



# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT COMMUNITY

Bulletin, News, and Editorial

April 16, 2023

**Chaplain**  
Fr. Jeffrey Robideau

**Contact Info:**  
3020 S. Washington Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48910

517-574-4921

fr@gregorythegreat.com

www.gregorythegreat.com

**Religious Education (RE)**  
High School, Confirmation, &  
RCIA  
Barbara Hawkins

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Sacramental Prep  
Emma George

**Accountant**  
Jessie Kabdebo

**Music**  
Music Consulters  
Patrick Hawkins  
William Price

Organ  
Lee Schneider

Schola  
Volunteers are needed.  
Practice is held on  
Wednesday.

## This Weeks Schedule

### Sun Octave of Easter, Low Sunday

16  
Open Mass 7:15 am - 12  
8 am Aggie George  
10 am

### Mon

17  
Open Mass Closed

### Tue

18  
Open Mass 5 - 7 pm  
6:30 pm

### Wed

19  
Open Mass 7:30 - 11 am  
8 am +Stefanie Paptic

### Thr

20  
Open Mass 5 - 7 pm  
6:30 pm

### Fri

21 St. Anselm, B of Canterbury, CD +1109, 3cl  
Open Mass 7:30 - 11 am  
8 am +Pablo Ponce

### Sat

22 St. Soter, PM +174 & St. Caius, PM +296, 3cl  
Open Mass 8:30 - 11 am  
9 am

### Sun 2nd Sunday after Easter

23  
Open Mass 7:15 am - 12  
8 am +Pablo ponce  
10 am Parish

## Confessions

Confessions are available Monday - Saturday during open hours outside of Mass times.

You may also call to make an appointment outside of these times.

## Last Sunday's Collection

# Of Contributions 120 + Cash  
 Sunday Total \$ 2155.25  
 Capital Campaign \$ 120

**Thank You for your generosity**

### Meetings

Finance Council – May 9  
 Pastoral Council – May 9  
 Security Council –  
 Church Cleaning – May 13  
 Woman's Group – May 11  
 Men's Group – April 20  
 Schola Practice – Every Wednesday @ 6pm

## Parish News

### Confirmation

The Institute of Christ the King in Detroit has agreed to include us in their Confirmations. No date is set yet, but should be in October.

I am also looking at the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in South Bend, IN. They might let us join them too if we need to.

### Counters

#### Today

Ben Schneider  
 Tom Schrauben

#### Next Week

Greg Snitgen  
 Jim Miller

### Ushers

#### Today

8: Kevin Irrer  
 10: Patrick Lind

#### Next Week

8: Kevin Irrer  
 10: Patrick Lind

### Servers

#### Today

8: Eric or John  
 AJ  
 10: Anthony  
 Ben

#### Next Week

8: John  
 Eric  
 10: Joe  
 Leo

### Don't forget...

First Saturday Holy Hour after Mass.

Second Saturday we celebrate the Mass in honor of the SGTG Confraternity of our deceased.



**Sacramental Prep**

**Teen Ed**

Today

Y

Y

Next Week

Y

Y

**Latin Classes**

**Tuesday**

**Thursday**

This Week

Y

Y

Next Week

Y

Y

**Oh Lord, hear our prayers for our family and friends in need.**



Denise Ignatowski  
 John Ignatowski  
 Tim Copernoll  
 Amy Sobie  
 Rachelle Koenigsnecht  
 Ed Reichstetter

**Please Pray for:**

Melissa Dorbeck  
 JoAnn Brock  
 Hal Schneider  
 Timothy McLin  
 Rhoda Greenhoe  
 David Makara

Bob Wilson  
 Cozette Oxley

# News & Editorial

## The Sacred... The Secular... And Everything

### Soup Guy - "No mercy for you!"

I know that most of you do not have much need for the Divine Mercy Devotion. It is a newer prayer and not one that has caught on with the more traditional crowd.

Having said this, there is a big difference between the Divine Mercy Devotion and God's Divine Mercy.

God's Divine Mercy is VERY REAL. God knew that we could not win salvation for ourselves; that we could not pay the price that justice demands for our sins. He further knew that if the debt was paid for us, that some of us, even if only a few of us, would do what it would take to merit that act of mercy and receive the life it promises.

But in lies the contract, that we MERIT it.

Merit works in two ways.

The first is the more common one where someone deeds mercy and wants mercy and will do what it takes to merit mercy. They then do what it takes and they receive the mercy based on their actions.

The second way to merit is where the mercy comes before the merit but is still required. Someone needs mercy but does not know how to gain it. Someone steps in and sees that they can indeed merit the mercy and so shows that mercy in advance of their meriting it. That person must then fulfill the act of merit necessary or forfeit the mercy.

An example of this second type is a criminal who has the opportunity to have his sentence commuted. All he has to do is stay out of trouble. He leaves the prison and gets into trouble. He did not merit the mercy he was shown and so goes back to prison. However, if he behaves himself, he

lives the same freedoms as the rest of us.

God exercised this second type of merit. From His love and sense of mercy He came into the world, lived with us as one of us, taught us Truth, suffered, died, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and intercedes for us before the Father. In essence He forgave our sins and conquered sin and death for us. BUT with the restriction that we must still merit this kindness, this mercy.

Merit includes (in very broad strokes):

- Be baptized in the water and the spirit
- Be in the Catholic Church
- Eat His Flesh and drink His Blood worthily
- Follow the laws
- Be virtuous

If you fail at these, He does not write us off, but gives us a second chance and that is to goto confession.

Doing this, we merit the reward of eternal life and the beatific vision.

Don't do this and burn in Hell.

From this we learn that it is not mercy we depend on. We already have it. Divine Mercy. Mercy from God.

Now we must show respect for that mercy and fulfill our part of the bargain - Merit.

And know that God knows the difference between

- Not wanting His mercy
- Not respecting His mercy, especially through the sin of presumption
- And appreciating His mercy even if we struggle with meriting it.

Now that we have looked at God's Divine Mercy, let us look at the Divine Mercy Devotion.

The Devotion is exactly that. Devotion

means to be devoted to something. That is: loving, faithful, true, steadfast, constant, committed, dedicated, devout, admiring, caring, attentive. In this case, we are devoted to God's Divine Mercy.

As we saw, that mercy is real and it is there for the meriting. That means the devotion is not to obtain God's Mercy, but to celebrate it and to reaffirm that we will be faithful, true, devout, constant, committed, dedicated... to respecting this kindness by meriting it.

The problem is that the Divine Mercy Devotion is new and it is post Vatican II and so suffers many of the post Vatican II pitfalls - Modernism. There was modernism before Vatican II, but since it has been modernism on steroids.

The huge modernism that the Divine Mercy Devotion falls into is that of what Bishop Barron teaches; that all men have a reasonable hope of being saved. This is a heretical understanding of mercy.

So many (99.08% we saw in my homily the other week) either disrespect God's mercy or do not want to undergo the work of meriting it.

If you have the devotion to God's Divine Mercy because you want Him to give it to you then you have missed the point - You already have it. We all do.

The point of the Divine Mercy is that we need to love Him and respect Him and so want to merit His gift. It is more about what we have to do than what He has to do. He did His part. Now it is our turn or "No Mercy for you!"

Much Love. Fr. Robideau

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