

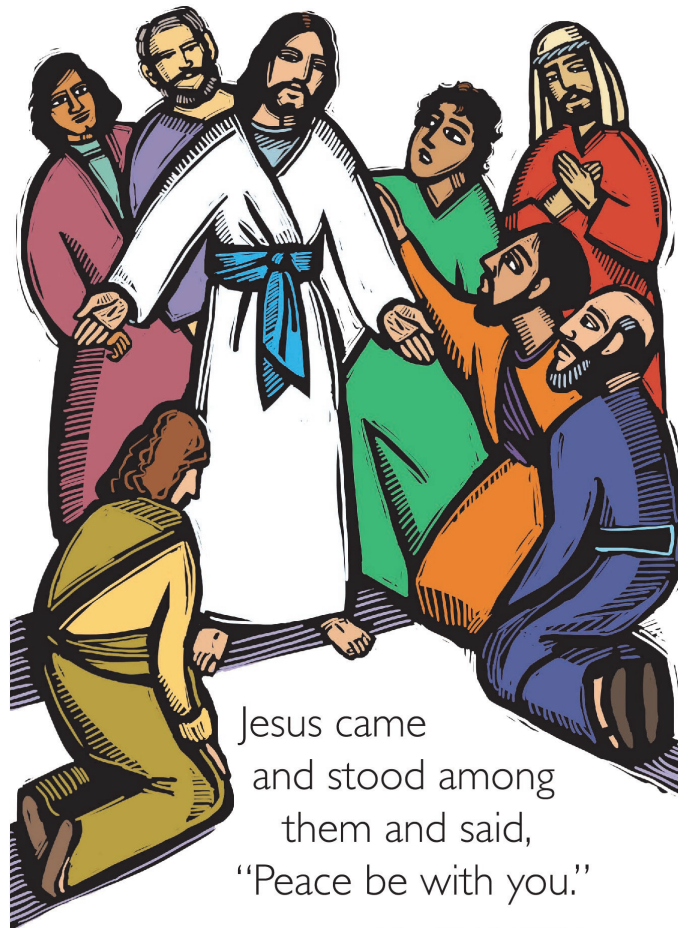


Catholic Church Community of
St. Thomas More

115 Kings Highway, Hauppauge, NY 11788-4221

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)



Jesus came
and stood among
them and said,
“Peace be with you.”

John 20:19, NRSV

Parish Mission Statement:

St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church is a parish community striving to share the Spirit of Love through Prayer, Worship, the Sacraments, the Teachings of the Church, and our concern for others through Christian Stewardship.

Contact Numbers

Rectory

631-234-5551

FAX 631-234-6412

Religious Ed

631-234-0397

FAX 631-234-1199

Outreach

631-234-3149

FAX 631-234-1199

Website: <https://stmli.org>

Social Media

Facebook: StThomasMoreHauppauge

Instagram: stm_church

To receive texts or emails
from us just text

Spiritoflove to 84576 or

sign up @

StThomasMore29.flocknote.com

Masses for this coming week

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Acts of the Apostles 2: 42-47

Psalm 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20: 19-34

Saturday, April 18

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

5pm James J. Murphy *by the Hauppauge Fire
Department*

**Sunday, April 19—Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)**

8:00am People of the Parish

9:15am Lelia Espinal *by the Calcagni family*

10:45am Kathleen Berganski *by Brian Eyring,*
Lee Brennan *by Betty Ann & Joe Codispoti,*
Angelo Maldari *by Joann Eyring,*
Charles Stepanek *by Peggy & family,*

12:15pm Theodore Munkel *by Kathy Moore*

Monday, April 20

9am Victoria & Anthony Mirro *by Chris &
Andrew Paino*

Tuesday, April 21—St. Anselm

9am People of the Parish

Wednesday, April 22

9am Mary Sanfilipo *by the Cherubino family*

Thursday, April 23—St. George and St. Adelbert

9am People of the Parish

Friday, April 24—St. Fidelis of Sigmarigen

9am Debra Hourdajian *by Christina & Andrew
Paino*

Saturday, April 25—St. Mark

9am Aida Hurtado *by the family*

(Anticipated Mass for Sunday)

5pm James J. Murphy *by Lynn & John Navarra*

Sunday, April 26—Third Sunday of Easter

8:00am People of the Parish

9:15am Lois Desmond *by the DeCristofaro family*

10:45am Mary LaLumia *by Gino & Bob Leocadi &
families*

12:15pm Theresa D'Auria *by Yolanda Schweers,*
Frederick Mueller *by Anthony & Caryn
DeCristofaro,* Floyd Schweers *by Yolanda
Schweers*

Growing through the Sunday Scriptures

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 2: 14, 22-23

Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24: 13-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:
That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.

And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?"

They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place.

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive.

Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."

So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

FR. ANTONY'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

A preacher tried to impress upon his congregation the importance of life. "All you people of this congregation, one day you are going to die. Do you hear me? All of you in this congregation, one day you are going to die." One little man sitting in the front pew started to laugh, so the preacher asked him, "What's so funny?" The man answered, "I don't belong to this congregation." The humor lies in his not realizing that there is no escape from death for anyone. Death is certain and unescapable. But Easter proclaims that our life is everlasting. Death is made powerless in Jesus' Resurrection.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. Mother Teresa used to say, "Am I convinced of Christ's love for me and mine for Him? This conviction is the rock on which sanctity is built. What must we do to get this conviction? We must know Jesus, love Jesus, and serve Jesus. Knowledge will make you as strong as death." We have something in us as strong as death, to outlive death. The solemn feast of Easter, the feast of Jesus' Resurrection from death, empowers each of the believers who wants to know, love and serve Jesus to overcome death and all deadly forces.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday Jesus' resurrection shows that God's love for us is more powerful than death. Death is inevitable for the human body but as human persons we are more than our body. Each of us is God's image bearing God's nature, in which we can experience and live God's love and mercy even beyond our bodily death. We believe that God's supreme love is manifested in Jesus' death and Resurrection, and in our Baptism we die and rise in Jesus. Thus we share the immortal power of God's Mercy. The celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is a special call to remind ourselves of this immortal power of living coming to us in Jesus' death and Resurrection. Divine Mercy Sunday invites us to know Jesus' love for us and to serve that love of Jesus with all.

As Jesus revealed Divine Mercy to Sr. Faustina, let us pray through and with her to our God of Mercy to bless us all with health and happiness at this difficult time of the corona virus. "I fly to Your mercy, Compassionate God, who alone are good. Although my misery is great, and my offenses are many, I trust in Your mercy, because You are the God of mercy; and, from time immemorial, it has never been heard of, nor do heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy has been disappointed."

(Sr. Faustina Kowalska, Diary, no. 1730.)

With love and prayers,
Fr. Antony

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Antony Asir, Pastor
Deacon Robert D. Weisz
Deacon Edward R. Vigneaux
Deacon Matthew T.J. Surico
Religious Education
Mary Ellen Carroll, Director
Parish Outreach
Staffed by volunteers
Music Ministry
Emilia Savarese, Facilitator
Youth Ministry
Dan Haggerty, Youth Minister

OUR PARISH SACRAMENTAL LIFE**EUCCHARIST**

Weekend Masses: Saturday: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 9:15am, 10:45am, 12:15pm
Weekday Mass: 9am, Monday through Saturday.

BAPTISM- As soon as your child is born, please call the Parish Office to make Baptism arrangements. Preparation session and welcoming Mass attendance are required.

MARRIAGE- As soon as a couple decides to marry, and BEFORE making any other arrangements, call the Church Office to schedule an appointment with the Parish

Office or one of the deacons.

RECONCILIATION- Celebrated in Church every Saturday from 4pm to 4:45pm, or by previous appointment with Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK- Call the Church Office to request visitation of the sick.

CONFIRMATION- Those who have not been confirmed should call the Parish Office to receive further information.

HOLY ORDERS- Contact the Parish Office for more information about the priesthood or diaconate.

SUPPORT COLLECTION

Envelope users: Please enter the amount of your donation in the space provided on the envelope. This will greatly help us when counting the collection and for recording your contribution.

St. Thomas More Parish needs your support now more than ever! Join the parishioners who are using Faith Direct for automated giving to St. Thomas More Parish. Faith Direct offers a safe and secure way to donate to our parish in this time of uncertainty. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY227, or text 'Enroll' to 631-250-8141. You can also make a one-time gift by texting a dollar amount to the same number.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

God Bless You,
Fr. Antony



WHAT IS
SOWN
IS PERISHABLE;
WHAT IS
RAISED
IS IMPERISHABLE.

1 Corinthians 15:42

THE RCIA NEEDS EVERYONE

Just as it takes an entire village to raise a child, it takes all the gifts and talents of a loving and prayerful community to make a committed Catholic Christian.

THEREFORE

We invite ALL Members of St. Thomas More to join us in praying for those who are now on their journey to the Easter Sacraments. We are called as baptized members of St. Thomas More to lead those who express a desire to become full members of our community.



Shown here are Zhiping Fennekohn and her sponsor Joanne Leocadi and Anthony and Rick Vigo at the Catechumens (those who need Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) Rite of Election at St. Anne's on March 1, 2020.

Additionally, the Candidates (those needing only Eucharist and Confirmation) Marissa Abram, Eric Abram, Aiden Lepore, Nina Latchman, and Cynthia Leon went through the Rite of Continuing Conversion here at St. Thomas More on March 8, 2020.





PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pamela Brosnan, Walt Drechsler Jr., Rosemarie Flore, Marilyn Gast, Gail, Laurie Holmes, Jean Marsala Kieffner, Lauren Lossani, Joan Nachtman, Pat O'Connell, Mary Ann O'Gara, Maura Reddy, Rosalie Rocchio, Peggy Stepanek, Richard Tulipan, Chase Turano, Andrew J. Valentine, Andrew M. Valentine, Rosalind Warmuth, Diane Weisz, Janet Weil, Don Wieman, Pat Yezek, Ashley Zabelsky

Please re-submit names of those people you wish to put on our Sick List.

This listing will expire on September 30, 2020.



Tune into "**Religion and Rock**" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7:00 AM-8:00 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island's East End.

Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 PM on *Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Chanel* and at 11:00 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117.

This Sunday's theme is **Issues in Life**, don't miss it!. Next Sunday's Theme (April 26) is **Community**. To listen online or receive more information regarding **Religion and Rock** go to www.ReligionandRock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on *ITUNES*.

Don't forget to tune into CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 or visit www.cfntv.org

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

For all those who have succumbed to COVID-19, our deceased loved ones and our deceased service men and women.

USING FAITH DIRECT? - It's quick and easy! Consider having automatic deductions from either your checking or savings or use a credit card to support St. Thomas More each week. With Faith Direct, there is no fee to you! Please visit the Faith Direct website at www.FaithDirect.net to sign up: our church code is **NY227**. You may also use the form located where you obtain the bulletin or text the word ENROLL to 631-250-8141. We thank you for your support.

UPDATING CREDIT CARD INFORMATION—If you get a new card or a renewal card, make sure that this information is communicated to Faith Direct.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES—If you do not receive weekly envelopes and would like them mailed to you, please use the cut out that is in the bulletin and indicate that you wish to receive them on a regular basis. Usually it takes about two weeks for your request to be completed.

MAINTENANCE COLLECTION

We thank you for your support of our parish project to maintain our parish facilities. If you would like to help, please use a maintenance envelope where you obtain the bulletin.

CEREAL BOX TOP COUPONS—Drop them off in the Church lobby drop-off box and we will use them to buy things for the students in our regional school.

USED CELL PHONES—We thank everyone for giving us their old cell phones. We forward them to a convent that recycles them and uses the proceeds for the poor.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS—You can check online for any updates at <http://calendar.yahoo.com/stmreled>.

HOLY FAMILY REGIONAL SCHOOL, Commack, New York—Grades Nursery through 8th Grade. You may contact the school at parents@holyfamilyregional.com to schedule a tour of the parish's regional school, or visit the school website at www.holyfamilyregional.com

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bernstein	John Karies
Jessie Bernstein	Michael Knipper
Joseph Blaugrund	Dylan Kowalski
Anthony Broncatello	Thomas LaFemina
John Burk	Alex Lombardi
Collin Busto	Andrew Lombardi
David Chester	Lt. Clint Lorance
John Chester	Scott Lovelock
Nicholas Chester	Andrew Lynch
Theresa Chester	Troy A. Maida,
Collin J. Crean	William Maley
Eddie Cullum	Thomas Migliara
Eric Cullum	Tim Morris
Adam Cussen	Ryan Murphy
David Cussen	John Nachtman
Capt. Sean Michael Dolan	Kaitlyn Nachtman
P. J. Erskin	Thomas Nichols
Timothy Fallon	Adam Papaizai
Major Michael Fantauzzi	Michael Poist
Nicholas W. Flanary	Michael Polanski
J.T. Foltz	Kyle Rathje
Mike Foltz	Antonia Marie Rivera
Michael Gioia	Ann Karen Sanchez
Carl F. Greiner	Justin Schneider
Philip Gudone	Christopher Sidor
John Michael Haffner	Christopher Singer
Sean Hendrikson	Ryan Smith
Tylor J. Hickey	Michael White
Kevin Ilyichenko	

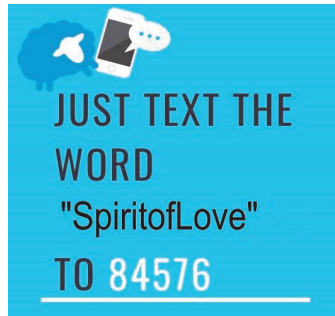
CALENDAR CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations!

Here are the winners from April 12-18, 2020

4/12/2020	781	\$75	Len Munzer — Easter
4/13/2020	779	\$25	Emilia & Lou Savarese
4/14/2020	626	\$25	Joe & Barbara Fratamico
4/15/2020	692	\$25	Veronica Young
4/16/2020	635	\$25	Andy & Kathy Turano
4/17/2020	297	\$25	M/M Anthony Gianelli
4/18/2020	4	\$25	William & Dolores Rudden

Would you like to receive a daily spiritual reflection during Lent or updates of what's happening in our Parish? See below or go to StThomasMore29.flocknote.com



JUST TEXT THE
WORD
"SpiritofLove"
TO 84576



Flocknote
Keep in touch with us
VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE



This Spring, couples who have been married fifty years will be honored at a Mass on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Smittown. Mass will begin at 2:00 p.m., Bishop Robert J. Coyle will preside. Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at the rectory. Space is limited; registration will be accepted on a first come first served basis. The forms can also be found on www.drvc-faith.org. If you have any questions you may call 516-678-5800, extension 223.



Focus on Religious Freedom
www.cffor.org
Religious Freedom & Coronavirus
Restrictions

"Necessary is the plea for every infringement of human freedom." William Pitt the Younger, 1783

The COVID-19 public health crisis has imposed restrictions on in-person gatherings, causing most houses of worship in the U.S. and the World, to temporarily close their doors. While many legal experts claim that the government can force churches to close during a health crisis, there remain Constitutional questions about whether these restrictions are reasonable and equally applied to other types of organizations as well as businesses.

Both federal and state authorities have determined that certain institutions and businesses may continue to operate as usual if they are considered "essential" to the public. This criterion allows supermarkets, Walmart, Amazon, 7-11, Home Depot, as well as gas stations, auto repair shops, restaurants that deliver food, house builders and others, to continue their usual operations as "essential" to the public good.

Why then, are these enterprises where multiple people gather, following "social distancing" rules, more "essential" to people than churches that feed their spiritual needs? In times of public crisis, isn't spiritual nourishment also "essential"? For example, "If doctors and nurses, taking precautions, can go in and out of hospitals, why not the spiritual doctors?" asked Mark Mallett, author and missionary. ⁽¹⁾

"According to the courts, a law that infringes upon a fundamental right, like Freedom of Religion, must overcome certain challenges: The law must not be arbitrary, oppressive, or unreasonable. The law must be equally applied to secular businesses (etc.) ... When arbitrary number limits are applied to a church and not to ... a grocery store, there is not equal application," wrote KrisAnne Hall, Constitutional Attorney, author. "By what authority does the government declare the church non-essential?" ⁽²⁾

In **Pope Francis'** homily, "Faith is Never a Private Matter", Dec. 6, 2013, he explained:

Prohibition against worshipping God is a sign of "general apostasy." It tries to convince Christians to take a "more reasonable and peaceful road," by obeying the "tenets of worldly powers" who try to reduce religion to "a private matter"

(deseretnews.com,3/21/20; markmallett.com, 4/6/20 (1); KrisAnneHall.com, COVID 19 Restrictions (2); vatican.va, Francis Homily,Nov28,2013 (3)



CIRCLE OF WOMEN

It is the mission of the Circle of Women Book Group to focus on the spiritual influence of contemporary writing that facilitates our own reflections of God's action in our daily lives.

Our next meeting which was supposed to be on April 13 2020 has been postponed.

The book **Educated** by Tara Westover—Facilitator Aurelie Miller-Hendry has been re-scheduled for October 12, 2020.

For further info. and/or to register, call Marilyn at 631-234-5805 or Joan at 631-234-1739.

SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL

Websites

www.stmli.org

<https://stmyouth.wixsite.com/stmyouthhauppauge>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreHauppauge/>

Instagram

stm_church

- stmreligioused
- stm_yg

Email

Rectory: rectory@stmli.org

Mary Ellen Carroll: mecarroll@optonline.net

Outreach: outreach@stmli.org

Dan Haggerty: youthminister@stmli.org

Altar Servers Ministry: altarservers@stmli.org

Personal Prayer SpiritualOrientations.com

To contact a member of the Pastoral Council use the following: Barbara & Joe Fratamico at

BJFRAT@optonline.net

PARISH OUTREACH
“Give us this day our daily bread”



Outreach continues to serve our neighbors, especially with the new COVID 19 mandates which have closed schools until the end of the month. Outreach will remain open to provide food for those in need. If you know of a family who is in need, please let them know that we are here to help.

We continue to need donations from our generous parishioners and greatly appreciate all who are able to help.

Donations can be dropped off at Outreach or left in the bins in the church narthex.

We continue to pray for all those affected by the virus and all the medical professionals who are working diligently to heal and help those who are sick.

Outreach is open Monday and Thursday 10 AM to 1 PM

Phone: 631-234-3149

Our unending gratitude goes out to all who donated to our Easter food and basket drive. Through the generosity of so many we were able to provide food and baskets to almost 40 families in our community.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!"

During Mass we would turn to each other and say "Peace be with you!" Whenever you contribute to our conference of SVdP, you say "Peace be with you!" to those who are poor and hungry.

In the midst of this pandemic, our calls for assistance continue. If able, please help us to answer their need by donating to SVdP, St. Thomas More conference

Peace Be With You!

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

— Adding a name Request —

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE PARISH LISTING OF THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Name of person (s) who is (are) ill:

Relationship to the person who is ill:

Person making the Request:

TODAY’S DATE:

(Please place in collection basket or drop off at Church Office)

CHURCH MINISTRIES

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A LITURGICAL MINISTER OR WANT TO SHARE YOUR TALENTS?

Please complete the following form:

I would like to volunteer in the following parish ministry:

- Altar Server Hospitality
- Usher Greeter
- RCIA Liturgy with Children
- Lector Eucharistic Minister
- Consolation Minister Landscaping/
Planting
- Rosary Altar Society Pre-Cana
- Caring for Altar Plants FOCCUS
- Adult Lending Library Banner Committee

Name::

Address:

Phone:

Please return to the Rectory for processing.

2019 CONTRIBUTION REQUEST

I/we would like a record of our 2019 contributions to St. Thomas More:

NAME(s)

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-mail:

Please return to the Rectory for processing.

REGISTRATION and/or ENVELOPE REQUEST

NAME(s):

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

I/we would like to register in the parish.

Please send contribution envelopes.

I am already registered in the parish but do not receive contribution envelopes. I would like to receive them.

Other _____

(Please return in collection or return to Church Office)

St. Thomas More Employment Services

*Are you presently unemployed and looking for a part-time or full-time job? * Do you have or know of any job openings? If so, call our Employment Services Office, 234.4629 and leave a message for Mae Devine or call Mae on Monday mornings. Calls are kept in strict confidence.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Aides at Home Inc. Home health aides and personal care aides— part & full time. Will provide free certification training. Call Suzanne Dunn at 516-641-2273.

Cablevision - Account executives sales for potential customers—canvassing assigned territory— Excellent benefits. Understand state of the Art Digital Video - PC skills - outstanding benefits. Residential Account Executive— 4 days, 12-9, Sat. 9-6 —canvassing assigned territory for potential customers, follow up leads from customer contacts.

Catholic Charities—many positions both full time & part time available— check Employment Bulletin Board outside Walden Hall for complete list.

Per Diem Driver—Chemical Dependence Services—Commack

Catholic Health Services of LI 1) Openings-Client Services-Patient Financial Systems & several others. Competitive Benefits.

2) **Superintendent Helper Male** Central Islip Condo-Windbrooke Homes drivers lic., \$13.00 per hr.—15 hrs.

Geico Insurance—Sales reps, mgt. trainees, claim services reps. —750 Woodbury Rd, Woodbury, NY. 9am –3pm, M-F, Open House, but apply on line first. Valid Photo ID required.

Healthcare Opportunities -

1. Good Samaritan Hospital, 631.969.8200

2. Mather Hospital, 631.476.2774

3. Brookhaven Hospital, 631.447.3708

4. Maryhaven, 631.474.4120, X212 - Contact Maryhaven directly

New Beginnings Pre School in Hauppauge—needs an Infant and a Toddler Teacher—631-360-0039

Newsday Media Group--Account executives for sales. Excellent benefits including matching 401K

Newspaper Delivery—Excellent 2nd income—early AM hours—car & valid NYS license.

Panera--Now hiring FT/PT Associates, Bakers and Shift Supervisors.

School Bus Drivers—Flexible hours—Bus Drivers. & Van Drivers. Excellent Benefits-Call now for training. Retirees welcome.

7-Eleven--Owner is a member of St. Thomas More--Multiple positions - PT- minimum age 17. Students welcome.

ShopRite Supermarket--Various positions open; apply on-line or go to ShopRite in Hauppauge.

Suffolk Bus Drivers--Suffolk Co. Bus Company hiring drivers. Contact Suffolk Bus Company.

St. Catherine of Siena—

1. **Nursing Home**—Nurse Practitioners, RN supervisors, Recreation Therapists, FT/PT nights, P/T days and weekends, Rehab PT/ FT—dietary;

2. **Hospital**—Lab Technologist & Medical Lab assistant. Physical Therapists

3. **Physical Therapy Aides**—PT/ Sport Services, Hauppauge. Mon. thru Fri., days and evenings.

4. **Nurse Manager**—MRI techs, CT techs, Lab techs.

The Garage—Drivers & Delivery—To deliver orders PT.

US Census Bureau—Census takers for the 2020 Census.. Paid training. Flexible hours, \$23.50 per hr. Contact 1-855-JOB-2020.

See “Civil Service Notice” posted on the bulletin board for future Civil Service Exams. For more information about any of the listed positions please call 234-4629. Note - All babysitting, infant child care, nanny, home care aides, etc. positions are in the child’s home. References are required for all of these positions including nursing aides, home health care aides, etc. It is the responsibility of the employer to check all references prior to hiring.

****We have a list of names of those willing to baby-sit in their homes.

****We have a list of certified tutors for all Grades.



Divine Mercy Sunday Letter

from Most Rev. John O. Barres on April 19, 2020

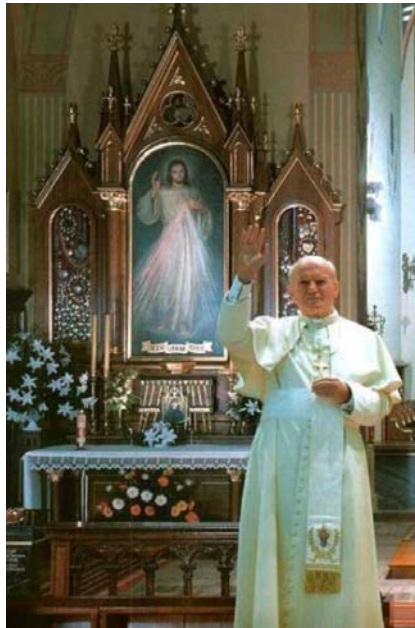
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Twenty years ago, on April 30, 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina Kowalska, the humble messenger of Divine Mercy. During his homily at the Mass of her canonization, while reflecting on the timeliness of the message of mercy for the twentieth century, the Polish pontiff pondered what humanity's future might be like. He answered plainly. "We are not given to know. However, it is certain that in addition to new progress there will unfortunately be no lack of painful experiences."¹

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted families, parishes, and communities across Long Island and beyond, stands today as one of those painful experiences. What Pope Saint John Paul II knew vaguely to be on the horizon then is sadly ours to experience firsthand now. The devastating effects of the coronavirus – death, illness, fear, uncertainty, isolation, unemployment, financial distress – have invaded our lives. The weight of this Cross has fallen on our shoulders.

Although Pope Saint John Paul II could not have foreseen the particularities of the pain we are enduring, he knew the soothing balm that would bring us peace. He understood what would "illuminate

the way" during this time, namely, "the light of divine mercy," the supernatural gift that uplifts every generation.² What he proposed to humanity in his homily two decades ago, he still proposes from "the window of the Father's house"³ today: A radical receptivity of God's "great and unfathomable mercy."⁴



This Divine Mercy Sunday 2020, encouraged by Pope Saint John Paul II who points to merciful light in the midst of darkness, the Diocese of Rockville Centre receives anew the message of mercy entrusted to Saint Faustina. Together, on this Second Sunday of Easter, we look upon the Image of the Divine Mercy. In contemplating this serene painting of Our Lord, we discover again three aids for these days of crisis: Christ's gaze, His action, and a timely prayer.

First, beginning at the top of the Image, we encounter the gaze of mercy. There, the Lord's eyes look upon us. How good this is to hear and know

¹ Pope John Paul II, *Homily at the Mass for the Canonization of Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska*, April 30, 2000.

² *Ibid.*

³ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Homily at the Funeral Mass of the Roman*

⁴ *Pontiff John Paul II*, April 8, 2005.

Faustina Kowalska, *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul* (Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press, 2007) no. 570.

again! Jesus looks at us. He sees us as we are, laden, especially now, with the anxieties, burdens, and challenges of life. He sees us just as he saw those Gospel figures whom we met this Lent - the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and Martha and Mary, the grieving sisters of Lazarus. He loves us as He loved them. When feelings of loneliness or discouragement arise, when questions pervade our hearts or perplexities disturb our peace, the Image reminds us that we can look to the Lord and always find Him looking at us. In his eyes, we can discover “the look of love which [we] crave.”⁵ There, we can meet mercy, “the greatest attribute of God,” which “no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.”⁶

Second, in contemplating the Image of the Divine Mercy, we note the two rays emanating from Our Lord’s breast, one red and one pale. As the Lord told Saint Faustina, “The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls.”⁷ With the Church through centuries, we see in them the sacraments, Baptism and Eucharist, and we trace these gifts of life back to their source, His pierced side (cf. Jn. 19:34). These glorious rays flow from woundedness. Their origin is in the victory of the Cross. They highlight an act of love, a total gift of self. This pale ray and red ray remind us that the Lord has acted for us. Undeserving though we were, he loved us to the end (cf. Jn. 13:1) and laid down his life for us. “God is love, and Mercy is His deed.”⁸ And we are the beneficiaries of that mercy. In these weeks, when God might seem unmoved or distant, these rays proclaim again the tender mercy shown from the Cross. They profess that God has acted and that He still acts with a mercy that sustains the world.

Third, we read the “signature” at the bottom of the Image, “Jesus, I trust in you.”⁹ On this year’s Feast

of the Divine Mercy, the familiar line is more striking. Its five words formulate perfectly a prayer in the midst of so much uncertainty. How good is the Lord! He still teaches his disciples how to pray (cf. Lk. 11:1), and He invites us to make these words the signature of our lives. This prayer is not offered blindly. It is said after having met the Lord’s gaze and having been vivified in His life-giving rays. Our bold placing of trust arises from “the ocean of mercy” He has shown to us and from which we have received.¹⁰

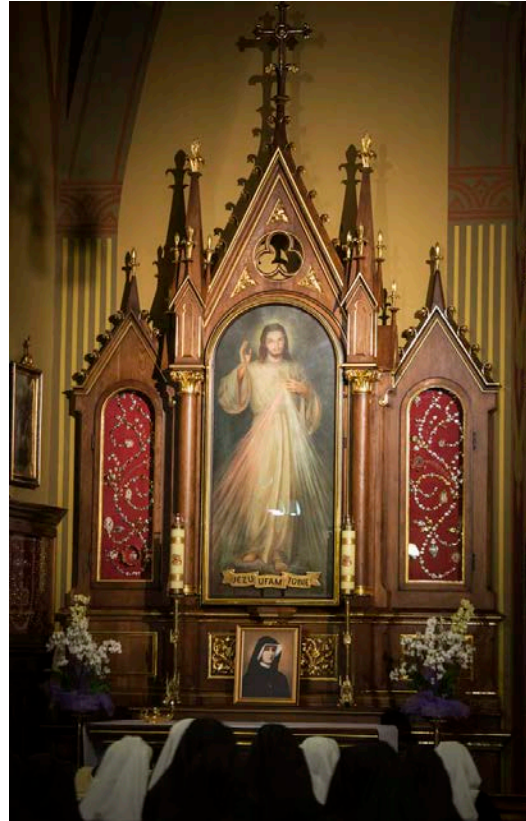
Through our contemplation of the Image, we recall that God has moved towards us, that He has loved us, and that He has shown mercy to us, and therefore, we know it is reasonable to say, “*Jesus, I trust in you.*”

The Lord’s look, His love, and that brief prayer are special gifts this year. They offer consolation. They provide peace.

The Image of the Divine Mercy also serves as “a reminder of the demands of [His] mercy.”¹¹ As Pope Saint John Paul II said in his second encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia (Rich in Mercy)*, “Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God,

but that he is also called ‘to practice mercy’ towards others.”¹² In short, we who have received mercy are called to give mercy.

In these weeks, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are being lived radiantly. Witnesses of mercy are in our midst, and our gratitude flows to the many who are sharing what they have received.



⁵ See Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter, *Deus Caritas Est*, 18.

⁶ Kowalska, *Diary*, nos. 301 and 699.

⁷ *Ibid.*, no. 299.

⁸ *Ibid.*, no. 651.

⁹ *Ibid.*, no. 47.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, no. 1319.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, no. 742.

¹² Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Dives in Misericordia*, 14.

We call to mind the heroic virtue and tender mercy alive in our families and among our neighbors. With Pope Francis, we think, too, of those women and men who are “writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, deacons, religious men and women and so very many others.”¹³ In this challenging time, mercy is on display.

Divine Mercy Sunday falls this year between two notable anniversaries in the life and pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul II. Both of which provide insight and wisdom for our present situation.

The first anniversary occurred on March 25th, when we marked twenty-five years since the release of Pope Saint John Paul II’s encyclical letter on the Gospel of Life (*Evangelium Vitae*). That letter shone the light of the Divine Mercy on threats against life. It articulated the good news of life, a gift from God that leads to eternal life with God, and it called every person to “respect,

protect, love and serve life.”¹⁴ The truth and beauty of the encyclical is underscored in these days when our fragility is before us and society is united in its concern for life.

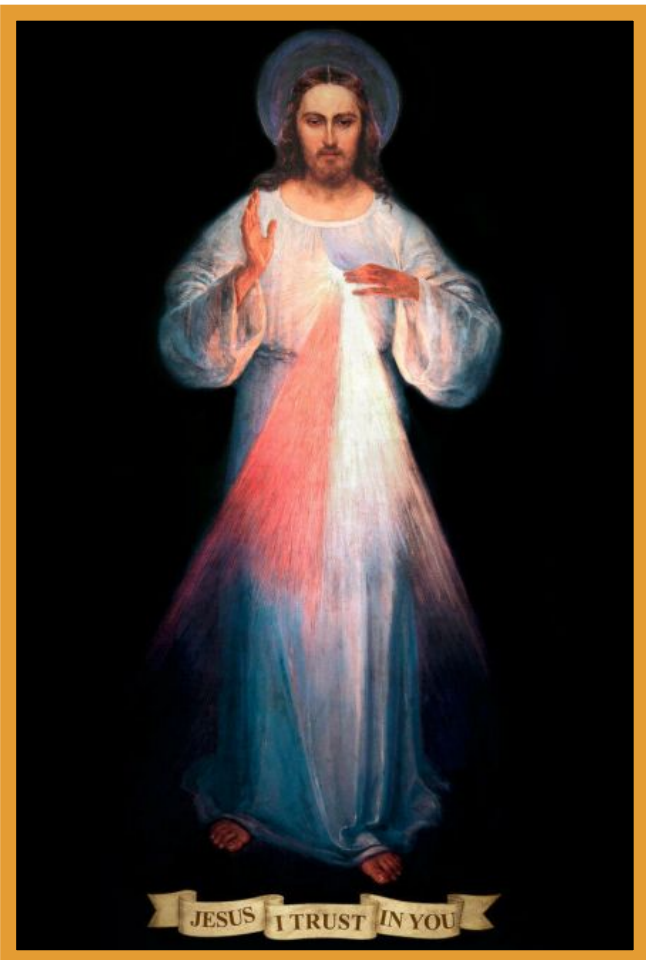
The second anniversary falls on May 18th, when we will celebrate the centenary of Pope Saint John Paul II’s birth. Spending time with this indefatigable preacher of mercy, it is good to remember that his life was not immune to crisis and turmoil. He witnessed and experienced much that could have weighed him down. However, throughout his journey, he turned to the Lord and sought to know His mercy. May he help us invite the Divine Mercy into our lives, especially in these days.

Together with Pope Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina, let us implore Almighty God:

*I fly to Your mercy, Compassionate God, who alone are good. Although my misery is great, and my offenses are many, I trust in Your mercy, because You are the God of mercy; and, from time immemorial, it has never been heard of, nor do heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy has been disappointed.*¹⁵

Let us pray for the souls of those who have died from the coronavirus and for the solace of their families. We entrust them to the Divine Mercy.

And whatever may come, let us never fail to say, *Jesus, I trust in you.*



Sincerely in Christ,

+ John O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹³ Pope Francis, *Extraordinary Moment of Prayer*, March 27, 2020.

¹⁴ Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Evangelium Vitae*, March 25, 1995, 5.

¹⁵ Kowalska, *Diary*, no. 1730.