

April 22-23, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I know most of you know about this very special possibility for receiving Divine Mercy but I wanted you to see it right in front of you. When I was growing up we would pray for the Souls in Purgatory on All Soul's Day. We would make a special visit to the church and pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be, six times each. We would spend most of the time of our recesses, going in and out of the church on that day, to get souls out of Purgatory in this way. In our eyes, it was a very special bargain offered by God. This one we pray for ourselves. By the way, a rule of thumb for the Sacramental confession would be to do it within ten days.

In a decree dated August 3, 2002, the Apostolic Penitentiary announced that in order "to ensure that the faithful would observe this day (Divine Mercy Sunday) with intense devotion, the Supreme Pontiff himself established that this Sunday be enriched by a plenary indulgence...so that the faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit. In this way, they can foster a growing love for God and for their neighbor, and after they have obtained God's pardon, they in turn might be persuaded to show a prompt pardon to their brothers and sisters."

The plenary indulgence is granted (under the usual conditions of a sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and a prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on Divine Mercy Sunday, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, recite the *Our Father and the Creed, and also adding a devout prayer (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!)*.

As you would have seen from the monthly calendar, I will be leaving this Sunday afternoon to go to Mundelein Seminary for a class. I will be back Friday evening. That means there are less opportunities for confession this week because the Masses I would have been saying will be Communion Services and deacons can't give absolution. They can listen to your sins but that is all. I hope you knew that. Fr. Don will be having Mass Monday and Wednesday at 5:30pm and Tuesday and Thursday at 7am. Notice I dropped the Mass on Friday evening now that Lent is over. Starting with the Mondays in May we will also be dropping the Monday morning Mass but there will still be a Communion Service at 7am.

As of this time, as I write this letter, I still do not have the results of the survey for Mass times. Hopefully I will have that to announce this weekend but I am not guaranteeing that.

Archbishop Curtiss was here on Wednesday to confirm just under fifty of our 8th grade students. The ceremony went very well. I give my thanks to their parents and teachers who worked to get them to this point in their lives in which they show they are more willing to take on more of the responsibilities of working with the family of God. I also want to thank the RCIA team, led by Deacon Denny and Joan Connor, for their work in preparing those who received Sacraments on Holy Saturday.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank