

## Statement on the Death of Pope Francis from Archbishop Alexander Sample

It is with profound sorrow that I join with the universal Church in mourning the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis. Today, we remember and honor the life of a shepherd who devoted himself entirely to the service of Christ and His Church, a man of deep faith, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel.

Pope Francis' ministry was marked by his pastoral heart and his call for all of us to reach out to the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable. He inspired us to embrace mercy, to walk in humility, and to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ.

As a pastor of souls, Pope Francis shepherded us through times of joy and sorrow, guiding us with wisdom, gentleness, and a deep love for the people of God. His teachings were a beacon of hope, calling us to renew our commitment to the Lord, to care for our common home, and to live with the joy of the Gospel in every corner of the world.

As we grieve his passing, we give thanks to God for the gift of Pope Francis' life and ministry. May his example continue to inspire us to live with courage, faith, and love as we carry forward the work he began. We



entrust him now to the Lord, praying that he may rest in the eternal peace and glory of God.

May the Holy Spirit guide the Church as we prepare to honor Pope Francis' legacy and continue his mission to spread the light of Christ to all corners of the earth.

In Christ's peace,

*Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample*

**Join Archbishop Sample for a Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis • Tuesday, April 29 6:00 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral**

[www.archdpdx.org/events/requiem-mass-for-pope-francis](http://www.archdpdx.org/events/requiem-mass-for-pope-francis)

## Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

THOMAS WAS NOT PRESENT with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them, and thus he insists he will not believe without seeing Jesus for himself. Jesus comes again and says, Put your finger here ... believe. In myriad ways, God makes himself known to us each day, offering us innumerable chances to meet him. Lord, give us eyes to see you and the courage to respond like Thomas, in faith, My Lord and my God!

### Pray for Our Faithfully Departed

- ▶ Teresa Moreland      ▶ Max Schneider
- ▶ Cara Hafer            ▶ Sharee Chapman

### Prayer Requests

For those who are ill or in need of our prayers

- ▶ Constance O'Toole    ▶ Al Hicks
- ▶ Peggy Sanders        ▶ Aaron Stevenson
- ▶ Gene Sanders         ▶ Brad Werth
- ▶ Steve Graham         ▶ Kitt & Corinne Jordan
- ▶ Sherrill Resch         ▶ Ann Czuba
- ▶ Alice Stoltzberg       ▶ Jean Mitchell
- ▶ Kait Skyler            ▶ Charli Phipps
- ▶ Trish Grantham

### Mass Intentions

- 04/26, Sat ..... Alan Morrill †
- 04/27, Sun 8:00 am The Madeleine Community
- 10:00 am ..... Sylvia Manzo †
- 04/29, Tues ..... Max Schneider †
- 04/30, Weds ..... Sara Rimmel †
- 05/01, Thurs .. Grandparents and Special Guests
- 05/02, Fri ..... Max Schneider †
- 05/03, Sat ..... Santiago Diaz Arredondo †
- 05/04, Sun 8:00 am The Madeleine Community
- 10:00 am ..... My Schoning

## Inside This Week's Bulletin:

- ▶ **Mother & Child Photos**—Send us your Mother & Child photos for our annual Mother's Day video montage. Info on Page 2.
- ▶ **Women's Bible Study Group Forming**—Sister Joan is holding a Bible study group starting May 1 for all Madeleine women. Page 3.
- ▶ **Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy**—September 18-28 with Fr. B and Maria. Only a few spots left; details on Page 4.
- ▶ **Easter Stewardship**—One last weekend we'll ask for your support of our Easter Giving Campaign...details on Page 3.

**E-Waste Electronics Recycling—**  
**Sunday, 9 am–1 pm**

**Coffee & Donuts after Sunday Masses**

## Calendar This Week

### 27 April, Sunday

- Coffee & Donuts After Both Masses, Hosted by Liturgy Committee—Fireside Rm
- 8 am: Mass—Church
- 9 am: E-Waste Recycling—Parish Hall Driveway
- 10:00 am: Mass—Church  **ALSO LIVESTREAMS**
- 10 am: Sacramental Prep-First Communion—Old Madeleine Church
- 11:15 am: OCIA Class—St. Catherine Room
- 2 pm: Margaret Bichteler Recital—Old Madeleine Church

### 28 April, Monday

- 6:30 pm: FA Meeting—Fireside Rm

### 29 April, Tuesday

- 8:30 am: Mass—Church
- 9 am: Adoration—Church
- 3:15 pm: School Musical Rehearsals—Parish Hall

### 30 April, Wednesday

- 8:30 am: Mass—Church
- 7 pm: Madeleine Choir Rehearsal—Church
- 7 pm: 45th Parallel Concert—Old Church

### 1 May, Thursday

- School Grandparent's & Special Friends Day
- 9 am: Mass—Church
- 10 am: Women's Faith Sharing—St. Catherine Rm
- 3:15 pm: School Musical Rehearsals—Parish Hall
- 6:30 pm: Talent Show—Parish Hall

### 2 May, Friday

- 8:30 am: Mass—Church

### 3 May, Saturday

- 8:30 am: OCIA—Church
- 12 pm: Klump/Pearson Reception—Old Church
- 4 pm: Confession—Church
- 5 pm: Mass—Church
- 6 pm: St Vincent de Paul Dinner—Parish Hall

### 4 May, Sunday

- Second Collection: Catholic Charities
- 8 am: Mass—Church
- 10 am: First Communion Mass—Church  **ALSO LIVESTREAMS**
- Reception follows in Parish Hall or Courtyard
- 3 pm: Bravo Concert—Old Madeleine Church

## Upcoming Events

- **Earth Week E-Waste Electronics Recycling Event:** Sunday, April 27
- **Madeleine Saturday Supper:** May 31
- **St. Mary Magdalene Day:** July 19

## PARISH LIFE

## Celebrate Mothers on Mothers Day

Upload mother & child photos to [www.themadeleine.edu/mothers](http://www.themadeleine.edu/mothers)

A May tradition at The Madeleine: celebrating the Month of Mary and Mother's Day in a special way!

Mother's Day weekend May 10–11, we will show a slideshow of mothers and children sent in from The Madeleine Community. The photos will show both in the church at all Masses and on our livestream.

**We are starting over—all new photos!**

This year, again, we're making a fresh start, a blank canvas. So even if you've sent us a

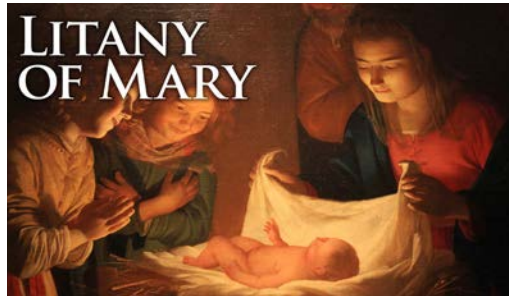


photo before, please send a new one this year.

Submissions can be either a photo of mother and child (children), or a photo of mothers and their mothers. Please send us just one photo of a mother/child combo

per family grouping, as we want to have time to show all our photos.

**Send photos by May 7**

Upload your photos to our website at [www.themadeleine.edu/mothers](http://www.themadeleine.edu/mothers)

## Madeleine Book Club

Thank you to all those who joined us for our recent book discussion! If you are not currently a member of MBC, but would like to join us at future sessions and/or follow our prayer requests, please contact our ministry coordinator, Gretchen Stevenson: 503-312-6834 or [gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com](mailto:gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com).



## Women's Coffee Club

April showers bring May flowers...a sign of rebirth. As we begin our second year, it's an opportunity to reset. We welcome fresh ideas and/or suggestions for topics. Join us May 12th from 10:00 to 11:30 upstairs in the Madeleine Old Church gathering space. Access doors are on NE 23rd. Signs will be posted. Due to security, doors will be unlocked only between 9:30 and 10:15. All women of the Madeleine are welcome to gather with us for some morning treats, coffee, and conversation.

## Baptism Class

The Madeleine offers a Baptism Prep Class once a month for parents seeking to have their infant or child under the age of 7 baptized. Godparents are also invited to attend. Interested? Sign up online at [www.bit.ly/mbaptism](http://www.bit.ly/mbaptism). Next class is on Weds., May 7, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Email [lcraig@themadeleine.edu](mailto:lcraig@themadeleine.edu) with questions.

## Coffee and Donuts—April 27

Sponsored by your Liturgy Committee  
Liturgy Ministers at The Madeleine...

- ...are our musicians, lectors, eucharistic ministers, altar servers, and ministers of hospitality.
- ...include our Sacristans who prepare for Mass.
- ...beautify our worship space with banners and other decorations and plant life.
- ...schedule ministers for our weekend Masses.

A few representatives from each of our ministries meet once a month to plan and prepare liturgies.

Interested in learning more? Join us for coffee and donuts!

## St. Vincent de Paul Annual Dinner Volunteers Needed

The Madeleine is hosting St. Vincent de Paul's Annual Dinner on Saturday, May 3, and they are in need of volunteers to help pull the event off. Especially they're requesting 7th-Grade, 8th-Grade and high-school students, and as many parents and adults as possible for setup, food service, clean up, dishwashing and all the help that goes into putting on a dinner. School families...these count as service hours helping out a great cause. Interested? Contact Lisa Hawkins at 503.309.7968 or [lhawkins2916@comcast.net](mailto:lhawkins2916@comcast.net)



**In the Gospel Today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says:** "Peace be with you!" Indeed, the mercy of God enters our heart in peace. In the month of March, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help the poor, by assisting 31 families: providing 631 lbs. in food from the pantry, plus 17 gift cards and \$819.29 for utility and rent bills..

—Lisa Hawkins, (503) 309-7968



## Easter Giving: Can You Help?

Donate online at [www.themadeleine.edu/easter-giving](http://www.themadeleine.edu/easter-giving)

Everything about The Madeleine...from the spectacular Masses to the beautiful buildings to the expansive grounds to the dedicated staff that keep everything running... is supported, built and maintained through the generosity of you and our current parishioners. It is our home now, and it is our responsibility to carry on this legacy built by generations of families for 113 years.

One of our biggest collections of the year is typically Easter Sunday. Each year we budget for an Easter collection that is in addition to the Sunday collection. Some parishioners account for Easter collections in regular online or automated giving. But if you are not among those who do, we'd very much appreciate if

you would consider an additional Easter gift.

**We have three easy ways for you to help:**

► **Envelope**—If you have an Easter envelope, mail to the parish office or drop it off, or bring it to Mass.

► **Online**—Visit our online giving page at [www.themadeleine.edu/easter-giving](http://www.themadeleine.edu/easter-giving) where you can make a secure, convenient online donation.

► **Electronic Transfer**—If you are making stewardship donations via electronic transfer, contact My Schoning in our business office to arrange an additional payment.

Thank you for your loyal support.

## Archbishop's Catholic Appeal 2025

We all experience "empty tombs" in our lives. They are the dark and difficult times that are part of the human condition – when we face illness or watch someone we love suffer ill health, when our marriages go through rocky periods, when our children make choices that are contrary to our values, when economic burdens cast shadows over our living.

We can let these "empty tomb" moments draw us closer to God through reliance and surrender or we can allow them to distance ourselves from God's consolation. Will this suffering make us stronger or just bitter?

God is always present. His love is



stronger than any difficulty. Let us choose to be resurrection people who live in hope and have faith that what may seem bleak, dark, empty is really an opportunity to trust in God's plan for us just as Jesus trusted in His Father's plan for Him.

And as resurrection people, we can offer Christ's consolation to those who need it. We can help them through their "empty tomb" times by addressing their material needs and strengthening their faith through our support of the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. Please pray for its success and support the appeal if you can.

*NOTE: The public commitment weekend for the appeal has been postponed due to the death of Pope Francis*

## Women's Bible Study

*Delving into Luke's Gospel*

Calling all Madeleine Women! Join Sr. Joan this Spring for a deep dive into Luke's Gospel. Take time to read and pray with scripture while connecting with other women of faith.

Meets May 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd 10:00am-11:30am

First gathering is on Thursday, May 1st at 10am in the St. Catherine Room. Questions? Email [joanpcspiering@gmail.com](mailto:joanpcspiering@gmail.com)

## Weekly Mass Times

### Regular Mass Times:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday . . . . . 8:30 am  
Thursday . . . . . School not in session: 8:30 am  
School in session: 2:00 pm  
Saturday Vigil . . . . . 5:00 pm  
Sunday . . . . . 8:00 am, 10:00 am

**Penance** . . . . . Saturday, 4:00–4:40 pm

**Adoration** . . . . . Tuesdays, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

## Parish Office

**Hours** . . . . . Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

**Phone** . . . . . 503-281-5777

**School Office** . . . . . 503-288-9197

## Parish Staff

**Rev. Bonaventure Rummell**—Administrator  
[fatherbonaventure@themadeleine.edu](mailto:fatherbonaventure@themadeleine.edu) ext. 111

**Msgr. Timothy Murphy**—In Residence

**Rev. Nazario Atukunda**—In Residence

**Deacon Mike O'Mahoney**—Permanent Deacon  
[deaconmike@themadeleine.edu](mailto:deaconmike@themadeleine.edu)

**Tresa Rast**—School Principal  
[trast@themadeleine.edu](mailto:trast@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . 503-288-9197

**My Schoning**—Business Manager  
[mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 114

**Linda Scheurman**—Bookkeeper  
[lscheurman@themadeleine.edu](mailto:lscheurman@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 119

**Maria Manzo**—Director of Music  
[mmanzo@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mmanzo@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 113

**Lauren Craig**—Faith Formation/Sacramental Prep  
[lcraig@themadeleine.edu](mailto:lcraig@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 116

**Minh-Ha Nguyen**—Parish Admin Assistant  
[mhnguyen@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhnguyen@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 112

**Guy Allen**—Facilities Manager  
[gallen@themadeleine.edu](mailto:gallen@themadeleine.edu)

**Julie Kupers**—Special Events  
[jkupers@themadeleine.edu](mailto:jkupers@themadeleine.edu) . . . 720-936-5635

**Rich Hammons**—Director of Communications  
[rhammons@themadeleine.edu](mailto:rhammons@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 129

## Sacraments

**Infant Baptism** . . . . . Lauren Craig, ext 116

**First Reconciliation, First Eucharist**—  
Rose Horton . . . [sac-prep@themadeleine.edu](mailto:sac-prep@themadeleine.edu)

**OCIA** (Formerly RCIA)—  
Donna Mason, . . . . . [ocia@themadeleine.edu](mailto:ocia@themadeleine.edu)

**Marriages** . . . . . Fr. Bonaventure, ext 111

**Anointing** (Emergency) . . . . . 971-301-4421

**Funerals**—  
Therese Fenzl . . . . . [tfenzl@themadeleine.edu](mailto:tfenzl@themadeleine.edu)

## Councils & Contacts

**Pastoral Council**—Dan O'Brien . . 503-206-2843  
[pastoral-council@themadeleine.edu](mailto:pastoral-council@themadeleine.edu)

**Finance/Admin**—John Garrow . . 503-803-5693

**Buildings & Grounds**—Erin Couch, 503-281-9575

**School Advisory**—Tim Resch . . . 503-984-4607

**Facility Requests**—[themadeleine.edu/facilities](http://themadeleine.edu/facilities)

**Maintenance Requests**—My Schoning  
[mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 114

**Knights of Columbus**—  
Dan O'Donnell . . . . . 503-440-9415

**Ministry Schedule**  
[www.themadeleine.edu/minister-schedule](http://www.themadeleine.edu/minister-schedule)

**Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Tuesday**  
Email to [bulletin@themadeleine.edu](mailto:bulletin@themadeleine.edu)

## Jubilee Pilgrimage Update— Limited Spots Available

**Information meeting April 27 after  
Coffee & Donuts**

Interested in our upcoming Madeleine Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy? Please join us for an informal meeting in the Fireside Room after coffee & donuts on Sunday, April 27. The deadline for deposits is approaching very soon! For more information, please contact Maria Manzo at [mmanzo@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mmanzo@themadeleine.edu) or go to the Pilgrimage page of our website at [www.themadeleine.edu/pilgrimage](http://www.themadeleine.edu/pilgrimage)

## Altar Server Team Needs Parent Volunteer Helpers

The Altar Server Team is looking for 1-2 parents from each Mass who can check in with Altar Servers before and after Mass and report to the Altar Server Leader. For more information please contact Leslie Pfaff at 925-324-0252. Thank you

## Hiring: Part Time Event Coordinators

The parish is looking to hire another Event Coordinator to assist with use of event rental spaces. Responsibilities include set up and take down of event spaces, monitoring during the event, maintaining relationships and professionalism with clients, and overseeing the responsibilities of dishwashers and bussers, and making sure everything is closed up when the event is over. Hours are flexible on an 'as needed' basis. Contact My Schoning, Business Manager, 503-281-5777 ext. 114, or [mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu)



## Upcoming Concerts

**OC**=Old Madeleine Church    **MC**=Main Church

- **Apr. 26, 7:30 pm OC** • Mano e Arco Chamber Music Concert
- **Apr. 30, 7:00 pm OC** • 45th Parallel • Treasured Resources: Water and Music by Oregon Symphony Flutes
- **May 4, 3:00 pm OC** • Bravo! Northwest • The Gold Rush • [bravoconcerts.com](http://bravoconcerts.com)
- **May 9, 7:30 pm OC** • Cascadia Composers • Music for Percussion and Found Objects
- **May 23, 7:00 pm OC** • 45th Parallel • Musical Journey with Anna Schaum and REMIX Quartet
- **May 30, 7:00 pm OC** • Pacific Rose Ensemble

## Assisted listening Devices Available

Available in the Sacristy at Masses

As lovely and soaring as our beloved church is, sometimes its lively acoustics can make hearing all of Mass a challenge...especially some of our presiders who are easier to hear than others. But we have a solution!

In the Sacristy, we have assisted listening devices for your use during Mass. They're very easy to use and can vastly improve the experience at Mass for those with hearing challenges. Just take a device, plug in a headphone, and adjust the volume to your comfort. We just ask you to sign the check-out list and return them at the end of Mass. Questions? Ask any Minister of Hospitality.



Mark your calendar and join  
Us in-person at Portland Golf Club!

**The 90th Annual  
Archbishop's Seminary Tea**

Benefiting the education of seminarians preparing to serve in the  
Archdiocese of Portland Oregon

*Seminary Tea Committee*

Founded 1935

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 3-6 PM  
Portland Golf Club  
5900 SW Scholls Ferry Road  
Portland 97225

To purchase tickets or donate go to  
<https://www.seminarytea.org>  
or mail donation to Seminary Tea Committee  
PO Box 25057/Portland, OR 97298.

**45TH PARALLEL  
UNIVERSE**      Zach Galatis & Friends

April 30  
7pm  
WORLD  
PREMIERE  
EVENT

**YUKO UEBAYASHI:  
AU-DELA DU TEMPS**  
**DEENA T. GROSSMAN:  
WATERWAYS**

@ 3123 NE 24TH AVE

**TREASURED RESOURCES: WATER AND MUSIC**

PRODUCED BY ZACH GALATIS & LISA LIPTON

## Found Sound

Music for percussion and found objects



**7:30pm, May 9, 2025**  
The Old Madeleine Church, 3123 NE 24th Ave., Portland  
Enter on 23rd Avenue, approximately 70 yards north of Siskiyou Street



# The Madeleine Care for Creation ANNUAL E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

Sunday, April 27 • 9:00 am–1:00 pm

The Madeleine Care for Creation Committee is pleased to announce our annual Earth Day E-Waste Recycling Event. The event is provided at no charge, but donations accepted to help cover costs.

## Green Century Recycling will be on hand to accept the following

- ▶ Computers
- ▶ Laptops
- ▶ TV & Monitors (all types)
- ▶ Hard drives (Secure Data Destruction Provided)
- ▶ Misc. Computer Components (floppy drives, Printed Circuit Boards (PCB), etc.)
- ▶ Cords/Wires/Chargers/Power strips
- ▶ Servers/Switches
- ▶ Routers/Hubs/Modems
- ▶ Networking Devices
- ▶ Communications Equipment
- ▶ POS (Point of Sale equip)
- ▶ Printers/Scanners
- ▶ Fax/Copiers
- ▶ Keyboards/Mice
- ▶ Misc. Office Machines
- ▶ Misc. Electronics
- ▶ VCRs, DVD Players
- ▶ Cable & Satellite Equipment
- ▶ Testing Equipment
- ▶ Stereo/Audio Components
- ▶ Cell Phones (with or without batteries)
- ▶ PDAs, Handheld Games
- ▶ Cameras
- ▶ Telephones
- ▶ Gaming Consoles/Systems
- ▶ UPS (uninterruptible power supply) and other Lead Acid Batteries
- ▶ Small/Large Appliances (which include, microwaves, toasters, blenders, etc.)
- ▶ Electric Power Tools
- ▶ Laptop Batteries, Cell Phone Batteries, Li-on batteries
- ▶ Ferrous & Non-Ferrous Metals
- ▶ Air Conditioners

**GREEN CENTURY RECYCLING**  
PULL THE PLUG ON ELECTRONIC WASTE



**USED SOCKS for recycling**  
Clean, used socks only; pairs and singles are accepted. These will be recycled, so no new socks.  
**No stockings, tights, or pantyhose**

**We will collect worn-out athletic shoes to be ground up and re-purposed**  
(no dress or casual shoes, please)



## The following items will NOT be accepted during this event.



- ▶ **NO!** Styrofoam
- ▶ **NO!** Plastics/Packaging
- ▶ **NO!** Fluorescent Tubes and lamps (All types)
- ▶ **NO!** Ni-CD & Ni-MH batteries
- ▶ **NO!** Household size batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, etc.)
- ▶ **NO!** Ink/Toner Cartridges
- ▶ **NO!** Media (CD, DVD, floppy, VHS, Cassette, tapes)
- ▶ **NO!** PCB Ballasts
- ▶ **NO!** Wood
- ▶ **NO!** Refrigerators, Freezers, most water coolers, some dehumidifiers
- ▶ **NO!** Capacitors
- ▶ **NO!** Fire Extinguishers
- ▶ **NO!** Mercury Containing Devices (Thermostats, Ionization Smoke Detectors)



# DIVINE MERCY

## OUR GOD, RICH IN MERCY

Mercy is one of God's most characteristic attitudes toward us. "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5). So it was most appropriate when Pope St. John Paul II in 2000 renamed the 2nd Sunday after Easter as **Divine Mercy Sunday** when he canonized the Polish nun and mystic St. Faustina Kowalska, who was particularly devoted to Divine Mercy.

### God's Mercy in the Bible

In the Old Testament, mercy identifies a complex Hebrew idea describing God's special covenant love (Hebrew, *hesed*). God's mercy includes loyalty, dependability, trustworthiness and an eagerness to help when situations turn bad. God's desire to be in a covenant relationship with us keeps God alert to our cries for help and eager to deliver us from whatever separates us from God (sin). Mercy is not just the response felt toward those who are suffering, but even more God's fierce covenant attachment to be with us and save us. Like a loving Father or Patron of a family, God is an especially generous benefactor who lavishes gifts (Greek: *charis*, Latin: *gratia*) on the covenant people. These gifts are not distributed because of the people's merits, but strictly out of God's freely-given favor or mercy.

### Jesus Reveals God's Mercy

In the New Testament, Jesus is the face of the Father's mercy and reveals God as a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. Jesus offered a new vision for life in the covenant community, which he called the kingdom of God. He proclaimed God as king: the heavenly patron or benefactor who has mercy on us and generously gives us what we need. So Jesus stressed that our basic response is giving thanks (Greek, *eucharist*) for God's gifts and the task of sharing them with others. He reminded us that mercy is not only God's action, but as God's children we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us.



## BEING BEARERS OF MERCY

“As we can see in Sacred Scripture, *mercy* is a key word that indicates God’s action towards us. God does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes and behaviors that are shown in daily living. God’s mercy is his loving concern for each one of us. God feels responsible; that is, God desires our wellbeing and wants to see us happy, full of joy and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do we God’s children. Just as God is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other. Mercy expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert and believe. God’s forgiveness knows no bounds.

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.”

— Pope Francis  
*Misericordiae Vultus* (April 11, 2015)

### POPE FRANCIS’S PRAYER TO BECOME BEARERS OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us  
to be merciful like the heavenly Father,  
and have told us that whoever sees you sees God.  
Show us your face and we will be saved.  
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,  
of the God who manifests his power  
above all by forgiveness and mercy:  
let us be your visible face in the world.  
Send your Spirit and consecrate  
every one of us with its anointing,  
so we, with renewed enthusiasm,  
may bring good news to the poor,  
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,  
and restore sight to the blind. Amen.

—Pope Francis



## St. Faustina Prayer

(Polish born Helena Kowalska (1905–1938), was the third of ten children. When almost twenty, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, became Sr. Maria Faustina and devoted her life to the message of God’s mercy. She traced her spiritual experiences with Christ in her diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*. She was canonized in 2000.)

I want to be completely  
transformed into your mercy  
and to be your living reflection, O Lord.  
Help me, that my eyes may be merciful,  
so I may never suspect  
or judge from appearances,  
but look for what is beautiful  
in my neighbors’ souls  
and come to their rescue.  
Help me, that my ears may be merciful,  
so I may heed my neighbors’ needs  
and not be indifferent to their pains.  
Help me, that my tongue may be merciful,  
so I should never  
speak negatively of my neighbor,  
but have a word  
of comfort and forgiveness.  
Help me, that my hands may be merciful  
and filled with good deeds,  
so I may do only good to my neighbors  
by doing the difficult tasks.  
Help me, that my heart may be merciful  
so I may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor.  
Jesus, I trust in you! *Amen*.

### Faustina’s Mission

St. Faustina’s life-long dedication to God’s mercy was the direct result of her mystic encounter with Jesus, who gave her this mission. “Today I am sending you with my mercy to the people of the whole world. Speak to the world about my mercy. Let all mankind recognize my unfathomable mercy. Let them have recourse to the fount of my mercy. Let them profit from the blood and water which gushed forth for them. Before I come as a just judge, I first open wide the doors of my mercy. One who refuses to pass through the doors of my mercy must pass through the doors of my justice. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy.”



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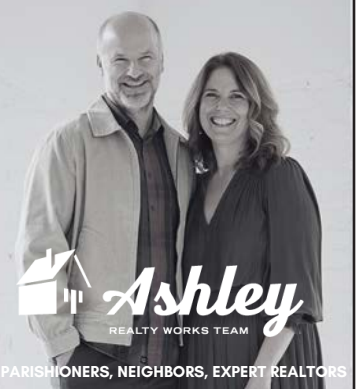
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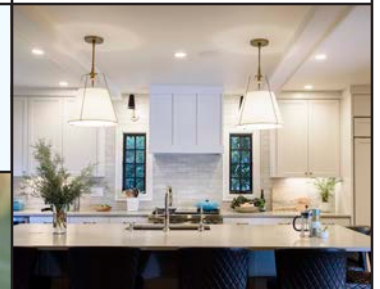
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