

## COMING EVENTS

Novena April 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday April 23

Mass at 11:00 AM

Rosary and Novena Prayers before Mass

Mass Times at St. Wenceslaus Home of the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus

Saturday Night Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 11:00 AM

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00AM Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10am to 3pm

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00PM

This newsletter is published monthly to promote the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the National Shrine in Oklahoma USA.

[www.shrineofinfantjesus.com](http://www.shrineofinfantjesus.com)

[www.facebook.com/iopshrine](http://www.facebook.com/iopshrine)

## THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE April 2024

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME  
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The second Sunday of Easter is the Feast of Divine Mercy. It was named by Pope Saint John Paul II at the canonization of Saint Maria Faustina on April 30, 2000, and then officially decreed by the Vatican. Divine Mercy Sunday can be seen as the convergence of all the mysteries and graces of Holy Week and Easter Week. The Feast focuses the light of the Risen Christ into a radiant beam of merciful love and grace for the whole world. In his revelations to Saint Faustina Jesus expressed his desire to celebrate this special Feast. He says that the Feast of Mercy emerged from his very depths of tenderness and mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of His Mercy.

Saint Faustina was born in Poland in 1905. When she was twenty years old she entered the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy where she lived for the next thirteen years until her death on October 5th 1938. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1993 and canonized in 2000. Saint Faustina was privileged to receive apparitions from Jesus emphasizing his mercy, and especially his mercy today. Jesus promised that those who go to Confession and receive Holy Communion today will receive not only forgiveness of their sins, but the total remission of all temporal punishment for their sins. It is like a second baptism, all sin and punishment is wiped out. Confession during the week beforehand is also acceptable. Our attitude should be one of total trust in Jesus' Divine Mercy. Confession before today in

preparation for this feast is also okay, Sister Faustina used to confess on Saturday. Many people say that they only believe things they can see or understand, and refuse to believe what they don't see and understand. They condemn those who believed without seeing are superstitious. These people forget that they also believed many things they don't see or understand, history, current or wind. When they believed these things, they based their faith on the authority of witnesses or the effect of things which they don't see. Similarly in the area of faithful believe, not because they saw God; but based on the effects of His love and power in the universe, through the testimony of His witnesses or their own experience of God.

Every year, at the time when the faithful celebrate Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection, the weekly magazines for example Times or Newsweek often put out surprised question related to Jesus' resurrection, for example: Is Jesus really resurrected? None saw Jesus when he was resurrected and went out of the tomb! The archaeology didn't find any trace of Jesus' tomb in Jerusalem? Their purpose is to make people to ponder their faith in the eternal life, as St. Paul said, "**If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, your faith**" ( 1 Cor 15:14). But to look for the facts around the empty tomb is the lowest way to prove Christ's resurrection. We should never let the mass media shake our faith in Christ's resurrection.

We have not only two witnesses as the law required, but many witnesses of Jesus' resurrection for example: the whole Scripture, the apostles' miracles, the complete change of Jesus' Apostles, many people's conversion and martyrs throughout generations. The history of the Catholic Church during more than 2000 years is the powerful and living proof of the fact that Christ is still living and acting in the church amidst of opposition, persecution and prison.

**Divine Mercy in Action**

A Time magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a blue turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up-close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation.

The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's would-be assassin (he shot and wounded the Pope on May 13, 1981); the other man was Pope St. John Paul II, the intended victim. The Pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet had torn into the Pope's body. This was a living icon of mercy. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him.

At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the Pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly. When the Pope left the cell he said, **"What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust."**

This is an example of God's Divine Mercy, the same Divine Mercy whose message St. Faustina witnessed.

**Sincerely in Christ,**

Father Christopher Hai Tran, Rector



**2024 Mother's Day Flowers**

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**Donated By** \_\_\_\_\_

**For the Holy Father and All Religious men and Women**

**Vocations to the Service of God**

**Souls in Purgatory and for All Souls**

**For Good Health and All the Sick**

**My Special Intentions**

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ALTAR CANDLES \_\_\_\_\_

SANCTUARY LAMP\_\_\_\_\_

6-DAY VIGIL @ \$5.00:\_\_\_\_\_

MASS STIPEND @ \$10\_\_\_\_\_

MASS INTENTION FOR\_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE MASS TO:

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PLEASE CALL FOR A PAVER FORM AND WE WILL MAIL YOU ONE. THANK YOU

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please address them to:

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