

# St. Teresa of Avila Parish

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
44 Leonard St., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6C8 Phone: 519-743-4525  
E-mail: [st.teresa@stteresakit.ca](mailto:st.teresa@stteresakit.ca) [www.stteresakit.ca](http://www.stteresakit.ca)

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

April 19, 2020

## St. Teresa of Avila

“Truth suffers,  
but never dies.”



## Parish Staff & Organizations

**Pastor:** Fr. Marian Gil, OMI

**Parish Secretary:** Mary Steffler

**Business Administrator:** David Agnew

**Facilities Manager:** Jim Weber

**Volunteer Gardeners:**

**Baptism Preparation Team:**

**CWL President:**

**Lector Co-ordinator:** Mary Alice Zister

**Eucharistic Minister Co-ordinator:**

Kim Voelzing

**Prayer Group:**

Mila Navaleza - 519-579-8276

**Finance Council Chair:**

Don Pickett, Jr.

**Pastoral Council Chair:**

Barbara Daly

**St. Vincent de Paul:**

Bernie & Rosemary Pickett

519-749-1501

### Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday – Office Closed**

### Weekday Schedule

Please check inside for  
weekly schedule

### Saturday Liturgy:

9:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

### Sunday Liturgy:

10:00 a.m.

**Confession:** 30 min. before Mass; Sat. 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.

**Healing Mass:** First Friday of each month – 7:00 p.m.

**Prayer Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday – 7:00 p.m.

## St. Teresa School

Principal: Mr. Brian Goodyear

Secretary: Mary Lavigne

519-743-2131

## Divine Mercy Sunday

On this, the first Sunday after the celebration of Easter, the emphasis is on faith in the presence and power of the living Jesus in our midst. This Risen Jesus now lives on in the community which believes in Him.

The Gospel, brings us back to an earlier stage when the disciples have not yet come to the full realization that Jesus, whom they saw crucified, dead and buried, is now alive, that He is risen. He breathed on them, saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit." The very empowering authority of Jesus is transferred to them: **"Whose sins you shall forgive... whose sins you shall retain..."** When they act together in the name of Jesus, they have His authority. And, above all, their task is to "forgive sin", that is, to bring about a deep reconciliation between people and God, and among people themselves, to make all one in Him. But the story is not yet finished. Thomas, "one of the Twelve," was not there on that Easter Sunday. He stands for the skeptic in all of us. **"Unless I see with my own eyes ... I will not believe."** The following Sunday – the Sunday we are celebrating today, Thomas is directly addressed. **"Put your finger here; look at my hands. Put your hand in my side. Don't doubt any longer but believe."** There follows the greatest confession of faith in all of the gospels: **"My Lord and my God!"** Thomas had been invited to touch the wounds, but he does not seem to have done so, and his cry of recognition is not based only on the evidence of his senses. He does not say, "Jesus, it's you!" but "My Lord and my God!"

### Mass Intentions: April 21 – April 26, 2020

#### Tuesday, April 21-

+John Kiss – Ted & Lynne Stil

#### Wednesday, April 22 -

+Maria Porco – Dora Vizza

#### Thursday, April 23 –

+Marie Hishon – St. Teresa Quilting Group

#### Friday, April 24 –

+Edward Gromek – Grace and Roman Gajkowski

#### Saturday, April 25 -

9 a.m. - +Marie Hishon – CWL

7 p.m. - +Leona Grobe – Peter Grobe

Sunday, April 26 – Third Sunday of Easter -  
Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

**Mass Intentions** – For Mother's Day, **May 10th** and Father's Day, **June 21st**, we will accept multiple Mass intentions. Call the office if you would like to make a request at 519-743-4525

**Holy Water** – On Easter Sunday, I blessed water and we renewed our Baptismal Promises. Anyone who would like to pick up a bottle of Holy Water can do this beginning Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and all week, in front of the Parish Centre, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Special Holy Water containers are used for this purpose, so you do not have to bring your own.

**All Parish Events suspended until further notice!**

**Parish Office** – The COVID-19 health crisis has initiated further directives issued on March 25, 2020 from the Diocese of Hamilton. All employees have been advised to work remotely and consequently, the Parish Office at 44 Leonard St. will be closed until further notice.

Mary will be working from home and therefore, you can continue to reach our Parish Office at [st.teresa@stteresakit.ca](mailto:st.teresa@stteresakit.ca) or telephone 519-743-4525.

## Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2020

April 20 - Rev. Hanh Van Tran, O.M.I.

April 21 – Rev. Charles Galea

April 22 – Permanent Deacons

April 23 – Rev. Andrew Quarshie

April 24 – Rev. Marko Stefanec

April 25 – Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I.

April 26 – Third Sunday of Easter

### Vocations - Second Sunday of Easter - April 19, 2020

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Will you respond to God's call to be sent as a priest? If God is calling you, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988; email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

**Mass Intentions for April 20 – April 26, 2020** will be celebrated by Father Gil each day, privately. The **Masses** will be **live-streamed**, Tuesday to Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 9:00 a.m., Saturday Vigil in anticipation of Sunday at 7 p.m., and on Sunday at 10:00 a.m., on Zoom. Join Father by clicking on the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/5887658626>

**The Divine Mercy Chaplet** is also **live-streamed**, Tuesday to Friday at 3 p.m.



**Whoever has God  
lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices.**

St. Teresa of Avila

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Banquet - Tuesday, May 5, 2020** at Resurrection Catholic Secondary School, Kitchener has been **POSTPONED** until further notice, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). It is hoped that the event will be rescheduled for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021.

**Student Senior Isolation Prevention Partnership** - A group of students at McMaster and the University of Waterloo have started the Mac-Waterloo-Niagara Student Senior Isolation Prevention Partnership (SSIPP) to assist socially isolated seniors during the COVID outbreak. Our program pairs student volunteers with socially isolated older adults to check-in via weekly phone calls in order to provide social comfort and standard patient education about COVID-19.

Older adults living in the Hamilton, Waterloo, or Niagara regions can be referred through a member of their **healthcare team or community organizations** to the program. At the moment, we have over 100 healthcare professional students signed up to help us (many of whom speak different languages).

Many older adults are looking to have someone to speak to and are interested in this type of program, **however we need help identifying them.**

If you or your colleagues have any patients that you feel would benefit from this program, please contact: [MacSeniorIsolationPrevention@gmail.com](mailto:MacSeniorIsolationPrevention@gmail.com) for more information on the simple referral process. We will call all referred patients to determine interest and explain the program, assign them to volunteers, and provide you with updates on our program!

For more information on the impacts of social isolation and our program, check out our website: <https://www.ssipp.info/> Please note this program is not affiliated with McMaster University or University of Waterloo.

## Stewardship Report

We have received enquiries about how parishioners might support our parish without being able to be physically present. To support our parish via credit card, please visit the special **Parish Offertory Fund: COVID-19** page at the Diocese of Hamilton:

[COVID-19 Parish Fund - Diocese of Hamilton](#)

Once you are on the Parish Offertory Fund: COVID-19 page, there are 4 sections on the form to complete. They are as follows:

- DONATION DETAILS
- DONOR & TAX RECEIPT INFORMATION
- PAYMENT INFORMATION
- IF YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOUR PARISH, PLEASE SHARE IT HERE:

To ensure the funds get directed to our parish, it is imperative that you select **St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Kitchener** in the drop box in the **FUND** box of the Donation Details section.

Once you have completed the form, click on **COMPLETE DONATION NOW**. This method of giving will provide you with an **electronic tax receipt** immediately upon making your gift.

If you choose the above option, it would be greatly appreciated if you could email the parish office at [st.teresa@stteresakit.ca](mailto:st.teresa@stteresakit.ca) to advise us of your donation.

You may also send a gift directly to our parish through the mail. Continuing support of our parish is an act of generosity and faith. We are very grateful for any contributions you may be able to make at this time

### Stewardship Report April 15, 2020

Envelopes and loose.....	\$2465.00
Easter .....	\$2895.00
Building and Maintenance .....	\$165.00
Share Lent .....	\$50.00
Needs of the Church in Holy Land....	\$215.00



## Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska

### The Humble Instrument



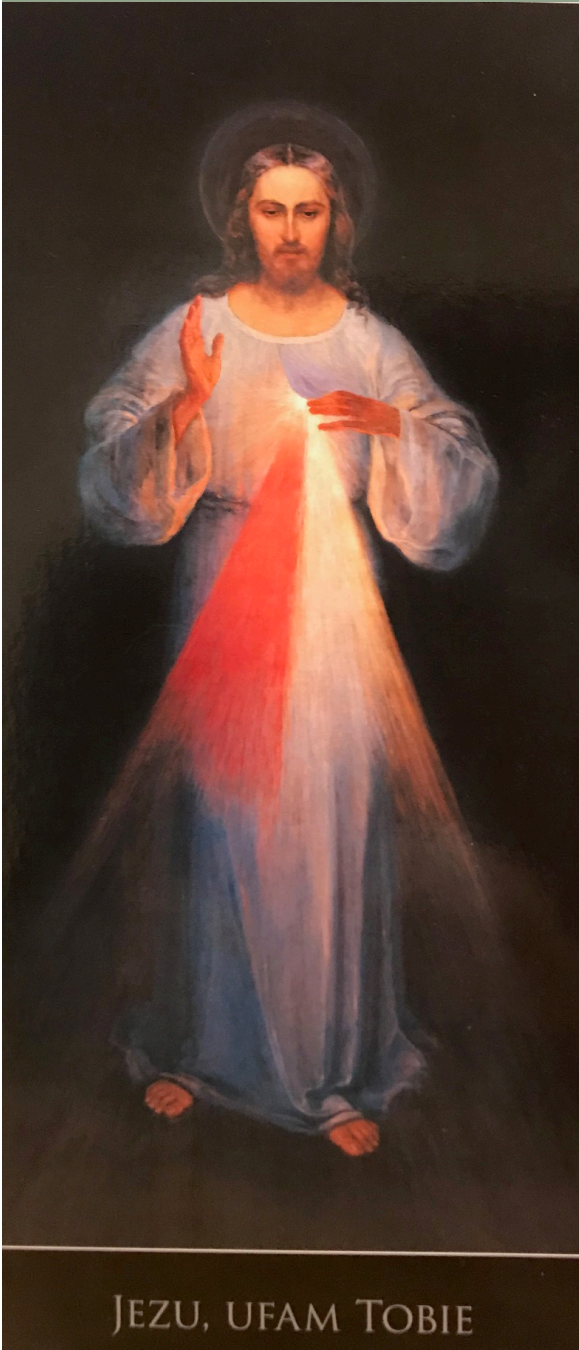
Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland, during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations — or messages — from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina's Diary sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her Diary, the Pope called her **"the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."**

Sister Faustina was born on August 25, 1905 in Glogowiec, Poland to a poor and religious family of peasants, the third of 10 children. She was baptized with the name Helena in the parish church of Swinice Warckie. From a very tender age she stood out because of her love of prayer, work, obedience, and also her sensitivity to the poor. At the age of seven she had already felt the first stirrings of a religious vocation. Helen made her first Holy Communion at the age of nine, which was a very profound moment in her awareness of the presence of the Divine Guest within her soul. She attended school for three years. After finishing school, she wanted to enter the convent, but her parents would not give her permission. Being of age at 16, Helen left home and went to work as a housekeeper in Aleksandrów, Lodi, and Ostrówek in order to find a means of supporting herself and of helping her parents.

### Helen joins Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy

Helen never lost her desire for a religious vocation. After being called during a vision of the Suffering Christ, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy on August 1, 1925, and took the name Sr. Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament. She lived in the Congregation for thirteen years in several religious houses. She spent time at Krakow, Plock and Vilnius, where she worked as a cook, gardener and porter. Externally, nothing revealed her rich mystical interior life. She zealously performed her tasks and faithfully observed the rule of religious life. She was recollected and at the same time very natural, serene, and full of kindness.



Although her life was apparently insignificant, monotonous and dull, she hid within herself an extraordinary union with God. It is the mystery of the Mercy of God which she contemplated in the word of God as well as in the everyday activities of her life, that forms the basis of her spirituality. The process of contemplating and getting to know the mystery of God's mercy helped develop within Sr. Maria Faustina the attitude of child-like trust in God as well as mercy toward her neighbors.

Sister Faustina was a faithful daughter of the Church, which she loved like a Mother, and the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ. Conscious of her role in the Church, she cooperated with God's mercy in the task of saving lost souls. At the specific request of and following the example of the Lord Jesus, she made a sacrifice of her own life for this very goal. In her spiritual life she also distinguished herself with a love of the Eucharist and a deep devotion to the Mother of Mercy.

### The Secretary of God's Mercy

The Lord Jesus chose Sr. Maria Faustina as the Apostle and "Secretary" of His Mercy, so that she could tell the world about His great message, which Sr. Faustina recorded in a diary she titled "Divine Mercy in My Soul". In the Old Covenant, He said to her: **"I sent prophets wielding thunderbolts to My people. Today I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not want to punish aching mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My Merciful Heart."** (Diary, 1588)

In an extraordinary way, Sr. Maria Faustina's work sheds light on the mystery of the Divine Mercy. It delights not only the simple and uneducated person, but also scholars who look upon it as an additional source of theological research. Sister Maria Faustina, consumed by tuberculosis and by innumerable sufferings which she accepted as a voluntary sacrifice for sinners, died in Krakow at the age of just 33 on

October 5, 1938, with a reputation for spiritual maturity and a mystical union with God. The reputation of the holiness of her life grew, as did the cult to the Divine Mercy and the graces obtained from God through her intercession. In the years 1965-67, the Investigative Process into her life and heroic virtues was undertaken in Krakow and in the year 1968, the Beatification Process was initiated in Rome. The latter came to an end in December 1992. On April 18, 1993 our Holy Father, John Paul II, raised St. Faustina to the glory of the altar. She was canonized on April 30, 2000. St. Maria Faustina's remains rest at the Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy in Krakow-Lagiewniki.



## St. Teresa Church during Easter Season and COVID-19



**CHRIST HAS RISEN**  
**DIVINE MERCY AT 3PM**  
**DAILY MASS 7PM**  
**SUN 10 AM ON ZOOM**







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