

**JESUS BRINGS US INTO COMMUNION WITH THE FATHER**

Happy Easter! It is true that Easter Sunday was last week, but the season of Easter continues for seven weeks, until Pentecost. Throughout those weeks, we are encouraged to bask in the glow of the resurrection – to rejoice in the mystery of Christ’s life, death and resurrection that brought our salvation. Since 2000, the Church has combined the Easter celebration with the acknowledgment of the mercy of God that restored our right relationship with Him and allowed us entry into everlasting life. Thus, we have the Sunday after Easter celebrated throughout the Church as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Today’s readings fit this theme. Both the first and second readings tell how people lived peaceful and blessed lives as they rejoiced in the Lord. In our reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear how the early Christians lived together – worshipping, sharing meals and living in community. There appears to be a spiritual shield protecting them from the rest of the world. Under this shield, God adds to their numbers and strengthens their faith. This shield is God’s mercy.

The First Letter of Peter also speaks of the blessings the early Christians experienced. Peter names the source of this grace when he says, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in His great mercy gave us new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.* It is God’s mercy that Peter celebrates and acknowledges as the source of our salvation.

The Gospel shows this mercy in action. Jesus appears to the disciples for the first time after his resurrection. He wishes them peace, and assures them He has truly died and been raised from the dead. He has fulfilled his promise to them, and His presence among them solidifies all the teachings He had given them as they did the Father’s work together. Then, through His own breath, Jesus passes on to the Apostles the Holy Spirit, granting them – mere mortals – the ability to forgive sins. In this way, He commissions them to take an active role in imparting divine mercy on those they serve in God’s name.

Finally, we hear the story of Thomas. This gives us a concrete example of divine mercy. Thomas could not believe in the Resurrection unless he saw evidence. Jesus accepts this weakness of faith, and accommodates Thomas’ unbelief. This loving acceptance is an integral part of divine mercy. Thomas represents us and our various weaknesses. As He did with Thomas, Jesus strengthens us when we have doubts, and raises each of us above our human frailties and, through His mercy, brings us into communion with the Father.

What love this is – what mercy He showers on us! As we contemplate the wonder of such mercy, let us show our gratitude by living as Jesus taught us, loving one another and showing mercy to those we encounter each day.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Mon Apr 24** Acts 4:23-31, Jn 3:1-8
- Tues Apr 25** Pt 5:5b-14, Mk 16:15-20
- Wed Apr 26** Acts 5:17-26, Jn 3:16-21
- Thur Apr 27** Acts 5:27-33, Jn 3:31-36
- Fri Apr 28** Acts 5:34-42, Jn 6:1-15
- Sat Apr 29** Acts 6:1-7, Jn 6:16-21, 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2, Mt 11:25-30
- Sun Apr 30** Acts 2:14, 22-33, 1 Pt 1:17-21, Lk 24:13-35



**YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Regular Collections	\$	12,698.86
Nativity Maintenance	\$	2,013.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	140.00
Capital Improvement	\$	14.00
Miscellaneous	\$	542.80
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,408.66</b>
<b>CASH NEEDED</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,400.00</b>

**THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF BISHOP-ELECT LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN, III.**

*The Ordination and Installation of Bishop-elect Louis F. Kihneman, III, is scheduled for this Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. here at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral. Vespers will be held on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.*

**RECEPTION FOR BISHOP LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN, III**

The reception following the Ordination and Installation of the Fourth Bishop of Biloxi will be at the Croatian American Cultural Center – The Slavonian Lodge – immediately following the Mass on Friday, August 28. It is expected to begin at 4:15 p.m. this reception will be a “Celebration of our Diocese” with food items prepared by all of the parishes. Everyone is invited. Please come out and celebrate our diocese and meet our new Bishop, the Most Reverend Louis Kihneman, III.

**DIOCESAN CHOIR**

The Diocesan Choir’s final rehearsal for the ordination of Bishop Kihneman is on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

**COMMUNION VISITATION**

Jesus says of you and me, “You are the salt of the earth”. No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be “salt of the earth”. Sister can be reached at the rectory at 228-374-1717.

**CCD CLASS INFORMATION**

CCD classes will resume on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

**CSA FOR 2017**

Please consider contributing to this year’s Catholic Sharing Appeal. Your contribution will mean a generous act of Stewardship. When we give to this program we are sharing our blessings with God and His people.

<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
<b>Apr 29 4:00 pm</b> 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Liz Joachim 4. Andrea Gilich 5. Gerrie Weldon <b>Apr 30 7:00 am</b> 1. Vicki Howard 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh  <b>9:00 am</b> 1. John Brauchle 2. Barry Gilmore 3. Nanette Burke 4. Belinda Corley 5. Barbara Ziz  <b>11:00 am</b> 1. Deacon Ben 2. Deacon Paul 3. Mary Wimberly 4. Sondra Williams 5. Johnny Williams  <b>5:30 pm</b> 1. Roland Creel 2. Tricia Creel 3. Kristy Arguelles	<b>Apr 29 4:00 pm</b> Michael Bruffey  <b>Apr 30 7:00 am</b> Sr. Mary Jo Mike  <b>9:00 am</b> Linda Bourgeois  <b>11:00 am</b> Michelle Sekul  <b>5:30 pm</b> Maggie Landry  <b>CANTORS</b> <b>Apr 29 4:00 pm</b> Billy Endicott  <b>Apr 30 9:00 am</b> Dennis Burke  <b>11:00 am</b> Choir	<b>Apr 29 4:00 pm</b> Sabree Sander Sofia Carreon  <b>Apr 30 7:00 am</b> Clayton Stoddard Ava Stoddard  <b>9:00 am</b> Justin Useforge Jamey Useforge McKinzy Mathis  <b>11:00 am</b> Michael Pfarrer Hadyn Hollis Aidan Tarrant Annabelle Tarrant  <b>5:30 pm</b> Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Dylan Mitchell

<b>Mass Intentions</b>			
	<b>6:30 a.m.</b>		<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
Mon	Apr 24 Gary Michiels		Anna Jo Wentzell
Tue	Apr 25 Mary Rosella McAuliffe		Jean Kridle
Wed	Apr 26 Thomas Edward Connell		Chester Balias Fly.
Thur	Apr 27 Robert Emmett McAuliffe		Merle Sherman
Fri	Apr 28 Gaspar/Mary Pisarich		Collins-Sims Fly
Sat	Apr 29 <u>8</u> Mary Rosella McAuliffe	<u>4</u>	Dan Williams
Sun	Apr 30 <u>7</u> -Sonny/Helen Ross	<u>9</u> -	For the Parishioners
	<u>11</u> - Dr. Jessica Crowder	<u>5:30</u>	Anna Jo Wentzell

**PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Danny Boney, Sr., Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte and Greg Hotaling, Richard "Red" White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Don Viator, Mabel Viator, Marian Semski and Michael Zorich.

**NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

\*Students in Grades 1 -6 will participate in the Biloxi Shuckers Education Day on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The children, teachers and guests will enjoy the game and learn about sportsmanship, teamwork and community support.

\*After a successful and fun season, the Nativity Cheer Squad and Basketball team members will join for pictures on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-Noon in the school gym.

\*On Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Nativity School will host the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Elementary School Track Meet. The meet will be held at St. Patrick High School, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Eight schools are participating in this year's meet. Our thanks to Nativity's PE teacher, Chere Stevenson, and others who are helping to make this event possible.

\*Registration for Summer Saints, Nativity School's Summer Camp, is in progress. For more information about the program, available to children in prek 3 through sixth grade, please visit the school's website ([www.nativitybvm.org](http://www.nativitybvm.org)) or contact the school office. (432-2269)

**NATIVITY B.V.M. CATHEDRAL'S 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL UNCORKED AND UNCAPPED WINE AND BEER TASTING! APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2017.**

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Exotic Wines – Craft Beers – Gourmet Food – Silent Auction and Live Entertainment. Please get you tickets now!!! Tickets are \$50.00 per person, \$80.00 per couple and \$350.00 for a reserved table of 10. This event begins at 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

We are looking for artsy items for our upcoming Beer and Wine Tasting Event scheduled for April 29, 2017. If you have something of interest – an antique item, artwork, crafts, jewelry – that you would like to donate, please call Fr. Dennis at (228) 374-1717. All proceeds from your donated auction item will go to the support of Nativity Cathedral Parish.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- April 24 Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.
- April 25 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC  
Diocesan Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.  
Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.
- April 26- **Cleaning Team "D"**  
Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m  
CCD Class, 5:30 p.m. until 6:30, SHC.
- April 27 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.
- April 28...Ordination of Bishop Louis F. Kihneman, III

**BINGO MANIA**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. Amos (Albert & Dorothy), Codella (Armondo & Renae), Cromar (Jason & Keelin), Foster (Jay & Sheila), Fountain (Brent & Bonnie), Jordan (Robert & Aimee) and Mitchell (Joseph & Michele). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

**R.C.I.A.**

Eight new Catholics entered our Church at the Easter Vigil. They will now enter the period of Mystagogia, which ends at Pentecost. This final period is a time of deep spiritual growth and integration into the community. Please remember to keep these new Catholics in your prayers.

**PARISHIONER REGISTRATION**

When planning a baptism, marriage, or for subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you attend Mass. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of Mass attendance. The parish registration form can be found online at [www.nativitybvmcathedral.org](http://www.nativitybvmcathedral.org), or at the entrance of the Cathedral in the vestibule.