



1802 Bethel Rd.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7**

Mass (English) ..... 5:30 pm  
 Debra Yaniko Rogers, RIP  
 Eugene Guelda, RIP  
 Mass (Spanish) ..... 7:00 pm  
 Missa Pro Populo  
 Mass for the People

**SUNDAY, APRIL 8**

Mass (English) ..... 8:00am  
 Pallottine Fathers  
 Mass (English) ..... 10:45am  
 Private Intentions  
 Mass (Spanish) ..... 12:30pm  
 Private Intentions

**DAILY MASS SCHEDULE (ENGLISH)**

**211 South Main Street (Chapel)**

**MONDAY, APRIL 9**

(No Mass on Monday)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 10**

Mass ..... 8:45am  
 Vocations for the Fort Worth Diocese

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11**

Mass ..... 8:45am  
 Maura Reilly & Family  
 Julie Gutiérrez, RIP  
 Randy Gutiérrez, RIP

**THURSDAY, APRIL 12**

Mass ..... 8:45am

Alan Caldwell, RIP

**FRIDAY, APRIL 13**

Mass ..... 8:45am

Volunteers Who Serve in East Africa  
 with the Pallottine Fathers

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14**

Mass (English) ..... 5:30pm

Diocese of Fort Worth  
 Alan Caldwell, RIP

Mass (Spanish) ..... 7:00pm

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15**

Mass (English) ..... 8:00am

Francesca Bom-Cooper, Salvation

Mass (English) ..... 10:45am

Missa Pro Populo  
 Mass for the People of our Parish

Mass (Spanish) ..... 12:30pm

Private Intentions



**There are two sides to every story.**

When they dragged Jesus before Pilate, they thought his end was near.  
 When they watched him scourged, they thought no man could endure and survive this, but he did.  
 When they crowned him with thorns they mocked him, thinking there could be no retribution.  
 When he was sent out to Golgotha carrying a cross, they celebrated that their will was being done.  
 When they nailed him to the cross, they thought they were rid of him forever.  
 When he mumbled from the cross, they thought he was a mad man losing his mind.  
 And when he screamed out in the agony a man feels when death is near, they thought they had won.

**But they were on the wrong side of the story.**

What they thought was the end was only the beginning.  
 When the tomb was empty, they claimed it was fraud.  
 When they learned the truth, they tried to suppress it.  
 When he started appearing to people, their illusion crumbled, and they became very uneasy.  
 When his followers rose up with courage and began telling his story wherever people would listen, their uneasiness became fear.  
 When they harassed his followers, they were met with peace, and they were perplexed.  
 When they watched his communities living around love, respect, kindness, compassion, and generosity, they were baffled.  
 And when, in the face of death, his followers showed hope not fear, his persecutors became intrigued and amazed.  
 There are two sides to every story.

**In the end, truth always triumphs.**

It always has, and it always will.  
 It is one of those natural laws that governs our universe.  
 It often takes longer than we would like.  
 Decide this Easter to put yourself on the right side of every story, the side of truth... always, everywhere, in everything, no matter the cost.

By Matthew Kelly



Come and join us on **Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>** from 3-4pm at the Chapel as we celebrate the **Feast of Divine Mercy.**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2018**

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31  
 Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38  
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/ Jn 3:7b-15  
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21  
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36  
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/ Jn 6:1-15  
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/ Jn 6:16-21  
 Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48



**Pallottine Cans Return.** The Knights of Columbus ask that you return the Pallottine Mission cans this weekend. Please place your cans in the boxes provided in the church foyer. Your generous support of the Pallottine Missions is very much appreciated!



**High School Life Night is Wednesday, April 11.** We are starting a new series called "Vital". It's all about the Holy Spirit. This week is "Before Breath - the Eternal Origin of the Person of the Holy Spirit." **The Middle School Edge Night** will be diving deeper into the Liturgy. The clubhouse opens at 6:00.



Easter Sunday April 1 .....\$27,841.00  
 Spanish Dinners to date .....\$224,758.89

Support our bulletin sponsors  
**H & R BLOCK**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SUNDAY APRIL 8 (Divine Mercy Sunday)

- 7:30 am Sunday Morning Rosary (Church)
- 9:30 am Religious Education Classes - English (HSC)
- 9:30 am Post Confirmation Classes for Teens (Rm 7)
- 9:30 am Adult Religious Education Class (Rm 4)
- 9:30 am Gospel of Matthew (Rm 14)
- 9:30 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 1-2)
- 11:15 am Religious Education Classes Spanish (HSC)
- 1:30 pm Young Adult Group (Clubhouse)
- 4:30 pm Quincinera Practice (Clubhouse)

### MONDAY APRIL 9

- 5:00pm Cinco de Mayo Dance Practice (Clubhouse)
- 6:00pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament (Church)
- 7:00pm Cursillistas Ultreya (Parish Hall)
- 7:00pm Citizenship Classes (Rm 11)
- 7:00 pm Instrucción del Bautismo Español

### TUESDAY APRIL 10

- 8:45am Daily Mass (Chapel)
- 9:30am Ladies Bible Study (Rm 1-2)
- 7:00pm Grupo de Oracion (Church)
- 7:00pm Knights of Columbus (Clubhouse)

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 11

- 8:45am Daily Mass (Chapel)
- 10:15am Yoga Classes (Clubhouse)
- 5:00pm Youth Choir (Church)
- 5:30pm Comiendo Saludable (Rm 14)
- 6:00m Youth Group (Clubhouse)
- 6:30pm RCIA (Rm 1-2)
- 7:00pm ESL Classes (HSC)
- 7:00pm Adult Choir Practice (Church)

### THURSDAY APRIL 12

- 8:45am Daily Mass (Chapel)
- 9:30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel)
- 10:00am Quilting Group (Pro Shop)
- 5:00pm Cinco de Mayo Dance Practice (Clubhouse)
- 6:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Church)
- 7:00pm Saturday Mass Spanish Choir Practice (Rm 1-2)
- 7:00pm Sunday Mass Spanish Choir Practice (Church)

### FRIDAY APRIL 13

- 8:45am Daily Mass (Chapel)

### SATURDAY, APRIL 14

- 7:00am Quincinera Retreat (Parish Hall)



\*All events listed below are at the church

**English First Reconciliation:** Saturday, April 21st 10am

**Spanish First Reconciliation:** Saturday, April 28th 10am

**Confirmation:** Friday, April 27th 6:30pm

**English First Communion Mass:**

Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am

**May Crowning:** Sunday, May 13th 9:45am English

11:30am Spanish

**Spanish First Communion Mass:**

Saturday, May 26th 10am

**Last day of Religious Education:** Sunday, May 20th

**Totus Tutus Vacation Bible School:** June 18-22

## What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

By Santiago Cortes-Sjoberg

The world was in the midst of the Great Depression in 1931 and the memories of World War I were still very much alive in the minds of Europeans when in Poland a sister of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, Faustina Kowalska (1905-1938), is said to have been personally visited by Jesus.

According to her diary, which was listed on the Index of Forbidden Books for more than 20 years, an image was revealed to her of the risen Lord, from whose heart shone two rays, one red (representing blood) and the other "pale" (symbolizing water), with the words "Jesus, I trust in you" at the bottom. Faustina wrote in her diary that Jesus told her, "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish."



When she was canonized in 2000 under the direction of fellow countryman Pope John Paul II, he proclaimed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday, thereby widely promoting the devotional practices associated with Faustina's visions, already popular in many communities.

St. Faustina, a poorly educated daughter of a humble Polish family, kept a 600-page diary of the apparitions she claimed continued for years. Her entries focus on God's mercy, the call to accept God's mercy and to be merciful, the need for conversion, and the call to trust in Jesus. It had been Jesus' own wish, she wrote, to establish a feast day: "I [Jesus] desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls. . . . I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy."

Among the practices associated with the devotion are its novena, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy (a series of prayers organized similarly to a rosary), the Hour of Great Mercy (a time of prayer traditionally celebrated at 3 p.m.), and the plenary indulgence granted to those who receive the Eucharist and celebrate reconciliation on Divine Mercy Sunday.

But the road to the universal recognition and institutionalization of the devotion was anything but smooth. Since Sister Faustina's diary, which she claimed Jesus himself had asked her to keep, had been previously listed on the Index of Forbidden Books, it curtailed the exercise of the devotional practices. Detractors claimed that her writing contained theological errors, while her defenders attribute mistakes to a faulty translation from Polish to Italian. While the diary is no longer on the Index and her canonization has officially put away concerns regarding the orthodoxy of her writings, critics remain.

The celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on the theme of how God's mercy can overcome sin and, as the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments states, "a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come."

This article appeared in the May 2011 issue of U.S. Catholic (Vol. 76, No. 5, page 46). Santiago Cortés-Sjöberg is a speaker, writer, and supervising editor at Loyola Press in Chicago.



**All Young Adults (ages 18-39)** are invited to join a group from the Diocese of Fort Worth for a World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Panama from January 17-28, 2019. We will all experience a fruitful time of prayer, the sacraments, a lot of healthy walking, sightseeing, community building amongst the group and growing in our Catholic faith! You must be 18 by the start of the pilgrimage to participate. The cost to attend is \$3,850.00 and we have partial financial assistance available. There are 10 spots remaining so please register by Sunday, April 15th with Tom Centarri at [tcantarri@fwdioc.org](mailto:tcantarri@fwdioc.org) or 402-880-0866.

### All are welcome!

If you are a visitor, we hope that you will find our parish to be vibrant and spirit filled! Please consider becoming part of our parish family. If you would like to know more, go online at <http://saintstephenc.org/new-to-st-stephen>. Fill out our contact form and we will get in touch with you to discuss what the St. Stephen church community has to offer you and your family. **The Knights of Columbus** will provide breakfast in the parish hall between the Sunday Masses this weekend. Please join us and get to know our faith community even better!

Pecan Valley Center; cordialmente invita a la Comunidad Hispana a asistir al nuevo programa titulado "Comiendo Saludable", por la Sra. Silvana Utz, completamente gratuito. Sera una hora y media llena de actividades y información. Estaremos aprendiendo a cómo mejorar nuestra salud y alimentación. **La clase iniciara el 11 de abril del 2018 de 5:30-7:30pm, en el salón número 14.** ¡Todos son bien venidos los esperamos!

### STAFF

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