

Fr. Simon Sez



Divine Mercy Sunday

Promise: Sunday of Divine Mercy is this Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter. Be sure to take advantage of this ONLY weekend of the year when you can receive the same effects as “a second baptism” by going to confession and receiving Holy Communion,

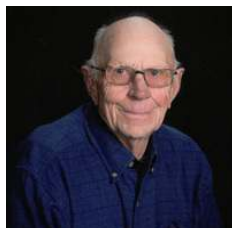
ONLY this weekend throughout the year! That means, Jesus, the Divine Mercy promised that faithful people who go to confession and receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday will have all of their sins wiped away and all punishment due to sin (no punishment in purgatory will be required for all past sins forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance, a.k.a. confession). If you are not able to go to confession before Mass and receive communion, you can request to do this immediately following the Divine Mercy Holy Hours scheduled for this Sunday afternoon at SHC in Gettysburg 3:00 p.m. and SPX Church in Onida at 5:30 p.m. I have a two-sided handout explaining the extraordinary grace of Divine Mercy Sunday and how to pray it along with prayer cards available in the church gathering spaces.

Implementation of the Revised Order of Penance: The new English translation of the Prayer of Absolution may be used beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 22), but it will be required beginning on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 16). This does not affect anyone except the priest providing the Prayer of Absolution. The highlighted words are the changes as follows:

God, the Father of mercies,
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself
and **poured out the Holy Spirit** for the forgiveness of sins;
through the ministry of the Church
may God **grant** you pardon and peace.
*AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS,
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.*

Death Notice: Edward “Ed” Zweber, 66, of Gettysburg passed away Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Avera Gettysburg Hospital. Funeral services are pending with Luce Funeral Home of Gettysburg (www.familyfuneralhome.net).

Funeral Condolences: We celebrated Larry Griese’s life at his funeral last Friday, April 14, 2023. He died Holy Saturday evening, April 8, 2023 in his home at the age of 85 years. We pray for him, his wife Charlotte Griese and family.



His Mercy Endures: Scott Hahn Reflects on Divine Mercy Sunday



Acts 2:42–47
Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24
1 Peter 1:3–9
John 20:19–31

We are children of Jesus’ Resurrection from the dead. Through this wondrous sign of His great mercy, the Father of Jesus has given us new birth, as we hear in today’s Epistle.

Today’s First Reading sketches the “family life” of our first ancestors in the household of God (see 1 Peter 4:17). We see them doing what we still do—devoting themselves to the Apostles’ teaching, meeting daily to pray and celebrate “the breaking of the bread.”

The Apostles saw the Lord. He stood in their midst, He showed them His hands and sides. They heard His blessing and received His commission: to extend the Father’s mercy to all peoples through the power and Spirit He conferred upon them.

We must walk by faith and not by sight—we must believe and love what we have not seen (see 2 Corinthians 5:7). Yet, the invisible realities are made present for us through the devotions the Apostles handed on.

Notice the experience of the risen Lord in today’s Gospel is described in a way that evokes the Mass.

Both appearances take place on a Sunday. The Lord comes to be with His disciples. They rejoice, listen to His Word, and receive the gift of His forgiveness and peace. He offers His wounded body to them in remembrance of His Passion. And they know and worship Him as their Lord and their God.

Thomas’ confession is a vow of faith in the new covenant. As promised long before, in the blood of Jesus we can now know the Lord as our God and be known as His people (see Hosea 2:20–25).

This confession is sung in the heavenly liturgy (see Revelation 4:11). And in every Mass on earth we renew our covenant and receive the blessings Jesus promised for those who have not seen but have believed.

In the Mass, God’s mercy endures forever, as we sing in today’s Psalm. This is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology (www.stpaulcenter.com)