

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday



WEEK AT A GLANCE

AC-Adoration Chapel, C: Church, CH-Church Hall, CL-Choir Loft,
Sa-Sacristy, Sc-School, WH-White House (aka Parish Ctr.)

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 *Divine Mercy Sunday*

3:00pm Divine Mercy Sunday & Sundae Event (C/CH)
6:00pm Grief Ministry (CH)

MONDAY, APRIL 8 *Annunciation of the Lord*

7:00pm Cursillo Rosary (AC)

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

7:00pm Rescheduled L.I.F.E. Ministry Mtg (CH)

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 *St. Stanislaus*

6:30pm Genesis to Jesus study (WH)
7:00pm Confirmation

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

9:00am Bible Study (CH)

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 *St. Martin*

7:30am Men of Christ (CH)

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

10:30am Mass/First Communion Retreat (C/CH)

LITURGICAL/DEVOTIONAL SCHEDULE

MASS	Saturday Evening Vigil	4:30pm
	Sunday Morning	8:30am
		10:30am
	Monday through Friday	8:00am
	Tuesdays (school year)	9:00am
	1st Saturday	8:00am
CONFESSION	Saturday	3:00pm-4:00pm
	1st Thursday	6:00pm
	1st Friday	12:00pm
	1st Saturday	8:30am
	3rd Thursday	6:00pm
ADORATION	1st Thursday	6:00pm
	1st Friday	9:00am-Midnight
	3rd Thursday	6:00pm
ROSARY	1st Saturday	8:30am
	4th Wednesday	6:00pm
ST. PEREGRINE DEVOTION	3rd Thursday	7:00pm

St. Joseph Parish humbly honors our Lord Jesus Christ by sharing in divine worship, spreading the Gospel, and serving others' corporal needs with joy, hope and new life.

MASS INTENTIONS *

Saturday April 6, 2024

4:30pm Gladys Kestel by Eleanor Kestel & Family
Dcn. Thomas Edward Fricke by Dcn. Pat & Dorothy Forsythe
Donald & Dolores Lindsey by Fr. John
John O'Neill Sr. Birthday by Dorothy Ormsby
Roscoe Bailey by Barbara Mehmel

Sunday April 7, 2024

8:30am People of our Parish
10:30am Rita's Son by Rita
John Keigher by Jim Elaine Bishop
Jerry Siadek by Susan Hlebasko
Troy Allocco by Family
Kenny Webb by Jim & Beth Piarowski

Monday April 8, 2024

8:00am Mary, Grace & Gabrielle Thomas by Family

Tuesday April 9, 2024

8:00am Jerry Siadek by Nancy Hlebasko

Wednesday April 10, 2024

8:00am Bill Kennedy by Ed & Erica Mate

Thursday April 11, 2024

8:00am Helen Drury by Paul & Laura McGuire

Friday April 12, 2024

8:00am Richard Gerat by Family

Saturday April 13, 2024

4:30pm Phil Bauer by Dan Morrissey
Jerry Siadek by Suzanne Spreitzer
Roscoe Bailey by Judy Bunte
Bill F. Kambic by Jim & Elaine Bishop
Larry Banas by Donna Banas

Sunday April 14, 2024

8:30am Anthony Kestel by Eleanor Kestel & Family
Brenda Pammer by the Family
Mary Cochran by Mary Keigher
Dick Errthum by Jack & Nancy Errthum
Dan Murray by Judy Bunte
10:30am People of our Parish

***MASS INTENTIONS** Offering Mass for a particular intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. A Mass offered for someone is for them to receive special graces. Masses are said for the souls in Purgatory, in memory of the deceased or to honor a birthday or special anniversary. If you would like a Mass, please stop by or call the Parish Office at 815-478-3341 for available dates/times. A stipend for a Mass intention is \$10.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP THE GIFTS AT A WEEKEND MASS, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE.

WE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

PHILLIP MURRAY, SON OF LAURA & DAN (deceased)

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
And may perpetual light shine upon them.*

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Diane Leff, Patrick Deloian, Diana Serek,
Brian Wellen, Kristin Wellen, Mariann Whitemiller,
JoAnn Hayden, Sarah Traser, Beverly Landry, Wayne Landry,
Jim Bishop, Elaine Bishop, Mary Pycz, Jane Hosbach,
Kathy Ford, Matt Hickey Anne Radatz

SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNING

Sanctuary Candle

Blessed Virgin Mary Candle

Wanda Flanagan by Tim Smith

St. Joseph Candle

Tom Robbins by Dan & Kathleen Berg

WE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Matthew Cook, Scott Gerdes, David Newtoff, Christopher
Vavouleas, Teresa (Kozak) Bissonnette, Bobby Dyer, Jeffrey
Merritt, Wade Lander, Mark Keough, Matthew Pirc,
Jack Broderick, Dale Clark, Luke Ruggiero

ADORATION CHAPEL CANDLE INTENTIONS

*"St. Joseph Parish Office Staff" (through April 30)
"In support of this church and for Danica & Warren
(through April 30)*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APR. 7, 2024

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

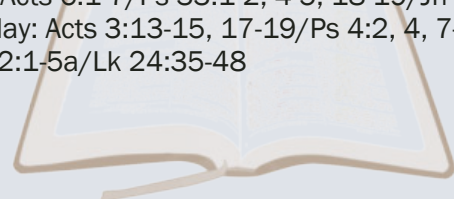
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48



S a c r a m e n t s

ST. JOSEPH PARISH CONGRATULATES

BAPTISM:

MARK PATRICK WAESCO



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION

APRIL: FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

CATHOLIC Q & A

QUESTION:

Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

ANSWER:

If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers – the Divine Mercy Chaplet – and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young woman, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind with experience in the years to come.”

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Join the Providence Catholic Team!

Providence Catholic High School is hiring a Part-Time Staff Accountant. Information regarding the position and online application can be found in the link below.

<https://phl.applitrack.com/providencecatholic/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Secretarial%2fClerical&AppliTrackJobId=303&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1>

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Parish Family,

Allow me to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all those who made the liturgies of the Triduum and Easter Sunday so beautiful. I am grateful to our parish staff, musicians, catechists, altar servers, and other volunteers. I will not forget the Holy Week 2024 anytime soon; it was powerful and moving. I pray that special graces were made available to you, and their effects will carry forward.

But wait. There's more! This weekend contains more special observances. The 2nd Sunday of Easter has several names: Low Sunday (long story), White Sunday (because the newly baptized traditionally wore their baptismal garments to this Mass), and most recently, thanks to the efforts of Pope Saint John Paul II, Divine Mercy Sunday.

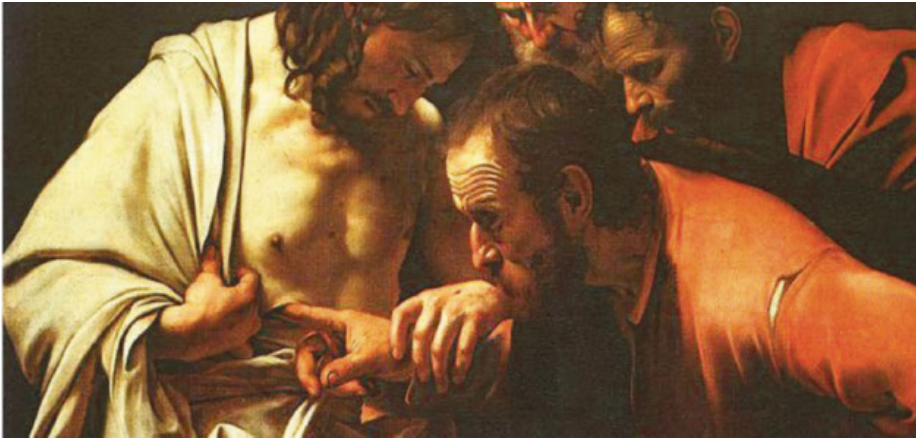
Divine Mercy came about due to the direct intervention of the Lord Jesus, himself. Beginning in the early 20th Century, the Lord had been moving powerfully in the life of the woman Helena Kowalska, leading her to enter religious life and take the name of Faustina. By the year 1931, Sr. Faustina was instructed to introduce the world to a devotion to God's Divine Mercy by means of instruction, prayer, and the now famous Divine Mercy Image (the same image of Jesus which hangs in the rear of our church).

“My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flows are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.”-*Diary 699*

St. Joseph Parish will commemorate the feast by offering an additional opportunity for confessions at 2:00PM followed by a Divine Mercy prayer service with Adoration at 3:00pm with an Ice Cream Social to follow. Everyone is encouraged to join in and bask in God's love.

Yours,

Fr. Mike



REDEEMING “DOUBTING THOMAS”-- THE APOSTLE OF DIVINE MERCY

Some time ago I had the gift of being able to read the story of Christ's appearance to the Apostles in the upper room in a new way. As my reading and reflecting progressed, at some point it became a time of deep prayer and revelation. Those revelations have stuck with me through several years now.

The Story From Our Catechesis Days Most of us know the general story of Christ's repeated appearances to the apostles in the upper room, first without “Doubting Thomas,”

and a second time when he is present. I think many of us automatically “tsk, tsk” Thomas for refusing to believe the other Apostles and for daring to ask to touch the wounds of the Word Made Flesh. But I've come to believe that Thomas gets a bad rap unnecessarily. There's much more to this story than meets the eye!

Where In The World Was Thomas?! One of the small yet significant details that struck me about this passage is the simple, unassuming phrase “Thomas was not with them.” All the Apostles, grown men—some of them burly fishermen—were hiding behind a locked door “for fear of the Jews.” But Thomas wasn't there. Which means... he wasn't hiding. So then...where WAS Thomas? We don't know; but in any case, when Jesus came, Thomas wasn't hiding out in the upper room. He faced fear while the others cowered. Can you imagine how Thomas felt when he came back from his errand and found that Christ had allowed Thomas to miss out seeing him? In the face of this great disappointment, Thomas's response to the Apostles seems much more realistic and relatable: “Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.”

A Man of Bold Statements These daring remarks by Thomas can also be taken at face value, or they can be unpacked further. You see, this boldness of Thomas isn't an isolated incident. If we go back to an earlier passage in the Gospel of John, in which the disciples fear for Jesus's safety when He wants to go see Lazarus in Judea, Thomas tells the others, “Let us also go to die with him.” (Jn. 11:16) Thomas wasn't afraid to proclaim his true thoughts. In this earlier instance we see a bold, confident boast—and then in the upper room a bold and bitter doubt. In the wake of the Resurrection, Christ takes this fearless man and gives him the opportunity to turn that bitter disappointment into a beautiful prayer of adoration.

From Bitter Doubt to Intimate Adoration When Christ appears to the Apostles a second time, Thomas is there. While Christ does give the general admonition, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe,” He doesn't punish Thomas for his doubt and desire. (Jn. 20:29) Instead Christ uses this weakness, and this poignant desire, to create an intimate moment with Thomas. In his mercy, Jesus gives the bitter yet honest Thomas precisely what he asked for: He spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving any more but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ (Jn 20:27-28)

The Apostle of Divine Mercy I always thought that reading Christ's appearance to the Apostles on Divine Mercy Sunday was simply for liturgical reasons. But now I see that this passage also perfectly fits because Thomas experiences God's Mercy in a very, very real way. Two quotes of Christ to St. Faustina Kowalska bring this connection beautifully to light:

- ◆ “I do not want to punish mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to My merciful Heart.”
- ◆ “Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy.”

Thomas, though he doubted, was not afraid to make an appeal to Christ and acknowledge the littleness of his trust in God. As Christ told St. Faustina, He cannot resist the soul who appeals to Divine Mercy. Therefore, Christ takes Thomas's weak faith and gives Him a tender moment beyond his wildest hopes. Thomas probably didn't think he would ACTUALLY get to touch the wounds of his Lord. His plea was simply a cry of frustration and doubt and desire. Christ allowed Thomas to actually touch His Sacred Heart, to actually place his hand where the Fountain of Mercy flows out. This prompts a beautiful act of praise, the one which many people privately repeat during the Consecration of the Host at Mass: “My Lord and My God.”

I've used the term “Apostle of Divine Mercy” several times now, and I like it more each time I use it. I think it's a much more accurate and thoughtful title than “Doubting Thomas.” No one wants to be famous for doubting. But I sure wouldn't mind being called an Apostle of Divine Mercy, up there with such promoters of mercy as St. Faustina and Pope St. John Paul III!

On this Feast of Divine Mercy, let us ask for this humbled saint's intercession, so that we will turn our doubts and fears into offerings to the Merciful Heart of God. St. Thomas, Apostle of Divine Mercy, pray for us!

Apr 09, 2021 by Ashley Olik The Catholic Company

**THE WOMEN OF THE WORD
INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM
IN PRAYING THE
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**



**ON THE FEAST
OF DIVINE MERCY
SUNDAY, APRIL 7 at 3:00 PM**

**IN THE CHURCH
(Refreshments to follow)**

REQUIREMENTS TO FITTINGLY OBSERVE THE FEAST:

1. Celebrate the Feast on the Sunday after Easter
2. Go to Confession within 20 days before or after the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday
3. Sincerely repent of all sins
4. Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast
5. Venerate the Image of Divine Mercy
6. Be merciful to others by works, deeds and actions
7. Place your complete trust in Jesus

*Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted forgiveness of sins.
(St Faustina Diary 300)*

**LIVING WITH THE LOSS
OF A LOVED ONE**

**SUNDAYS at 6:00 pm
Church Hall (Basement)**

January 14, 28

February 11, 25

March 10, 24

April 7, 21

May 5, 26

Please contact Jen Christiansen if you have any questions: 815-478-4068.



**GENESIS
TO JESUS**



**A NEW SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY
FOR WOMEN (& CHILD FRIENDLY)**

2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM IN CHURCH HALL

FEBRUARY 8, 22

MAY 9, 23

MARCH 14, 28

JUNE 13, 27

APRIL 11, 25

JULY 11, 25

PARISH CENTER

**THANKS TO OUR MIGHTY BUCKET BRIGADE,
THE CHURCH WAS CLEANED TOP TO BOTTOM,
AND MADE READY TO CELEBRATE EASTER!!**

Nathan Lawson
Donna Markevics
Merrily Kennedy
Kim Stevens
Nancy Errthum

Erica Mate
Ben Mate
Tim Miller
Paul Miller
Dave Miller

The workers did the job with a "smile on their face and a song in their heart" to give God and His Church all the honor, praise and glory He so deserves!



TREE DEDICATION

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 11:30 AM
(IN FRONT OF RECTORY/
NEXT DOOR TO WHITE HOUSE)**

Thank you to all who donated a lilac tree in honor of a loved one. There will be a special blessing of these trees and the memorial plaques that will be installed in front of each tree.



PLEASE JOIN US!



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL



APRIL

- 4/14 2nd Grade Communion Retreat 10:30-1:30pm
- 4/8 Classes resume
- 4/9 PT Joe Meeting 9:45 Church Hall
- 4/11 Confirmation
- 4/12 Progress Report 3rd Trimester
- 4/17 School Board 6:00pm Parish Center
- 4/26 Professional Development-**NO CLASSES**

MAY

- 5/4 First Communion 10:30 am
- 5/7 May Crowning 9:00am
- 5/7 PT Joe Meeting 9:45-Church Hall
- 5/9 Grade 8 Class Trip (Tentative)



St. Joseph School students with their first resolution awards (bracelets)! Coupons for a free cone from The Creamery are up next! Keep up the great work!



How many special-needs families feel exiled from the pew, their children's challenges precluding them from the Mass?

6 TIPS FOR MASS WITH A SPECIAL-NEEDS CHILD

Just go

Go to daily Mass, Sunday Mass, and even Adoration. Take the whole family, sit in the church, and be a witness of the beauty of God's creation. Your child is a gift, a beloved son or daughter of God. You have just as much right to be there as anyone. So go, and and sit in the pew.

Meet with your pastor, and bring your child

How well do you know your pastor? How well does he know your child? If the answer to either question is not well, remedy that—and soon. Make an appointment to meet with Father and explain your family situation. Share literature about your child's condition and talk with him about ways in which you can accommodate any special needs. Your pastor is the shepherd of the entire parish—you and your family included.

Join (or start up) a special-needs apostolate

Chances are, you are not the only special-needs family in your parish. Find out if your church has a special-needs ministry or apostolate and get involved. If they don't, start one. Community, outreach, and awareness are key.

Build a church bag just for church

My good friend Maura has a daughter with profound developmental disabilities. Her daughter loves books, and so Maura has reserved a special title just for Mass. The bag with the book stays in the car: it only comes out when they head into church. Maura's daughter uses the book throughout Mass, participating as best she can.

Think about what your child loves. Is it something you could adapt for church? Perhaps a soft toy or silicone rosary, a prayer book or a special blanket. Whatever you can bring to encourage peace and participation, carry it. You might be surprised with the results.

Sit up front. Really.

All children—special needs or not—do better when they can see what's going on. The closer you are to the altar, the easier it is to be present in the sacrifice of the Mass.

RELIGIOUS ED.



On this Feast of Divine Mercy, We ask for your special prayers on behalf of all our students who will be Confirmed this Thursday, April 11.

Come Holy Spirit, Come!

REMINDER: FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT IS NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 14, STARTING WITH 10:30 MASS.



WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

MARCH 17

Collection (at Masses)	\$ 5,765.00
Collection (online giving)	\$ 3,544.60
Total Collection Amount	\$9,309.60

MARCH 24

Collection (at Masses)	\$ 5,390.00
Collection (online giving)	\$ 3,396.50
Total Collection Amount	\$ 8,786.50

Explore the beauty and mystery of the Church

Catholicism rocks for a variety of reasons, and not just because we have the Eucharist. Our parishes are full of beauty and mystery, from the Tabernacle and the altar to the Stations of the Cross and statues of the saints. Visit the church during off hours. Talk about the crucifix and the stained-glass window. Let your child get a closer look at the beauty of our faith so that Mass becomes a welcoming occurrence.

When you feel like Mass isn't worth the effort, and you worry that your family won't be welcome, remember this:

"Disabled people are . . . living icons of the crucified Son. They reveal the mysterious beauty of the One who emptied himself for our sake and made himself obedient unto death. They show us, over and above all appearances, that the ultimate foundation of human existence is Jesus Christ. It is said, justifiably so, that disabled people are humanity's privileged witnesses. They can teach everyone about the love that saves us; they can become heralds of a new world, no longer dominated by force, violence and aggression, but by love, solidarity and acceptance, a new world transfigured by the light of Christ, the Son of God who became incarnate, who was crucified and rose for us."

—Message of John Paul II on the Occasion of the International Symposium of the Dignity and Rights of the Mentally Disabled Person, January 2004

You are the light of Christ. We need you in our midst. Come to Mass, mama. Bring your children, and shower us with your light.

CatholicMom.com



PARISH STAFF

Parish Phone 815-478-3341

Pastor Fr. Mike McMahon mmcmahon@sjpmanhattan.org

Deacon Pat Forsythe..... sjpoffice@sjpmanhattan.org

Business Manager Marcy Dulka businessoffice@sjpmanhattan.org

Facilities Manager Randy Salmich rsalmich@sjpmanhattan.org

Custodian Ray Ramel

Religious Ed Jessica Radavich jradavich@sjpmanhattan.org

Adult Faith Formation & Communications Mary Schelinski mschelinski@sjpmanhattan.org

Secretary Judy Bunte sjpoffice@sjpmanhattan.org

Parish Musicians Elizabeth Kelch, Heather Moreno, & Jayme Squires

Cemetery Sexton Pat Forsythe 815-478-3341

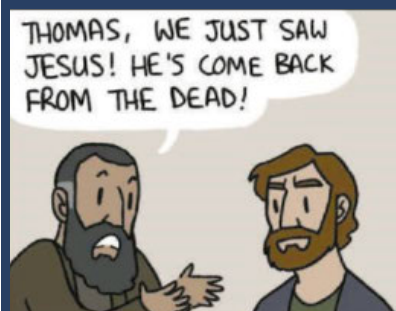
School Phone..... 815-478-3951

School Principal Colleen Domke ...principal@sjsmanhattan.org

School Secretary Denise Kresal.... sjsoffice@sjsmanhattan.org

Ministry schedules available online and at both church entrances and online.

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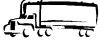
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