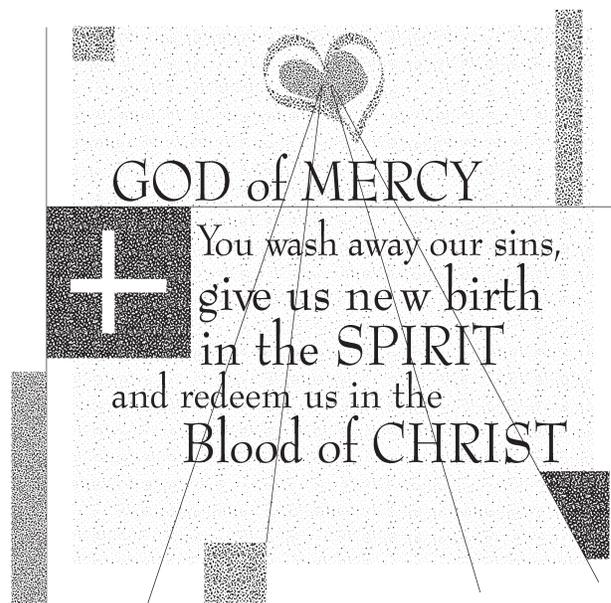
Dear Friends, I suppose it is in our human nature to doubt at times. When we are in science class at school, we learn to look for empirical evidence in order to prove things. In the working world, we operate in a results driven society that looks at what has been achieved in order to determine success. In pretty much every aspect of life, we seek measurable outcomes to gauge how we are doing at any given task. It seems that we are geared by our human drive and our cultural milieu to expect proof and rational arguments in order to believe things. When it comes to faith, though, many of the criteria for proof are not available to us, and this can make faith in a Risen Lord somewhat of a challenge and reason to doubt for many.

Interestingly, priests are no strangers to doubt and skepticism. This might seem strange, since priests are supposed to be believers. Yet, a little healthy skepticism is wise for someone who deals with spiritual matters. When we address the needs of people, we have to be able to critically discern whether or not we are dealing with something that is truly spiritual, psychological, or based in ignorance. A perfect example is something that I experienced many years ago as a young priest.

I was making my rounds, visiting some homebound parishioners, when I stopped by the house of a sincere and simple elderly woman. As I sat and conversed with her in Spanish, the conversation began to focus on an experience she had. She told me that Jesus had miraculously appeared to her. I listened to her cautiously and skeptically, I'm afraid. She took me over to a large transistor radio (don't see many of those anymore) that she had sitting on a countertop. She pointed to the silver speaker grill on the radio, which had become dull, worn and marked by much handling over the years. In her very simple way, she said, "Do you see him? It's the face of Jesus." I looked at the worn markings on the speaker grill and could not quite make out anything that looked like Jesus. I didn't have the heart to disappoint this very simple woman, and so I simply smiled and told her that it was nice that she could see Jesus. I doubt that what she really saw was an apparition.

We have all heard stories of people claiming that the Virgin Mary appeared in the pattern of bark on a tree or in the marks left on toasted bread. There are many other similar stories that are more or less believable. Events like these can easily make us doubtful because they seem a little far-fetched. Imagine though, what it must have been like to be Thomas, who was told by the other disciples that they had just seen the Risen Lord! If I were in his shoes, I would probably find such a claim similarly dubious! I would want to have proof as well. To claim that a dead person was alive again would be too far-fetched. It wasn't until the next week that Thomas would discover that what they said was true.

A spiritual writer once said that Thomas' doubt and subsequent profession of faith has done more for our own faith than all the other disciples. Like Thomas, we have every reason to doubt, because we have not seen. Yet, Thomas' profession of faith after touching the Lord's wounds, beckons us to believe. When we are enveloped with moments of doubt, all we need to do is think of Thomas, and we are bolstered in faith. In our world today, we need faith more than ever. More and more, we cannot see and believe in the Risen Lord because our sight is blinded by the allurements of technology and many other distractions. It is hard to believe in anything with any certainty, because it seems like everything is being called into question. But Christ's



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Music Accompanist
Charles Branning

Youth Minister
Cynthia Garcia | 452-4513

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Sr. Barbara Netek, IWBS

Director of Adult Faith Formation
Director of RCIA
Sr. Annette Wagner, IWBS|993-0299

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light still shines, and when we open our eyes to faith, we like Thomas will cry, "My Lord and my God!"



New Parishioners

Please welcome Miles and Adrianna Toren & sons. Also, Krysten Tshudy.

We invite them to become an active part of our growing faith community!

Collection News

We no longer collect devotional books to send to the prisons. Regulations are such that the incarcerated can receive only those they have a subscription for, and hence are sent to them directly by the publishing company. However, "holy cards", medals and rosaries made of knotted string can be given to a local group of children/youth. Any of these can be left on the ledge in the church foyer, or brought to the Church office. These items will be given to the person responsible to distribute them.

Women's Circle

The next Women's Circle meeting will be Wednesday, April 25 in the parish hall at 7:00pm. All women of the parish are welcome to attend. Please join us.

Men's Club

The next Men's Club meeting will be Tuesday, April 17 in the Parish Hall. Meal at 6:30 and meeting at 7:00PM. Dues can be paid. All men are invited.

Friendship Circle to Meet

Ladies, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Spring is a great time to get together. We look forward to seeing you this Wednesday, the 18th.

Altar & Rosary Society

Join us for a luncheon meeting on Thursday, April 26 at the home of Martha Kolda, 6938 Aswan Dr, 10:30 – 12:30. Please bring a salad to share – coffee, tea and dessert will be furnished. We will have installation of new officers and a re-cap of this year's activities. For more information please call Bonnie Heinz (991-0170) or Martha Kolda (991-5703). Guests are welcome!

Around the Diocese

You're invited to a book signing with Sr. Anne Sophie, author of "Silent No More" and "On the Front Lines" at Our Lady of CC, 1200 Lantana, in the bookstore, "Under the Blue Dome", Saturday, April 21, noon to 2pm. For info, call 361-289-9095 ext 309.

Rectory Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM

Schedule of Services

Masses: *First Friday: 5:30PM - Anointing of the Sick*

First Saturday: 8:15AM Vigil at 5:30PM.

Sunday: 8AM, 10AM, 12PM, 5:30PM (Youth Mass)

(Babysitting at 10, 12 & 5:30 Sunday Masses - Ages 6mo-5yrs - in Parish Hall Nursery)

Weekdays: Monday through Friday 8:15AM,

Wednesday & Friday 5:30PM

Holy Days: 7AM, 12PM & 6:30PM (Vigil 5:30PM)

Confessions: Saturdays - 4-5PM and 6:30-7:30PM

Marriages: By appointment only and notice six months in advance.

Weddings take place on weekdays any time and on Saturdays no later than 3:00PM

Baptismal Instruction: Pre-register through the office.

Anointing of the Sick: On request and at the 5:30PM Mass on First Fridays

Restarting the Prayer List for the Sick

It has been a while since we have updated the Prayer List for the Sick in our bulletin. Inevitably, some people who were listed have recovered or no longer need to be included. In order to update our list, we have removed the names of all the sick and ask that you please call the parish office and inform us of those loved ones who are currently ill and need our prayers, and they will be added. Thanks for your help!

Things for You!

We no longer mail out the booklet, "Living Faith". These thought-for-the-day booklets are for you to take; you can find them at the doors of the church.

The small bottles of Easter Water are also for each household. It is a nice custom to bless yourself, and/or your children each day, asking God for protection and graces for a happy, holy life.

† May They Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Parishioner Angie Rossi who was buried through our church this past week.

Robert King, Jr., Ninfa King's son who died in California last week.

Larlene Martinez, Goldie Acuna's sister who died in Floresville last Wednesday.

Parishioner Nancy Arkwright, who will be buried through our Church next Tuesday at 10AM.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them!

Heartfelt Thanks!

We are grateful for all the many people who made our Holy Week and Easter celebrations so wonderful! Thanks to the Men's Club and many parish volunteers who came to decorate and clean up for the services. Thanks to the choir and musicians that contributed their talents to meaningful liturgies. Thanks to all the Ushers, EM's, Lectors, Altar Servers, and other individuals that faithfully served. Thanks also to those who prepared food for the Holy Thursday meal, the Easter Vigil reception, and the musicians' brunch. We also need to thank David Bayardo, our seminarian, for his contributions.

We also appreciate and thank those individuals who helped serve coffee after the 6:30 a.m. Masses during Lent. It gave the early-risers a chance to visit & share a while before heading to work.



Comings and Goings

The Week at a Glance



Sunday, April 15

2nd Collection – Black Bag

HEB school cards are available after Masses

8:30AM – RCIA – CC#2

9:00AM – 2:00PM – BLOOD DRIVE

10:00AM – Scouts at Mass – Ch & Cafeteria

1:30PM – Baptisms – CH

6:30PM – Life Teen – YC

7:00PM – Chopin Concert – CH

Monday, April 16

3:00-4:00PM – School ballet class – PH

4:00-8:00PM – Confirmation Class – CC#1

5:00PM – Rosary for Nancy Arkwright – CH

7:00-8:20PM – Faithful Citizens – CC#2

7:00PM – Scouts – Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 17

6-8AM – Men's Journey – CC#1&2

10AM – Nancy Arkwright's Funeral – CH & PH

10:00AM – Journey – CC#2

12:30-3PM – MAP – CC#1

2:00-3:30PM – Faithful Citizens – CC#2

6:30PM – Men's Club – PH

6:30PM – CMSE Core Class – CC#1

8:00PM – Night Angels – CC#2

Wednesday, April 18

7:00-8:00AM – Joyful Pillars – CC#2

9:00AM-12:00PM – MAP – CC#1

9:30AM – Schola – C/R

11:30AM – Friendship Circle – PH

3:30PM – Children's Choir – C/R

4:30PM – Youth Choir – C/R

6:30PM – CCD – PH – CC#1&2, Cafeteria

6:30PM – EDGE – YC

8:00PM – Youth Band practice – CH

Thursday, April 19

1:00PM – Bridge – CC#1&2

6:00PM – Bell Choir – C/R

7:00PM – Adoration – CH

7:00PM – RCIA Team – CC#2

7:30PM – Adult Choir – C/R

Friday, April 20

9AM-12:00PM – Women's Prayer Group – CC#2

3:30PM – Chess – CC#1

3:30PM – Webelos – CC#2

6:00PM – Wedding Rehearsal – CH

Saturday, April 21

9AM-3PM – CCD Retreat – All premises

2:00PM – Wedding – CH

Sunday, April 22

Tickets sold – Women's Circle 50/50 Raffle

School HEB cards available

3:00-5:30PM – Marriage Encounter – CC#1

6:30PM – Life Teen – YC

7:30PM – Vietnamese Mass – CH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

is scheduled for NEXT SATURDAY, April 21st 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. A Parent and the child must be present for the retreat.

A parent is required, not a relative. The retreat has been on the schedule since August 2011.



FIRST COMMUNION IS SET FOR MAY 6TH.

We will have details on April 21st at the retreat.

St. Pius X Catholic Church Invites Children to: SKY: EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD

(Mark 10:27)

A summer kids' event called Sky will be hosted at St. Pius X from June 25 to June 29. At Sky, faith and imagination soar as kids discover that everything is possible with God. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, experience electrifying Bible adventures. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with Fly Away Finale—a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

Kids at Sky will join an international missions effort to squash malaria in the African country of Mali—sending more than a million mosquito nets to protect Malian children.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Being a Faith-filled Citizen

What is our responsibility as Christians when it comes to voting? Does the magisterium, the “teaching voice of the Church” give us any guidance for how we operate as United States citizens? To get some answers, join Sr. Annette in exploring Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States in CC#2.

Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM: April 16, 23, 30 and May 7; Tuesdays from 2:00 to 3:30 PM: April 17, 24 and May 1, 8.



Altar Servers April 21-22

Sat. 5:30 p.m.

MC Tessa Heines
Matthew Leal
Blaine Buchanan
Craig Bray



Sun. 8:00 a.m.

MC Paul Freeman
Nicholas Lee
Christian Ramos

Sun. 12:00 p.m.

MC Christina Robertson
Paris Hanna
Luis Lopez
Jacob Lugo
Paxton Hanna

Sun. 10:00 a.m.

MC Lali Rodriguez
MC Evan Rodriguez
Sang Hoang
Brian Kostoch
William Soward

Sun. 5:30 p.m.

Marisa Matthijetz
Issac Matthijetz
Nathaniel Quiroz

Lectors

APR 21	SAT	5:30	P.M.	Bud Colwell
APR 21	SAT	5:30	P.M.	Kendrea Justice
APR 22	SUN	8:00	A.M.	Alpha Patterson
APR 22	SUN	8:00	A.M.	Hester Rodriguez
APR 22	SUN	10:00	A.M.	Denise Hyde
APR 22	SUN	10:00	A.M.	Larry Hyde
APR 22	SUN	12:00	NOON	Mary Scott
APR 22	SUN	12:00	NOON	Ron Osman
APR 22	SUN	5:30	P.M.	Frank Pompa
APR 22	SUN	5:30	P.M.	Angie Quiroz

Creating/Maintaining a Safe Environment

If you are serving in the parish as a volunteer, you are required by the Diocese to be certified as a person who will protect children and vulnerable adults. Those who have never been certified are required to take the CORE CLASS and those who have been certified and whose certificate is expired are required to renew their certification by taking the RECERTIFICATION CLASS.

Class offerings at St. Pius X are as follows:

April 17	Core Class	6:30 pm	CC#1
May 8	Recertification Class	6:30pm	CC#1

(Classes in other parishes are listed at www.diocesec.org)

my LORD and
my GOD



Financial Report for week ending 4/8/12

Operating Revenue:

Sunday Collection	\$ 35,132.56
Easter Flowers	\$ 252.00
Other Income	\$ 135.00
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 35,519.56

Other Contributions:

St. Vincent de Paul.....	\$ 15.00
Good Friday	\$ 1,822.99
Janosek Scholarship.....	\$ 25.00
Catholic Relief Services/Rice Bowl	\$ 950.90
Retired Diocesan Priests Fund	\$ 10.00
Catholic Charities.....	\$ 10.00

Total Other Contributions..... \$ **2,833.89**

Total Contributions 4/8/2012 \$ **38,353.45**

Loan balance on Youth Bldg
as of March 31, 2012 \$1,093,097.70

Year to Date Revenue/Expenses

Below is a report of our revenue and expenses to date for Fiscal Year 07/01/2011 – 06/30/2012. Note: The figures below do not include income that we have received from the Growing Our Faith Capital Campaign or the Challenge Campaign for the Youth Center. They also do not include funds received from the Christmas Festival or the St. Patrick's Day Festival, which are designated for specific projects. The expenses below do include regular payments on the loan for the Youth Building.

Year-to-Date Revenue:	\$976,102.48
Year-to-Date Expenses:	\$945,017.09
Year-to-Date Surplus:	\$ 31,085.39

Centennial of the Diocese of Corpus Christi

Tolling Bells - The sound of funeral bells tolling mournfully could be heard over the small town of Corpus Christi as victims of the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic were buried. The disease moved through the town claiming lives; in October 21 people died in two weeks. The following January, within the space of 25 minutes, the virus took the lives of two young priests closely associated with St. Patrick's Cathedral; Fathers John Scheid and Paulinus Doran. Father Doran was rector of the Cathedral while Scheid served as Diocesan Chancellor and worked in the parish. Both were in the prime of life. People felt they had contracted the disease while administering the sacraments to dying parishioners, though the exact cause of death was impossible to determine, due to complications associated with the flu. The entire city, Catholic and non-Catholic, mourned their loss. The men were known for their devotion to faith and duty and for prompt, capable response to any other patriotic or charitable calls from the townspeople.

School News

By Principal Kathy Clark

Last Monday, March 26, marked the beginning the Centennial Jubilee Celebration of the Diocese of Corpus Christi. Students from all of the Catholic schools in the diocese had the day off from school so the teachers and staff members could attend the talks and Mass that took place at the American Bank Center. With all the cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, sisters, Knights of Columbus, civil dignitaries and parishioners that were there, it was an awe-inspiring, amazing event. Our Diocese, as well as our Diocesan schools will continue to celebrate the Centennial throughout the coming year. The schools have promised to participate in 100 hours of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament during the month of April, and present our Blessed Mother with 100 roses at our May Crowning ceremonies on May 10. These are just a few of the many ways we will be saying, "Happy 100th Birthday, Diocese of Corpus Christi!"

Our 4th graders took a trip to Goliad, Texas, on Friday to visit the missions there. This was a culminating activity to their yearlong study about Texas in Social Studies, from its early settlers and missions, to its becoming a Republic and then a State. These students know all about the six flags that once flew over Texas, as well as the icons of Texas, such as the state bird, state flower, song, etc. The trip to Goliad was icing on the cake for them, a chance to see in person what they have read and studied about in their textbooks.

Our school Mass is today, so if you attend the 12:00 Mass, then you will see our students serving as lectors, choir members, cantors, gift bearers and altar servers. Wearing their school uniforms to this Mass gives them the opportunity to have a "Free Dress Day" on Tuesday. That's always a treat for them.

During this week, the holiest of all weeks, our students will participate in Seder meals and Stations of the Cross. Throughout Lent they have been participating in the Rice Bowl program and the St. Jude Children's Hospital Math-A-Thon. Their Easter break will begin on Holy Thursday at noon. They will return to school on the Tuesday after Easter.

We said good-bye to our art teacher, Mrs. Amy Dotin, on Thursday. She and her family are moving to San Antonio next month. We will miss her greatly. She has taught our children a lot in the past three years that she has been with us. We wish her and her family the best of luck in San Antonio.

Many thanks to all of the parishioners who have purchased the five raffle tickets that were sent in the mail a few weeks ago. We appreciate your support of our golf tournament raffle. The tournament is a little over a month away, on April 28, 2012. We are hoping to do as well or better than we did on last year's tournament so that we can complete our playground for the older children, as well as our fencing and security camera goals. We are almost there! We are looking for team members, so if you like to play golf, please join us. There are entry forms available in the back of the church and also in the school office. The cost per team is \$500 or \$125 per person. That includes 18 holes of golf, a golf cart, lunch, prizes, door prizes and live auction. It's a fun tournament.

Mass Intentions



Sat. 4/14	5:30PM	M/M Kenneth Krenek by Rosalie Williams
Sun. 4/15	8:00AM	Chris & John Janosek by Kevin & Susan Janosek
	10:00AM	For the Parishioners
	12:00PM	Chester Zablocki by Aneda Zablocki Agnes Parker by Donna Parker
	5:30PM	Jesus & Cristelia Ancira by Diana Garza
Mon. 4/16	8:15AM	Alejandro Salinas' Anniv. & Gumecinda Salinas by Mary & Art Salinas
Tue. 4/17	8:15AM	Lucille Cunningham by Carolyn Buehrig
Wed. 4/18	8:15AM	Luis & Raquel Martinez by Elva Z. Laurel Mitzi Mendleski by Gary & Kathy Clark Jim Yaklin by Dorothy Mathews Alice Didear's Intentions by Art & Lou Kaler
	5:30PM	George Ganley by M.E. Ganley Joe Shropshire by Dorothy Hoban Mary T. Naranjo by Debbie Sevilla Bill Traeger by Carl & Marilyn Fields Russell Tafoya's Intentions by a friend
Thu. 4/19	8:15AM	Barbara Birt by Don Birt Regina Richter by Clara & Jim Anderson
Fri. 4/20	8:15AM	Mireille Smith by Vernon Smith
	5:30PM	Reba P. Downey by Fr. Don Downey
Sat. 4/21	5:30PM	Anselmo Torres by the Torres family
Sun. 4/22	8:00AM	Hedwig Didear by the Didear family
	10:00AM	Dolores Serrato by husband & children
	12:00PM	Bruce Bayerlein by Mary & Art Salinas
	5:30PM	For the Parishioners
	7:30PM	Maria Nguyen by Ho Nguyen

From the Parish Mailbox

To Fr. Hesse and Parishioners of St. Pius X from Linda and Staff: Thank you for your great kindness and generosity to Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi, Inc., and to the Mother Teresa Shelter, Inc. Your gifts are blessed by God the Father because they are used to care for the very poor and homeless in our community. God sends us special people to help us on our way, and through them, we're reminded of His loving care each day. We give Him thanks for wonderful people like you who help us care for those who are lost, forgotten, hopeless, hungry and homeless. God bless you all! Happy Easter!

Greetings from the St. Pius Leprechauns to our Parish from Maxine Sommers:

Once again our St. Patrick's Day Irish Festival was a great success, thanks to all the faithful parishioners and friends who came to our annual "Wearin' of the Green."

We were honored to have several special guests: the Most Rev. Edmond Carmody, DD, and our former pastor Msgr. Richard Shirley, our current Pastor Father Paul Hesse and our Parochial Vicar Father Joseph Nguyen. We were also thrilled to have many of our Irish Priests as guests this year.

Msgr. Shirley dedicated the Festival to Sister Patrick Bruen, a long time friend of our parish. She came to St. Pius and stayed with us for many years until she became ill and was sent to her Order's nursing home in Ohio. She resides there today. While Sister Patrick was living here we enjoyed the lilt of her Irish voice each time she spoke. A friend and helper to everyone, she was always ready to step forward to lend a hand to anyone in need. We especially missed her this year since in her earlier years we could always count on her saying yes when we asked her to dance to the tunes of our Irish Band, "Gravel Walk." When asked to dance her response was always. "Well sure, I can still tap a toe when called upon!" With arms at her sides looking like a young girl, she danced across the room with a marvelous big smile on her face. We miss her and send her our love and prayers!

All of our 28 Leprechauns make an excellent team who cook, bake, find sponsors, donate their own money and time, find funds to pay for printing, decorating our hall into a fine Irish Pub, arrange to have the green beer donated and a donation for our all time favorite Irish potion, Jameson's. This year we had a very thirsty group, which brought in a tidy amount of donations from our Irish Pub. As a bonus we had something new: a beautiful red easy chair to raffle. Next year the raffle will be enlarged. One of the Leprechauns was heard to say: "Since we were given a great chair this year, perhaps some nice person will give us a table to go with it next year. "We will also have a few pieces of interesting Irish items straight from the "Auld Sod" next year."

Our sincere thanks to all who supported our event which permitted us to donate a total of \$6,000 to help repair our parking area.

To all of the wonderful friends and supporters I send you my love and many thanks for your continued support through out the past years. God Bless you all!



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