

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!

(John 20:29)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we welcome Bishop Charron, who is here to preach Divine Mercy Sunday for us. Bishop Charron has always been a friend of the Basilica and so it is with joy and gratitude that we welcome him here once again. As we meditate on God's great gift of mercy, let us be grateful for all that the Lord continues to do for us. This celebration was begun by Pope Saint John Paul II, who also raised our church to a basilica.

This year the Church celebrates the 100th anniversary of the apparition at Fatima where the Blessed Mother appeared to the shepherd children in 1917. From May 1-13 we will pray the rosary before Mass each day. You are invited to join us for this devotion as we ask the Blessed Mother to help us in our daily lives.

After much prayer and reflection the decision has been made to close St. Benedict's Mission. I will write a detailed letter next week explaining the decision. The last day the Mission will be open is 29 June. I thank all of you who have been such constant supporters of this outreach program. I assure you that its closing will not deprive people of help since there are now many food pantries in the metro area.

We have launched our ADA campaign for 2017. It is extremely important that we make our goal to take the burden off of our financial resources. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a pledge now in a spirit of good support for our parish. You should have received pledge cards in the mail. If you did not there are blank ones in the back of the Basilica in the pamphlet racks. In the past only about 20% of registered parishioners made any pledge to the ADA. **We need 100% participation if we are to meet our goal. Please help us! Please watch the bulletin to see where we stand in this effort.**

It is with great joy that I can announce to you that the entire debt owed to the Basilica Foundation has been paid off, thanks to your continued generosity. That is certainly great news for us. The elevator payments continue each month at about \$9,000.00 per month. Your continued sacrifices to pay off this debt is greatly appreciated. Your generosity allows us to continue our mission to be present in this area and to lead others to Christ. The Lord is not outdone in generosity which is made in his name. Please help me and the Finance Council so that we may stay current with all of our obligations! I assure you we are doing all we can to wisely use the income that comes in each week.

Please plan on attending the annual Foundation dinner and auction on April 30th. Tickets will be sold after the Masses this weekend. It is always a very nice event. Please come and support this once-a-year fundraising event.

As we celebrate our Easter joy during the coming weeks, be assured of my prayers and a special remembrance in all the Masses. May the Lord's grace grow in your hearts!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Pastor

DEBT OWED TO THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN FOUNDATION: Has been paid in full!!! Thank you!

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL: \$27,494.00, or 21%, has been paid toward our 2017 ADA assessment. If everyone participates, we can pay this bill without further debt.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

APRIL 22 TO APRIL 30

TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS

SAT	4:00PM	+Walter McManus
22	6:00PM	Spanish Mass
SUN	<i>Divine Mercy Sunday!</i>	
23	8:30AM	Intentions of Maria Nguyen Family
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors, +Jack Swaney
MON		
24	12:00PM	+Ron Weindel, Zach Walz, David Rachuy, Andrew & Dorothy Wieberg
TUE		
25	12:00PM	+Willis E. Lowery
WED		
26	12:00PM	+Priscella East
THU		
27	12:00PM	+Magdalena Maisonet
FRI		
28	12:00PM	+Wilbur Behlmer
SAT		
29	9:00AM	Friends/Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters, FEHJ
	(Vigil Mass)	
	4:00PM	+Dominic Thuan Nguyen
SUN		
30	8:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
	10:30AM	+Jon Farrington

THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:

www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn

<http://basilica.churchcastonline.com> (live from your computer)

PRAYER CHAIN: Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com or Terri at 321-2743 or sinc2@aol.com.

CATECHISM CORNER:

What did the Holy Spirit accomplish in John the Baptist?

ANSWER: The Spirit filled John the Baptist, who was the last prophet of the Old Testament. Under his inspiration John was sent to "prepare for the Lord a people well disposed" (Luke 1:17). He was to proclaim the coming of Christ, the Son of God, upon whom he saw the Spirit descend and remain, the one who "baptizes with the Holy Spirit" (John 1:33).

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers and Care Ministry:
Schedules are ready for pick up in the sacristy this weekend.

ELEVATOR FUND

Current Donations.....\$ 600,627.43

Goal.....\$ 800,000.00



The Basilica of St. John
Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday
April 23, 2017

Respect
Life



YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK
APRIL 24 THRU APRIL 30

MON 9:00AM Adoration Begins@
 24 7:00PM Confirmation Practice##

TUE 12:00PM Kitchen in use
 25 6:00PM Organ Practice
7:00PM Confirmation##
 7:00PM RCIA**

WED 9:00AM Adoration Begins@
 26 6:15PM Religious Ed.***,##

THU 8:00AM Organ Practice+++
 27 10:00AM Church Tour##
 6:00PM Bell Choir+++
 7:00PM Choir+++

FRI 9:00AM Adoration Begins@
 28

SAT 8:30AM Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 29 10:00AM Carmelite Meeting**
 10:00AM Organ Practice##

SUN 8:00AM Vietnamese Prayer Group+
30 Foundation Spring Banquet
St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection

SIGN INDICATORS

+++ = Choir Loft; ** = School; @ = Chapel; * = Rectory
 + = Church Hall; ## = Church; % = Conference Room;
 (N) = (North Hall); (S) = (South Hall)

Daily Scripture Readings for the week of April 24, 2017:

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21
Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

LIFELINES: Pope Saint John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday. Many of the faithful pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy regularly. There is a link between this devotion and the pro-life movement. Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, who was a principal translator of St. Faustina's diary, and the postulator of her cause of canonization, writes the following: *"On at least three occasions, from 8:00-11:00 in the evening, she felt like her insides were being torn apart. She suffered so much that she thought she was going to die. The doctors couldn't figure out what was ailing her, and no medication was able to alleviate her sufferings. Later, she was given to understand that she was undergoing those pains for mothers who were aborting their children (Diary, 1276).*



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Will be Sunday, May 7, at the 10:30am Mass. There will be 50 children who will receive the Holy Eucharist at this time! Please keep them in your prayers these final two weeks, as they make their final preparation!

I would like to thank everyone for your kindnesses, your prayers, cards and Masses for my brother Jim at his recent passing. It means so much to us, we appreciate all of you! Thank you, God bless. Linda Murphy & the Brookhart Family



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Join us for 10:30am Mass on April 23 to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Bishop Emeritus Joseph L. Charron will be our Celebrant & Homilist. We will be singing as a Parish the Chaplet during Holy Communion. After Mass there will be a Potluck (dessert will be furnished) in the church hall to celebrate, catch up with Parishioners and wish Bishop Charron well.

GARDENING HELP NEEDED: Volunteer help is needed to water, weed and keep up the grounds around the church and rectory this Summer. Please call the parish office if you are able to help. (244-3101, ext. 0)



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL: Friday, April 28, is the next jeans day. If students choose to dress out of uniform, they need to bring \$1 to donate to the Missions.

FOUNDATION NOTES: Inviting a friend or acquaintance from outside our parish to the Basilica of St. John Foundation Banquet on April 30th could bring new interest in our efforts to boost our financial assets, as well as having an evening of fun. Tickets to the event are still available and we welcome (and need) your donated items for the silent auction.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Divorced Survival Guide Begins: Divorced? The Catholic's DIVORCE SURVIVAL group begins May 15. This 12-week session runs Mondays at St. Augustin Church in Des Moines. Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic teachings. Contact Deacon Tony Valdez for details, 515-979-2301 or t.valdez@me.com.

End-of-life Health Care: The Iowa bishops' "Supportive Care Iowa" project is available to help people seeking guidance on making decisions about end-of-life health care that is aligned with Catholic values. There are now trained volunteers, called Catholic Advanced Care Planning Consultants, who can help individuals with the completion of documents that designate another person with power of attorney for health care in the event of incapacity. It is our parish's goal to help Catholics have these faith-filled discussions with friends and family in advance of a crisis and to provide guidance in completing advance directive forms in alignment with Catholic moral principles. This service is available without charge. Please contact our parish office if you are interested in this service.