

## TODAY'S READINGS

**T**his is the one who came through water and blood. (1 John 5:6)

“Throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation ... to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that humanity will experience in the years to come.” Twelve years ago, Pope John Paul II used these words to inaugurate Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast to be celebrated every year on the second Sunday of Easter.

The feast came at the urging of St. Maria Faustina, a Polish religious sister and visionary who lived at the beginning of the twentieth century. In her diary, she wrote how Jesus had told her: “I will pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy... Let no one fear to draw near to me, even though their sins be as scarlet” (*Diary*, 699).

During her short life, Faustina received hundreds of revelations about God’s mercy. She knew what it was to feel far away from God, and she knew what it felt like to be very close to him. Weakened by undiagnosed tuberculosis, she strained to carry out even the menial duties assigned to her in her convent. But despite her struggles, she stayed faithful to the Lord, trusting that his mercy could overcome every obstacle. “I snuggle to the heart of God like a baby to its mother’s breast,” she once wrote, describing how trusting in his love brought her immense consolation (*Diary*, 104).

Today of all days, don’t be afraid to draw near to the Lord. You may suffer trials, you may struggle against temptation, or you may fall into sin. But don’t worry. As St. Peter tells us, we may not see God now, but we can still rejoice because Jesus has done everything necessary to save us. That’s how merciful he is. So celebrate his mercy today—by receiving it!

*“Father, I want to rest in your heart as St. Faustina did. I open myself to you, that I might be immersed in the ocean of your mercy and grace.”*

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, Easter 2012, Vol. 31, Number 5: Used with permission.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

<b>Sunday 15th</b>	Acts 4:32-35 / 1 Jn 5:1-6 / Jn 20:19-31
	<i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>
<b>Monday 16th</b>	Acts 4:23-31 / Jn 3:1-8
<b>Tuesday 17th</b>	Acts 4:32-37 / Jn 3:7-15
<b>Wednesday 18th</b>	Acts 5:17-26 / Jn 3:16-21
<b>Thursday 19th</b>	Acts 5:27-33 / Jn 3:31-36
<b>Friday 20th</b>	Acts 5:34-42 / Jn 6:1-15
<b>Saturday 21st</b>	Acts 6:1-7 / Jn 6:16-21
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	Acts 3:13-15,17-19 / 1 Jn 2:1-5 / Lk 24:35-48

## LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

**E**ntre las revelaciones de Jesús a Santa Faustina Kowalska, el Señor le pidió que se instituyera una fiesta a la Divina Misericordia y se celebrara el domingo después de la Pascua. Los textos litúrgicos de ese día, el Segundo Domingo de Pascua, se refieren a la institución del sacramento de la Penitencia, el Tribunal de la Divina Misericordia, de manera que alcanzan perfectamente con las peticiones de nuestro Señor.

La Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia tiene como fin principal hacer llegar a los corazones de cada persona el siguiente mensaje: Dios es Misericordioso y nos ama a todos... “y cuanto más grande es el pecador, tanto más grande es el derecho que tiene a Mi misericordia” (*Diario de santa Faustina*, 723).

La Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo son, en efecto, la más grande manifestación de la Misericordia de Dios hacia el hombre.

El Señor nos pide que seamos compasivos con nuestro prójimo en nuestras palabras, acciones y oraciones... “porque la fe sin obras, por fuerte que sea, es inútil” (*Diario* 742).

Con el fin de celebrar apropiadamente esta festividad, se recomienda rezar la Coronilla y la Novena a la Divina Misericordia, que se comenzó el Viernes Santo: confesarse—haciendo un completo examen de conciencia—y recibir la Santa Comunión el día de la Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia.

Sobre esta fiesta le dijo el Señor a Santa Faustina “Quien se acerque ese día a la Fuente de Vida, recibirá el perdón total de las culpas y de las penas” “Quiero que la imagen sea bendecida solamente el primer domingo después de Pascua y que se le venera públicamente para que cada alma pueda saber de ella” (*Diario*300-341).

*“Dios Eterno, en quien la misericordia es infinita y el tesoro de compasión inagotable, vuelve a nosotros Tu bondadosa mirada y aumenta Tu misericordia en nosotros para que en los momentos difíciles, no nos desalentamos ni nos desesperemos, sino que, con la máxima confianza, nos sometamos a Tu santa voluntad, que es Amor y Misericordia.”*

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 31, Número 4: Cuaresma 2012.

## LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

<b>Domingo 15</b>	He 4:32-35 / 1 Jn 5:1-6 / Jn 20:19-31
	<i>Domingo de la Divina Misericordia</i>
<b>Lunes 16</b>	He 4:23-31 / Jn 3:1-8
<b>Martes 17</b>	He 4:32-37 / Jn 3:7-15
<b>Miércoles 18</b>	He 5:17-26 / Jn 3:16-21
<b>Jueves 19</b>	He 5:27-33 / Jn 3:31-36
<b>Viernes 20</b>	He 5:34-42 / Jn 6:1-15
<b>Sábado 21</b>	He 6:1-7 / Jn 6:16-21
<b>Domingo 22</b>	He 3:13-15,17-19 / 1 Jn 2:1-5 / Lc 24:35-48



## CONGRATULATIONS & PRAYERS FOR OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Congratulations to the newest members of our Catholic family! At the Easter Vigil, we welcomed 25 people into the Church. They are pictured below (not in the order listed) with Cardinal Wuerl, Msgr. Jameson and their godparents or sponsors. As a parish community, we are called to help them to deepen their relationship with God and with the Church. Please welcome them, and keep them in your prayers.



**Those who received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist:** Sarah Brunelle, Ashley Carter, Todd Chambers, Daniel Fogarty, Bethzi Martinez, Fabian Merida, Fabiola Portillo, Manuel Robles, Lauren Schultz, Lana Shawa, Ryan Walters, and Josef Wolfel



**Those who were received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church:** Adam Coogle, Richard Corretjer, Brian Darville, Charles Homans, Caroline Lee, Brian Lichter, Stephen Nagy, Katherine Ripley, and Elizabeth Shull

**Baptized Catholics who completed the Sacraments of Initiation:** Tracy Huff, Rebecca Milfeld, Roberta Ohoi, and Samantha Warfield

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

### CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY TODAY!

*Jesus Christ is divine mercy in person.  
(Pope Benedict XVI)*

Join your parish family for Divine Mercy Devotions in the Cathedral today, Sunday, **April 15** at 2pm (see the Divine Mercy Sunday flyer). Come for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following the 1pm Spanish Mass (approximately 2:15pm) and praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (alternating in Spanish and English) at 3 pm, concluding with Benediction.

### BIBLE STUDY ON WISDOM BOOKS

Father Hurley's series on the Wisdom Books of the Old Testament continues Saturday, **April 21** from 10:30 to 11:45am in the East Conference Room. This session will focus on the Book of Job. Bring a Bible, and consider staying for our 12:10pm Mass afterward.

## CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

April 15 – April 22

### SUNDAY—Divine Mercy Sunday

The Jubilee Mass for those in consecrated life is celebrated at 10am in English by **Bishop Francisco González**.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar se reúnen a las 11de la mañana. Las clases de Confirmación empiezan hoy a las 9 de la mañana.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration immediately following the 1pm Mass (approximately 2:15pm), and the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is prayed in English and Spanish at 3pm, concluding with Benediction.

**MONDAY**—DC Emancipation Day. The Rectory offices are closed. The Cathedral opens at 7:30am and closes at 1pm. Masses are celebrated at 8am and 12:10pm. There are no confessions.

**TUESDAY**—The Faith Formation Committee meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

El Grupo de Oración en Español tendrá una hora de reflexión a las 7:00 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

**WEDNESDAY**—Breaking Open the Word meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

**THURSDAY**—The Knights of Columbus meet at 7:30pm in the West Conference Room.

**SATURDAY**—Fr. Hurley's Bible study on the Wisdom Books is held at 10am in the East Conference Room.

**SUNDAY**—Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar se reúnen a las 11de la mañana.

## NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA



### DOMINGO DE LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA

*Jesucristo es la misericordia divina en persona.* (Papa Benedicto XVI) Únase a su familia parroquial para la devoción de la Divina Misericordia en la Catedral, hoy domingo **15 de abril** a las 2 de la tarde; Juan Pablo II, declaró el Segundo Domingo de Pascua como Domingo de la Divina Misericordia. Venga a la Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento inmediatamente después de la misa de la 1 en español (aproximadamente a la 2:15), a las 3 de la tarde recitación de la coronilla (alternando en español e inglés) concluyendo con la Bendición.

¡ ¡ ¡ **GRACIAS !!!**

En nombre de toda la comunidad parroquial, quiero expresar mi más sincero agradecimiento a los voluntarios que ayudaron a decorar la Catedral: lectores, ujieres, monaguillos, ministros de la Eucaristía, músicos, sacristanes, padrinos del RICA, el personal de la Catedral, sacerdotes, diáconos y a todos los que contribuyeron con su tiempo y talento durante la Semana Santa y Pascua. Su esfuerzo hizo una gran diferencia. Estoy muy agradecido y les deseo una feliz época de Pascua. —*Monseñor Jameson*

### DÍA DE ORACIÓN Y SANACIÓN

Las mujeres que han tenido un aborto en sus vidas están invitadas a un día de Oración y Sanación el sábado **21 de abril**. Se va a sentir en un ambiente de paz y confianza para poder sanar de las diferentes emociones negativas que llegan después de un aborto. El lugar es confidencial y se les dirá el día de su inscripción. Para más información puede llamar al Ministerio del Proyecto Raquel: 301-853-4565. Pregunte por Luz Menjivar. Recuerde que todos nuestros contactos son confidenciales ProyectoRaquel@adw.org.

### ADORACIÓN AL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO

Les invitamos este lunes **23 de Abril** después de la misa de 5:30 de la tarde, a que se unan en adoración al Santísimo, de 6 a 7 de la tarde. El Sacramento de Reconciliación estará disponible durante la hora de la adoración.

### CLASES DE CONVERSACIÓN EN INGLÉS PARA ADULTOS

- ¿Cuándo? **5 de junio – 1 de agosto** (9 semanas)  
Los martes y miércoles de 6:30–8:30 de la noche
- ¿Dónde? Centro Educacional de San Mateo  
1726 calle N, NW, Washington, DC
- Enfocándose en: Conversación en Inglés
- ¿Costo? \$25

Los estudiantes pueden inscribirse en persona, martes o miércoles en la noche; las inscripciones comienzan el **5 de junio**, entre 6:30 y 8:00 de la noche, en el Centro Educacional de San Mateo (en la dirección de arriba). Durante la inscripción los nuevos estudiantes recibirán un breve examen para determinar cuál es el nivel de clases más apropiado para ellos. Los estudiantes podrán registrarse hasta el 20 de junio. Para más información, ponerse en contacto con el coordinador del Programa ESL a: stmattseslprogram@gmail.com ó llame a la rectoría, al: 202-347-3215.

### DC HOLIDAY / EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR RESCHEDULING

On DC Emancipation Day, Monday, **April 16**, the Rectory offices will be closed. The Cathedral will open at 7:30am and close at 1pm. Masses will be celebrated at 8am and 12:10pm. There will be no Confessions and no Eucharistic Holy Hour that evening. The Eucharistic Holy Hour is rescheduled to Monday, **April 23**.

### YOUNG ADULTS

**C†YA AT HAPPY HOUR – Friday, April 20 – 6 to 8pm –**  
Madhatter – 2nd floor (1319 Connecticut Avenue NW / Farragut North) - We're partnering with the young adults at St. Thomas (STAY) for another happy hour. The venue has changed, but it will be the same great chance to meet other young Catholics in DC. Contact Sarah zick.sarah@gmail.com with questions.

**C†YA SCAVENGER HUNT – Saturday, April 28 –** Save the date for the second annual St. Matthew's young adult scavenger hunt. This hunt is scheduled to include art museums in Chinatown and along the Mall. Contact Carolyn at cewait.10@gmail.com to sign up.

### VOCATIONS

#### CALLING ALL RUNNERS, WALKERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Once again, St. Matthew's will organize a team to take part in Run for Vocations, the yearly campaign that raises money for seminarians. Although the Marine Corps Marathon and 10km are not until October, there are lots of related events and voluntary training runs happening in Spring and Summer. If you are interested in potentially running, walking or supporting, please email Krista at kristatuomi@gmail.com.

## FAITH IN ACTION

### ADULT ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLASSES

*When?* **June 5– August 1** (9 weeks)  
Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm  
*Where?* St. Matthew's Education Center  
1726 N Street NW, Washington, DC  
*Focus?* Conversing in English  
*Cost?* \$25

Students may register in person on Tuesdays or Wednesdays starting **June 5**, between 6:30 and 8:30pm, at St. Matthew's Education Center. Contact the ESL Program Coordinator at [stmattseslprogram@gmail.com](mailto:stmattseslprogram@gmail.com) for more information, or call the Rectory at 202-347-3215.

### ST. MATTHEW'S HOMELESS MINISTRY

Every Monday from 7:30 to 11am, 55 - 70 homeless men and women come for an hour of prayer and Scripture lessons, light breakfast, and distribution of toiletries, underclothing and lunches. To contribute food for our Homeless Ministry, to be dropped off in the West Conference Room by 7:30am on Mondays, contact James Walsh at [jameswalsh1530@gmail.com](mailto:jameswalsh1530@gmail.com). Food donors normally sign up to bring donations every other Monday. We continue to distribute socks, underwear and toiletries purchased from Poor Box donations. You can help by giving to the Poor Box or sending donations to the Rectory. Thank you for your support!

## FAITH FORMATION

### BECOMING CATHOLIC

Throughout the year, adults come forward seeking to learn about the Catholic faith. For those who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith or thinking about becoming Catholic, St. Matthew's offers Inquiry, a casual, ongoing conversation about the Catholic faith, once a month. Inquiry is the first step in the process of discerning one's commitment to full initiation in the Catholic Church. Inquiry meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the East Conference Room. A brief overview of the entire adult initiation process (RCIA), which begins formally in June each year, can be presented after Inquiry for those who are interested. The next Inquiry will be held Wednesday, **May 9**. For more information, contact Heather Kinney at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org).

### BOOK CLUB: *BURST*

All are welcome to join the St. Matthew's Book Club on Monday, **April 30** when they will discuss *Burst* by Kevin Wells. Wells describes how a life-changing event caused him to turn to God for solace and comfort. This is a beautifully written spiritual memoir that offers comfort to others experiencing difficult times. They will meet in the East Conference Room at 6:45pm. Please contact Paul Zummo at [pzummo@gmail.com](mailto:pzummo@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## NEWS & NOTES

### THANK YOU FROM THE RECTOR

On behalf of the entire parish community, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the volunteers who decorated the Cathedral for Easter, the lectors, hospitality ministers, servers, Eucharistic ministers, musicians, sacristans, RCIA sponsors, parish staff, priests, deacons, and all who contributed time and talent to the Cathedral during Holy Week and Easter. Please be assured of my gratitude and best wishes for a very blessed Easter season. —*Msgr. Jameson*

### COME—LET US ADORE HIM!

You are invited to the Cathedral for our monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration on Monday, **April 23** from 6 to 7pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the hour.

### WINE AND WISDOM

Please join the young women of Wine and Wisdom for a discussion on "Prayer: From the Heart" on Monday, **April 23** at 7pm in the East Conference Room. This is sure to be a fruitful discussion! For questions or to RSVP, email [wineandwisdom.stmatthews@gmail.com](mailto:wineandwisdom.stmatthews@gmail.com).

### BLESSING OF ENGAGED COUPLES

On Sunday, **May 6** Msgr. Jameson and other St. Matthew's clergy will confer a blessing of engaged couples at the 11:30am Mass. All couples who are to be married at the Cathedral or are receiving marriage preparation by St. Matthew's clergy are invited to receive the blessing. After the homily, the engaged couples will be invited into the sanctuary and will return to their seats after the blessing. Kindly RSVP at [Reply@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:Reply@stmatthewscathedral.org).

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Potomac Council #433 of the Knights of Columbus invites all men, 18 years and older, to join their ranks and help serve St. Matthew's and the downtown community by assisting with the parish's weekly homeless ministry, events on important issues confronting Catholics, and various service projects. They meet the third Thursday of every month at 7:30pm in the West Conference Room.

### NEEDED

A female parishioner seeks room and board in exchange for housesitting, companionship of the elderly, or tutoring. Contact 323-600-4066 or [americanlawstudent@gmail.com](mailto:americanlawstudent@gmail.com).

**MASS INTENTIONS****Sunday, April 15**

5:30pm (vigil) – Frantiska Lyskova & Family (living)

7am – Tina Bork (living)

8:30am – Nadezda Kiley

10am – Mary Sonk

11:30am – Vincent Terreri & Family (living)

1pm – Francisco Angulo y Eloisa Zuluaga

5:30pm – John Leo Doherty

**Monday, April 16**

8am – John Kekeh

12:10pm – Enrico S. Gedse

**Tuesday, April 17**

7am – Thanksgiving

8am – Victoria B. Kampitan (living)

12:10 – Enrico S. Gedse

5:30pm – Estanislao Carbungco

**Wednesday, April 18**

7am – Anthony De Clemente

8am – Cato Renger

12:10pm – Maria Joby Jaimes

5:30pm – Elisa Gutierrez

**Thursday, April 19**

7am – Josephine Klug Kuhn

8am – Fr. John Hurley (living)

12:10pm – Norell James

5:30pm – Vianella Veras Guichardo

**Friday, April 20**

7am – Medrano Family (living)

8am – Runy Rebutillo

12:10 – Lydia Resurrection

5:30pm – Mela Francisco

**Saturday, April 21**

8am – A. Lizetta Family (living)

12:10pm – Thanksgiving

5:30pm – Alfonso Gonzalez

**Sunday, April 22**

7am – Thanksgiving

8:30am – Helen Ann McGuire

10am – Elizabeth M. Beall

11:30am – Rev. V. Anthony Dolski

1pm – Francisco & Luis Puerta

5:30pm – Juan Bautista

*To arrange a Mass intention, speak to our receptionist in the Rectory. There is no fee but an offering is customary. Intentions are reserved in advance so particular dates may be unavailable.*

**MARRIAGES**

Couples who are interested in celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at the Cathedral are encouraged to visit the parish website to review our guidelines for weddings. The next step is to call the Rectory at 202-347-3215 and ask for the priest of your choice or the priest on duty, who can speak to you about marriage preparation and the possibility of scheduling your wedding ceremony at the Cathedral. Couples are expected to contact us **at least nine (9) months in advance** of the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding.

**BAPTISMS**

Parents who wish to have their child baptized at the Cathedral should contact the Baptismal Coordinator at the Rectory at 202-347-3215 x555. Parents are encouraged to make contact with us **at least six (6) months in advance** of a desired baptismal date, at which time they may ask for the priest of their choice to perform the Baptism. This early contact enables parents to be scheduled for the necessary sacramental formation session before the child's baptism and allows time for sponsors to obtain letters from their parish pastor.

**VISITS & PILGRIMAGES**

Individuals, families and groups from around the country and around the world visit the Cathedral to join us in prayer, at Mass or to celebrate Mass in one of our chapels. We invite you to plan a visit or pilgrimage to our Cathedral—all are welcome. Once you have a date in mind, let us know so we can arrange to accommodate you. Contact us at 202-347-3215 x512 or 202-587-5143 or mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org.



CATHEDRAL OF  
ST. MATTHEW  
THE APOSTLE

CONSIDER REMEMBERING  
OUR CATHEDRAL PARISH  
IN YOUR WILL.

For more information,  
please call  
Msgr. Jameson.

**TOURS**

Visitors are invited to schedule a guided tour of the Cathedral or to do a self-guided tour using the color brochures available at the inside entrance to the Cathedral. Guided tours are given free of charge. Donations to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle are always appreciated and may be given to your tour guide or our Rectory receptionist. To schedule a guided tour, contact us at mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-587-5143.

**GIFT ITEMS**

St. Matthew's is pleased to offer a 48-page souvenir book on our beautiful Cathedral church written by Richard Schmidt and Claudia Rousseau, with Joseph Carey, Nancy McKinley and Elizabeth Sullivan. It

features the Cathedral's history, art and architecture vividly portrayed through photographs by local photographer, Neil Greentree.

Also available are sets of six note cards picturing the art of the Cathedral, boxed sets of ten Christmas cards featuring St. Matthew's Crèche, Christmas ornaments and several CD recordings of the Cathedral's *Schola Cantorum*.

Items may be purchased in the Rectory during office hours. Unless otherwise indicated in this bulletin, the Rectory is open Monday through Thursday from 9am until 8pm and Friday through Sunday from 9am until 4pm. You also may order items by contacting us at gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-347-3215. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

## EASTER (PASCHAL) CANDLE

The Easter Season is visibly and singularly marked by the large, decorated candle that is prominent in the sanctuary, located by the ambo. The origin of its use during the Easter season is hard to establish in researching the dim past of the early Church. Some church historians suggest that its origin may be in the lamps used in the synagogues and that it is a reminder from the Old Testament of the ‘pillar of fire’ denoting ‘God’s presence.’ Some scholars find allusions to it in the early documents of Justin Martyr (103-165AD) who writes of the baptism ceremony being an illumination. In the time of Emperor Constantine (272-337AD), St. Eusebius writes that the “emperor transformed the night of the sacred vigil (Easter) into the brilliancy of day by lighting the whole city with pillars of wax so that this vigil is rendered brighter than the brightest daylight.” The descriptor “Paschal” comes from the Hebrew word ‘pesach’ or Passover, the Jewish feast so closely associated with Holy Week and Easter.

Later Church writings further heightened its symbolic relationship to Christianity. For Christians in these early centuries, the candle came to symbolize Christ: the true light that enlightens each person who comes into this world; its virgin beeswax: the most pure flesh of Christ; its wick: the human soul of Christ; its flame: the divinity of the 2nd Person of the Trinity; the five grains of affixed incense: the sacred wounds of Christ.

Over the centuries, the candle’s symbolic representation magnified its fabrication and its use. In many places, at the end of each year, the candle was melted down and used the next year as smaller candles to be carried by the newly baptized at Easter and all those present at the Easter vigil. In the 8th century, it became the practice in Rome to inscribe the candle with the date of the current year, since it was crafted new each year. In many cathedrals, in order for it to be seen throughout the church, its size grew so that in some places, like Salisbury Cathedral in England, it was 36 feet tall. Its principal, but not exclusive, decorations are: the year of its use; the Greek letters for A and O referring to Christ as the “Alpha (beginning)” and “Omega (end);” and five grains of incense in the form of a cross.

The candle begins its liturgical life each year at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday evening. At the beginning of the vigil celebration, the presider lights the candle from the Easter fire that has just been lit and then inserts the grains of incense and blesses it. The candle, carried by the deacon, leads the way into the cathedral and its flame is used to light the people’s candles. After reaching the sanctuary, the candle is placed in its holder next to the ambo where it remains during the entire Easter season, lit for each liturgy until the conclusion of the feast of Pentecost.

During the rest of the liturgical year, it is also lit for all baptisms, and for all funerals where it is placed at the head of the deceased’s remains, signifying the beginning and ending of one’s life in Christ. It is also lit for the sacrament of confirmation and may be lit for the other sacraments (e.g. anointing and matrimony) to mark other important milestones in our Christian life.

—Deacon Bartholomew Merella

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

*Jesus Christ is divine mercy in person. (Pope Benedict XVI)*



Join your parish family for Divine Mercy Devotions in the Cathedral today, Sunday, **April 15**. Come for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following the 1pm Spanish Mass (approximately 2:15pm) and the praying of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (alternating in Spanish and English) at 3 pm, concluding with Benediction.

The Second Sunday of Easter is **Divine Mercy Sunday**, established by Pope John Paul II on the day that he canonized Sister Faustina Kowalska in Rome (April 30, 2000). The special devotion to the divine mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina. On the day of his election as Pope, Benedict XVI spoke about the devotion of Pope John Paul II to the divine mercy, saying: "We listen with joy to the proclamation of the year of mercy... *Jesus Christ is divine mercy in person: To find Christ means to find the mercy of God...* The day of vengeance and the year of favor coincide in the paschal mystery, in Christ, dead and risen. This is the vengeance of God: He himself, in the person of the Son, suffered for us. The more we are touched by the mercy of the Lord, the more we are in solidarity with his suffering, the more disposed we are to complete in our flesh 'what is lacking in Christ's afflictions' (Colossians 1:24)."

To learn more about Divine Mercy Sunday and the indulgences attached to devotions in honor of the divine mercy, visit <http://thedinemercy.org> or <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/backgr.htm>.

In his Encyclical on the Mercy of God, *Dives in Misericordia* (Latin for "Rich in Mercy"), Pope John Paul II wrote: "Although God 'dwells in unapproachable light,' He speaks to man by means of the whole of the universe: 'Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.' This indirect and imperfect knowledge, achieved by the intellect seeking God by means of creatures through the visible world, falls short of 'vision of the Father.' 'No one has ever seen God,' writes St. John, in order to stress the truth that 'the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.' This 'making known' reveals God in the most profound mystery of His being, one and three, surrounded by 'unapproachable light.' Nevertheless, through this 'making known' by Christ we know God above all in His relationship of love for man: in His 'philanthropy.' It is precisely here that 'His invisible nature' becomes in a special way 'visible,' incomparably more visible than through all the other 'things that have been made': it becomes visible in Christ and through Christ, through His actions and His words, and finally through His death on the cross and His resurrection." (Pope John Paul II, from *"Dives in Misericordia,"* November 30, 1980.)