



est July 20, 1988

March 2024

# Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity Ordo Franciscanus Secularis (OFS) A Member of Divine Mercy Regional Fraternity

Newsletter

Volume 9, 3

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## Profession Mass!

Wednesday, March 20 7:00 pm

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH  
1449 WILCOX PARK DR SE  
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49506

### WELCOME OUR NEWLY PROFESSED

JACK HARTMANN  
EILEEN SCHMUKER  
CHRIS WILLMENG

### NO ZOOM MEETING

## Fair Share Contributions

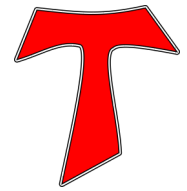
Mail: MARK MANN, OFS  
1007 DIAMOND AVE NE  
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49503

Electronic: Venmo @OMS-Franciscan-GR

## Mark Your Calendars

Apr 24	Fraternal Gathering	7:00 pm St. Thomas Ministry Ctr
May 29	Fraternal Gathering	7:00 pm St. Thomas Ministry Ctr
Jun 26	Annual Picnic	6:00 pm Cascade Township Park

# Prayer Petitions



## Professions

Terri Mauro, OFS Apr 23  
Dwayne Betcher, OFS Apr 24  
Cami Mann, OFS Apr 24  
Mark Mann, OFS Apr 24  
Susan Martin, OFS Apr 24  
Barb Scott, OFS Apr 24  
Lori Fedewa, OFS Apr 25  
Amy Oatley, OFS Apr 25  
Todd Oatley, OFS Apr 25  
Jim Flickinger, OFS Apr 27  
Harriet Pilson, OFS Apr 27  
Jerry Swiatlowski, OFS Apr 27

## Birthdays

Ken Estes, OFS Apr 02  
Marge Gessner, OFS Apr 05  
Linda Lee Spencer, OFS Apr 06  
Chris Willmeng Apr 06  
Ryan Maier, OFS Apr 11  
Jim Parent, OFS Apr 17  
Ted Kusmierz, OFS Apr 19  
Michelle Bryk, OFS Apr 22  
Mary VanderPloeg, OFS Apr 22  
Beth Price, OFS Apr 24  
Lori Fedewa, OFS Apr 30  
Claire Pinsonneault, OFS Apr 30

## Memorials

Gerrie Harris, OFS Apr 16  
Emma Vandenberg, OFS Apr 20  
Ruth Goldsmith, OFS Apr 20  
Judy Vanderlaan, OFS Apr 24  
Rose Piotrowski, OFS Apr 27

## In Formation

Jack Hartman  
Cory Mitchell  
Eileen Schmuker  
Chris Willmeng

## Active Excused

Virginia Champion  
Dorothy Deja  
Verona Dunn  
Joanne Dusendang  
Ellie Estes

Ken Estes  
Pat Fiebig  
Marge Gessner  
Diane Gray  
Rose Hickey  
Margo Kiel  
Rose Hickey  
Marge Krystiniak  
Wally Krystiniak  
Ted Kusmierz

Susan Martin  
Harriet Pilson  
Claire Pinsonneault  
Linda Lee Spencer  
Mary Lou Thompson  
Fran Walker

**Reminder:** Send prayer line requests to Michelle Bryk, OFS  
E-Mail: michellebofs@gmail.com  
Phone: 616-485-5783

## Franciscan Lenten Reflections for 2024

Join the friars of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province (OFM) as we reflect on the Gospel for each Sunday of Lent and reflect on it from the Franciscan tradition. These videos prayerfully explore how Franciscan spirituality links with the Gospel's impact on today's society.

<https://friars.us/article/2024/02/12/franciscan-gospel-reflections-for-lent-2024>

Subscribe to the Friars' newsletter at <https://friars.us/news-and-media/subscribe>

# Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

We spend a lot of time investing ourselves in Lent. I wrote in my last message about how Lent is really about preparing for Pascha, for Easter, to more fully celebrate the Resurrection.

How much energy do we put into celebrating the Resurrection?

St Seraphim of Sarov would greet everyone with the traditional “Christos Voskrese!” or “Christ is Risen!” throughout the year, not only for the 40 days of Paschal liturgical celebration. After all, Jesus doesn’t go back into the tomb at the end of the liturgical season celebrating his Resurrection.

Maybe a good bit of energy goes into preparing the Easter basket, some fun for the children in our families, and getting dressed up for Church. I was impressed years ago when I gave a day of recollection for catechists about the themes of special prayers used by the Church throughout the 40 days ... impressed by the full room and serious interest. Maybe our lack of attention is more because such programs are rare, and not for lack of enthusiasm when they are offered?

We might consider what lesson the Evangelists give us by telling us how Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, asking her to tell the apostles that he had risen from the dead and would meet them soon. Or why does St John give so much space to St Thomas’ initial doubt...and final amazed profession of faith?

The prayers of the Church—the Divine Praises in the Byzantine world, the Liturgy of the Hours among the Latin West—are designed to help us unpack the Scripture we hear at the Divine Liturgy or at Mass, so that we can better connect what we hear in Church with what we experience in the other dimensions of our lives. Not all of us are able to pray these prayers entirely, with the complicated instructions weaving usual prayers with prayers and readings selected for the season. But each of us can listen attentively in Church and ask God to “enlighten the darkness of my heart” so that we can hear God’s word more meaningfully.

I invite each of you to call, text, or email me. Or tell me personally if I visit your fraternity: Let me know one question or one reaction you have this Easter season to one of the Gospels we hear during the 40 days of the celebration of the Resurrection. What is important to you? What challenges or startles you? What gives you comfort? What does the Gospel say to you, today?

Jerome, ofm  
spiritual assistant

jeromeofm@gmail.com  
570-401-8684

## Fair Share Update

If you are excused from attending the fraternity gatherings and would like to send your fair share amount, please make check payable to Our Mother of Sorrows Fraternity and send your check to:

MARK MANN, OFS  
1007 DIAMOND AVE NE  
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49503

OR Venmo to:

**@OMS-Franciscan-GR**

## To Be Excused

If you are unable to attend a fraternity gathering due to health or other hardship reasons, please email:

Carol Dills OMSGRsecretary@gmail.com  
Chris Bueche OMSGRminister@gmail.com

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