

Dear Family,

Happy Easter to all! Happy Resurrection Day!

When you and I receive Holy Communion, we receive, in a sacramental manner, the resurrected Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our risen Lord Jesus Christ! We receive the whole Christ—truly, really, and substantially. Jesus, the head of our Church, teaches us this fact through our pope in union with the bishops, to whom He gave authority.

All praise be to the Blessed Trinity for giving us the gifts of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Jesus was clear about His teaching. In **John 6:53** Jesus said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you.” God tells us in **Matthew 26:26-27**: “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to His disciples said, ‘Take and eat; this is My Body.’ Then He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you, for this is My Blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.’” Jesus did not say that it was a symbol of His Body and Blood. He said it *is* His Body and Blood. Jesus said it; we believe it.

Jesus backed up His words with miracles for those who doubt. There are hundreds of recorded Eucharistic miracles throughout the world that demonstrate that there is something special about the Eucharist. Some Hosts have turned into flesh and blood. Others have never decayed. To see just one miracle, please visit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6SH93arrIE>.

There are many benefits or fruits of Holy Communion. Some are: Holy Communion increases our union with Christ; “wipes out” our venial sins and helps keep us from committing grave sins; renews, strengthens, and deepens our incorporation into the Church, which we received at Baptism; and, commits us to the poor.

Jesus has overcome the power of sin, death, and the devil by His resurrection. He wants us to rise above these things also by the power of His grace. Let us abide in His love so that we can share it with others and, one day, all join together in an everlasting Kingdom that has only joy and love!

Next Sunday, **April 23**, is **Divine Mercy Sunday**. God has been so good to us that we celebrate His love and mercy for us. An arm of the Vatican, the Apostolic Penitentiary, states from a decree, August 3, 2002:

The faithful with deep spiritual affection are drawn to commemorate the mysteries of divine pardon and to celebrate them devoutly. They

clearly understand the supreme benefit, indeed the duty, that the People of God have to praise Divine Mercy with special prayers and, at the same time, they realize that by gratefully performing the works required and satisfying the necessary conditions, they can obtain spiritual benefits that derive from the Treasury of the Church.

The bottom line is this: The Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday on **April 23** and we should spend extra time in prayer praising God for being so generous to us. Also, the Church, through the binding and loosing authority of Peter—that is, the authority of Pope Francis—has given us one (of many) way of making up for our sins completely through a special novena that began on Good Friday. We can obtain a plenary indulgence.

What is an indulgence? Many non-Catholic Christians are afraid to even talk about it, because the concept of indulgences has been misunderstood over the centuries, and even abused by some of the clergy. Hopefully, we will not stereotype the Church based on the sins of a few people or the lack of understanding of others. To answer the original question, an indulgence is the remission of the temporal punishment due to sin that has been forgiven. Let me explain further. When we sin, we offend God and hurt (do damage to) others and ourselves. We go to Confession to be forgiven. God, in His infinite mercy, will forgive any sin. After forgiveness, we now must try to make up for the damage of our sins and detach from them. God gives us many opportunities on earth to repair the damage (make reparation) and detach, but we have a tendency not to take advantage of these opportunities. Also, some damage is hard to repair. For example, sexual sins against others are difficult to repair. If we don’t make up for the damages of sin by means of extra prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other opportunities, we will have to go through a purification process in Purgatory. **Revelation 21:27** states that nothing unclean will enter heaven. Cooperating with God’s grace, we can work with Christ’s Church to remit this time of purification in Purgatory.

For more information about Purgatory, please visit <http://grandcatholic.com/prayers/resources/>

Peace of the Risen Christ,
Fr. Michael and Fr. Joseph

Divine Mercy Celebrations On Sunday, April 23

There will be a Holy Hour with Confession available.
-**St. Peter**. Right after the 10 a.m. Mass ~ **11 a.m.**
-**Our Lady of the Snow**. **3 p.m.** Both priests available.

Key Points to Resurrect with Jesus This Easter

[B.I.B.L.E. = Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth]

-Jesus came to set the captives free (from sin, addiction, fear, depression, etc.; see Lk 4:18-21), and destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn 3:8). He came freely to us because He first loved us (1 Jn 4:19). He loves us eternally. We need Him!

-Many people are not free; they are slaves to their sins. God wants us to tell them about His transforming love.

-It takes discipline to be a disciple. We need to surrender our lives over to God each day and pray. Out of our deep prayer lives, God gives us inspirations as to what He wants us to do to spread His love and build up His Kingdom.

-Four signs of a dynamic Catholic Christian: (1) prayer, (2) study, (3) generosity, and (4) evangelization = tell the good news about our loving God!

-In order to be free, we need to (1) repent—turn back to God and confess our sins, and in the powerful name of Jesus (2) forgive every single person who has hurt us, and bless them, (3) forgive ourselves, (4) renounce (reject) unhealthy relationships (“soul-ties”), (5) renounce lies/judgments from others/ourselves, and (6) renounce anything (fear, lust, anger, pride, envy, sloth, doubt, worry, control, etc.) that is “blocking” God’s love from reaching us, and (7) command it to leave and go to Him. (See Mk 1:5, Mt 6:14-15, Tit 2:11-13, Mk 16:17, Num 6:24-27, Mt 22:37-39, Lk 6:27-28, 35).

-Diary of Saint Faustina, 635. March 25 [1936]. In the morning, during meditation, God’s presence enveloped me in a special way, as I saw the immeasurable greatness of God and, at the same time, His condescension to His creatures. Then I saw the Mother of God, who said to me, *Oh, how pleasing to God is the soul that follows faithfully the inspirations of His grace! I gave the Savior to the world; as for you, you have to speak to the world about His great mercy and prepare the world for the Second Coming of Him who will come, not as a merciful Savior, but as a just Judge ... Speak to souls about this great mercy while it is still the time for [granting] mercy. If you keep silent now, you will be answering for a great number of souls on that terrible day. Fear nothing. Be faithful to the end. I sympathize with you.*

-My former R.O.T.C. cadet Jennifer was completely healed spiritually and physically (on 15 May 2013) because she surrendered everything over to the Creator of the Universe, our true God and Master. With great humility, and before she was healed physically, she first went to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and let Jesus cleanse her spiritually. Her throat was healed while praising God at the end of a 3-hour healing service. At the same time, she was healed of severe symptoms of a concussion. (She had been taking medications for two years and had serious visual problems. She has been med-free since 16 May 2013!) -Fr. Michael



An Atheist’s View on Life

I will live life according to these beliefs
God does not exist
It is just foolish to think
That there is a God with a cosmic plan
That an all-powerful God brings redemption and healing to the pain and suffering in the world
Is a comforting thought, however
It
Is only wishful thinking
People can do as they please without eternal consequences
The idea that
I am deserving of Hell
Because of sin
Is a lie meant to make me a slave to those in power
“The more you have, the happier you will be”
Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose
In a world with no God
There is freedom to be who I want to be
But with God
Everything is fine
It is ridiculous to think
I am lost and in need of saving

A Christian’s View on Life

(read the above from bottom to top)

Please Pray for our Children Getting Confirmed Next Sunday at Our Lady at 9:30 a.m.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Confirmation Saint</u>
Faith Ackerman	St. Sebastian
Kaden Ackerman	St. Bernard
Brooke Bailey	St. Adjutor
Brenda Castillo	St. Joseph
Laura Castillo	San Pio
Addison DePlata	St. Agnes
Yanel Galaviz	St. Catherine of Bologna
Foster Krempin	St. John Paul II
MaKena Ledin	St. Elizabeth
Lilianna Rust	St. Catherine of Siena
Blake Stauffer	St. Sebastian
Kimberly Vogelbacher	St. Collette
Kyle Vogelbacher	St. Marcel
Rigo Castillo	St. Peter
Alan Rivera	St. Juan Diego
Karina Dominguez	St. Mary

Easter Vigil Masses, April 15

- Our Lady**, 8:15 p.m., Fr. Michael intention
- St. Peter**, 8:15 p.m., Parishioners and visitors

Easter Sunday Masses, April 16

- St. Bernard**, 7 a.m., Fr. Joseph intention
- St. Bernard**, 9 a.m., Peter and Mary Katherine Savarie
- St. Anne**, 8 a.m., Parishioners and visitors
- Our Lady**, 9:30 a.m., Dan and Sabrina Machiniak
- St. Ignatius**, 1 p.m., Tim and Barb Lytle

Daily Prayer of Surrender

O God Almighty, King of the Universe, I love You, praise You, and adore You! I surrender to You today with all my heart and soul. I say “yes” to You this day. O Most Holy Trinity, You are the only God, the one true God. Father, You are my true Father. Thanks for giving me a biological father in order to bring me into this world to share in Your divine nature by Your gift of grace. Jesus, I believe in You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. I hold nothing back. Jesus, You have my permission to live in my heart. Conform my heart and mind into Yours; let me love and think as You do. Holy Spirit, bring me to a deeper conversion to the person of Jesus Christ. Help me follow Your daily promptings. Immerse me, Holy Spirit, and let Your gifts come alive in me. Almighty God, I surrender all to You: my health, family, resources, work, skills, relationships, time management, successes, failures, and regrets. I release all of these to You and let them go. I surrender my understanding of how things ought to be, my choices, and my will. I surrender to You the promises I have kept and the promises I have failed to keep. I surrender my fears, temptations, insecurities, and sexuality to You.

Men, pray: Jesus, help me to become a man like You—a man of action that builds up Your Kingdom

and who is sexually pure. Women, pray: Jesus, help me to become a woman like Mary—the greatest role model of all Christians, perfectly receptive to You, and sexually pure.

I especially surrender [surrender other areas as the Holy Spirit reveals them to you]: _____, _____, _____, etc.

Lord, I surrender my entire life to You—the past, the present, and the future. In sickness and in health, in life and in death, I belong to You alone! Almighty God, I offer up my body to You as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing. Amen.

Totus Tuus Vacation Bible School; July 23 – 28

Save the date! \$20 donation to offset the cost.
 Grades 1-6: Mon – Fri, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; grades 7-12: Sun – Thur, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Calendar of Events

- Apr 23 (Sun)**. The Sacrament of Confirmation given at Mass at Our Lady of the Snow, 9:30 a.m.
- Apr 23 (Sun)**. Divine Mercy celebrations at StP & OLS.
- May 7 (Sun)**. First Communion at Our Lady, 9:30 a.m.
- Jun 17 (Sat)**. Mass resumes at StB; new time, 5:30 p.m.
- Jul 20-21 (Thu-Fri)**. Sports-Bible Camp in Fraser
- Jul 23-28 (Sun-Fri)**. *Totus Tuus* Vacation Bible School

Mass Collections, April 8 – 9

St. Anne	\$ 2201
St. Bernard	1605
Our Lady of the Snow	1736
St. Peter	817
St. Ignatius	450
Total	\$ 6809

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

- Sat**--Francesco Basso & Deacon Daniel Ciucci
- Sun**--Deacons Daniel Eusterman & Shawn Galvin
- Mon**--Deacons Nicholas Larkin & John Mrozek
- Tue**--Deacons Boguslaw Rebacz and Peter Wojda
- Wed**--St. John Vianney Seminary staff
- Thu**--*Redemptoris Mater* Seminary staff
- Fri**--Men and women applying for formation

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;
 OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

Easter Weekend Masses

-See the schedule in the left column of this page

Weekday Masses

- Mon, Apr 10, StA, 8:30 a.m., Tim, Brandi, Leo and Ash
- Tue, Apr 11, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Tim, Brandi, Leo and Ash
- Wed, Apr 12, StB, 8:30 a.m., Peter & Kathleen Brownell

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StI = St. Ignatius (Walden); StP = St. Peter

Easter Weekend Masses

-See the schedule in the left column of this page