

The Work of the People
Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)

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 an Easter chapter 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.

In this time of pandemic, 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: Acts 4:23-31/Jn. 3:1-8
 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: Acts 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. 2:1-5/Lk. 24:35-48

LUNCHEON

Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center of the Diocese of Erie is hosting a luncheon, “Eucharistic Miracles,” featuring guest speaker Dr. Jaci Phillips, on April 17 from 9:30 am to 1 pm at St. Joseph Parish/Bread of Life Community, 147 W. 24 St. Erie. The cost is \$10 in person and via livestream. Find out more and register at www.eriecd.org/wordoflife/miracles.html or call 814 824-1286. Register for in-person attendance by April 15; lunch is provided for the in-person event. Make checks payable to Word of Life CCRC and mail to Word of Life, St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd. Erie, 16514.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

The annual Good Shepherd Collection for retired priests of the Diocese of Erie will be taken up at all parishes as a second collection the weekend of April 24-25. More information to follow in future bulletins.

“My Lord and my God!
 Thank you for your unending mercy!”

WORSHIP

Monday, April 12
 8:00 am + For the Healing of John Yanoshik
 (Kathleen Yanoshik)

Tuesday, April 13
 8:00 am + Gary Parkin (Sue Parkin)

Wednesday, April 14
 8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, April 15
 8:00 am + Margaret Weidner
 (Ginger (Weidner) & Dick Kester)

Friday, April 16
 8:00 am + For Wellness of Nila Martin
 (M/M Nelson Allen)

Saturday, April 17
 4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, April 18
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Rita McGough (Frank & Mary Consiglio)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Josephine Halluch (Denny & Tammy Mott Family)

THANK YOU

Thank you to Sandra Sada, Karen Nowak, Stanley Styborski, John Weagraff, Jim & Frannie Peters and Rick Smith for cleaning & decorating St. Bernadette Mission Church for Easter.

Thank you to Robin Gallant and Sue Parkin for cleaning & decorating St. Anthony of Padua church and gathering space for our Easter celebration.

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS Child Abuse Prevention Month: Be Vigilant

It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant concerning the behaviors of those who interact with children. And we must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Parents must also listen carefully to their children and observe both their children's activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with them. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what's happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them at every opportunity. For particular questions you may call Cindy Zemcik, Coordinator for the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in the Diocese of Erie at 814 824-1195.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 13
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, April 17
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, April 18
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

INDOOR GARAGE AND BAKE SALE

Saint Hippolyte Church in Frenchtown is holding their annual Indoor Garage and Bake Sale on Thursday, April 29 and Friday, April 30 from 8 am - 5 pm and "Bag Day" on Saturday, May 1 from 8 am - Noon. Refreshments will also be available, so stop in for lunch! Good, clean, gently used merchandise. Saint Hippolyte Church is located on Route 27, 7 miles east of Meadville.

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.

*"Lord,
 give me boldness to step out in faith
 and pray with those around me."*

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$205.00
Maintenance	130.00
Good Friday	205.00
Easter	351.00
Candles	25.00
TOTAL	\$916.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$6,190.00 Paid: \$5,315.00

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,007.00
Maintenance	351.00
Candles	81.00
Donation	2,000.00
Good Friday-Holy Land	187.00
Rice Bowl	37.00
Catholic Charities	100.00
Easter	596.00
TOTAL	\$4,359.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$21,215.00 Paid: \$11,489.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
