



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

ROOTED IN CHRIST

LENT 2022



MERCY *Monday*

### Mercy through Mary

We heard during this Lenten season in the Gospel of Luke Jesus' call for us to be merciful: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (6:36). At the end of this particular Gospel reading from Monday of the Second Week of Lent our Lord says: "For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (6:38)

Those last words might frighten us—"For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

We may begin to ask ourselves: How do I "measure out" to people? Am I actually merciful to others? Am I kind?

# *be* MERCIFUL



When my coworker says something unkind to me, am I merciful to them? Or do I respond with unkindness, or even become bitter towards them?

When my spouse frustrates me because of their failure to understand how I am feeling, or because they don't listen to me, am I patient with them? That is, am I merciful towards them in their failure to support me?

***Am I actually merciful to others? Am I kind?***

It is a guarantee that all of us will fail—at least from time to time, but it is usually daily—to love, to be merciful, to be Jesus in the world to others.

However, we should really ask ourselves: Am I striving to be merciful as the Father is merciful? Am I trying to be more deeply conformed to the merciful heart of Jesus?

Regardless of where we find ourselves in answering these questions, there is a person who can help us to grow daily in our ability to be merciful as the Father is merciful.



Hail Holy  
Queen, mother  
of mercy, our  
life, our  
sweetness,  
and our hope!



This person is our Blessed Mother, Mary.

Mary is someone who really knows what it is to be merciful.

Mary is someone who received one of the greatest acts of mercy performed by God, when at the moment of her conception she was preserved from the stain of original sin.

We know from the Scriptures that Mary is a mother who stood by her son in his final agony, and thus witnessed the greatest act of love and mercy the world has

ever seen— Jesus dying on the cross for our sins.

She is someone who intimately knows the heart of her son Jesus. The heart that contains the fullness of mercy and compassion. The heart that was pierced with a lance. The heart that poured out blood and water.

If we desire to be more merciful people—people who really possess compassion and gentleness for others—we should ask our Blessed Mother for her help. She wants to help us to be merciful people.

***"Mary, then, is the one who has the deepest knowledge of the mystery of God's mercy. She knows its price; she knows how great it is. In this sense, we call her the Mother of Mercy: Our Lady of Mercy, or Mother of Divine Mercy..." St. John Paul II***

As we continue this Lenten journey let us ask our mother Mary, the Mother of Mercy, to intercede for us; that we may be men and women who are full of the mercy of the Father. Let us also remember the words of Christ: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Matthew 5:7)



***Song of Reflection offered by Christian Brown and Paul Lukasiewicz from St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow.***



**Harrison Rapp** is a seminarian in formation for the Diocese of Scranton. A native of Dunmore and of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish, Harrison attended Holy Cross High School and Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is currently on pastoral assignment at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kingston.

Pray for Harrison and all our seminarians in formation. [Click here](#) to see who they are.

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Diocese of Scranton  
2021 **DIOCESAN**  
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