

**April 3, 2016**  
**Sunday of Divine Mercy (year C)**

**From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:**

Our snowdrops, crocuses, and the daffodils are blooming. Soon the hyacinth and tulips will be here. Nature reminds us how wonderful life is and, despite some obstacles, that all will turn out OK. Wrong! As any gardener or farmer will tell you. So much preparation goes into making the flowers bloom in the spring. Many of the bulbs planted in the Fall never bloom. It may be a combination of unwise choices by the gardener or nature herself not cooperating. Our world is fragile. We know this about our personal lives but we don't want this to be the case with nature. God would never allow this to happen. Sorry! God allowed his son to suffer the most excruciating suffering before dying. I say "allowed" not "willed". Yet if you read our New Testament especially, the Gospel of John, this death was preordained by God. It had to happen. In the culture of the time, killing to appease the gods was taken for granted. This is an example of human beings looking back and trying to explain to themselves and others what seemed impossible. But what if God had said, "I want my son to be human on the planet earth and to live as all human live; I want this to be because I want to show them that I understand what they are going through. Whether it turns out badly or very wonderfully for my son, I will not interfere as I don't with the rest of humanity. But that doesn't mean I have abandoned them. My resurrecting my son is my assurance to them"

It was individual human beings (mostly Romans, with the cooperation of a few Jews) who made the terrible choice to kill Jesus. What if Jesus lived another twenty or thirty years on earth? Would he have transformed the world? No one knows because it didn't happen. But, "What if?"

I started this essay with nature so I will finish it with nature. Will we make the same horrible choices and destroy our planet? Will we refuse to believe that climate change is happening because of us? If the "End of Times" comes, it will not be God's choice. It will be ours.

The message of Easter is this "Aware of our sins and our blindness, we will not give up on ourselves or the world. God is with us but He will not make our decisions for us".



**COLLECTION:** the collection for last Sunday March 27, 2016 was  
**\$ 5,487.50**



**Pope Francis:**

God is truly "rich in mercy" and extends it abundantly upon those who appeal to Him with a sincere heart.



**Divine Mercy Sunday:** During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, today is a day that stands out because it is already designated as a day to celebrate God's mercy. We all stumble, and we all have our doubts. Our loving God is always there; however, ready to help us, to give us a second, third, fourth, or "nth" chance. As we move through these fifty days of Easter, let us rejoice in the good news of such a loving God, and renew our efforts to treat all others with the same mercy that God shows us.

**First Reading:** *Acts 5:12-16*(page 17) - the apostles preach the Good News; and many people discover the healing power of God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 118* (page 18) - "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting"

**Second Reading:** *Revelation 1:9-11a* (page 18) – we have a magnificent picture of the glorified Jesus. He is priestly king of heaven and earth, Lord of history.

**Gospel:** *John 20:19-31* (page 19) - Jesus appears to his disciples and then to Thomas. He empowers them with his peace and commissions them with his Holy Spirit.



**Food Collection;** please be mindfully of those in need in our community with our food drive. Thank you for your generosity as always.



**Daily Mass:** Will be celebrated in the Main Church