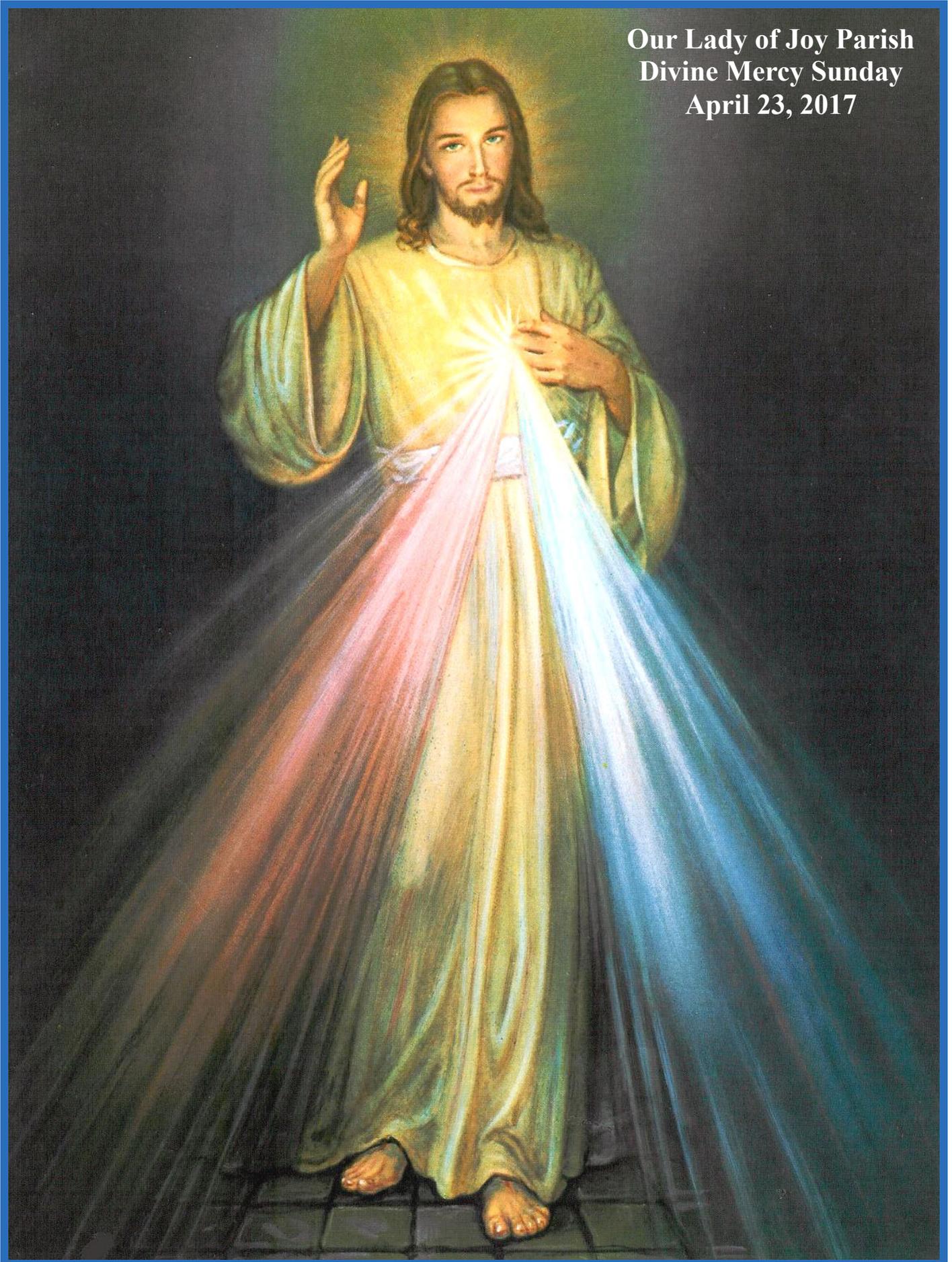


Our Lady of Joy Parish
Divine Mercy Sunday
April 23, 2017



A Season of Joy

“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). This first line of today’s first reading sets the tone as this fifty-day celebration of Easter opens before us. Today we listen to the teachings of three apostles—Luke, Peter, and John—who remind us that even though we have not seen Christ, we nonetheless are filled with joy as we place our belief in his saving death and resurrection. Each week during the Easter season we will gather as a community of faith to find strength and support from our God and from one another. Each week we will gather to break bread and offer the great prayer of thanksgiving, actions that will manifest the very presence of the risen Christ in our midst. Let us be open to the wonders of this season of joy.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH April 24 - April 30, 2017

MONDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- Parish Prayer Service - 7pm

TUESDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- Prayer Shawl - 9am
- Evangelization Project Mtg. - 6pm
- Lectio Divina - 7pm

WEDNESDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am
- Chorale - 7pm
- Bereavement - 7pm

THURSDAY

- Weekday Mass - 12 Noon
- Holy Hour - 12:30pm
- Adoration & Divine Mercy - 3pm
- Icon Painting Class - 7pm
- Contemporary Ensemble Practice - 7:30pm

FRIDAY

- Weekday Mass - 8:30am

SATURDAY

- Sacrament of Penance - 5pm - 5:30pm
- Vigil Mass - 6pm

SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Easter

- Sunday Masses - 8:30am, 10am and 12 Noon
- First Communions
- Spanish Mass & Reception - 6pm

From the Pastor

St. Pope John Paul II declared while he was our Holy Father that the Sunday after Easter Sunday would be known as **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**. Our Gospel story tells of how on the first day of the week Jesus appeared to the disciples and said, **PEACE BE WITH YOU**. He showed them His hands and His side, and the disciples rejoiced. Thomas however was not present when Jesus arrived. The disciples told him they had seen the Lord, and Thomas said he would not believe it without seeing it for himself. A week later the Lord came to the room again where the disciples had gathered, and this time Thomas was present. Thomas said to Jesus, ‘**MY LORD AND MY GOD**’. The Lord said ‘Blessed are those who have not seen and who have believed.’ The words of the Gospel were written so that each of us may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus gave Thomas His **DIVINE MERCY**, which He also offers to all who turn to Him and seek forgiveness with faith. Today we are all offered the great Mercy of the Lord. Jesus appeared to St. Faustina many years later and asked her to have painted a picture depicting Jesus with rays of red and white coming from his **SACRED HEART**, to show His Divine Mercy offered to all the world. A **Plenary Indulgence** is obtained by observing the usual dispositions that are on place for the granting of this grace through the Intercession of the Catholic Church, that is: Sacramental Confession (the confession may take place some days before), Holy Eucharistic Communion, to pray for the intentions of the pope (an Our Father and Hail Mary is minimum requirement), when the faithful detached from any sin, even venial, either: ----- In any church or chapel take part in the prayers and devotions in honor of the Divine Mercy. ----- In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, say an Our Father and Creed. So, in Honor of the Lord’s **DIVINE MERCY**, today we will have a holy hour beginning at 2:30 pm and lasting until around 3:30 pm, with the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed at 3 pm, ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament of the Lord. We will have refreshments served for all present in the hall immediately following. God bless each of you, and a continued good weather and good health to you this spring and glorious Easter Season.



God bless, Fr. Al Z+

PARISH NEWS

Pre-Marriage Class

The next weekend for our Marriage Preparation Program will be May 5 & 6, 2017. Couples must attend both the Friday evening session 7:00pm - 10:15pm and the Saturday morning session 9:00am-1:00pm to complete the diocesan requirements for marriage instruction. Call 412-795-3388 to register.

Pre-Baptism

A class is required for any new parent(s) wishing to have their baby baptized at Our Lady of Joy Parish. The class will be offered at 7:00pm in the Father Marchukonis Hall on May 3, 2017.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Come join the Parish family to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 23 at 2:30pm, the eighth day within the Octave of Easter. The celebration will begin with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and include the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The closing will be around 3:30 pm. A reception in the Father Marchukonis Hall will follow the prayers. We will also show the movie The Face of Mercy. Please try to join us as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday declared by St. John Paul II .

On Mission for The Church Alive Prayer Service

Join our community for an evening of prayer, reflections, and refreshments on Monday, April 24 at 7pm at Our Lady of Joy. Allow yourself a special time to pray, ponder, and process as a community as we continue our journey On Mission for The Church Alive!

The First communion Masses

There will be two First Communion Masses which will take place on Sunday, April 30 and Sunday May 7 at 12:00 noon. Please pray for all the students as you reflect on your own First Communion with gratitude.

Month of May/ Mary's Altar May Crowning May 13, at 6pm Mass

The month of May is traditionally known as the month of Our Lady. To honor the Blessed Virgin parishes often process and crown an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary with flowers. The crown of flowers represents our prayers. This often is referred to as "May Crowning." This rite offers the Church a chance to reflect on Mary's important role in the history of salvation and to learn reverence for our Blessed Mother. This spring will mark 100 years since the Fatima apparitions, and an opportunity to reflect deeply again upon their message. The Angel of Peace appeared three times to the shepherd children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, beginning in the spring of 1916 in Fatima, Portugal. As faithful disciples, we are called to be holy, and intercessors for each other. Fatima was a wake-up call. In it, Jesus' last words from the Cross come alive "Behold, your mother." (Jn. 19:27) .

Light refreshments and a film on the Fatima apparitions will be take place in the Church hall after Mass.

Spiritual Adoption/Respect Life

On Wednesday May 10 we will have the baby shower sponsored by CCD and Respect Life Committee. The shower will begin at 7pm in the Father Marchukonis Hall. Come and bring your baby gifts and enjoy some fun, food and games. The gifts will be given to the Women's choice Network. Maybe your gift will go to your Spiritual Adopted baby. Call the Religious Office to RSVP.

Today's Readings

First Reading — All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).

Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading — God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-9).

Gospel — The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts (John 20:19-31).

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and In Loving Memory of the *Deceased Members of the Whalen & Kenney Families*. Requested by Pat & Chuck Kenney.



Doubt

There lives more faith in honest doubt, Believe me, than in half the creeds.

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson

PARISH NEWS



Our Bishop is Listening Changes to the On Mission Implementation

Based on all the feedback the diocese has received to date the following plan will assist in accomplishing the next steps in the On Mission process.

Bishop Zubik, after receiving recommendations from the On Mission Commission and discerning with his consultative bodies, will announce his decisions and announce "groupings" of parishes at the end of March 2018. All the groupings will be announced simultaneously.

Furthermore, all the priest assignments will be announced at the same time. Implementation, however, will come out in stages. Each grouping will be put into one of three categories. The priests will be assigned to all of the parishes within the grouping they would eventually serve. For example: A priest may be named pastor of four parishes with the goal of helping the four parishes work toward the merger within a certain period of time.

Category A would include areas that are in need of making the change immediately, either because of finances or demographics. Category A also includes groupings that have indicated to the diocese that they are ready to go immediately. These mergers would take place within a year of the priest changes, and some may officially occur with the installation of the new pastor. They would follow a "blueprint" that is being developed to help bring parishes together.

Category B would include the greatest number of parishes. The new pastor (and parochial vicars/parish chaplains) would be appointed to the various parishes in the grouping. They would follow a "blueprint" that is being developed to help bring parishes together. The pastor will work to bring the parishes together for the ultimate merger, which would take place in one to three years.

Finally, some of the larger or more complex parishes would be part of Category C. In these cases, the final merger would not be implemented for three to five years. They would follow a "blueprint" that is being developed to help bring parishes together.

duck quacking competition! If you have any questions, would like to purchase a duck, or would like to donate to the cause, please call Mike at (412) 607-3056.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / CCD



CCD Students: Registration 2017-18

If your child is new to the CCD program you may register by stopping in the Religious Education Office to fill out forms. All new registrations need to be registered members of the parish, will need a copy of the child's baptismal certificate if not baptized at Our Lady of Joy, will need to complete the form choosing your child's class time and day, fill out an emergency contact form and new registration form. If your child is returning next year please turn in your updated Registration papers which were handed out at CCD. These papers are required so your child has a space in the CCD program. Questions? please call the Religious Education Office at 412-795-4389.

Catechist District Dinner

The Celebration begins with Mass on May 11 at 5:00 pm at St. Bernadette Church. After Mass we will gather in the Lourdes Center with dinner starting at 6:15pm. All Catechists and aides from Our Lady of Joy are invited. Please RSVP to the Religious Education office.

OTHER NEWS



National Donate Life Month 2017

In 2016, more than 33,600 transplants brought renewed life to patients and their families and communities (from 9,900 deceased and 5,900 living donors)

- More than 119,00 men, women and children await life-saving organ transplants (1,100 of them are 10 years old or younger)
- About 58% of patients awaiting lifesaving transplants are minorities.
- Another person is added to the nation's transplant waiting list every 10 minutes.
- Sadly 8,000 people die each year (22 people each day - almost one person each hour) because the organs they need are not donated in time.
- 80% of patients on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is 3 to 5 years. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list (the living donor's remaining kidney will enlarge, doing the work of two healthy kidneys)
- 12% of patients waiting are in need of a liver, living donation of a part of a liver can help these patients (the remaining portion of the donor liver will regenerate and regain full function)
- Nearly one-third of all deceased donors are age 50 or older, more than 7% are age 65 or older. There is no age limit for becoming an organ donor/tissue donor. Call Rich Wegrzyn @ 724-327-7952.

OLOJ Annual Duck Race

Our Lady of Joy Youth Ministry members are organizing a mission trip to Appalachia this summer to help those in need. In order to do so they are hosting The Annual Duck Race. This is your chance to get in on the "duck action"! You can buy a duck for \$5 or a flock (6 ducks) for \$20 and watch it bob down Plum Creek towards the finish line. Prizes consisting of donations from area businesses/organizations will be awarded to top winners. The First Place Duck will get \$400! Ducks will be released May 7 into the creek at the Plum baseball fields. Additional activities will be available from 1:30 - 3pm at the "Duck Festival." There will be games for children, food, and even a