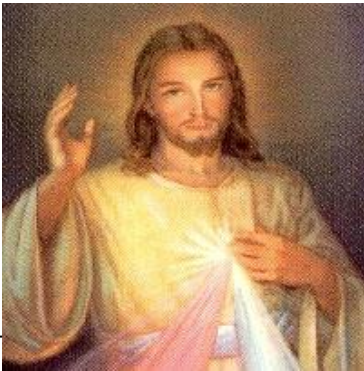


PARISH FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE & ST. VITUS

P.O. Box 10 Weston, NE 68070 Phone #: 402-642-5245 Fr.'s Cell #: 402-853-2846
Rev. Matthew Vandewalle, Pastor E-mail address: fr.matthew-vandewalle@cdolinc.net
E-mail address: StJohn-Weston@cdolinc.net
Website address: www.stjohnschurchweston.com
CONFESSIONS: One half hour before Masses or by appointment



**Sunday of Divine Mercy
April 11, 2021**

MASS SCHEDULE			
Monday	April 12 th	7:50 am	+ Leonard Stanek
Tuesday	April 13 th	7:50 am	+ All Souls Day Int. of LeRoy & Lillian Ohnoutka
Wednesday	April 14 th	7:50 am	+ Ed Pacula
		5:30 pm Touhy	+ Brian Turnwall
Thursday	April 15 th	7:50 am	+ Liv/Dec PCCW Members
Friday	April 16 th	7:50 am	+ Saunders County Catholic Schools
Saturday	April 17 th	5:30 pm	+ Wayne Reeves
Sunday	April 18 th	8:00 am Weston	+ Dec. Parents of L & L& Ohnoutka
		10:00 am Touhy	Missa pro Populo

NOTES FROM FR. VANDEWALLE

Congratulations to our First Communicants! Glorianna Bates and Hadley Fortik from St. John’s and Gracyn Byers and Turner Thoene from St. Vitus’. Congratulations on receiving Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time this Sunday!

Happy Easter Still – the Easter Season goes for 50 days up to Pentecost Sunday. Hope you are still rejoicing.

Easter Water – Blessed Easter Water from the Vigil is available in bottles in Church for everyone to take home.

Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour (including confessions) this Sunday at 3:00 p.m. - In a private revelation in the 20th century, Jesus revealed himself many times to a Polish nun, Sr. Faustina. He spoke of His desire to pour out extra-ordinary graces of mercy upon sinners each year on one special day, the Feast of Divine Mercy (celebrated the Sunday after Easter). Jesus told St. Faustina, “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. (Read more about the special graces available on this day in the attached article from the SNR by Fr. Holoubek).

To fittingly observe the Feast of Divine Mercy, CelebrateMercySunday.org recommends:

- Celebrate the Feast on the Sunday after Easter (or its Vigil).
- Sincerely repent of all our sins.
- Go to Confession (on Divine Mercy Sunday or within the week before)
- Place our complete trust in Jesus.
- Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast (or its Vigil).
- Venerate the Image of The Divine Mercy.
- Be merciful to others, through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

Learn more about this devotion at Formed.org or <https://www.marian.org/divinemercury/>

Bishop Neumann High School Presents - Anne of Green Gables at the Wahoo Performance Learning Center on Friday, April 16th & Saturday, April 17th at 7:30pm. Social Distance seating begins at 6:30pm. Sunday matinee, April 18th at 2:00pm. Social Distance seating begins at 1:00pm, masks required. General Admission \$10 available at the door, from a cast and crew member or at the Bishop Neumann front office - 402 443-4151.

OTHER INFORMATION

Please remember in your prayers and, on occasion, call or send a card to our home-bound/assisted care facilities parishioners: South Haven—Charles Kadavy, Rose Walla, Mary Lou Woita, Patsy Sabatka and Albina Kellner; Saunders County Care Center—Julius & Marcella Meduna and Marjorie Rezek. Please let us know if you would like to be added to this list.

SEMINARIAN OF THE WEEK

This week please pray for Paul Mach from St. Teresa, Lincoln.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE PARISH

Stewardship of Treasure: April 4, 2021 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...
Total: \$1,670.00 **PLUS: Candles:** \$35.00 **Holy Land:** \$440.00 **Easter:** \$870.00 **Guardian Angel Fund:** \$145.00
Easter Flowers: \$50.00 **Combined Collection:** \$50.00

SPIRITUAL CORNER

“The Cross had asked the questions; the Resurrection had answered them...The Cross had asked: "Why does God permit evil and sin to nail Justice to a tree?" The Resurrection answered: "That sin, having done its worst, might exhaust itself and this be overcome by Love that is stronger than either sin or death.”
-Archbishop Fulton Sheen

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8	Friday	Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15	Saturday	Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21	Sunday	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4; 1 Jn 2:1-5a;
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36		Lk 24:35-48

ST. VITUS PARISH

Stewardship of Treasure: April 4, 2021 We gave back to the Lord in return for all that He has given us...

Total: \$1,718.00 **PLUS: Children:** \$4.00 **Holy Land:** \$170.00 **Easter:** \$535.00

2021 Altar Society Booklets—Please remember to pick up your Altar Society Booklets in the back of church, those not picked up will be mailed out.

St. Vitus April Church Cleaning—Chairman: Lori Woita. Group: Kim Turnwall, Janet Bartek and Sharlet Pekarek.

SCHOOL NEWS

Times the Chapters Book Mobile from Seward will be open at St. John's School. Monday, April 12th, 8:30am-10:30am and 4pm-5pm; Tuesday, April 13th by special appointment, call 402-642-5234; Wednesday, April 14th, 8:30am-1:30pm and 4pm-5:30pm; Thursday, April 15th, 4pm-5pm.

Neumann Boosters Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14th, at 7:00 pm

Spring Plant Sale—St. John School on Saturday, May 1st from 9:00am-3:00pm and Sunday, May 2nd, 9:00am-2:00pm. Plant sale will be held in the garage north of St. John's School. Annual Flowers, Vegetable Plants, Perennials and Shrubs.

All plant proceeds support St. John's School

Support Our School with Scrip—Order forms are in the back of church and can be mailed or turned in to Barb at St. John's School or emailed to stjohnscrip19@gmail.com. Clearly mark on the envelope St. John's SCRIP. Envelope should include your order form complete with address, phone number and payment. Cards are ordered on the 15th of each month. You will get your cards approx. 2 weeks after order is placed. Please email stjohnscrip19@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Please Keep Saving Your Labels/Box Tops—Please continue to save Box Tops for Education labels, Our Family UPC's, Best Choice UPC's, and store receipts from Sun Mart and Corner Market. There is a basket in back of church to drop off all your labels and receipts.

AREA NEWS

Cathedral of the Risen Christ will be hosting a 'Come Alive' seminar, led by missionaries from the International Missionary Foundation. IMF will be leading the seven-week spiritual immersion that will allow candidates to experience a fresh start in their faith and a renewed encounter with Christ. The seminar will take place on Mondays, April 12th through May 24th, from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Each night will consist of praise and worship, talks from guest speakers, small group discussions and intercessory prayer. Some of the guest speakers include Fr. Jay Buhman, Father Chris Goodwin, Tony Ojeda and Matt Simmons. Register here: <https://www.cathedraloftherisenchrist.org/news-events/headlines/197-come-alive-seminar>

The American Red Cross Community Blood Drive—Wednesday, April 21st, Noon-6:00pm and Thursday, April 22nd, 7:00am-1:00pm at Wahoo State Building (The Shed) 570 N. Elm. Please contact Verna at 402-277-6243 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: WAHOONEB to schedule an appointment (no walk-ins accepted). Bring your Donor Card or Photo ID.

Marriage Encounter Presenting Virtual Weekend—Reaching a 'Oneness of heart' we long to see. April 23rd-25th. Contact Pat & Janelle Benson. Pat 308-940-0670 or Janelle 308-940-1105 or pbjbben@yahoo.com

Gala 2021 – Saturday Night Fever—Save the Date: Sat., April 24th at Starlite Event Center. Please help Saunders Catholic Schools GALA event by donating funds and gifts. Donations can be dropped off at any of our three schools. Questions about sponsorships or would like to contribute to GALA, contact: Rika Ryan at rika-ryan@cdolinc.net or 402-443-4151.

Gala Raffle Tickets Are On Sale! Now is your chance to win \$5,000-\$1,000 while supporting your school. Price: \$100. Only 375 tickets SOLD! To purchase tickets, contact Development Office, any Saunders Catholic School office or sellers.

St. Wenceslaus Parish, Bee—Spring Chicken Dinner and Auction. Sunday, April 25th at the States Ballroom from 10:30am-2:30pm. Serving Pan-Fried Chicken and Grilled Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Bars, Rolls & Kolaches. Mass in Bee at 8:00am. Adults: \$10.00/Carry-out \$10.50; Children: \$5.00/Carry-out \$5.50. See poster in back of church.

There will be a Day Long Retreat for couples or individual spouses experiencing primary or secondary infertility held on Saturday, May 1st, from 9:00am-4:00pm, led by Fr. Tim Danek with other guest speakers at John XXIII Diocesan Center in Lincoln or virtually. Cost is \$15/35/60 for virtual/individual/couple and in person includes Mass and brunch. Sign up/more information at <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/ifretreat>

Camp Kateri: Summer Camp Registration—Registration is now open for SKY Camp (rising grades 5th-9th), Catholic Adventure Camp (rising grades 4th-6th) and the Tekakwitha Games (rising grades 5th-9th). For more information, or to register for camp, go to www.campkateri.org. Flyer in the back of church.

High School Volunteer Counselors Needed For Camp Kateri—Camp Kateri is now accepting applications for volunteer high school counselors for SKY, Catholic Adventure Camp and the Tekakwitha Games. For more information, or to download an application, please go to www.campkateri.org. Flyer in the back of church.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR

As an assistant high school track coach, I recorded the results of each home meet and made copies for all the coaches. But because our track shed did not have electricity, I had to use carbon paper. A freshman team member offered to help, and I showed her how to place the carbon paper shiny side down so that the image would transfer to the sheet beneath it. “What will they think of next?” she said in astonishment. “Pretty soon we won’t need copy machines anymore!”

The extraordinary promise of Divine Mercy

09 April 2021 by Fr. Bill Holoubek

In the summer and fall of 1990, I was working as an application engineer in Hastings. During this time, I attended a parish mission at St. Cecilia, given by a Crosier priest, Father Milton Thomas, from the Hastings monastery.

At the mission, I became aware of an amazing private revelation that Jesus had given to a Polish nun in the early 20th century. In his revelation to Sr. Faustina, Jesus spoke to her of His desire to pour out extra-ordinary graces of mercy upon sinners each year on one special day, the Feast of Divine Mercy (celebrated the Sunday after Easter). He said to Sister Faustina,

“I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. *The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.*”

When I was ordained in 1997, Divine Mercy was still part of my life. The Divine Mercy holy cards were among those that I distributed at my ordination reception. In the year 2000, St. Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina and declared the Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday, as Jesus had requested of her.

At that time, the Holy Father also granted a plenary indulgence to anyone celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. To be honest, for me, this caused some confusion. I wondered, “What then is the difference between a plenary indulgence and the promise of Jesus to St. Faustina?”

The Church teaches that the graces of a plenary indulgence wipe away all punishment due to sin and yet the special graces Jesus promised to St. Faustina sounded very similar. Was this the Church’s way of legitimating the Divine Mercy devotion revealed to Sr. Faustina? Was the promise of Jesus somehow incomplete so the Church attached the conditions for gaining a plenary indulgence to His words? These thoughts stuck in the back of my mind for a number of years. I still prayed the chaplet and celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday with my people, emphasizing the plenary indulgence and the requirements necessary to receive one but not emphasizing the special promise very much.

One of the requirements to receive the plenary indulgence is to have no attachment to sin. This is the difficult one and the main difference between the indulgence and Jesus’ promise.

A few years ago, as Divine Mercy Sunday neared, I decided to look more earnestly into finding theological clarity on this issue of the “Promise” of Divine Mercy Sunday and the plenary indulgence. I found a booklet prepared by the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy of the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception from Stockbridge, Mass.

Father Ignacy Rozycki, STD, a theological expert from Poland and member of the International Theological Commission for the Holy See, devoted almost 10 years of his life to the theological analysis of St. Faustina’s writings. The 500-page result was submitted to Rome for the official investigation of Faustina’s life during the canonization process. Father Rozycki concluded that the “special grace” was theologically possible, was attached to receiving Communion on the feast of Divine Mercy and consisted in the total remission of sins and punishment similar to baptism. He indicated that the 33rd revelation also stated that confession was needed for receiving this “special grace.”

Father Rozycki stated, “Now, the promise of this extraordinary grace is a promise for all souls that the generosity of Jesus is really without limit on this day. At the same time, it is for all souls, a motivation for them to ask on this day of the Divine Mercy, with great and limitless trust, for all the graces that the Lord wants to lavish on this Sunday.”

I began to ponder more deeply about trust. Somewhat like Pontius Pilate who asked Jesus ‘what is truth,’ I was asking “what is trust?” What does it really mean to trust Jesus?

Two graces came to me in the next couple years. The first of these two graces came while I was re-reading the Diary of St. Faustina. In this reading, the same idea hit me twice and stopped me in my tracks.

In Paragraph 177, Jesus told St. Faustina,

“My daughter, speak to priests about this inconceivable mercy of Mine. The flames of mercy are burning Me—clamoring to be spent; I want to keep pouring them out upon souls; souls just don’t want to believe in My goodness.”

The last words, **“souls just don’t want to believe in my goodness,”** pierced me to the heart.

I have had plenty of difficulties, trials and burdens in my life, I know how easy it is to ask, “Where is God? Jesus, when will You answer me? When will You help me?” I know how subtly the enemy can use these things to begin hardening our hearts to God.

In the following days and weeks, the same idea of trusting in His goodness came to me a second time while reading paragraph 300 where Jesus tells Sister Faustina regarding the feast of Divine Mercy,

“Ask of my faithful servant [Father Sopocko] that, on this day, he tell the whole world of My great mercy; that whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy.

Oh, how much I am hurt by a soul’s distrust! Such a soul professes that I am Holy and Just, but does not believe that I am Mercy and does not trust in My Goodness. Even the devils glorify My Justice but do not believe in My Goodness.”

This last section again pierced my heart and still does today. **“How much I am hurt by a soul’s distrust! Such a soul professes that I am Holy and Just, but does not believe in My Goodness.”**

How can we trust someone if we do not believe that they are good? Before we can ever trust God and place our trust in Jesus, we must first truly believe that He is good.

How can this be? How could I not be believing this? There is often a canyon between our head and our heart. We know what is right and true, but because of so many hurts, wounds and disappointments in life, we try to protect our hearts by surrounding them with invisible walls and subtly we begin not to believe in God’s goodness and find it difficult to have total trust in him.

A year or so later, I experienced the second grace regarding trust when I was listening to a program on KVSS Spirit Catholic Radio and I heard Father Sebastian White being interviewed about Mercy. He stated that Mercy is when God relieves the misery out of his goodness. There it was again, God’s goodness.

Then Father White was asked what it means to trust and he answered that, “Trust is an act of the will where we hand over to someone else the responsibility of doing something good for us.” Finally, it sunk in for me. So, whether it is trusting your spouse to bring home a gallon of milk or making the decision to trust Jesus to deal with a problem we have, we are handing over to someone else, even Jesus, the responsibility to do this good that I need. I can only trust them if I truly believe they are “good” and therefore “trustworthy.”

Now it all began to make sense for me: Jesus, I trust in You. Jesus, I believe in your goodness despite the problems and hurts in my life and I trust You can and want to do the good that I need in order to help relieve the misery I am in right now... Mercy.

Jesus promised a profound and immense grace to those who would celebrate this feast of His Divine Mercy. This grace is the forgiveness of all sins and the removal of all punishment due to sin. This is essentially like the grace of baptism, as Father Rozycki stated.

Jesus desires to give us this grace, this gift of His mercy, even if we are not perfect in love or detached from all sin, as is required for a plenary indulgence.

Father Rozycki says what we need is simply to have total trust in Jesus by first, keeping in mind the extraordinary desire that Jesus has in His heart to fill us with such an incredible amount of grace on this day. God is so good. Second, we must have the courage to bring to the Mercy of Jesus all of our needs, spiritual, physical, or emotional, admitting that their real extent is often beyond our knowledge.

Lastly, we must present these needs to Jesus’ Mercy with a confident trust that is unwavering and boundless, while knowing that Jesus said it is this trust that opens up to us the treasures of His Mercy.

It is common for children to chant, “God is good” and respond “All the time.” When I was in Kenya, I heard the children add an additional phrase saying, “God is good, all the time, and that is His nature, Yea!” Yes, God is good, all the time and that is who He is and how He always will be because He can never change. His Divine Mercy is truly beyond our comprehension.

I invite you to ask the Holy Spirit, Our Lady and St. Joseph to help you put your total trust in Jesus and His goodness. May you celebrate this Divine Mercy Sunday with joyful expectation of receiving this profound gift of His mercy offered through His extraordinary promise.

St. Faustina, pray for us.