

The Work of the People

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

The Sunday of Divine Mercy is a day established by Pope John Paul II as “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that humankind will experience in the years to come (*May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments*). As the octave day of Easter, the Lectionary readings and prayer texts highlight the mystery of divine compassion that underlies the Church’s Easter faith.

As in years past, I present to you this week a summary of the Paschal Mystery section of a favorite book of mine. This book is one among many written by Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I. I recommend the book highly as words of wisdom for those interested in deepening their spiritual life. Rather than give you my own summary of the chapter in the book titled “A Spirituality of the Paschal Mystery”, I pass along the words of a member of my *Jesus Caritas* fraternity, Fr. Monty Sayers.

In the chapter on the Paschal Mystery (named above), Fr. Rolheiser talks about paschal death and resurrected life. He writes, “Paschal death is a death that, while ending one kind of life, opens the person undergoing it to receive a deeper and richer form of life . . . resurrected life.” (P. 146)

Rolheiser names and explains some of the ways we experience daily deaths:

- The death of our youth
- The death of our wholeness (health)
- The death of our dreams
- The death of our honeymoons
- The death of a certain idea about God and church.

In each situation, Rolheiser explains that we have moved from paschal death to resurrected living in five moments that he aligns with the paschal cycle of Jesus’ death and resurrection:

- Good Friday – name your death
- Easter Sunday – claim your new birth
- The Forty Days to the Ascension – grieve your loss, your paschal death, and adjust to your new reality
- Ascension – do not cling to the old, but let it ascend and bless you
- Pentecost – accept the spirit of the new life that you are in fact living.

What a wonderful way to celebrate Easter.

What a wise way to look at life. What a tremendous way of adjusting to the curve balls life hurls at us.

I encourage you to spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the paschal death to which you are being called to this year. Ask for the grace to grieve that loss. Are you adjusting well, or do you need help to let go? Will you let it ascend? Will you allow the Son to bless you? Will you accept the new life God is offering you? Will you, with God’s grace, Jesus’ companionship and the Spirit’s guidance allow dying and rising to be your way of living?

The secret of living life well is in living the Paschal Mystery.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is. 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb. 10:4-10/Lk. 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Jn. 3:7b-15
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn. 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn. 3:31-36
 Friday: Act 5:34-42/Jn. 6:1-15
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Jn. 6:16-21
 Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/1 Jn. 2:1-5a/Lk. 24:35-48

WHEN GOD MOVES

Join the Diocese of Erie on a pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress in July. Deadline to register is April 17th. Please check both bulletin boards for information regarding registration. Questions call Jo at 724 699-3340.

NINTH ANNUAL CATHOLIC WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

The conference will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm and the women from our diocese will gather to pray, reflect, and be inspired in three different ways:

1. Live in-person at St. Jude Church in Erie
2. Live-streamed to hosting parishes are listed on the website at www.138women.com
3. Live-streamed in your home

If you attend at St. Jude’s you will enjoy two of our life-saving Sacraments: Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. The conference is \$20 if you pre-register and \$25 at the door. For more information or to register, visit www.1:38women.com or call 814 455-7364.

WORSHIP

Monday, April 8
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. of David & Christine Ochs Family
 Tuesday, April 9
 8:00 am + Charles Metzler (Judy Metzler)
 Wednesday, April 10
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, April 11
 8:00 am + Joseph Parlak (Susan Parkin)
 Friday, April 12
 8:00 am + Dec. of Closky/Thomas Families (Ted & Andrea Closky)
 Saturday, April 13
 4:30 pm + Liv. & Dec. Members of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission
 Sunday, April 14
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 John Weagraff (Bruce & Judy Palmer)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Douglas McGovern (Rhonda McGovern)

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME
AN INVITATION FOR CATHOLICS WHO HAVE BEEN AWAY
2024 SPRING SCHEDULE

April 10 - Video "Stories of Faith from Catholics Returning Home"
 Discussing and Sharing
 April 17 - The Church Today: Changes since Vatican II
 Explanation of Major Changes (Mass in English, Involvement, Bible Study)
 April 24 - Walk through of the Mass (along with explanation and historical overview)
 May 1 - Tips on Sinning - Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 May 8 - The Creed: What Catholics Believe

The sessions will be held at 6:30 pm at St. Brigid's, Meadville. Please check the bulletin boards at both entrances of the church for further information.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 9
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, April 13
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, April 14
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession
 Monday, April 15
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus teaches, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believe." Accepting someone as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich relationship. Real mercy begins here.

SPORTS RAFFLE

Seton School will be holding a Sports Raffle on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Tickets can be purchased at Seton School, The Epiphany of the Lord Parish office and Tamarack Armory.
 For further information check the poster at both entrances of the church.

THANK YOU

Together, we changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl. Thank you for being a part of this effort!

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$830.00
Candles	3.00
Good Friday	210.00
Easter	<u>352.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,395.00

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,814.00
Maintenance	426.00
Altar Flowers	35.00
Holy Land	207.00
Easter	875.00
Rice Bowl	270.00
Candles	45.00
CSA	<u>150.00</u>
TOTAL	\$3,822.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$32,325 Paid: \$18,241

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
