

# Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Catholic Community

Second Sunday of Easter, April 19, 2009

Served by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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**SUNDAY LITURGY:** Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9am and 11:30am  
First Sunday of month, Youth Ministry 5pm

**WEEKDAY LITURGY:** Monday through Friday, 12:05pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Thursday 11:00 – 11:45am  
Saturday 4:00 – 4:45pm

**Sacrament of Anointing of Sick:** Available during the Sunday masses, or as needed.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** for children – Parents Prep class required. Call Marlys for reservations.  
Best done prior to birth. Call to register for next class April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.  
for adults – Contact the office about RCIA

**Sacrament of Marriage:** 6 month process (several classes and FOCUS Test and/or Engaged Encounter, or Couple to Couple...contact a priest.

**Pastoral Council:** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month (usually)

**Prayer Chain:** [pjham@att.net](mailto:pjham@att.net), Pat Hamilton 262-5250

**Sexual Abuse Victim Assistance Coordinator:** Marlys Verba

Please Note: Submissions/articles for the weekly bulletin via email must be in by Thursdays at noon to Marlys: [marlys.verba@gmail.com](mailto:marlys.verba@gmail.com) and you may send a copy to: [csponset@acsalaska.net](mailto:csponset@acsalaska.net)

12 years ago, my first mass as a priest was on Divine Mercy Sunday. I was not at the time fully aware of Divine Mercy. I was and still am a “rosary bug,” “eucharist carver” and “bible boy” kind of Roman Catholic. When I first heard about Divine Mercy, I looked at it with suspicion and thought it might be an “over-the-top” kind of devotion, which would become more “fad than faith” devotion.

During my first years as a priest, that “suspicion” was confirmed, because I ran into people who claimed to be “big believers” in the devotion and demanded that this devotion should be **the one** our parish should be promoting. My pastor assigned me to this group and so I started to study this devotion and arrange to meet with the lay-leadership of this devotion. They invited me to a dinner at their house to chat about this devotion and what could be done.

What happened at the meal proves the old saying “there is no **free** lunch.” The people gathered informed me on how much they love the Divine Mercy and then went on a rant session against one of my brother Oblates. They claimed that he was a poor priest, because he was not liturgically correct. I asked the name of the priest with whom they were angry with and it was an Oblate that I considered to be a living saint, because before he was assigned to that area, he was working in Mexico among the poor. He set up medical clinics for the poor and even damaged his own health by living in the same difficult conditions as the poor with whom he was serving.

The complaint about being liturgically incorrect has to deal with his choice of using the Eucharistic Prayers for Children during the Sunday Mass. I knew why he did this, because most of the people attending Sunday Mass had learned English as a second language. The priest was just trying to give the people an opportunity to understand what they were praying. There was no malice in his choice. I tried to explain this to the people present, but they would not have any of it. They would rather quote the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM for short) than take the time to understand this priest’s reasonings or look at his great **works of mercy** to the poorest of the poor.

In the end of the meal, this group of people who invited me to dinner, the so-called devotees of Divine Mercy **judged** the priest of the poor to be unworthy, because of his liturgical choice. I left thinking to myself that it was my brother Oblate who knew what Divine Mercy was about and this crowd did not which is sad, because according to the literature pertaining to the Divine Mercy is as easy as ABC.

A — Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach

## DIVINE MERCY?

Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C — Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

(taken from the EWTN website on the background to this devotion)

When I ran into this devotion again years later during my work prisons that I learned to appreciate this devotion in its proper light. I was working with incarcerated men, who were devoted to their 12 steps to fight against their addictions to drugs and alcohol, following the ABC’s of the Divine Mercy and the praying the chaplet everyday. I personally, saw how these men working their steps and following the Divine Mercy changed their lives, their outlook and how they even reacted to the Correctional Officers at the facility. It was a 1, 2, 3 strike out against their addictions and their dysfunctional, antisocial behaviors.

They were men who lived and breathed **mercy**. Their conversion was not just lip service . It was genuine. Even the correctional officers commented to me on how these men had changed. It blew my mind how this devotion could change lives if only the devotees took the ABC’s of Divine Mercy to heart.

That is the power of this devotion and like other devotions in our Church can be instruments of change for the good, if only we take seriously what this devotion requires of you to change us to become more like, Jesus Christ. It is easy to say the chaplet and look at the beautiful Divine Mercy picture in our parish. It is another thing to allow this devotion to change your day to day life behaviors like those men in prison did. It takes perseverance and patience.

So what kind of devotee of the Divine Mercy are you? Are you a pious judger, like the first group I met, or are you like those brave souls in prison who allowed the devotion to the Divine Mercy to change their lives forever?

The choice is yours. Judgement or Mercy.

Enjoy the week!

Fr. Andy OMI

**Please continue to pray for the following loved ones during this Easter Season who have Easter lilies in the sanctuary. Thank you to those who participated.**

John/Barbara Hoke, Michael Hoke Whitney & New Fellman Dick Rumfelt Cecelia & Groege Heier Rose & Nick Zerbinos Charles/Jeroma Foy Warren Larson Regina & Eugene Popp George Wallin Eleanor Marschinke Rita Trombley Brad Bradrick	Patricia/Fred Baumen Jean Houglum BH/BG Houglum Roy Shapley Ha Alsip Lisa Barrett Ron Williams Isabella “Ladybug” Laroche Donald Oberg: family and friends Cliff Haas Piszko Family Williams Family	Randy Jensen John Bonk, Jr. John W. Smith Mike/Sophia Bonk Bob Antila Laurette/Allen Antila Jessie Ross Irtton Slone, Corinne Heider/ Billy Burger Ken/Kip Nushart Dr. H.F. Hagan Mary Margaret Casey’s parents	John Graika Walt/Helen Sill Sam/Ev Elyn Maloney Jerry/Maribel Koelzer William Forrest Janet Forrest Witte Family Grey Nuns of Sacred Heart Sheila Nordale Virginia Fostene Carl Fostene John Feero
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**Calendar for April 20, 2009 – April 26, 2009, with Daily Readings**

<b>April 20, Monday: Noon Mass</b> Morning prayer, 7:30am <b>GOF Prep Meeting, 6:30pm</b>	<b>April 21, Tuesday: Noon Mass</b> Morning prayer, 7:30am Baptism Class, 7:30pm	<b>April 22, Wednesday: Noon Mass</b> Morning prayer, 7:30am	<b>April 23, Thursday: Noon Mass</b> Morning prayer, 7:30am <b>Eucharistic Adoration starts after noon service</b> Men’s Group Breakfast 6am Quilting, 10am- 3pm	<b>April 24, Friday: Noon Mass</b> Morning prayer, 7:30am <b>Eucharistic Adoration ends before noon service</b>	<b>April 25, Saturday: 8pm Mass</b> Reconciliation 4:00pm MOMS 9:30- 11:30am RCIA—3pm	<b>April 26, Sunday: 9:00am, 11:30am Masses</b>
Acts 4:23-31 Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 John 3:1-8	Acts 4:32-37 Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2,5 John 3:7b-15	Acts 5:17-26 Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 John 3:16-21	Acts 5:27-33 Psalm 34:2 & 9, 17-18, 19-20 John 3:31-36	Acts 5:34-42 Psalm 27:1, 4, 13- 14 John 6:1-15	Peter 5:5b-14 Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mark 16:15	Act 3:13-15, 17- 19 (47B) Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 1 John 2:1-5a Luke 24:35-48

**Saturday, April 25, 2009, 5:00pm**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jane Fellman, Jim Fellman, Linda Houglum, Margaret Johnson, John Pothast

**Lectors:** 1<sup>st</sup> Reading; Monty Murray; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Sheilah-Margaret Pothast

**Altar Server:** Hannah Pothast

**Sunday, April 26, 2009, 9:00pm**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Helen Knopp, Lynn Senette, Sharon Shassetz, Alyson Stogsdill, Jim Stogsdill

**Lectors:** 1<sup>st</sup>. Reading: Laurie Kapp; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Eli Woodvine

**Altar Server:** Kyle Shassetz

**Sunday, April 26, 2009, 11:30pm**

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Dave Carey, Marguerite McIntosh, Marylou Nushart, Anna Laroche, Jackie Swanson

**Lectors:** 1<sup>st</sup>. Reading: Charles Miller; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: Kathy Walker

**Altar Server:** Georgie Forrest  
Willa Forrest

**Mop & Bucket 4/20—4/25:** Robert Ermold Family **Collection Counters: 4/26:** Jacquie Moxey & Connie Gatling



## A LOOK AHEAD:

**Generations of Faith** will meet Sunday April 26; the topic is The Identities of Jesus. Please RSVP for the event, particularly if childcare is needed.

**Call to register for next Baptism class  
April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.**

## Art Show and Raffle to Celebrate Roy Shapley and Benefit the Shapley Family

Sterling Elementary School is hosting an art show and raffle in memory of Roy Shapley on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-7:30 at the school, with all proceeds being donated to Janet and her sons. Many beautiful pieces of art have been donated by area artists for the raffle, and raffle tickets are available in advance of the show by calling **Christine Ermold at 262-4944 or 298-0625**, or they can be purchased the day of the show until 6:45pm. Raffle tickets can be purchased specifically for any one of five reserved matted and framed pieces for \$5.00 each, or tickets can be purchased for the general raffle, where winners will receive one of the 16 general raffle items, which include prints, pottery, silk scarves, and more. General raffle tickets are \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00.

## Alaska Catholic Youth Conference

Alaska Catholic Youth Conference (ACYC), is a conference for youth in grades 9-12 and will be held this year from June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Anchorage. Teens and adults from parishes throughout the state have begun preparing for ACYC '09.

Hopefully youth from the Western Kenai groups will be attending. The information booklet is available near the Teen Bulletin Board in the Gathering Space at OLPH. There is one general registration form for youth and adults, which can be found in this booklet. Please note the forms that need to be filled out.

The necessary adults for supervision have come forward, but we could use a little help with housing – depending on the number of youth attending.

Please **pray** for this special event. May God bless those participating with safe travel, opportunities to learn and experience more about their faith and make new friends.

## FAREWELL is being planned.

A **farewell** is being planned for Sr. Joyce and Sr. Joan who have served the people of the Kenai Peninsula first by traveling to each faith community to assist with Religious Education and for the last number of years as the pastoral leaders at Our Lady of the Angels in Kenai. Just before Easter, the Sisters announced that at the end of May, they would conclude their ministry here and return to their Religious Communities in the East.

An Appreciation Open House for the Sisters is being planned for Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12 Noon to 3pm. at Our Lady of the Angels in Kenai. The Sisters will be driving to the East Coast, and the Appreciation Planning Group has suggested cash gifts be given and gathered into a Debit or Pre-Paid Credit Card.

Sr. Joyce will preside at Communion Services at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on the weekend of May 23-24. This will give all of you a chance to say Thank You and Goodbye to the Sisters

**The Annual Outreach Collection** This weekend, please consider sharing your gift of treasure through the **Annual Outreach Collection**. This special collection supports the Catholic Communication Campaign (33%), scholarships at the Catholic University of America (33%), and the publication and distribution of our own *Catholic Anchor* (33%).

**OLPH will have** a team for the Relay for Life May 29<sup>th</sup> at Skyview High School. We are looking for energetic folks willing to help brainstorm fundraising ideas, recruit walkers and help guide us as “We Race for a Cure”. Interested? There are some times open for walkers on Saturday morning May 30th. 8am-1:00pm are available. Please call **Alyson at 389-3235 or email [fishhappens@gci.net](mailto:fishhappens@gci.net)**.

