

## the Divine Mercy Devotion

From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone—especially the greatest sinners.

The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message of mercy is that God loves us—all of us—no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that his mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon him with trust, receive his mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share his joy.

**ASK FOR HIS MERCY** God wants us to approach him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking him to pour his mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**BE MERCIFUL** God wants us to receive his mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as he does to us.

**COMPLETELY TRUST IN JESUS** God wants us to know that the graces of his mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

from EWTN.com

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 20</b>
Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8	
Private Mass	Mr. Malcolm Latour, Jr.
Private Mass	Ms. Linda Adams
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 21</b>
Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15	
Private Mass	Fr. Mike Kelleher
Private Mass	Mr. Ron Fournier
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 22</b>
Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21	
Private Mass	Special Intention
Private Mass	Mr. Lee Adler
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 23</b>
Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36	
Private Mass	Sarah and Joel Watts
Private Mass	Int. Ms. Jackie Endt
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 24</b>
Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15	
Private Mass	William "Bill" Gryder, IV
Private Mass	Ms. Lucille "Lou" Young
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 25</b>
1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20	
Private Mass	Mr. George Wavra
Private Mass	Ms. Edna Spell
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>APRIL 26</b>
Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35	
Private Mass	Mr. Gene Peresich
Private Mass	Mrs. Vara Lyons
Private Mass	Congregation
Private Mass	Mr. Glenn Ryan



**Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Clyde Ready, uncle of Fr. Mike Snyder, who passed away April 13<sup>th</sup>.**

We extend our sympathy to the family and promise them a remembrance in our prayers. May God grant him eternal peace.



**Pray for Our Parishioners and Friends:** Rita Allen, Regina Papania Bell, Chris Bellman, Anthony David Belson, Elaine Belson, Walter Bolton, Bob & Ruth Boney, Glen Bosarge, Mercedes Bosarge, Carole Bourgeois, Sarah Broussard, Sybil Burchinal, Eileen Burkhardt, Arlene Burns, Carol Lee Cantin, Vicki Carter, Pat Cronin, Breanne Dalton, Gina Dasher, Marjorie DuBois, Betty Dugan, Jackie Endt, Fr. Bernie Farrell, Loretta Foster, LaJuan Fowler, Carmen Gaethe, Julian Galloway, Sandra Grantham, Danielle Gundlach, Doris Haynes, Donnie Hebert, Margaret Hebert, Ron & Mary Jo Hoogstra, Melissa James, Otis Kaufman, John Kiernan, Daisie Laborde, Barbara Langan, Catherine Lawrence, Erik Marcussen, Gordon Mathieu, Cheryl Megie, Bernie McGinley, Marie Meyers, Edna Miguez, Iva Misko, Donna Necaize, Leonard Necaize, Peggy and Edward Necaize, Shirley and Travis Norman, Michael Punziano, Sarah Robinson, Carter James Sanders, Harold (Jimmy) Saylor, Jr., Sandy Senseney, Dale Seymour, Joyleen Seymour, Nell Stanton, Mary Terry, Virginia Thompson, Ann Tootle, Dolores Trenouth, Edna Trochesset, Ted Ursu, Ashley Vickers, Isabella Welch and Thane Williams.

### How can I stay close to God and one another right now?

With businesses and restaurants shuttered and Sunday Masses cancelled, we can quickly feel isolated. But social distancing doesn't mean we can't find ways to stay close to God and one another. Even from inside our homes, we can connect with those around us through small acts of kindness that can have a ripple effect on others.

**Be generous.** Buy a gift card from your favorite restaurant or order takeout (and leave a tip!) where available. Pay or tip your hairdresser or cleaning person even if you have to cancel; they are vulnerable during a downturn like this.

**Read.** Set up a sharing library in your neighborhood and/or a virtual book group; support your local bookstore by purchasing books online as well.

**Reach out.** Call your grandma or friends with whom you have lost touch; encourage your children to write notes or draw pictures to send to those who may be lonely.

**Get social.** Go online to participate in a parish Bible study or meet up for a virtual Easter brunch. Watch a film together via Netflix Party (Bonus: It's OK to 'chat' during the movie).

**Help neighbors.** Offer to pick up groceries or share hard-to-find items.

**Keep holy the Sabbath.** Gather with those around you, and watch a televised/live-streamed Mass. Pray a rosary together.

These everyday gestures can be powerful antidotes to the sense of helplessness and isolation many of us feel.

Remember Philippians 4:6-7: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

**How to get the most out of Mass online:** Preview the televised Masses offered to determine which may be most appropriate for your household.

Set up a space in your home for prayer/worship. Consider covering a table with a tablecloth or another nice cloth of the seasonal liturgical color. Place a Bible, a candle and a cross or crucifix on the table.

Straighten the space, and arrange enough furniture for all.

Have everyone go to the bathroom, get drinks, wash faces and come prepared to attend to the Mass.

Turn off and remove all devices that can distract from the space. Remind everyone that we do not kneel and perform the ritual gestures of Mass while we are watching it, since this does not take the place of attending Mass. But everyone should attend to it prayerfully and make a spiritual communion. Before the Mass begins, light the candle.

**Take a Gratitude Walk:** In times of trouble, our hearts long for peace and turn to God. One way to re-center ourselves on our relationship with the Lord is to retreat, or withdraw, from the world. We can do so even at home, and this period of social distancing can be an opportunity to grow closer to God. Taking the time to retreat means that you are focusing inward and calling the Lord to come into your heart. The experience should help you feel more at peace and more aware that God is truly with you. One retreat you can do easily is a Gratitude Walk. If you are near a forest or beach, that is a lovely setting. But if you live in an urban or suburban area, walking around your neighborhood is just as good. The point is to go outside by yourself, unaccompanied, without checking news, social media or email. This Gratitude Walk is solely for you and God.

As you leave your home, invite God to come walk with you. Say, "Lord, I know you are near and ready to be with me. Come, walk beside me, and I will follow you." Then, begin your walk. You have no destination and no specific route. Simply walk wherever your feet take you. It can be for 20 minutes or an hour, depending on the responsibilities you may have at home. If you see someone you know during this retreat, kindly wave and smile at them from afar, but try not to engage in conversation. This is your time with God.

Because this is a Gratitude Walk, focus your thoughts on being thankful. Remain mindful to what's around you: observe the people, animals, sights, sounds and smells. Whatever you encounter, praise God for his creation and for this moment with him. Whether it be a bird chirping, a daffodil newly bloomed or the breeze upon your face, thank God for his care and mercy upon even the most fragile of creation.

A modified version of the Gratitude Walk is Gratitude Watch. Sit from the comfort of your home near a window and carefully examine everything you see. Focus on minute details and say a word of thanks for each one. You can say, "Thank you, Lord, for [insert observation here]. Truly, you are wonderful!"

This retreat should put you in a positive mindset and help you realize that even when life is stressful, there is always something to be grateful for – most of all, God's love for us.

**Pray the Liturgy of the Hours:** The Church has another liturgy (public prayer) with which people may be unfamiliar. That is the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office, the daily prayer of the Church. This beautiful liturgy marks the hours of each day and sanctifies the day with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer. Join priests and religious around the world each day, and particularly on Sundays, in praying the Liturgy of the Hours. You can find it at [www.ibrevariary.com](http://www.ibrevariary.com).

### REFLECTION

#### What faith does

Some people think that if you have enough faith life will be plain sailing for you. But this is not so. The fact that we can swim doesn't prevent us from being knocked about by the waves. In the same way faith doesn't shield us from the hard knocks of life or death. What, then, does faith do? It gives us bearings and thus enables us to live in a topsy-turvy world without getting lost or giving in to despair. Just as swimmers trust that if they don't panic, and if they do a few simple things, then the power of the sea will uphold them, so believers entrust their lives to a power greater than themselves, a power greater than us all. This power is the power of God, who brought his Son, Jesus, back from the dead.

**"Only God can fill the emptiness that evil brings to our hearts and to human history. It is Jesus, God made man, who died on the Cross, who fills the abyss of sin with the depth of his mercy."**

Pope Francis - April 12, 2015

**Congratulations to Dan Pasquini** (seventh winner pulled by Ray Vernon); **Lauren Wahl** (eighth winner pulled by Bill McKnight); and **Rachel Weatherford** (ninth winner pulled by James Ellison) of the Knights of Columbus 10-Week drawing.

**Save the Date: We hope to have Catholic Kids Camp June 15-19, 2020.** This year's theme is "Cathletics? Training to be Champions for Christ" the overall goal of this sports themed week-long program is to engage kids into the LIFE OF CHRIST with teachings from God's Word on the Commandments, the Beatitudes and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. This will be for children in Kindergarten through the 5<sup>th</sup> grades. We will let you know when registration will be held.

**Radio Maria - a Catholic Radio right here in Ocean Springs!** You can listen to it on your radio at FM 88.1; livestream it on your computer at radiomaria.us; download the free app onto your smartphone; or by calling 1-712-832-8065. There are many good programs from inspirational Catholic speakers, programs about history, prayer, care giving, finding a job, Marian apparitions, conversion stories, and many others! Plus there is great music. Let us be grateful to God for this sublime gift to us, for His mercies endure forever! Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)

**2020 Catholic Sharing Appeal:** Please remember to support the Catholic Sharing Appeal. This program supports the ministries of our Church and provides for many individuals in need each year. **Every gift, regardless of size, is vital to the success of the Appeal.** Please make all checks payable to the Catholic Sharing Appeal and mail directly to the Diocese. Our parish CSA goal for this year is \$59,603. We thank those who have already responded to help the less fortunate in our community.

**Parishioner Registration:** When planning a baptism, marriage, or to obtain subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must be able to demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you do attend Mass. It is the Church, not just this parish, which insists that signs of good faith commitment be present on these occasions. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of contributions and Mass attendance. Parish registration forms may be obtained on the Parish Website, in the Vestibule of the Church or at the Parish Office during regular office hours.

**\*\*School Subsidy Policy\*\***

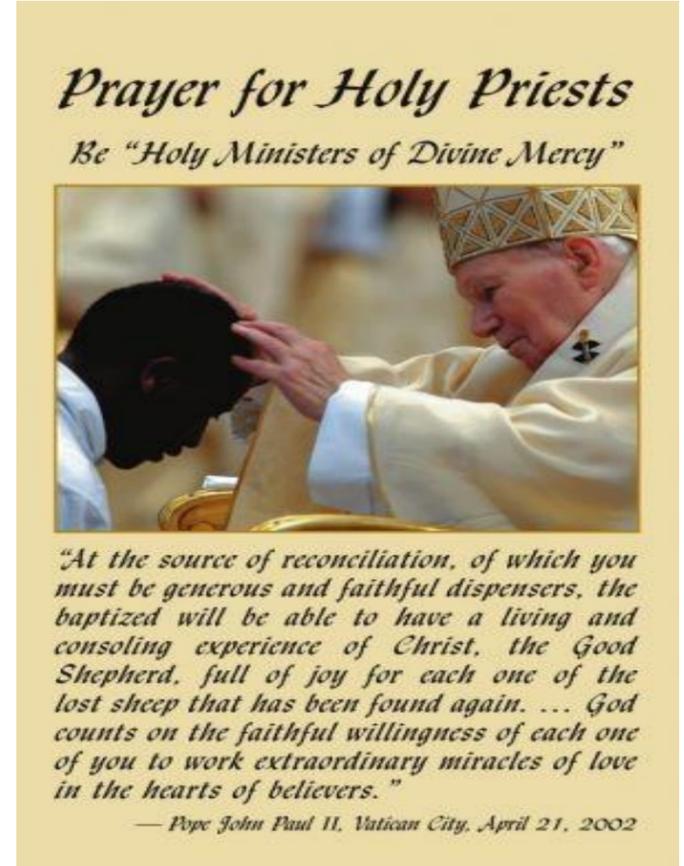
**Registration for the 2020/2021 School Year Going on Now**  
St. Alphonsus Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Parish Staff, wishes to reiterate the established policy concerning subsidy of our young people at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School. In order for students to receive subsidized tuition at St. Alphonsus Elementary School or St. Patrick High School, the following must be followed:  
1. The Family must be registered in St. Alphonsus Parish  
2. Contribute to the support of the parish through the regular use of the envelope system or some other agreed upon service.  
3. The family MUST attend weekend Mass with the Parish Family at St. Alphonsus.

**Thank you to our ADVERTISERS**  
Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them, and right now they need your help more than ever. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local during these hard times!

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<b>GULF SHORE DERMATOLOGY, PLLC</b> Eric C. Torp, MD Diseases of hair, skin, and nails 228-818-1850	<b>GCI Gulf Coast</b> I M A G I N G Mark B. Wall, M.D. Parishioner www.gciradiology.com	<b>LoCoco, LoCoco, &amp; Gatewood, PLLC</b> ATTORNEYS AT LAW Joseph A. LoCoco • Virginia C. LoCoco Brandi D. Gatewood 10243 Central Ave., D'iberville 392-3799	<b>WYNTON'S PEST CONTROL</b> David D. Wilson 875-5355

**Parish Website:** To view a copy of the weekly Church bulletin on our website just type in "St. Alphonsus Parish Ocean Springs, MS 39564". It will contain a copy of the weekly Church bulletin.

**Donate your vehicle and other goods:** St. Vincent de Paul has a nation-wide Vehicle Donation Program. For many, donating a vehicle can be a substantial gift. St. Maximilian Kolbe Conference will use the proceeds from the sale of your vehicle, boat, trailer, motorcycle, or RV towards developing the thrift store to feed, clothe, house, and heal individuals and families in our community who have nowhere else to turn for help. As you clear out your garage or driveway consider donating that vehicle - and all those other goods you're no longer using. We provide convenient, free, pick-up. Your tax deductible donation enables us to serve the poor and provide others with the opportunity to serve our neighbors in need with love and compassion. You can go on-line at <https://svdpos.com> and click on the "giving" tab mid-page. Follow the instructions and click on car in the left column. You could also just simply call Rob Greuling at 228-215-6261.



**Our Parish App is a great way to help make the liturgical season more present in your daily life.** These helpful reflections will aid you in reflecting on the Mass readings each day. Also - under FORMED, you will be able to stream hundreds of hours of inspiring movies and video series, read bestselling Catholic eBooks, and listen to audio presentations from the Church's most compelling speakers and is available from virtually any device...anytime, anywhere. **Don't have the App or FORMED yet?** If you have either an iPhone or Android smart phone you can download the App by texting **App** to phone number **88202**, or by visiting [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com). To gain access to FORMED - go to the website at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and enter our Parish Code **f1f5a9** (case sensitive) on the homepage, create an account with your user name/email and password.

- Websites that may be good for people with problems, addictions, etc:**  
[www.americanaddictioncenters.org](http://www.americanaddictioncenters.org);  
[www.narcononcolorado.org](http://www.narcononcolorado.org);  
[www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org);  
[www.catholicdivorce.com](http://www.catholicdivorce.com);  
[www.cancersupportcommunity.org](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org);  
[www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org);  
[www.catholicmenconquerporn.com](http://www.catholicmenconquerporn.com);  
[www.yourbrainonporn.com](http://www.yourbrainonporn.com)

**WEEKLY OFFERING**  
 Sunday Collection.....\$7,680.00  
 Poor Collection.....\$ 960.00  
 May God Bless You for your generous and faithful support

**A Note from The Lord Is My Help:**  
Dear St. Alphonsus Church, On behalf of *The Lord Is My Help* employees, volunteers, patrons, and board members, we thank you for your monetary donations and ongoing support. We appreciate your generosity as our ministry operates almost entirely through the contributions of caring individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations. Your contributions are especially significant as we continue our food services for the needy during the COVID-19 crisis. The *Feed the Need* fund raiser, which provides much needed funds to our ministry, had to be postponed from April to sometime this fall because of the virus. Faithful employees and volunteers working in our kitchen and pantry are providing hot lunches and groceries Monday through Friday to those who are needing assistance during this very difficult period. Number of meals served is averaging 4,215 per month at a cost of \$2.73 per meal, with 66% of these meals being delivered by volunteer drivers to homes of elderly, ill, and/or disabled individuals. The other 34% are served to people who are receiving take-out meals at our facility. Average number of households receiving assistance from our food pantry is 243 per month, representing an average of 607 persons. Donated food is always welcome and will be used for the hot meals when possible. Our pantry is stocked by generous donations of non-perishable food items. Canned meats are in high demand and especially needed. Contact us with any questions you might have about *The Lord Is My Help* at 872-2331. -Mary Bayne, Board Secretary.

**Prayer of Saint Francis (Attributed), Monk and Ascetic**  
 Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Where there is hatred, let me bring love.  
 Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.  
 Where there is discord, let me bring union.  
 Where there is error, let me bring truth.  
 Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.  
 Where there is despair, let me bring hope.  
 Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.  
 Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.  
 O Master, let me not seek as much to be consoled as to console,  
 to be understood as to understand,  
 to be loved as to love,  
 for it is in giving that one receives,  
 it is in self-forgetting that one finds,  
 it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,  
 it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

**Prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila, Mystic and Nun**  
 Let nothing disturb you,  
 Let nothing frighten you,  
 All things are passing;  
 God only is changeless.  
 Patience gains all things.  
 Who has God wants nothing.  
 God alone suffices.

**Thomas Merton, Monk and Author**  
 My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.