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**The Diocese of St. Catharines  
 60th Anniversary—1958-2018**

*“Put out into the deep water and let down your nets.” (Lk 5:4)*

**Sunday, April 8th, 2018  
 Second Sunday of Easter  
 (or of Divine Mercy)**

Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

— Jn 20:26b-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. April 7	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. April 8		<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>
	9:30am	✠ Martin Kolenko Jr. (Maria Jerebic)
	11:00am	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family)
	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Prayers</b>
Mon. April 9	9:30am	Blessings and Health for Marie Jankovich (Jankovich Family)
	7-8pm	<b>Holy Hour Cancelled</b>
Tues. April 10	9:30am	Blessings and Health for Marie Jankovich (Jankovich Family)
Wed. April 11	9:30am	Special Intention for Blessings And Health
Thurs. April 12	9:30am	<b>Intention Available</b>
Fri. April 13	9:30am	<b>Intention Available</b>
Sat. April 14	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Mary Atkins (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. April 15	9:30am	✠ Frank Hozjan (Joe & Teresa Hozjan)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**  
 Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and halleluiah is our song.  
 —St. John Paul II

**2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday**

Should we be a little easier on Thomas? The last few days have been a whirlwind. On Thursday, a Passover celebration went horribly awry as Jesus was betrayed and taken into custody for unstated crimes. Less than 24 hours later, the simple arrest has turned into a death sentence to be carried out that very afternoon. Most of the disciples fled, including Thomas. He would have known of the events of Good Friday, in shock over the death of his Lord and Master. Then Sunday morning arrives with joy from a few disciples—Jesus is risen! But there is no persistent sight of him, only Mary Magdalene's quick moment in the garden and an empty tomb. The Apostles are gathered that night, but Thomas is absent. He returns to a jubilant report of the risen Lord. Again, Thomas has seen nothing.



The experience must have been surreal. Did Jesus really appear raised from the dead? Did he really suffer and die? Has all of this been some strange hoax? Desperate for an answer, Thomas insists, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

After his Resurrection, Jesus' body—mangled and bloody from the crucifixion—is restored. Did it need the scars? A perfected body would have taught us one lesson: everything is renewed as it once was, the past erased. Jesus chooses another lesson, however. He retains his scars that we might know him. In the whirlwind of our lives, we make our own mistakes, our own betrayals and compromises. In the resurrected Jesus, we see a God who does not forget his own sorrow. We are invited to meet him—wound for wound—and place our hand on his own nail-scarred palm, the eternal sign of his everlasting mercy.

Jesus turned Thomas's doubt into an event of Mercy for generations to come. Out of the repentance born from seeing Mercy Incarnate, touching the wounds of His Divine love, came those wonderful words that have formed the most profound of personal prayers for millennia. "My Lord and My God". Pope St Gregory was right, "Thomas' doubt healed the wounds of all of our doubts". At the Liturgy of Canonization for Sister Mary Faustina Kowalski, Sunday, April 30, 2000, Saint John Paul II proclaimed: "Before speaking these words, Jesus shows his hands and his side. He points, that is, to the wounds of the Passion, especially the wound in his heart, the source from which flows the great wave of mercy poured out on humanity. From that heart Sr Faustina Kowalska, the blessed whom from now on we will call a saint, will see two rays of light shining from that heart and illuminating the world: "The two rays", Jesus himself explained to her one day, "represent blood and water" Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified and Risen.

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

What does it take to believe that something is real? We live in an age of computer technology complete with things like Photoshop and other programs that can enhance photographs, create realistic images, and mimic artistic renderings. When looking at a picture of something, we find ourselves wondering if what we are seeing is real or just the result of technological creativity. Early believers came to believe because of what they witnessed in these new communities of faith. They saw people authentically living out Jesus' command to love and to show mercy. What do people witness when they see us in action?

We welcome in Baptism, **Everlea Sarah Watson**, daughter of Christopher Watson and Sarah Lemieux. May the gifts which Baptism bestows, grow unhindered in us all.

**Offertory April 1st & 2nd, 2018**

94 Envelopes	\$3, 420.80
Loose Collection	\$ 374.55
Total Offertory	\$3, 795.35
Share Lent	\$ 150.00
Flowers	\$ 50.00
Good Friday (45 Envelopes)	\$1, 243.00



**The Feast of Divine Mercy**, celebrated on the Octave of Easter (the Sunday after Easter Sunday), is a relatively new addition to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Celebrating the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, as revealed by Christ Himself to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, this feast was extended to the entire Catholic Church by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the day that he canonized Saint Faustina.

**Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8th: Our Lord said to Saint Faustina:**

*Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given to you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death....When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just judge but as the Merciful Saviour. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy... Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will.*

**Please join us on April 8th @ at 3:00pm for prayers.**



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**SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY.**

This month's topics are 'Helping Children Cope', (April 9); and 'New Relationships', (April 23). Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)

**Serra Club of St. Catharines Trivia Night:**

promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. **Friday, April 27, 2018.** Dinner served at 6pm, trivia starts at 7pm. Guest of Honour, Most Reverend Bishop Bergie. St. Alfred's Parish Hall, 272 Vine St., St. Catharines. \$20 per person. For tickets contact Jodi Di Domenico [didoms99@msn.com](mailto:didoms99@msn.com) 905-353-0158.

**St. Vincent de Paul Central Council**

is hosting their 3rd annual Trivia Night at St. Alfred Church on Friday May 25. Doors open at 6:30pm. Trivia starts at 7pm sharp. Tickets are \$20.00 per person includes trivia, pizza, snacks and door prizes. Proceeds will go towards sending kids to camp. (ages 6-15). For more information or tickets please contact Shelley at 905-329-8568 or [shelleyssvp@gmail.com](mailto:shelleyssvp@gmail.com).

**Parish Calendar**

**April.....**

<b>April 15th.....</b>	Spanish Mass 1pm
<b>April 18th.....</b>	Finance meeting 6:30pm
<b>April 22nd....</b>	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
<b>April 24th.....</b>	Confirmation Registration meeting 6:30pm



**This summer St. Ann Parish will be hosting their 3rd Annual Vacation Bible School from August 13<sup>th</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Registration is now open. Forms are at the back of the church or phone the office. All children from ELKP to Grade 6 can participate. Older students in Grades 7-12 can volunteer as Junior Leaders. Spots fill up quickly, so plan to register soon. Please note that Junior Leaders 14 years of age or older are required to complete the Police Record Check. As this process can take as long as 6 weeks to complete, we recommend that you contact us soon if you want to be involved.

**Adult Faith Formation Series: Exploring Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love.**

This faith formation series is being held on four consecutive Monday evenings, beginning April 9, 2018, 7-9pm., at the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold, L2V 4Y6. Register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/DUIZAM0YdRtNPYB32> or by calling the Office of Religious Education, 905-684-0154, ext. 207 by April 4, 2018. A registration fee of \$10 will be collected on the first night to cover the cost of materials including a copy of *Amoris Laetitia*.

**Annual Diocesan RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS: Celebrated by Most Rev. Gerard Paul Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines. Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Monday, April 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. A Special Diocesan Mass to thank God for the gift of life; to pray for human life in all its stages; to pray for those wounded by abortion. Reception to follow in the parish hall.**



**The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education**

is hosting the **Annual Bishop's Gala on Friday, April 20th, 2018, 5:30pm**, Club Roma, Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines. This event supports students in need throughout schools of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. For more information contact Sherry Morena 905-735-0240 X213.

**Seasonal Agricultural Worker Ministry:**

To better support and welcome our seasonal workers to St. Ann's Church, we are in need of the following new or gently used items: sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, socks, bicycles, luggage, toiletries (e.g. new toothbrush/toothpaste/soap, etc.). Please drop off items in church basement. THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE & SUPPORT! Also, volunteers are needed to assist with a light meal provided for the workers following the Spanish Masses. **The first Mass will be on Sunday, April 15th at 1pm and the second on May 20th at 1pm. From June-November, the Masses will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at 1pm.** Food donations are welcome or if you can assist in preparation and clean up, that would also be very helpful.

**“One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies”**

is a global prayer event that involves praying the rosary for an end to abortion. The goal is to have 1,000,000 rosaries prayed from May 4-6, 2018. Participants are asked to pray one rosary for this intention. Details can be found at [www.saintmichaeltarchangelorganization.org](http://www.saintmichaeltarchangelorganization.org).



