



Dear Parishioners,

Today, on this Second Sunday of Easter we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, which officially was designated as such by Pope John Paul II in 2000. Due to the Gospel reading this Sunday in which we hear of the institution of the sacrament of Reconciliation even in the earlier centuries of the Church this Sunday was known as the Feast of Mercy. But over time, emphasis upon this wonderful day that ends the Octave of Easter came to be diminished. In recent times, due to the private revelations made to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska by Our Lord in the 1930's, in which He asked her to spread devotion to His Divine Mercy, this Feast of Divine Mercy came to be established and recognized once again. Our Lord desires most of all that we appreciate His great mercy for us, so let us today and every day thank him for this and all that he suffered in His Passion and for the power of His Resurrection that saves us from our sins. Since I have another commitment that keeps me from offering a holy hour today here at St. Joseph, if you want to participate in the devotions of Mercy Sunday, St. Margaret Mary and St. Thomas More parishes in Omaha have confessions offered and devotions taking place over the course of the afternoon today.

As we approach the end of another school year, we have several special events for our children and youth. So, here is a list of upcoming ones of which to be aware:

- First Holy Communion Mass for our second graders will be on Sunday, April 21 at 11:00 A.M.
- May Crowning will be on Sunday, May 5, following the 9:00 A.M. Mass
- The Youth Brunch for all high school students and eighth graders in our parish

also will be on Sunday, May 5, following the 9:00 A.M. Mass and May Crowning.

- Our senior high graduates will be honored and recognized at the 9:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, May 19. The Knights of Columbus and Ladies Guild will announce the recipients of their various scholarships at this Mass.
- The end-of-the-year Religious Education Mass and Awards will be on Wednesday, May 15, at 6:00 P.M.

Regarding the Youth Brunch on May 5, the parents and siblings of our high all high school students and eighth graders are welcome to attend along with them. By April 22, please sign-up for the brunch by indicating the number coming on the sheet in the entry area of church. Again this year, the Knights of Columbus will be cooking and providing the meal, for which we are grateful.

Have a wonderful and grace-filled week.

God bless,
Fr. Gutowski



MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL 8 THRU APRIL 14

Monday	Priest's Intention
Tuesday	Kay Gosch
Wednesday	Ann Boro
Thursday	Priest's Intention
Friday	Frank Kripal
Saturday	Bill Biernbaum
Sunday	People of St. Joseph

NOTICE

Please pick up your bakeware from Fish Fries and funerals. They are now in the kitchen.

**RE HAPPENINGS**

There will be a meeting for parents of 2nd graders on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:00 in the Chapel.

Server practice for new servers will begin on Wednesday, April 10 at 7:10 in the church and continue on April 17, and April 24. If your child is a Fifth grader and wishes to serve, please fill out the Server sheet they were given and have them bring it back to RE.

First Communion Retreat is Sunday, April 14 from 10-12 in the social hall.

First Communion Rehearsal is Wednesday, April 17 at 6:00 in the church.

First Communion is Sunday, April 21 at 11:00.

RE registrations went home with the students and are due back to the RE office by May 15



Springfield Community Blood Drive: Please mark your calendars for our next Blood Drive scheduled for Sunday, April 14th from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Springfield Fire Hall. To schedule an appointment online go to: www.redcrossblood.org, or call [402-253-8301](tel:402-253-8301) or walk in. Walk-ins are always welcome and needed. The last time we fell short of our goal, so hopefully we can get back to our regular numbers. Please consider asking a friend or family member to donate with you. As usual, thanks for your previous donations and we hope to see you Sunday, April 14th. *Ralph Meister Springfield Knights of Columbus/Red Cross*

**World Health Day**

World Health Day is celebrated each year on April 7, the date that the World Health Organization (a UN agency) was founded in 1948. The theme for 2013 is "Hypertension." Hypertension, or high blood pressure, increases the risk of heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure. It is estimated that one-third of adults worldwide suffer from hypertension.

Behavioral changes can lead to a reduction in hypertension, including reducing salt intake, eating a balanced diet, getting regular physical exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, and avoiding tobacco use and the harmful use of alcohol. Personal health knowledge is important, and so the World Health Organization this year is encouraging adults to get regular blood pressure checks and to consult a physician if there is evidence of high blood pressure



"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." John 20:25