

Sacred Heart Catholic Church St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
415 W. 5th St. ~ PO Box 45
Rush City, MN 55069

MASS TIMES:
Wednesday ~ 9:00 am
1st Saturday Mass ~ 9:00 am
Sunday ~ 8:30 am

ADORATION:
Wednesday ~ 9:30 am - Noon

RECONCILIATION:
Wednesday ~ 9:30 am
1st Sunday ~ 8:00 - 8:20 am

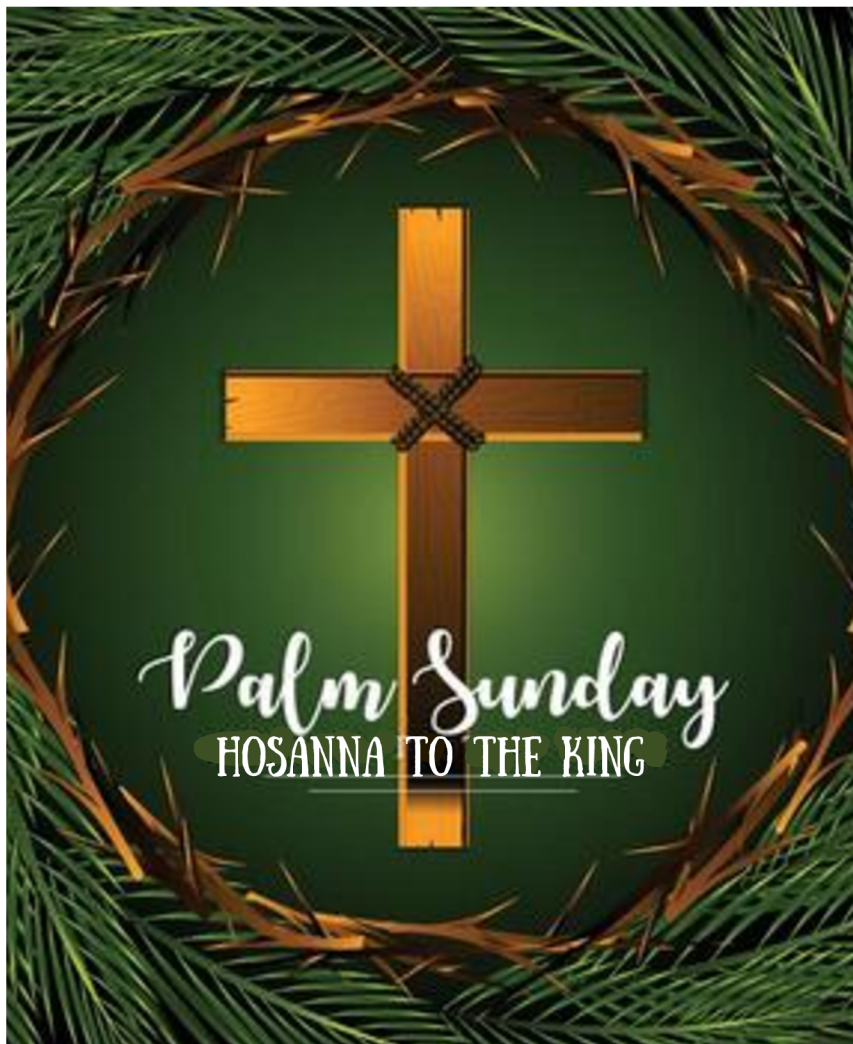
St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church
38725 Forest Blvd ~ PO Box 609
North Branch, MN 55056

MASS TIMES:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ~ 8:30 am
Wednesday ~ 5:00 pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help ~ 4:50 pm
Saturday ~ 5:00 pm
Sunday ~ 10:30 am

ADORATION:
Tuesdays & Friday ~ 7:30 - 8:20 am
Thursday ~ 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

RECONCILIATION:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ~ 8:00 am
Saturday ~ 4:00 - 4:30 pm

ROSARY:
Saturday ~ 4:30 pm
Sunday ~ 10:00 am



Parish Staff:

Pastor - Fr. Matt Shireman fathermatt@stgregorynb.org
Deacon - Dn. Kevin Downie | **Assisting Priest - Fr. Chuck Brambilla**
Bookkeeper: Mary Felix mary@stgregorynb.org

SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

320-358-4370 | FAX: 866-779-1580
shc415@hotmail.com
www.sacredheartrcmn.org

Admin Asst: Marsha Marcussen
Project Asst./Music: Steve Yurick
Tina Heidelberger, Faith Formation,
763-670-8594,
tina.joeheidelberger@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday -
8:30am - 12:30pm

ST. GREGORY PARISH OFFICE

651-674-4056 info@stgregorynb.org www.stgregorynb.org

Donna Groschen, Admin Asst., Safe Environment Coordinator

Cathie Hendren, Music Director
Rosemary Balster, Sexton
Vince Hendren, Youth Music
Rich Ohmann, Maintenance Dir.
Lisa Ohmann, Custodial Tech.

Barb Karel, KIC Coordinator
Patty Miller, KIC/DOC Admin Asst
Danielle Miller, DOC Coordinator
Liz Long, Youth Events Leader
Donald Ohmann, Maint./Grounds
Jacob Ohmann, Maint./Grounds

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday & Friday - 8:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday - 8:00am - 4:30pm

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday - 8:00am - 4:30pm
Wednesday (class nights) - Noon - 8:00pm

March 22nd, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent ~ March 29th, 2026 Palm Sunday

TOWARDS A MORE WELCOMING PARISH

We are finalizing the details for the Sacred Heart parish survey. As for St. Gregory's, we had many responses that noted that St. Gregory's is a welcoming parish. However, there were a number of responses that indicated this wasn't their experience. For example, some people may feel a lack of belonging. Others have mentioned that it can be difficult to be new if many of the long-time members keep primarily to their circles.

The goal of having a welcoming parish is near and dear to every pastor's heart. Thus, I am happy to hear that others have this desire in their hearts, too, and would like to see some movement in this area.

The best way for any individual to be known and welcomed in their parish is by becoming involved in some group or volunteer activity. Short of that, your interaction at the parish is limited to Sunday Mass (assuming that you attend)—essentially going in and out of the doors. If you are seeking to be known by the community, then I would recommend for you to choose one activity to get involved with. The parish website or the ministry guide published last September have the many options available to parishioners. The parish bulletin and the FlockNote newsletter can also be helpful in finding an activity.

Parish staff and leaders are continuing to discuss ways that we can be more welcoming to the community and looking at ways to make the parish more accessible to people. At this time, I would like to point out some opportunities. The reason why we offer hospitality (including almost every Sunday at St. Gregory's) is for parishioners to get to know each other better. We plan on having a monthly hospitality (on the 3rd Sunday of the month) to specifically invite and welcome new households. St. Gregory's will also be hosting summer social events, where the primary focus will be on making new friends and reconnecting with old ones.

Being a welcoming parish is something that does not fall to just the clergy, staff, leaders, and ministers; it involves every parishioner seeing every person who walks through our doors as a gift. By taking the things mentioned in this article to heart, you will enable us to build a welcoming community where everyone is known and loved.

~ Fr. Matt

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

LENT 2026 EVENTS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

March 22 at 7:00pm at both churches

Living Stations performance at St. Gregory:
March 27 at 5:00pm (followed by KC Bingo)

Good Friday Stations of the Cross, April 3:
Noon - Stations at Sacred Heart
3:00pm - Walking Stations at North Branch
Outlet Mall

LENT RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Sacred Heart - Tuesday, March 24,
5:00-6:30pm (drop-in confessions)
St. Gregory - Tuesday, March 31,
6:30-7:30pm (Prayer service with 2 priests)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES SCHEDULE:

Holy Thursday Mass (April 2)

7:00pm Sacred Heart
7:30pm at St. Gregory

Good Friday service (April 3)

7:00pm Sacred Heart
7:30pm at St. Gregory

Easter Vigil Saturday (April 4)

8:30pm both churches

Easter Sunday (April 5)

8:30am Sacred Heart
10:30am St. Gregory



SACRED HEART SOUP SUPPERS

As we approach the final weeks of Lent, our community gatherings are drawing to a close. Please join us for our **Sacred Heart** Lenten Soup Suppers, held every Friday at 6:00 PM, followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM. We invite you to make the most of these remaining opportunities for shared reflection and community before we enter the holiest days of our faith. There is no cost to attend, though freewill offerings are gratefully accepted.

UPDATE ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Both parishes have received their first (quarterly) check for the "Lord, Renew Your Church" capital campaign. Sacred Heart's stained glass window project will be worked on as early as May (money in savings makes it possible to move ahead with this project).

As for St. Gregory's, some research has been completed for its projects; however, nothing is ready to be greenlighted as purchase decisions are still pending. If any St. Gregory's parishioner is interested in joining a playground committee, please reach out to Fr. Matt. The security cameras and key fobs may be funded by a government grant (if so, then the Capital Campaign will be reallocated to other security measures), but that determination probably won't come until June.

RECLAIMING SUNDAYS:

The initiative for March is

"Elevated Conversations and Prayer."

One way to have elevated conversation with family members is to provide an opportunity for one-on-one time. This is good for every relationship (especially a marriage), but if you have a child (or you have a parent still living), particularly focus on that relationship. If he or she is nearby, make a special plan to meet up for coffee (or dinner). If he or she lives far away, schedule a phone call when you both can listen attentively.



SACRED HEART

SACRED HEART FAITH FORMATION:

Tina Heidelberg ~ 763-670-8594,
tina.joeheidelberg@gmail.com

Confirmation: Danielle Miller ~ danielle@stgregorynb.org

SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups are Open to All Adults The parish small groups continue to welcome new participants, even on a trial basis. For more information on the groups, contact Fr. Matt (fathermatt@stgregorynb.org).

Mondays from 6-7:30pm in the Parish House.

Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at Rushseba Senior Living Center, Sandy Pelant.

Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Parish House, Connie Blomquist.

1st and 3rd Sunday from 9:30-11:30 in Parish House.

Men's small group, 3rd Saturday of each month @ St. Gregory's from 7:30am-9am.

Server Training

As Fr. Matt mentioned at the March 8th Mass, Sacred Heart has a significant need for more altar servers to be trained. Any youth (grade 3 and above) or adults interested in being new servers should attend a training session after **Palm Sunday Mass on March 29th**.

Sisters of The Sacred Heart

Please mark your calendars for the Sisters of the Sacred Heart meetings, which are held on each 3rd Thursday in Wey Hall at 6:30 pm. **The next one will be on April 16th, 2026.**

Sacred Heart Almsgiving Project

This Lent, Sacred Heart parishioners are invited to help the Diocese of Mamfe, located in western Cameroon near Nigeria, prepare classrooms for children whose families struggle simply to afford education. Years ago, Bishop Aloysius visited our parish as a young priest and shared the hardships facing families in Mamfe. Today, he is leading the renovation of its school serving preschool through high school students — including the very poorest children.

To open its school, they need desks, chairs, chalkboards, and basic supplies. Our desire is to furnish as much of two classrooms as possible (about \$4,000 each). Every dollar given will be matched up to \$10,000 — doubling the impact of every gift.

To donate, please make checks payable to Sacred Heart and place them in the envelope addressed to "Mamfe" that are in the pews. You may drop your gift in the weekly offering basket.

Mass Intentions

Wednesday, March 25th

9:00 am †Mark & Michelle Stenger

Sunday, March 29th

8:30 am †George Sr., George Jr. Stenger, & Michelle Fisk

Wednesday, April 1st

9:00 am †Tom, Terry & Tim Solorz

Holy Saturday, April 4th

8:30 pm †Lillian Hjelm

Sunday, April 5th

8:30 am †Joe & Elsie Moore



PRAYER REQUESTS

If you or a loved one are ill in any way and would like to have your name included in the Sunday Prayers of the Faithful, contact the Parish office. Also, any prayer request or needs can be written in our Parish Intercessory Book in the back of church at any time.

PRAYERS FOR:

Carole Stenger, Pat Mihm, Audrey Larson, Ken & David Kirchberg, Shirley Kirchberg, Grace Schwaab., Sue Roth, Gerald Mollberg, Erin Hestbeck-Mielke, Gary Frazier, Jim Brenna, Margery Steininger, Violet Pearson, Tori Yurick-Schieber, Al & Mary Petschl, Denise Boyd, Maureen Guentzel

Call the Parish Office to have yourself or loved one added to this prayer list for up to 3 months at a time.

COMMUNION VISITS:

Are you or someone you know homebound and desiring to receive Holy Communion? Or in need of Confession or the Anointing of the Sick (which is not just for people who are actively dying)? Let the Church come to you! To set a time that works for you, please contact your parish office. Sacred Heart and St. Gregory both have volunteers for this homebound ministry.

Financial Update	Budget	Actual
February 2026	\$10,020	\$8642.30

OUR MISSION

Sacred Heart parish is a community of Catholic Christian believers, established by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. We strive to grow in holiness through prayer, celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments, and reflection on the scriptures. We work hard to build the kingdom of God through evangelization, catechesis and service for all.

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

Faith Formation Office: 651-674-7382

Barb Karel, Coordinator ~ barb@stgregorynb.org
 Patty Miller, Admin Asst. ~ patty@stgregorynb.org
 Danielle Miller, Confirmation ~ danielle@stgregorynb.org
 Liz Long, Youth Events Leader ~ liz@stgregorynb.org
 Vince Hendren, Mission Trip ~ vince@stgregorynb.org

CALENDAR

FAITH FORMATION

CLASS & EVENT SCHEDULE:

March 22, 11:30am - Sunday School
 March 22, 5:30pm - DOC Class
 March 25, 6:00pm - KIC Family Lenten Event with
 Living Stations performance
 March 29, 10:30am - DOC attend Mass; service project to
 clean the church and hall
 April 1 - No KIC Class due to Holy Week

PARENT SMALL GROUP

Please note that there will NOT be a Parent Small Group meeting in March due to the All-Family Lenten Event with Living Stations presentation on March 25th. More information will be sent to KIC families soon. The next and final Parent Small Group meeting of the school year will be April 29.



DOC - PALM SUNDAY PROJECT

Reminder - All DOC students are expected to help clean the church and Parish Hall of St. Gregory's after 10:30am Mass on Sunday, March 29. This is an annual DOC service project tradition.

HOSPITALITY HELP STILL NEEDED!

We are still in need of a few more Faith Formation families to help with Hospitality Sunday on the 3rd Sunday of the month after the 10:30am Mass. We have an IMMEDIATE opening for 1 family on April 19 and May 17, and 2 families on June 21. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COOK OR PROVIDE ANY FOOD! You just need to set up, serve, and clean up. No food prep! Please contact Patty if you can help! Many hands make light work! Thank you!



INCENSE USE AT MASS

Fr. Matt plans to use incense at St. Gregory's Mass on April 2, and April 4.

WOMEN'S EVENTS

MARY & MARTHA WOMEN'S GROUP

The next meeting is set for Thursday, April 16, at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. All women of the parish are welcome at our meetings.



Our annual Easter Basket Sale will be the weekend of Palm Sunday, March 28 & 29, after both Masses. Put your creative thinking caps on to create themed baskets for this M&M fundraiser. Let's see your fun ideas! We accept baskets geared towards any age.

Please price your baskets and bring them to the Parish Office by Friday, March 27.

On June 4, the M&M group will be hosting a guest speaker, Alysia Bormes. Watch for more information coming soon.

Prayer REQUESTS

Almighty God, we lift up all those who are ill in body, spirit, or mind. We ask you to bring healing, comfort, and peace to them. Calm their fears and help them experience the healing power of Your love. Amen

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:

Roger, Steve, and Pat Dusbabek, Austin & Jen DeMars, Dan Forschler, Raymond Kelly, Vivian Kreitz, Stephen Lauinger, Tom Mellgren, Marcia O'Brien, Dan Salzbrun

Call the Parish Office to have yourself or loved one added to this prayer list for up to 3 months at a time, or to be added to the Prayer Chain.

Monday, March 23

7:00 pm Foundations in Faith class.....Parish Hall

Tuesday, March 24

5:00 pm Lenten Reconciliation.....Sacred Heart
 7:00 pm NA Meeting.....Classrooms

Wednesday, March 25

9:00 am Women's Book Club.....Classroom

Thursday, March 26

9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration until 9pm.....Church
 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Meeting.....Off-Site
 6:00 pm Women's Book Club.....Classroom

Friday, March 27

9:15 am Bible Study.....Cry Room
 5:00 pm Living Stations of the Cross.....Church
 5:30 pm Fish Sandwich dinner.....Parish Hall
 7:00 pm KC Bingo.....Parish Hall

Saturday, March 28

9:30 am OCIA Class.....Parish Hall
 4:00 pm Reconciliation.....Confessional
 4:30 pm Rosary.....Church
 5:00 pm Mass & Scrutiny.....Church
 6:00 pm M&M Easter Basket sale.....Parish Hall

Sunday, March 29

10:00 am Rosary.....Church
 10:30 am Mass, Children's Choir.....Church
 11:30 am M&M Easter Basket sale.....Parish Hall

Tuesday, March 31

6:30 pm Lenten Reconciliation service.....St. Gregory
 7:00 pm NA Meeting.....Classrooms

Thursday, April 2 - Offices close at Noon

8:00 am Morning Prayer.....Church
 8:15 am Eucharistic Adoration until 6:00pm.....Church
 7:30 pm Holy Thursday Mass.....Church
 8:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00pm.....Church
 11:00 pm Night Prayer.....Church

Friday, April 3 - Offices closed

8:00 am Morning Prayer.....Church
 9:15 am No Bible Study today
 3:00 pm Walking Stations.....Tanger Outlet Mall
 7:30 pm Good Friday service.....Church

Saturday, April 4

8:00 am Morning Prayer.....Church
 8:30 pm Mass & OCIA Baptisms.....Church

Sunday, April 5

10:00 am Rosary.....Church
 10:30 am Easter Sunday Mass.....Church

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, March 24, 8:30am

†Deceased family members of Betty Zupon

Wednesday, March 25, 5:00pm

†Leonard & †Gladys Marquart

Thursday, March 26, 8:30am

Family of Mary Ruyman-Lee

Friday, March 27, 8:30am

†Sally Pierce

Saturday, March 28, 5:00pm

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Sunday, March 29, 10:30am - Palm Sunday

Jacob O'Meara

Tuesday, March 31, 8:30am

Erin McGuinness

Wednesday, April 1, 5:00pm

Family of Mary Ruyman-Lee

Thursday, April 2, 7:30pm - Maundy Thursday

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Friday, April 3, 7:30pm - Good Friday service

Saturday, April 4, 8:30pm - Holy Saturday

The People of St. Gregory and Sacred Heart

Sunday, April 5, 10:30am - Easter Sunday

Steve Marquart



YOUTH EVENTS

Vince Hendren vince@stgregorynb.org
Liz Long: liz@stgregorynb.org or call St. Gregory's Parish Office (651-674-4056) for their phone numbers.

FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

The next (and final) Friday Fun Night for grades 3-5 is April 10. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 8.

MISSION TRIP - June 21-27

There is still time to join the Youth Mission Trip to attend the Catholic Heart Workcamp in Champaign, IL. The trip is open to high schoolers (entering 9th grade in Fall and up). The next meeting for interested families is May 3 after Mass. Contact: Vince Hendren

EXTREME FAITH CAMP 2026 - Early July

There are still spots open for middle school and high school students to attend Extreme Faith Camp but the deadline is approaching soon. Don't delay to register if you've been on the fence! Dates are July 11-17 for High School youth and July 13-17 for Middle School youth. Contact: Liz Long

TOTUS TUUS 2026 - June 14-19

The Totus Tuus summer youth program will return this Summer! Mark your calendars as this fun-filled week returns with a daytime program for grades 1-6 and an evening program for grades 7-12. More information coming soon. Contact: Liz Long



BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Class of 2026, mark your calendars now for this annual worship service on Wednesday, June 3 at 7pm in the North Branch High School Auditorium. All senior students, their families, and the public are invited to this non-denominational service to bless and celebrate the graduating class.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We are committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults at St. Gregory's and Sacred Heart. We have procedures in place to implement Archdiocesan Safe Environment policies and best practices. Employees and volunteers who interact with minors or vulnerable adults, must complete the Essential 3 (E3) requirements prior to beginning service. This includes a criminal Background Check, signing a Code of Conduct, and completing Safe Environment Training. Additional resources, including how to report suspected child abuse and for Victim Assistance, are available from the Archdiocese at SafeCatholicSPM.org.

The Safe Environment Coordinator for both churches is Donna Groschen: 651-674-4056, donna@stgregorynb.org.



FORMED.ORG VIDEO OF THE WEEK:

The Annunciation | Sacred Art - Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they discuss the spiritual and theological significance of the Annunciation over a piece of Sacred Art by Elizabeth Zelasko that depicts this incredible scene.

<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/2066607/>



ST. GREGORY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Weekly Goal \$5,908.65		
Offering for 02/22 Week 35		\$6,066.10
Offering for 03/01 Week 36		\$6,397.17
YTD Weekly Goal	YTD Actual Offering	
\$212,711.40	\$200,693.21	
MASS ATTENDANCE		
Date	5:00pm	10:30am
February 21/22 Week 35	128	131
Feb. 28 / Mar. 1 Week 36	97	180

NEWS FOR ALL

Fr. Matt Shireman: fathermatt@stgregorynb.org

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS may be found online at: <https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar>

BIBLE STUDY

Join Fr. Matt for bible study every Friday at 9:15am in the Cry Room of St. Gregory's, North Branch. Note - There will be no Bible Study on Good Friday, April 3.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LENT DINNER & BINGO:

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 27 for the annual Fish Sandwich dinner and Ham BINGO in St. Gregory's Parish Hall sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



5:30pm - Fish Sandwiches (\$6.00 for sandwich, drink and chips)

7:00pm - BINGO & Raffle (prizes include cash or a bone-in half ham) Bingo is \$0.50 per card or 3/\$1.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING PROJECT AT ST. GREGORY:

We have exceeded our goal! So far, we have collected \$6,750 towards our Lenten almsgiving project to help Fr. Andy repair the roof of one of his parish churches. As there are two churches in dire need, all funds collected will be sent to his parish to support a safe and welcoming space for Fr. Andy's community to gather and worship. Donations may be placed in the wooden box in the narthex, the collection basket, or delivered to the Parish Office. Please make checks payable to St. Gregory the Great and note "Roof Project" in the memo line.



STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION

Join Fr. Matt for four Saturdays after Easter for a new video series that will explore the 14 Stations of the Resurrection. All who are interested may join him 10:00-11:00am in St. Gregory's Parish Hall on April 11, May 2, May 16, and May 23. Some of the parish small groups will also be watching the videos.



Have you wondered why we celebrate the Stations of the Cross during Lent, but don't have a similar practice for the 50 days from Easter (from Easter Sunday to Pentecost)? Heidi Harvey and Janae Bower of St. Paul in Ham Lake found a papal document referencing such a practice. With Archbishop Hebda's endorsement, they have brought to fruition a written set of 14 stations and a 7-part video series for this practice, narrated by Bower. Each station recalls a Gospel story that takes place after the Resurrection, including the road to Emmaus, the encounter with the doubting Apostle Thomas, and the Ascension.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

St. Joseph's in Taylors Falls is having Divine Mercy devotions on Sunday, April 12 with Eucharistic Adoration and confessions from 1:30-3:00pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited at 3:00pm followed by Eucharistic Benediction. (490 Bench St, Taylors Falls)



ARCHDIOCESAN HISTORY BOOKS

We are now offering the Archdiocesan 175th Anniversary Books at a new lower price. Add one or both to your home library for just \$30 for the 500-page history book or \$10 for the graphic novel. Contact either Parish Office for your copy (651-674-4056, 320-358-4370).