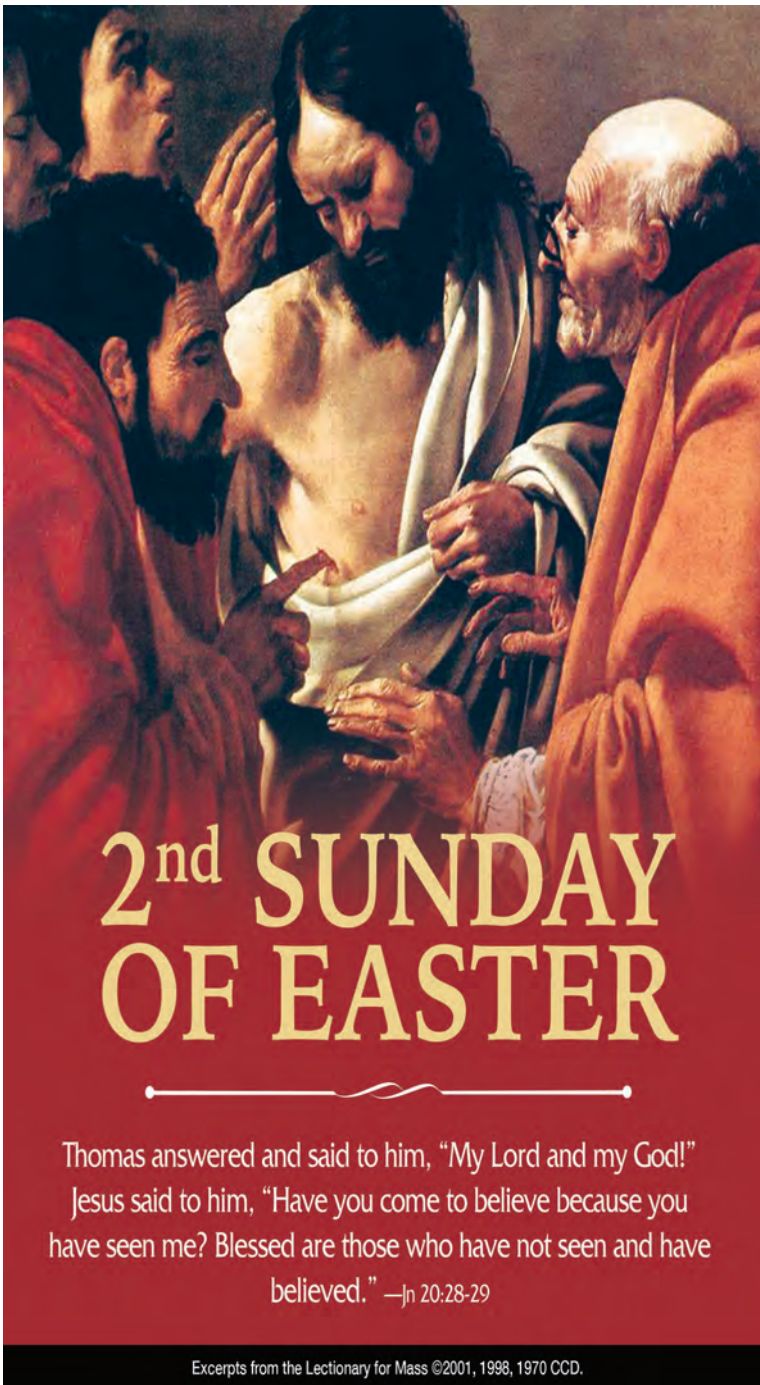


St. Mary Help of Christians Church

24588 County Road 7, St. Augusta, MN 56301

April 19, 2020



2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you
have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have
believed." —Jn 20:28-29

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

PARISH: 320-252-1799
SCHOOL: 320-251-3937
WEBSITE: www.SMHOC.org
PRAYER LINE: 320-558-6187
OFFICE EMAIL:
shellyg@smhoc.org

PARISH STAFF
Fr. Matthew Crane, *Pastor*
Kelly Kirks, *Principal*
Shelly Gohmann, *Secretary*
Kathy Waletzko,
Music Director
Tracy Yarle
Promoter of Catechesis

MASS SCHEDULE
Suspended until May 15

**EVENING PRAYER &
RECONCILIATION**
Suspended until May 15

NEW PARISHIONERS
Call the parish office
for more information.

MARRIAGE PREP
Arrangements must be made
at least 6 months before
wedding. Call the Parish
Office.

BAPTISM PREP CLASS
June 8, 2020 at 6:30pm.
Call the Parish Office to
register.

**RCIA "RITE OF CHRISTIAN
INITIATION OF ADULTS"**
Anyone interested in
becoming a member of
the Catholic Faith call
the Parish Office.

CEMETERY
JERRY KOLTES
320-252-1354

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of
St Mary Help of
Christians Parish,
are called to love and
serve the Lord through
our lives.

Established in 1856,
the church is the
cornerstone around
which we have built
our community of
faith.

We encourage all to
participate through
worship, education,
and sharing of their
gifts and talents.

With the strength of
our families, the
optimism of our youth,
and the wisdom of our
seniors, we strive to be
advocates of the
"Good News"
as we continue to grow
and change.

April 19, 2020

On Tuesday of Holy Week, His Excellency, Bishop Donald Kettler, decreed that, out of concern for the health and safety of all people, **the suspension of the public celebration of Holy Mass has been extended through Friday, May 15.**

In addition, Bishop Kettler decreed several other items. I indicate them below, as well the parish's particular response in conformity with the bishop's decree:

- ◆ **Through May 15, church buildings and parish offices are to remain closed to the public.** - Phone messages and emails will still be checked, however.
- ◆ **There should be no Eucharistic adoration.** - I am aware of the obligations of the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, and will be seeking an alternative means for the the members to adore the Lord in the Eucharist during this time.
- ◆ **There should be no gatherings, of any kind, of more than ten people.** - Those who had events booked in parish facilities have been or will be contacted regarding cancelling or re-scheduling those events.
- ◆ **The Sacrament of Reconciliation is still to be offered, though only by appointment.** - In accordance with directives from the Vatican, I am hearing confessions, by appointment, in an open area of the otherwise empty church.
- ◆ **First Communions should be delayed until after May 15.** - I will make arrangements with parents of the first communicants, in order to find an alternative opportunity for their children to receive this sacrament.
- ◆ **Funeral Masses remain prohibited during this period; graveside services are allowed with no more than 10 people present. A memorial Mass should be scheduled for a date after May 15.** - After the memorial Mass, we will strive to offer the same luncheon services that usually follow a funeral.
- ◆ **Baptisms should be rescheduled.** - Parents within the parish boundaries wanting, nevertheless, to baptize their children during this time, should contact me.
- ◆ **Confirmations for the entire month of May are canceled.** - In anticipation of this, I have already been in contact with *confirmandi* from our parish.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, though it may not seem like it, after this long list of suspensions and prohibitions. However, I note that all these measures ordered towards public health are actually remarkably congruent with the mind of The Divine Mercy. Everything we do, from staying in, to washing our hands, to avoiding large gatherings, to having meetings over the internet is all predicated on the idea that every single human person is worth saving. We don't choose who is helped by our social distancing. The benefits of our hand-washing fall on the bad and the good alike.

It's just one more way I'm starting to recognize the mind of Christ in my actions *outside* the church building. I hope you all start to recognize the role the gospel has in the whole of your lives as well. ~Fr. Matthew Crane

While there is no Public Mass, please remember the following in your prayers:

- 20 Monday - Parishioners
- 21 Tuesday - † Lloyd, † Doris & † Pat Rosha
- 22 Wednesday - † Lorraine Klaverkamp
- 23 Thursday - † Gilbert & † Dora Winter Family
- 24 Friday - † John, † Luella, & † Bruce Klaverkamp
- 25 Saturday - † Ben Rothstein
- 26 Sunday - † Mike & † Mark Meyer



The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." Each year since its inception, the president has signed a proclamation, encouraging all

Americans to pray on this day. This year the National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7, 2020.

Readings for Next Sunday, April 26

- Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33
- 1 Peter 1:17-21
- Luke 24:13-35

Parish Support - Week April 4 -April 9

Adult	\$3,740.00
Easter	2,335.00
Rice Bowl	1,169.73
Votive Lights	6.00
Food Shelf	25.00

Parish Support - Week April 10-April 14

Adult	\$2,260.00
Youth	8.00
Easter	3,573.00
Easter Youth	20.00
Catholic Relief Services	60.00
Rice Bowl	122.06
Votive Stand	3.00
Organ Restoration	3.00
School Endowment	3.00

Parish Contributions - In these uncertain times, we humbly ask for your continued financial support to the parish. There are a couple different options available: Your contributions can be mailed to the parish office,

St. Mary Help of Christians Church
24588 County Road 7
St. Augusta, MN 56301

Or to set up automatic withdrawal email the parish office at shellyg@smhoc.org and the office will email you a form.

Thank you to those who have been able to mail their contributions or who already use the automatic withdrawal. We are grateful for your support! If you are not able to give to the parishes at this time, we understand and appreciate your prayers!



Greetings from SMHOCS...

I came across this reflection the other day written by Sister Desire Findlay: *Why was the stone rolled back? Some say it was rolled back not so Jesus could get out, but so we could get in and be assured that the tomb of death will remain empty forever. This may stand out differently to different people; the whole concept might be knocking your socks off right now; or maybe you already had this awareness and it's nothing new.*

What holds us back from entering the tomb? Perhaps it is shame that holds people back. Maybe it's the inability to forgive, or ask for forgiveness; or maybe it's a resistance to slowing down and spending time with Jesus. Whatever it is, each of us will have to battle something in order to enter that tomb and be assured. While you might theologially know that Jesus died and rose again out of love for you, what keeps you standing outside of the tomb? What has you questioning that love?

Negative self-talk is never of God. It's a temptation to see ourselves as unworthy. I struggle with negative self-talk for a variety of reasons, but one in particular is my drive for perfection. It's not that I truly think I can be perfect, or that I want people to think more highly of me; it's actually out of fear. I'm afraid that if I'm not perfect, I won't be enough. I won't be worthy. That's what keeps me outside of the tomb more than anything else. The fear of being a failure.

Let us not stand outside of the tomb. Each of us will be tempted to, but while we question our worthiness, Jesus does not. Jesus gave His life to tell us just how worthy we are - so let's remind each other of that this Easter, because there are a lot of people standing on the outside and they're going to need others who can welcome them in.

Lord, help me to cling to You in Your Resurrection. Help me to let you transform every cross and burden in my life into joy. May Your joy fill my life and be my strength in all things. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our school.

Easter Blessings! Kelly Kirks, Principal

Graduating High School Seniors - If your child is graduating from High School this year, please call the Parish Office, 320-252-1799 or email the office at shellyg@smhoc.org with your child's name so we can recognize them.



Condolences to ***Barb Legatt and family*** on the death of her mother, Rose Mary Kroll;

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and may the perpetual light shine upon her

Cemetery Regulations - Please remember that flowers may be on the graves at our cemetery until June 15th. If the flowers are not attached to the gravestone, they will be discarded.

And The Winner Is....



This name was chosen by an overwhelming majority from all five parishes as our Area Catholic Community (ACC) name which will identify us as a community. This name DOES NOT replace our individual parish names. The diocese will refer to our cluster by the name "Holy Saints". A Holy Saints ACC event will be planned when the stay-at-home order has been lifted. Our ACC includes: St. Nicholas, St. Anne, Holy Cross, St. Wendelin and St. Mary Help of Christians.

Thank you to all who participated!



Divine Mercy Sunday - St. Mary's Cathedral, Sunday, April 19th at 8:00am. Visit stmarystcloud.org Please join us together as we Encounter the Mercy of Jesus. This virtual Divine Mercy Sunday Experience consists of several individual videos presented in a retreat-like sequence. Feel free to watch and pray as best suits your schedule. Sequence of Events:

1. Welcome by Fr. Scott Pogatchnik
2. Divine Mercy Sunday Mass
3. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
4. Examination of Conscience with Fr. Scott and Fr. Jose
5. Fr. Doug Liebsch presents "Power of Forgiveness"
6. Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary
7. Heather and Dan Pfannenstein present "An Unexpected Journey"
8. Chaplet of Divine Mercy
9. Fr. Matthew Crane presents "A Personal Encounter with Mercy"
10. Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary
11. Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament

Bishop's Annual Appeal: May God bless you and those you love. Diocesan ministries are here for YOU! Our diocesan website has updates, spiritual resources and prayers at www.stedio.org. We are the Church Together.

Banns of Marriage:
II- Nadine Sydnor & Daniel Emslander