

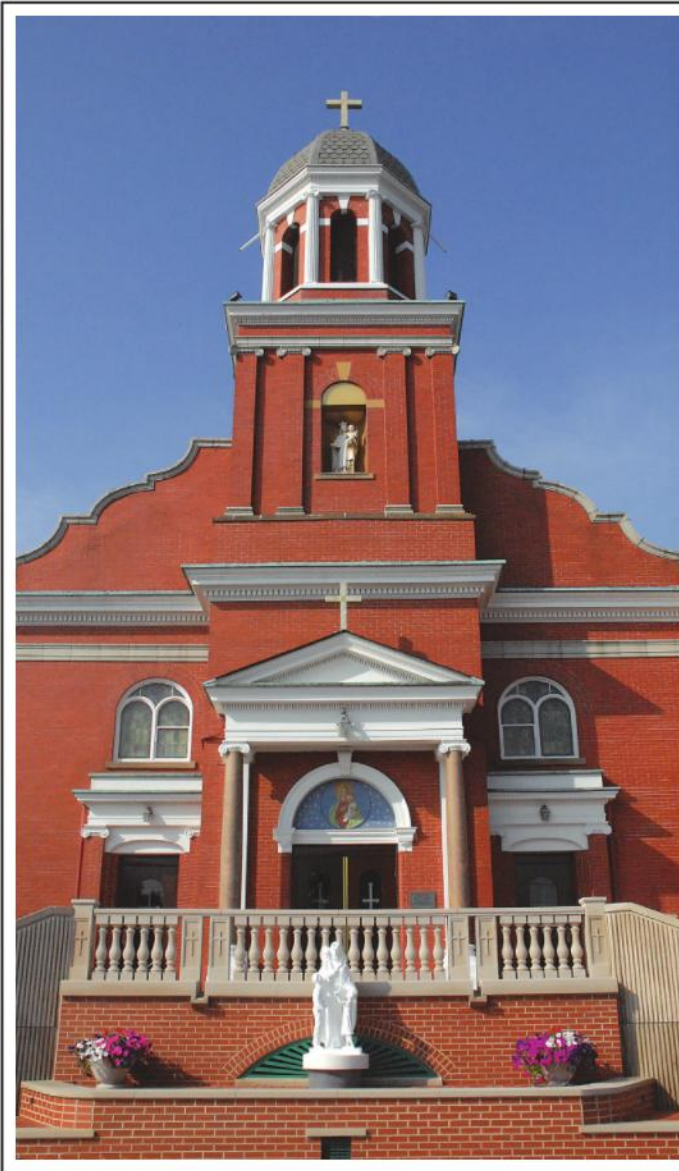
O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

I Trust In You!

# DIVINE MERCY

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL BASILICA

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
343 Via Mt. Carmel • Youngstown, Ohio 44505



**Pastor:**

Rev. Msgr. Michael Cariglio.....Ext. 103

**Church Phones:**

Office & Rectory.....(330) 743-4144  
Religious Education .....743-3508  
Church Hall .....743-7740  
Lower Church Hall.....Ext. 114  
Fax .....743-1035

**Church Secretaries:**.....743-4144

Office .....Ext. 100  
Mrs. Marie Ronyak.....Ext. 101  
Ms. Barbara McOwen.....Ext. 141  
Mrs. Cathy Zack .....Ext. 100

**Office Hours:** Mon. thru Fri. .. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Permanent Deacons:**.....743-4144

Mr. Anthony Palasca, Jr .....Ext. 142  
Mr. Mark Izzo..... 330-533-1857

**Director of Music:**.....743-4144

Mr. Craig Ziobert.....(330) 770-6504

**Director of Religious Education:**

Mrs. Therese Ivanisin..... Ext. 121  
olmcTherese@gmail.com or 330-743-3508  
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Melissa Varso. Ext. 122  
olmcMelissa@gmail.com

**Church Caterer:**.....743-7740

Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 131  
or 759-4010 (H)

**Parish Council Chairperson:**.....743-4144

Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 143

**Business Manager/Accountant:**

Mr. John Didek, Jr..... Ext. 100

**Sunday Masses:**

Saturday Evening.....5:00 p.m.  
Sunday.....9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

**Weekday Mass:**.....Daily at 12:00 noon

**Baptisms:** Saturday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass  
and Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

**Sacrament of Penance:** Saturday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
or by personal request.

**Weddings:** Please schedule marriage at least 6 months  
in advance.

**E-mail:** olmc343@aol.com

**Website:** www.OLMCSTA.com

*Rejoice!*  
He Is Risen!

**Sat., April 10:**

12:00 noon Liberi & Mary Berardi by Philip Bracy  
2:00 p.m. Wedding of John Stephen Tomko & Brienne Nicole Seekford  
5:00 p.m. Rose M. DiBacco by Ron and Edie DiBacco

**Sun., April 11:**

*Sunday of Divine Mercy*  
9:00 a.m. Rachel "Lina" Pilolli (A) by Family  
11:00 a.m. Mario DiFullo (B) by Family

**Mon. April 12:**

12:00 noon Dinah Fedyna by Christine Novicky

**Tues., April 13: Fifth St. Anthony Novena**

12:00 noon Dr. Herbert DiPiero by Children  
7:00 p.m. **Novena & Benediction**

**Weds., April 14:**

12:00 noon Joseph L. Sarko (A) by Wife, Barbara

**Thurs., April 15:**

12:00 noon Sam A. Ciminero by Family

**Fri., April 16:**

12:00 noon Greg Nackino by Anthony & Margaret Napoli

**8:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction**

**Sat., April 17:**

12:00 noon Antonette Calcagni by Husband Gene & Family  
2:00 p.m. Wedding of John Jordan Purdie & Alyssa Sikora  
5:00 p.m. Deacon Joseph S. Nohra (A) by Family

**Sun., April 18:**

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
9:00 a.m. Mauro & Josephine DeGennaro by Daughter, Phyllis Chila  
11:00 a.m. Alyce M. Cafaro (A) by Cafaro Family  
3:00 p.m. **Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction**

**WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS—April 17/18  
Ordinary-Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 p.m. Deacon Mark Izzo, Ron DiBacco  
9:00 a.m. Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jr., James DeToro  
11:00 a.m. Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jr., Nanette Jacobs

**LECTORS**

5:00 p.m. Atty. Matthew Giannini  
9:00 a.m. Michael Jordon  
11:00 a.m. Alfred DeChurch

**ALTAR SERVERS**

5:00 p.m. Lauren Klanica, Gregory Carbon  
9:00 a.m. Adrianna Marsco, Luciano Marsco  
11:00 a.m. Marco Pilloli, Thomas Amon, Nicholas Amon



**Apostolate of Perpetual Adoration  
Being in the SONLIGHT at Eucharistic Adoration helps reveal to us our sins!**

Eucharistic Adoration helps you to examine your conscience. The longer you remain in the presence of God, the more you will reflect upon your failings--your sins. Sin is a "virus" that corrodes and damages your soul. Without the proper medicine, the "virus of sin" attacks you and cripples you spiritually.

Remember, being in the SONLIGHT, it is Jesus himself who will make your sins more recognizable. Eucharistic Adoration is a beautiful precursor to confession. St. Clare of Assisi said, "Gaze upon Him, consider Him, contemplate Him, as you desire to imitate Him." It will always prepare you for the worthy reception of the healing Sacrament of Confession. Call to schedule an hour of absorbing true SONLIGHT Maria Panozzo @330-372-5141 or Jean Talley @330-758-3335.

 **Parish Support**

March 28 (262 envelopes)	\$12,345.47
St. Anthony Shrine/Novena	\$ 1,415.00
April 4 (212 envelopes)	\$37,268.18
St. Anthony Shrine/Novena	\$ 828.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 2,620.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 1,488.00
Good Friday	\$ 1,330.00
Rice Bowls	\$ 1,019.00
St. Vincent DePaul ( March)	\$ 1,294.00

**25th, 40th, 50th and over Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

The diocese of Youngstown is sponsoring a **Wedding Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, June 13, 2 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral** in Youngstown, honoring couples observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and over wedding anniversaries in 2021.

The wedding Anniversary Celebration will include Mass with Bishop David J. Bonar, renewal of marriage vows and a personalized certificate for each couple. Couples may opt to attend the Wedding Anniversary Celebration Mass in person at St. Columba Cathedral or they may participate remotely via livestreaming on the diocesan website at [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org). Limited spaces are available for couples at the cathedral. You must make reservations in advance for this event by contacting your parish office before **May 20th**. Thank You!

**Sunday Mass Obligation**

Unless you are compromised or ill with symptoms return to Sunday Mass. The dispensation is still in effect but do come if you are well. Welcome!

**Vandalism**

The vandalism on the Basilica campus is in the amount of \$53,000. We have a deductible of \$1,250. Insurance company has approved the claim. Let us pray for the vandal.

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Earl Ducay, Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Peter Angelides, Karen Banic, Fred Batcha, Sandy Battaglia, John Beene, Madelyn Brudis, Tina Bury, Zayne Bryce, Eugene Calcagni, Isabelle Corradi, Kim Bowser, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Thomas Caravella, Janice Marinelli Campbell, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R. Cioffi, Mary Rose Colucci, Johnny D., Ed Derek, Anna DeLuco, Kurt Dilisio, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Ducay, Angela Elmo, JoAnn Elmo, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Alaska, Gina Fecko, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dante Greco, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Claudia Hernandez, Sean Holden, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Peter Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Dennis Kopnisky, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, Leann P., Lenny & Cheryl, Lavonne, Lucille, Linda Maiorana, Baby Dominic Malachi, Cheryl Maniccia, Allan Maniccia, Mary Louise Mancini, Bill Marcavish, Missy Marrie, John Mascardine, Jennifer McCon, Paul and Greg Medina, Jean Medina, Livia Marinelli, Ellen Monroe, George Panno, Beverly Poidmore Pariza, Mary Pesa, Ronald Pesa, Phil Pillin, Ron Pondillo, Sr. Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Nicholas Poccia, Barbara Poghen, James Poghen, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Joseph Ridel, Chris Ritter, Scott Rodgers, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Richard Rouan, Ben Russo, Chuck Saulino, Mark Stilson, Carmel Scocca, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Greg VanSuch, Paula VanNest, Rita Varacali, Jodi Walters, Kathleen Wienand, Lilah Dovie, Todd Zamar, Skevos Zimbillas, **Mary, Help of the sick, pray for us! Please let us know when the person is well. Thanks be to God.**

### DAILY MORNING OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, though the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

#### FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

### Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### St. Anthony Shrine and Novena

**\$100.00 GIFT**

Ms. Ramona Dischiavo

**\$50.00 GIFT**

Mr. Alexander Palombo, Jr.

**\$20.00 GIFT**

In memory of JACK MIRONE by Wife and Family  
In LOVING MEMORY OF MARY ANN PELLEGRINI by Cleto

Mr. and Mrs. Amico Colaizzi

Mr. Robert V. DiFabio

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Monroe

**\$10.00 GIFT**

Tina A. Bianco

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald G. DiBacco

Sharon Quaranto

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schulick



#### Add't Easter Flower Offering:

**Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Centofanti**—In memory of Fiorina & Armando & Frank Centofanti, Maria Centofanti, Ada Ranalli.

**Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crowe**—In memory of Tom & Marge Crowe, George & Olga Mollis.

**Mrs. Dwight A. Dawson (Patricia)**

**Mrs. Ann Desimone.**

**Mr. and Mrs. Timothy E. Dixon**—In memory of Edwin Muccillo, Betty Webb & the Muccillo & Capuzello Families.

**Mrs. Clara Foti**

**Miss Theresa Izzo.**

**Mr. and Mrs. Edward Katzman**—In memory of Peter & Ida Armeni.

**Mr. and Mrs. Russell Monroe**—In memory of Marion Muscarella & Joseph Muscarella.

**Mr. Nick Parrotto**—In memory of Mom, Dad, Brother.

**Mrs. Joseph F. Ricciuti.**

**In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Reno Martini, Mr. & Mrs. Gene Panozzo** by Maria Panozzo

### The Ambry

Dear Parish Family,

You may have noticed a new "cabinet" looking feature near the Basilica Baptistry. This new feature is what is properly referred to as an "Ambry". An Ambry is essentially a storage case for the Holy Oils, which are blessed on Holy Thursday by the Bishop. The Ambry, however, is more than just a storage space for the Holy Oils. It is also a means to visibly display the sacred Holy Oils. We remember that the three Holy oils are: Oil of the Sick (OI), the Oil of Catechumens (OS), and Sacred Chrism (SC). The oil of the Sick is used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sacred Chrism is used for the Sacraments of Confirmations, Holy Orders, and Baptisms. Because of the significance and importance of the Holy Oils, it is fitting to have them visibly reserved near the Baptistry. Our new Ambry is a gift of Paul Crowe and Family designer and builder of the Ambry. The Oil Stocks are gifts from two anonymous donors acquired through Spiritual collections. These Oil Stocks are hand carved crystal from Poland. We thank Monsignor Cariglio and the Ambry Committee for diligence in ensuring that the Holy Oils would be given appropriate appreciation and devotion. What a wonderful way to remember how important the Sacraments are in our lives and the life of the Church by having the Holy Oils always visible for us to appreciate with prayer, devotion, and contemplation. - Phillip J. Pillin, MA

**Master of Ceremonies, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica.  
Spiritual Collections.**



**Birthdays for the week of April 11-17**

William Hull, Mae Weimer, Angelica Folsom, Angelica Sebastiani, David Minnie, Michael God, Pina Carissimi, Anjelika Pizzuto, Kathleen Forde, Daniel Sebastiani, Lawrence DiDomenico, Alyse Monroe, James Hungerford, Lauren Maratauz, Sophia Anness, Andrew Klindworth, Mary Louise Donofrio, Louis Blazquez, Brenda Knorr, Maribeth Pizzuto, Phillip Pillin, Dominic Marchionda, Archur Vallas, Jr., Anthony Mowery, Michael Schiraldi, Clara Nunziato, Patricia Tiratto, Paulina Schiraldi.



**ST. ANTHONY LIGHT: April 11-17**

In memory of LUCY CUCCHIARO by Brother, Tony Pizzuto & Family

**SANCTUARY LIGHT: April 11-17**

In memory of ELEANOR DELUCO by Norma & Michael Baca

**BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHT: April 11-17**

In memory of JOANN VECHIARELLI by Pillin & Cipriano Families

**SACRED HEART LIGHT: April 11-17**

In memory of GRACE F. & JAMES A. ORLANDO by Family

**INFANT JESUS LIGHT: April 11-17**

In memory of ELEANOR DELUCO by Ann Desimone

**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LIGHT April 11-17**

In memory of SAM G. & ROSE M. DIBACCO by Ron & Edie DiBacco

**GUARDIAN ANGEL LIGHT: April 11-17**

In memory of OLIVER MONACO & SON, Brian by Wife & Family

**ST. TERESE OF THE LITTLE FLOWER: April 11-17**

In memory of JAMES TYLER MONROE by Mom & Dad

**ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, April 11**

In loving memory of TONY YORK

**ETERNAL FLAME: Wednesday, April 14:**

In memory of BETTY & DENNIS VANSUCH by Very Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.

**HOLY CROSS LIGHT; April 12**

In memory of RALPH RANALLI (B) by Wife, Claudia, Son, Pat, Daughters Rose Weese & Angela Duncan & Families.



**Craig's Corner**

**A note from our Music Director**

While we know the Easter Season lasts fifty days, it is often overlooked that the Easter Day celebration in the Church lasts for eight days; this is known of as the octave of Easter. To show the common unity among all 8 days of the octave, the psalm used for this weekend is Psalm 118, also heard on Easter Sunday. We hear the text, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it," as a verse with just a different refrain – but all still taken from the same psalm: the psalm of rejoicing.

The Sunday within this octave, the second Sunday of Easter, was proclaimed to be Divine Mercy Sunday by Pope John Paul II in 2000. The chaplet of Divine Mercy, which begins on Good Friday, draws attention to how through the saving acts of Jesus' death and resurrection, God showed His mercy for His people. Our previous music director at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, now Deacon Mark Izzo, wrote the Cantic of Divine Mercy from the text of the chaplet, which is being used during the offertory procession this weekend.

This weekend's postlude, Jean Langlais' Mors et Resurrectio (Death and Resurrection) portrays the darkness of death transforming into new life. The piece, beginning in darkness, contains the Gradual melody from a Latin Requiem Mass. In between the statements of this melody are free, improvisatory sections. Eventually the Requiem melody blends with a rising melody, the motive symbolizing the human soul rising into eternity. As the motive ascends, so does the organ build until the final phrase, where the soul has reached the gates of paradise. The soul has now been transformed into a resurrected body, like that of Jesus' body.

This same Christ who was crucified now lives forever. He is our king, whom we crown with many crowns as we sang in the opening hymn of today's Mass. The same Christ who Thomas doubts as risen. I'm sure at some point or other in our lives, we have also had many doubts of our faith. The disciples were just as human as we are and that's what makes their witness to Christ important. Jesus didn't choose anyone with high status or perfect beings: he chose sinners just like you and I, to build His kingdom. That is what we are called to do: to share in the mystery of Christ's divine mercy which he poured out for us in His suffering on the cross and now in His resurrected body, He tells us to not be unbelieving but to believe and share in His gift of eternal life. That is what we do, not just in this octave of Easter, not just each Sunday we come to Mass, but every day of our Christian lives.

**April 10-11: Sunday of Divine Mercy**

Prelude: Offertoire pour le jour de Paques "O Filii et Filiae" (Ye Sons and Daughters) – Jean-Francois Dandrieu

Postlude: Mors et Resurrectio – Jean Langlais

**Your donations to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica and the Annual Tax Report 2020 to the I.R.S.**

Standard deduction by IRS for each tax payer for 2020 is \$12,400. For a married couple standard deduction is \$24,800. However, if your deductions exceed these amounts you may need your record of donations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica for further deductions. Call the rectory during office hours and we will gladly supply you with a signed document for the I.R.S. Thank you for all you do. God's choicest blessings.

Give thanks to the Lord  
for he is good,  
his love is  
**EVERLASTING.**

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

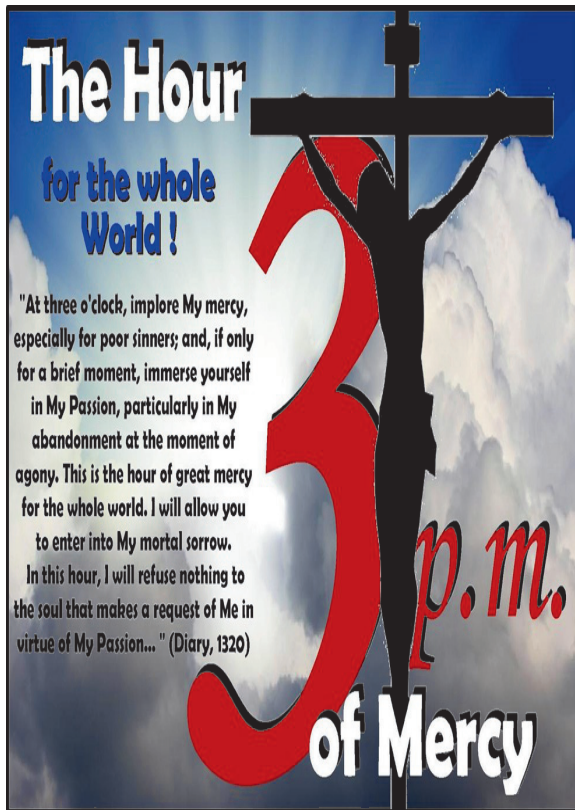
### Friday The Day Christ died for us

Every Friday the Basilica will broadcast for the homebound the following spiritual exercises on Face Book:

12 noon Daily Mass

3:00 p.m.. The Hour of Divine Mercy with  
The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction of the Most  
Blessed Sacrament.

Basilica is open for in person worship during the above times.  
Welcome!



**EVERY SUNDAY Mass at 11am on Facebook for the homebound and persons in nursing home and assistant living.  
To access to Face Book: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica -Youngstown**

### **STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:**

*"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own..." - Acts 4:32*

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money - these are all gifts from God! We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.



### ST. ANTHONY MASS & NOVENA

Each Tuesday at 12 noon and ending on June 8th. **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel—12 noon Mass and Novena. At 7:00 p.m. there will be Benediction and Novena.**

### St. Anthony of Padua Church

5:30 p.m. Novena & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

### PRAYER TO ST. ROCCO

O Great St. Rocco, deliver us,  
We beseech thee, from the  
Scourges of God; through thy  
Intercession, preserve our  
Bodies from contagious  
Diseases, and our souls from  
The contagion of sin.  
Obtain for us salubrious air;  
But, above all, purity of heart.  
Assist us to make good use  
of health, to bear sufferings  
with patience; and, after thy  
example, to live in the practice  
of penance and charity, charity, that  
we may one day enjoy the  
happiness which thou has  
merited by thy virtues.  
St. Rocco, pray for us—3 times

### PRAYER DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary,  
We, your children of every nation,  
Turn to you in this pandemic.  
Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great.  
Grant that we might deposit them at your feet,  
Take refuge in your Immaculate Heart,  
And obtain peace, healing, rescue,  
And timely help in all our needs.  
You are our Mother.  
Pray for us to your Son.  
Amen.

**REGISTRATION:** Members of the parish should be formally registered. If you are not receiving Our Lady of Mt. Carmel envelopes, please call the rectory Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. For a change of address or telephone number, please call the rectory at 330-743-4144.



Confirmation Masses

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel ~ St. Anthony Of Padua look forward to Confirming our 28 Candidates as their Sponsor, family and guests share this special moment in their faith journey.

Mass will be held April 19th and April 21st.



May they continue to grow in a greater love and understanding of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit throughout their lives.

First Eucharist Prep      Retreat Day

Parent(s) and child we will meet Sunday, April 11th from 2p-4p in the lower St. Joseph Hall.

Bring your book and completed banner. Don't forget your masks.



Continue to pray for those who will be welcomed into the Catholic Church throughout this Easter Season.



Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

Samuel Kennedy Krell Jr., and Russell Glenn Monroe

Profession of Faith, Confirmation and Eucharist

Brandon Tyler Davis, Lauren Rose Martauz and David Joseph Tharp

Looking for our Graduating High School Seniors

Please call, email or send a note to the Religious Education office that your son or daughter will be graduating this year and from which school!

Thank you.



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel ~ St. Anthony Of Padua



Set-up your own personal account.

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\*Choose a payment option and customize your donation using your debit card, credit card, checking or saving.

You choose when to donate: weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you.



Contact Information for Religious Education

330-743-3508 [www.olmcsta.com](http://www.olmcsta.com)

FAX: 330-743-1035

Director: Therese M. Ivanisin / Mrs. I

OLMCTherese@gmail.com ext 121

Coor. of Youth Ministry: Melissa Varso

OLMCMelissa@gmail.com ext 122

Out of the office on Monday) and Friday

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

# Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter



Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 118:2-4,  
13-15,22-24  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 20:19-31

**Monday April 12**  
Acts 4:23-31  
Ps 2:1-9  
John 3:1-8

**Tuesday April 13**  
Acts 4:32-37  
Ps 93:1-2,5  
John 3:7b-15

**Wednesday April 14**  
Acts 5:17-26  
Ps 34:2-9  
John 3:16-21

**Thursday April 15**  
Acts 5:27-33  
Ps 34:2,9,17-20  
John 3:31-36

**Friday April 16**  
Acts 5:34-42  
Ps 27:1,4,13-14  
John 6:1-15

**Saturday April 17**  
Acts 6:1-7  
Ps 33:1-2,4-5,18-19  
John 6:16-21

"My Lord and my God!" This exclamation of Thomas in the Gospel reading used to be our exclamation at the raising of the Eucharist during Mass. It would be good to renew this habit. It's an awe-filled, humble recognition of Christ's Lordship *and* of the reality of his presence in the form of bread and wine.

Notice how Jesus convinced the disciples that he had truly come back to life in the flesh. At first, they thought he was a ghost, or they didn't know what to think. They found the miracle of the resurrection too incredible to grasp.

Jesus opened their minds to the truth of the miracle by showing his wounds. He does the same for us in every Mass.

Through the use of our logic and our senses, it's difficult to grasp the truth that the bread

and wine miraculously become the actual body and blood of Christ – the same broken and bleeding body that died on the cross 2000+ years ago. It's even harder to see and understand that the resurrected Jesus is also there!

During Mass, we enter the timelessness of eternity to benefit from the living Christ. When we realize that we personally need the sacrifice he made on Good Friday, because we've sinned, we begin to look at his wounds from a crucial perspective. It is then that we begin to understand the truth about the Eucharist.

The first step toward believing in the miracle of the Eucharist is to want Christ's death to save us from our sins and to want his resurrection to take us to heaven. The final step occurs when our desire to unite to Jesus is so thorough that we yearn for him to consume our lives with his presence. We want the divine Jesus to come to us in the flesh, in whatever manner he chooses, to transform us into his likeness.

It is this desire that makes us exclaim whenever we see the Eucharist, "My Lord and my God!"

#### Reflect & Discuss:

1. Have you ever doubted Christ's real presence in the Eucharist?
2. How do you feel when you look at the Eucharist? Does your spirit exclaim, "My Lord and my God"? Why or why not?
3. How has Jesus revealed himself to you in surprising ways – "in his many forms of presence"?
4. When have you found him incredible, difficult to grasp? What helped you accept the truth of his presence in that situation?
5. How has Jesus revealed his presence to you in the Eucharist?

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