

Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish

Reverend Father Aron M. Maghsoudi – Pastor

Rectory Office
738 Sunshine Avenue
Central City, PA 15926
814-754-5224

April 19, 2020
**Second Sunday
Of Easter**

Worship Sites
Church (Sacred Heart)
738 Sunshine Avenue
Chapel (St. John)
162 Wheeler Street

Live Stream Mass:

10:30 AM Sunday
Facebook Live

Confessions
Anytime upon Request

Mass Intentions

Said privately by Fr. Aron

April 20 (Mon)	Easter Weekday Helen Yantus (Req. Vita Giannone)
April 21 (Tue)	St. Anselm Debbie Knapp (Req. Uncle Bill, Aunt Judy & Family)
April 22 (Wed)	Easter Weekday Stanley Tomaszewski (Req. Tony & Debbie Renzi)
April 23 (Thu)	St. George Samuel Pesto (Req. Mark Pesto)
April 24 (Fri)	St. Fidelis Christa Harkins (Req. Clair Gill)
April 25 (Sat)	St. Mark Ray & Tillie Pasierb (Req. The Pysnik Family)
April 26 (Sun)	Third Sunday of Easter For the Parish (Missa Pro Populo) Poor Souls in Purgatory (Req. John Eger Family)

Second Sunday of Easter

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,
"His mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His mercy endures forever." R.

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.

The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just: R.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it. R.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire,

may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A Reading from the Gospel of John

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

WEEKLY OFFERING - Thank you so very much to all who continue to support the church!

PRAYER LIST - Please call the rectory with any changes or additions. Kay Hintosh, Dale Berkey Jr., Allen S. Berkey, David Stockdill, Tina Udet, Patty Foltz, Connie Gruca, Judy Kostick, Lisa Schrift, Amy Thomas Georg, Betsy Paolucci, Areile Adomnik, Charles Field, Todd Diorio, Denne Osman, Addison Zearfaus, Pam Kacmarski, Tom Schall, Howard Rose, David P. Bonus, Henry Sprock, Connie Criscoulo, Hunter Slater, Nancy Deneen, Stephen A. Haydu, Andrea Sesack, Jerry Otto, Lyle Spearo, Lauren Barnes, Agnes Palya, Gerald "Curly" Mains, Rollin Wilson, Genevieve Berezonsky, Tom Hudak.

CANADIAN PRIEST OFFERS TO BE INCARCERATED TO CONTINUE PRISON MINISTRY

DURING PANDEMIC - Answering his calling, this priest puts the spiritual care of others above his own life. With nursing homes, hospitals, and prisons all restricting visits during this period of quarantine, there are many individuals who will not be receiving the spiritual support they so badly need. Yet there are many priests and religious putting their lives on the line to ensure that patients, isolated seniors, and inmates still have their spiritual needs fulfilled. In fact, the Catholic Herald recently reported that up to 60 Italian priests have died of COVID-19 while trying to continue their ministry.

So when one priest heard that the prison in which he normally ministers was blocking all visitors, he offered to be incarcerated with the inmates 24/7. As Bishop Gary Gordon of Victoria, British Columbia shared with Catholic News Herald: "For a bishop to hear that from a priest, you say 'OK, this is what it's all about. This is the vocation — lay it on the line.' It's really beautiful."

Bishop Gordon, who is the representative of prison ministry for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, explained that the priest has had a profound commitment to ministering in prisons for a long time. By remaining with the prisoners, he reduces the risk of contaminating those he would see on the outside as well as inside the prison. The priest wished to remain anonymous for reasons of privacy.

The priest's calling to serve these prisoners does not come without risk. As Bonnie Weppler, the executive director of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections pointed out, the virus spreads easily in confined areas. Just look at what's been happening in nursing homes throughout the world. This has also been seen in the rapidity in which coronavirus spread on cruise ships.

Although many penitentiaries are aiming to reduce their prison population by releasing inmates who would be eligible for release in the near future, there are many who remain incarcerated and who need the comfort of someone to minister to them.

It's a dilemma that many priests are faced with. "If someone is gravely ill, then the priest should be allowed to bring them the holy anointing of the sick and viaticum," explained Bishop Gordon.

While we are called to pray for prisoners as well as the sick and those who care for them, we should also pray for the priests and religious men and women who continue to serve the most vulnerable and put their own lives at risk in doing so.

SMALL ERRANDS - Volunteers have contacted our office offering to run small errands like grocery and/or prescription pick up and drop off for anyone in need. Please call the rectory if you need assistance, errands or help with bills (rent, utilities, etc.) during this time. (814-754-5224).

CHURCHES NOW LOCKED - As per the new Diocese regulations, all churches and facilities will remain locked until further notice.

MASSES ONLINE: Father Aron will Live Stream Mass every Sunday at 10:30 AM with Nick Will. Please friend Father on Facebook (Aron Maghsoudi) to join him.

CELEBRATING GOD’S MERCY IN OUR TIME OF QUARANTINE - (Leslie Bertucci)

This weekend, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday differently than we ever have before, just as last Sunday we celebrated the great feast of Easter unlike any in our memory. Sheltering in place, we will participate virtually in the sacrifice of the Mass, praying our spiritual Communion, uniting ourselves to the body of Christ across the globe through technology. Together, yet apart.

But God’s mercy is no different today than it was when poured out as blood and water at Calvary. God is longing to drench us in his mercy even now.

Jesus himself gave this prayer to St. Faustina in the 1930s: “For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.” This year, we may hope his mercy will look something like this: Patients being taken off ventilators, breathing freely on their own. People leaving their homes, meeting together without fear of infection. Doctors, nurses and other health care workers coming home from a normal shift and hugging their children. Schools opening their doors to students. Grocery shelves filled with the usual necessities of life. And churches filled with the faithful, grateful to receive the “real presence” of Jesus in the holy sacrament, “containing within it all delight.”

While we beg God to have mercy on us by removing this disease from the earth, let’s not miss the myriad opportunities of experiencing his mercy throughout each day.

Our family has experienced so much of God’s grace during this quarantine. We live at a slower pace, being present to one another, giving attention to the things that really matter. We are more aware of the beauty of God’s creation in our own backyard. We take walks together as a family every day, greeting all the other families in the neighborhood who are doing the same thing (from a distance, of course).

We are catching up on our reading, playing music and praying more. We are learning to use technology to connect with family members, celebrate birthdays and make each other laugh. We are checking in with friends across the country, renewing relationships, strengthening our ties to the body of Christ. And, every Sunday, our little domestic church gathers around a screen to celebrate Mass virtually, longing for the day when we can do it in person.

Even though many activities and church services have been canceled, these things have not been canceled: faith, hope, love and joy. The mercies of the Lord are new every morning. Let’s immerse ourselves in his mercy.

“In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith ... may prove to be for praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:6).