

This Sunday we conclude the celebration of the Octave of Easter. Due to the greatness of Easter, we in the Catholic Church do not only celebrate it through the Triduum and Easter Sunday masses, but we also celebrate Easter liturgically each day for 8 days following. We conclude this celebration today, the 2nd Sunday of Easter or what we now know in our Church as Divine Mercy Sunday. But Easter does not end today either, we continue this celebration until the great Feast of Pentecost that we will celebrate on June 4th.

I want to take this moment to say THANK YOU to everyone that made our Easter Celebrations so amazing. Melanie and Willie Battilega and their helpers did an AWESOME job decorating our church through all of Lent and Easter!! Thank you!! To our music ministry, thank you Jeananne Bloudek, Angele Rogers and Jeff Wiren and all the singers that made our services so beautiful. A special thanks to Linda Blackwood that has worked tirelessly these past several months with all the neophytes preparing them for entry and reception into the Church. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus and the Boy Scouts that helped make our grounds look nice for Easter Sunday and anyone else that I have may have missed. Without so many talented people helping we would not have had the beautiful celebrations that we just experienced. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Since I am writing this column during Easter Week, during which I am taking some time to rest and recover from Lent, Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter weekend, I wanted to just pass on a few items of interest instead of my normal format.

- Weekday Mass Schedule – during the Easter Season until Pentecost, I will continue to say Mass in the Adoration Chapel each Monday at 12:05 pm, Tuesday 12:05 pm, Wednesday 8:30 am (School Mass) and 6:00 pm, and Thursday and Friday 8:30 am. Saturday Mass will only be held on First Saturdays, May 6 and June 3. (Starting in June Monday's will become a Communion Service and I will begin to then have Mass every Saturday at 8:30 am).
- As many of you know, we are in the process of hiring a new principal for our school. We have had our first search committee meeting during Holy Week and we have another one this coming Tuesday. Our interviews are scheduled for the very first part of May. I would ask that you all please keep the search committee in prayer during these Easter Days as well as our future principal. May God help us select the best possible candidate to be our next principal. I also want to thank Mrs. Fadden for her hard work and dedication these past years at St. Francis School and we pray the best for her in the future.
- Finally, as I am sure you saw, our High School youth leader Ashley Ludwig will be leaving us at the end of June. She will be staying on with us to finish the current year and to help with Vacation Bible School. Thank you Ashley for your hard work and dedication in leading our High Schoolers these past several years. I am happy to announce that our Middle School youth group coordinator Anna Wilson will be taking on the role of leading our High School youth starting July 1. She will be working next year with both Middle and High School youth as well as maintaining her duties with Social Action. Also, I have asked Anna to work with our Middle School students at our school as a Campus Minister of sorts. Thank you Anna for taking on this added responsibility. We look forward to the work you will do with our youth here at St. Francis.

I pray that you all have a very blessed and happy Easter Season!! Fr. James