

In the 1930's, Sister Faustina Kowalska received a vision from God, and wrote down the Message of Divine Mercy. It is an intercessory prayer, in union with the offering of Jesus in the Eucharist. Pope John Paul promoted this devotion & canonized her in 2003. He wrote:

“Jesus told Sr Faustina: **"Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy"** (Diary, p. 132)... this is a gift of special enlightenment that helps us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely, to offer it as a ray of light to the men and women of our time.

gfr...What will man's future on earth be like? We are not given to know. However, it is certain that in addition to new progress there will unfortunately be no lack of painful experiences. But the light of divine mercy, which the Lord in a way wished to return to the world through Sr Faustina's charism, will illumine the way ... today too humanity must welcome into the upper room of history the risen Christ, who shows the wounds of his Crucifixion and repeats: Peace be with you! Humanity must let itself be touched and pervaded by the Spirit given to it by the risen Christ. It is the Spirit who heals the wounds of the heart, pulls down the barriers that separate us from God and divide us from one another, and at the same time, restores the joy of the Father's love and of fraternal unity.

It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called **"Divine Mercy Sunday"**. In the various readings, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings. Christ has taught us that "man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but is also called 'to practice mercy' towards others: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy' (Mt 5:7)" (*Dives et misericordia*, n. 14). He also showed us the many paths of mercy, which not only forgives sins but reaches out to all human needs. Jesus bent over every land of human poverty, material and spiritual.”

O Lord Jesus Christ, through You I humbly beg the merciful Father to **send the Holy Spirit of grace, that He may bestow upon us his sevenfold gifts**. May He send us:

- the gift of wisdom, which will make us relish the Tree of Life that is none other than Yourself;
- the gift of understanding, which will enlighten us;
- the gift of counsel, which will guide us in the way of righteousness
- the gift of fortitude, which will give us the strength to vanquish the enemies of our sanctification and salvation;
- the gift of knowledge, which will enable us to discern your teaching and distinguish good from evil;
- the gift of piety, which will make us enjoy true peace; and
- the gift of fear of the Lord, which will make us shun all iniquity and avoid all danger of offending Your Majesty.



Pope John Paul II & the Divine Mercy

**Ft. Pierre St.John Draper St.Anthony
16 April 2023 Divine Mercy Sunday**

206 W. Main Ave., Fort Pierre SD 57532 605-223-2176
stjohnsfortpierre.org main.stjohns@midconetwork.com

Eucharistic Adoration Sunday 2-3pm

Sat 4/15	9:00pm	For confirmands
Sun 4/16	8:00am 10:00am	Draper For parishioners FtPierre + Evelyn Straight
Mon 4/17	5:30pm	Pro life ministry
Tue 4/18	5:30pm	+ Melody Hackett
Wed 4/19	7:00am	+ Don Carda
Thu 4/20		No Mass
Fri 4/21	5:30pm	Birthday Christine Olson

Confession Mon & Tue 6-6:30pm

Knights of Columbus breakfast April 16th after 10am Mass

Faith Formation

Sunday April 16th K-8th 8:30-9:45am.

Confirmation and sponsors practice

Wed. April 19th 9-12th grade – Regular Class 6:30-7:45pm Ice Cream Social

Saturday April 22nd 5:30pm – Confirmation Mass. 4:30pm youth meet with the bishop in church basement.

Pictures and meal in Padre Hall following Mass.

Sunday April 23th K-5th 8:30-9:45am

Wed. April 26th 7-12th grade – *The Great Adventure Challenge* 6:30-7:45pm

Pizza at 6:30pm followed by games with prizes awarded.

Sunday April 30th K-6th 8:30-9:45am

Sunday April 30th First Communion Retreat after 10am Mass for parents and First Communion youth.

Brunch will be served with a tour of sacred spaces and practice with the body and blood of Christ.

Parish Council meets Wednesday, April 19th at 7:00pm in Padre Hall.

Calvin Jones Concert for Ukraine Thurs, April 20th 7pm at Pierre Lutheran Memorial

**Pray for those preparing to be confirmed by Bishop Peter Muhich
next Saturday at 5:30pm mass**

- Evelyn Allen
- Sophia Hanten
- Lyza Janecke
- Hadley Larson
- Ben Maxwell
- Alice Rapp
- Delaney Stoesser
- Tucker Stoesser



THE GREAT ADVENTURE
CHALLENGE

The Benedictine sisters of St Martin's are moving into the neighboring Good Samaritan Village in May.

Knights of Columbus sponsor a camp at Broomtree Retreat Center, Irene, SD for 13 - 19 year old boys June 23-25, 2023. The state KofC council is covering the cost so it's free for the kids. If you know anyone interested, go to broom-tree.org and find out more information.

Liturgical Ministers

4/15 Sat: 5:30pm	Lector: Lori Roberts EM: Irma LeFaive	Servers: need
4/16 Sun: 10:00am	Lector: Mike Weisgram EM: Judy Weisgram	Servers: Ben & Sam Maxwell
4/22 Sat: 9:00pm	Lector: Wade Pogany EM: Mary Giddings	Servers: need
4/23 Sun: 10:00am	Lector: Lily Kellar EM: Need	Servers: Lucas & Lincoln Kellar

In entry of St John Church is a **basket for donated bed sheets and pillows**. This is for a non-profit organization with a branch in Pierre called "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." SHP that **makes bunk beds free for kids who need them**. Information shpbeds.org Brian Lueking brian.lueking@shpbeds.org

Pro-choicers are trying to establish a non-existent "right to abortion" in SD law. We can't allow a simple ballot initiative to undermine the incredible work of the pro-life community and endanger unborn lives. If someone approaches you with a clipboard asking you to sign this petition, **decline to sign**. familyheritagealliance.org **Pierre Area Right-to-Life** is raising money to promote the prolife message, protecting the unborn. For info and opportunities to donate, go to humanfromdayone.com

Mother's Day weekend Bake Sale fundraiser for HumanFromDayOne.com to raise awareness and support for the preborn in SD! HumanFromDayOne.com teaches: (1) We are ALL Human from DAY ONE; (2) ALL Humans have VALUE; and (3) ALL Humans should be PROTECTED. All funds raised will go toward advertising these Positive, Life-Affirming messages in South Dakota. If you are willing to donate baked goods, please contact Brian Pontious or George Welk.

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. eucharisticrevival.org

We will start our parish team soon. If you wish to be part of it, contact Fr. Ron or Josie.

Living in the Holy Spirit Retreat - April 21-23 - Go deeper into Life in the Spirit on a weekend retreat at Terra Sancta! We'll learn more about the charismatic roots of our Catholic faith and the ways the Holy Spirit moves us, as well as how to embrace the gifts being bestowed on us through the Holy Spirit. Registration includes meals and materials; lodging is also available. Dr. Carole Brown, Debbie Johnson, Sr. Sara Kowal, SCJTM, Fr. Bryan Sorenson, and Randy Sowers will lead the conferences, with Fr. Mark McCormick serving as the retreat chaplain. Register online at terrasancta.org/holyspiritretreat by April 19.

Fr. Mark McCormick, Director of Vocations, has information on joining or starting a six-week **vocations discernment group**. For info: 605-343-3541 or email MMcCormick@diorc.org

If you are hurting from an abortion, come to a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™ and be infused with the merciful and infinite love of Jesus. Our next retreat is April 28-30. Contact Carol Kling for information about local retreats at 605-374-5639 or ckling@sdplains.com The national office: 877-467-3463 rachelvineyard.org.



Women's Bible Study meets next on Divine Mercy Sunday 16 April 7pm, in the church basement, to watch **Mother Teresa: No Greater Love**. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

A new study will begin on April 23rd. **Lectio: Prayer with Finding Intimacy with God**. Capture the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in his presence and

resolving to live in and through his love. Come as you are, where you are and join us in this 6-week study. Please contact Jeri at 605-280-4328

Young Adult Bible Study: Tuesday, 7-8pm in Church basement. Call Brian 609-556-5977

Blessing of seeds Our health depends on the sprouting of seeds. The planting of seeds and nurturing them to grow to harvest is an act of cooperation with our Creator. We receive God's choicest blessings when we break from our labors and enjoy a simple meal. Saving some of the new seeds allows us to continue this miraculous cycle of nature. In addition to the soil, seeds need fresh water to grow. The cycle of rain blesses us, and water stored in the ground is a treasure. We seek God's guidance in finding ways to better utilize seeds and water so that farming can become more sustainable for all who find their vocation in the land.

Loving God, the Spirit of Life hovered over the waters and began the great work of creation. Bless the waters of this earth. Let them fall again from the sky at the proper times so that our gardens and fields may yield abundantly, and all growing things may thrive. Bless also these seeds, pregnant with life. They show us the Easter mystery of new life coming from death and burial. May they burst forth soon with verdant growth from earth, rain and sun. You have called us to the honored task of being workers in your garden. Through the rain and these seeds, bring us to a new awareness of your presence in and around us, as we joyfully live in the knowledge of eternal resurrection. Plant seeds of love in our lives that will grow through the years, watered by the tears of pain and sacrifice that come our way. Your Son showed us the way. We now ask your guidance to follow it well. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen (National Catholic Rural Life)

Cathedral Diamond Jubilee Sunday, May 7, you are cordially invited to the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 520 Cathedral Dr., Rapid City. Mass 5:30 p.m., Bishop Peter Muhich, celebrant. BBQ Picnic, 6:30 p.m. in parish hall.

Soon, as a diocese, we will take up the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal (CHMA)**, which supports the neediest dioceses in the United States. This appeal makes the most basic faith programs possible and shares the Gospel message with our brothers and sisters in dioceses where Church communities are scattered and struggling. These funds helped us to support our rural parishes with faith formation, to provide formation for deacons and lay ministers, to send the West River Catholic to each Catholic household in the Diocese, and to provide for the needs of pastoral teams in the most remote areas of our diocese.