

# DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

[www.bnspcatholic.org](http://www.bnspcatholic.org)

**Mission Statement :** Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 12TH, 2026

St John Church (SJ) - 415 37th St, Bellaire, OH 43906

St. Mary Church (SM) - 240 E 40th St, Shadyside, OH 43947

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM - SM Saturday 5:30 PM - SJ

Sunday 11:00 AM - SM Sunday 9:30 AM - SJ

## WEEKDAY MASS

5:15 p.m. (Mon.) SJ 8:00 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) – SJ 8:00 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) - SM 8:00 a.m.



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - SM

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - SJ

Monday: 4:30 p.m. - 5:00p.m. - SJ

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 -7:45a.m. - SM

Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:45a.m. - SJ

## CENTRAL OFFICE

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Email: [office@bnspcatholic.org](mailto:office@bnspcatholic.org)

**Office Hours: M,W,F -**

**8:00am- 12:00pm / 1:00pm-4:00pm**

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St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal



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1. Text MISSION2LOVE to 84576 or 2.Go to [StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com](http://StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com) and sign up there! Receive updates, including the weekly bulletin, via email and text message!



[www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs](http://www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs)

[www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan](http://www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan)



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."  
- Jn 20:29

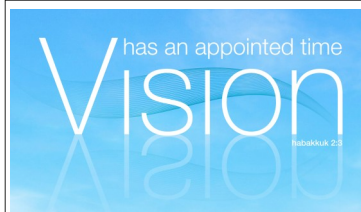
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©L.P.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*Collect of Divine Mercy Sunday*

## MESSAGE SERIES



This week we begin a short three-week series about the importance of our perspective. Vision is a perspective that sees beyond the present to the possibilities of a better future.

Jesus' resurrection gives a perspective of hope that God's power can accomplish amazing victories in our life and in our community. Next Sunday we will have our annual Parish assembly, after the 11:00am Mass. This is the time of year we look back at our pastoral plan for 2025-2026, celebrate our accomplishments, and discern future goals and objectives.

**Week One: Doubting Thomas**

**Scripture: John 20: 19-31**

Thomas refuses to come to faith in Jesus until he puts his fingers in the nail marks of Jesus and his hand in his side. He arrogantly professes his disbelief in the resurrection but his perspective changes when Jesus appears before him. He believes because he has seen. Jesus tells him that blessed are those who have not seen and believed. Vision challenges us to believe in what cannot yet be seen. Vision allows us to see how God is calling to be His Church in our local area, where he is sending us, and the future growth he is providing.

**Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, April 11th, Divine Mercy Sunday**  
 4:00p.m. (SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's  
 5:30p.m. (SJ) + Louise Cicogna (Chick & Boys)  
**Sunday, April 12th, Divine Mercy Sunday**  
 9:30a.m. (SJ) + Charles Melko (Larry & Agnus Leonard & Family)  
 11:00 a.m. (SM) + Rose Grammer (Janie Ruskowski)  
**Monday, April 13th, St. Martin I**  
 5:15p.m (SJ) + Carl "Dick" Piper (Wife ~ Nancy & Family)  
**Tuesday, April 14th**  
 8:00a.m. (SM) + Joe Ronevich 30 years deceased (Ernie & Mary Ann)  
**Wednesday, April 15th**  
 8:00a.m. (SJ) + Marsha "Strizak" Ewing (David & Cheryle Snider)  
**Thursday, April 16th**  
 8:00a.m. (SM) Mass of Thanksgiving (Pete)  
**Friday, April 17th**  
 8:00a.m. (SJ) + John Tugaoen (Trouten Family)  
**Saturday, April 18th**  
 4:00p.m. (SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's  
 5:30p.m. (SJ) + Maureen Lubic (Paul & Renee Marchese)  
**Sunday, April 19th**  
 9:30a.m. (SJ) + John Kolenich III (Vince & Grandsons)  
 11:00a.m.(SM) + Baby Margaret Ruskowski (Scarnechia Family)

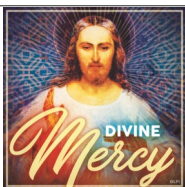


**Lord, bless and protect those serving our country,** especially: Lt. Col. Brian Zeno, Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzel, Lance Corporal Zachary Knowlton, SSG Kayne Melko, HTF Kory Melko, Sgt. Joshua Hall, SSG Aaron Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, SSG Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, MSG Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster, Pvt William Clegg , Petty Officer Alex Rader, SFC Shawn Selmon, SSG Colton Selmon, Seaman Brooke Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, SSG Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beveridge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook, Petty Officer Meleah (Tiber) Hernik, Seaman Joshya D. Nelson, E -4 Specialist Luke G. Bell, SSG John Workman, Corpal Dane Miscovich

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR APRIL 18/19**

**St. John's**  
**April 18th EM:** M.A. Kiss     **Lector:** S. Homer  
**April 19th EM:** J. Coup     **Lector:** A. Busic

**St. Mary's**  
**April 18th EM:** L. Gates     **Lector:** L. Gates  
**April 19th EM:** T. Mowery     **Lector:** A. Schamp



**Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions**  
 2-4 p.m. St. John Church  
**Sunday April 12**  
**Schedule:** Eucharistic Adoration: 2-4 p.m.  
 Confessions: 2 - 3 p.m. Divine Mercy Holy Hour: 3-4 p.m. Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy

**Offertory Collection**

**For the Weekend of April 4/5, 2026**

**St. John's:** Adult (149env) \$5,994, Loose \$1,729, Easter Flowers (1env) \$20, Holy Thursday (29env) \$330, Rice Bowl (2env) \$35, Good Friday (31env) \$375, Steubenville Register (1env) \$10, St. Vincent de Paul (1env) \$20, Grade School (3env) \$40, Building Fund (2env) \$160, Candles \$35.97

**St. Mary's:** Adult (37env) \$1,583, Loose \$296, Easter (31env) \$680, Holy Thursday (10env) \$215, Good Friday (9env) \$123, Building Fund (2env) \$150, Mother's Day (1env) \$40, Candles \$45



**Please Note:** *This prayer list is an important part of our love for our brothers and sisters in need. Names will be included on this list for four weeks at a time. After four weeks a person's name will be removed but can be added again the next week simply by calling the office. Please pray for the following:*

Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Mgrs. Gene Mullett, Fr. Tom Petronek, , Quentin Scott Coyne, Baby Everett Sommers, Joe Boston Jr., Bob, & Tom, Mary Kay Hanasky, John Hanasky, Beverly Kolenich , Sandy Bass , Anthony De Genova Magan Nichole Sechrest, Monroe DeLuca, Albert DeBlasis, Mary Jo Garner, Camden Thomas, Ainsley Oliniski, Beth Baker Phillips, Tom Kucera, Brian B., Joanne Dantrassy, Rita Kovalo, Charlotte Kovalyk, Susan Gray, Danielle Watt, Paula St. John, Mary Stegman, John, Mary & Heidi Patt, Raisa Rodsky, Jacquie Jochumsen, Mike Kavage, Tom Waligura, Shari Taylor, Fr. Mark Moore, Gerald Paolucci, Mark Barker, Ernest Kiss, Rose Reeher, Lou "Weegee" Bennington, Jean Morgan , Bill & Evelyn Shepherd, Peggy Byles, Adam Ruskowski, Janet (Rose) Green, Carol Zemba, Donna Richards, Jack Selmon, Jamie Ellis, Tom & Margie Merryman, Beau Boston, Emily LeMasters, Toni Sivert, Dalisay Donato, Adrienne Forbes, Stacey Gilli, Maria Biers, Max Townsend, Jim Garczyk, Debbie Respole, Julie, Brian, Patricia, Marie, Josie P. Warren Wright, Vince Lewis, Danny Nardo, Steve Loveless, Betsy Ashcraft, Bob Wallace, Verna Martin, Aleyna Zwack & Atlas Zwack-Howes, Fran Sobray, Pam (Schau) Mitchell, Taylor Foster , Diana Mc Culley, Janet Green, Darla Schau, Ella Karst, Richard Gates, Liz Gates, Peggy Gress, John Sidon, Kyle Beaver, Eileen Penyak, JoAnn Rankin

**SOCK IT TO OUR VETERANS**



**The Caring Crafters** will be accepting donations of socks for our veterans. Preferably white, cotton, crew socks. Help us provide comfort to our veterans. Donations can be placed in the bins at each church entrance. We can accept monetary donations also and we will purchase the socks. Thank you!



**K of C Euchre Tournament**

Bellaire Knights of Columbus will hold their Euchre Tournament on Saturday, April 11th. Registration begins at 5:30p.m. and games start at 6:00p.m.

**SPRING ASSEMBLY**  
**of St. Mary's and St. John's Parishes**  
**Next Sunday, April 19, 2026**  
**12:15PM-2:00PM St. Mary's Sartori Hall**

The purpose of this annual assembly is look back on the progress we have made in our pastoral plan and to see where we can go in the next year.

Scripture: Matthew 9:17 "People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

**PARISH ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

1. Review the Seven Essential Elements of Parish Life—Evangelization, Worship, Word, Community, Service, Stewardship, Leadership
2. Review the Pastoral Plan for 2025-2026
3. Evaluate our progress on this year's Objectives
4. Brainstorm new Goals objectives for the coming year
5. Celebration, Gratitude and Closing

**PASTORAL PLAN FOR 2025-2026**

**Parish Mission Statement** - Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

**Goal #1-STEWARDSHIP** – To increase by 25% the members of our faith family who participate in the ministries and activities of our parishes

**Objectives**

- Develop an Implementation Team for each of the 7 Essential Elements
- Review the Discovery Tool results with each parishioner who completed it
- Take 5 minutes before the start of mass to explain the many offices within the diocese that support the individual parishes

**Goal #2 – EVANGELIZATION** – To introduce a program of outreach to the inactive members of our parishes

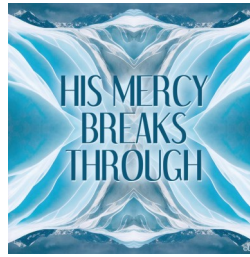
**Objectives**

- Plan one Evangelization Event/Program for this year
- Send care packages to college kids each semester
- Develop a Care Team for each of the parishes

**Goal #3 – COMMUNITY** – To increase communication with members and the community about parish ministries, activities, and finances

**Objectives**

- Develop a Communication/Social Media Team
- Plan 3 Social events for the community
- Take advantage of grant to implement Our Sunday Visitor Increased Offertory Program (IOP)



**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

*"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.'" (John 20:27)*

In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I'd want to sarcastically murmur, "Well, good for you." I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew.

Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: "I came to be your friend... and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?" My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and his mercy broke through.

So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents his wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist.

**Divine Mercy Challenge:** This week, rejoice with someone who is newly alive in faith. If your own heart has grown skeptical or tired, ask Jesus to help you. He will.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi

**Ongoing Renewal: The Annual Spring Assembly**

Once the initial start-up period for pastoral planning is complete, pastoral councils enter the ongoing renewal process which updates the plan every year. There is no more essential part to the growth of the pastoral plan than consultation with the parish community. At this assembly, council members once again engage with parishioners in reviewing the seven essential elements of pastoral life and their vitality in the parish. A report on the past year's progress toward the goals and objectives is part of this meeting. Congratulations and thanks could be offered to those responsible for implementing the objectives. Updated information on changing parish statistics and trends as well as regional, ecumenical, and collaborative efforts may be presented. Finally, the three-to-five-year goal areas are put before the assembly for additional brainstorming. Where should we go next on this pastoral issues? With the input they have received, parishioners should be able to add additional suggestions for new objectives.



## This Week on Formed

Week of April 12, 2026



### Divine Mercy Chaplet | Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Consider praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in a new way with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. This video on Formed includes breathtaking footage of Catholics across the world performing works of mercy and asking God to have mercy on us.



### Pope John Paul II

Starring Jon Voight and Cary Elwes, this epic film follows Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the Chair of St. Peter.



### Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley

Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II.

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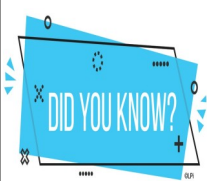
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4. Follow instructions to set up your Account.
5. The "Join your Parish" screen will appear. - Enter the zip code, "43906" in the Search box, then choose "St. John the Evangelist/St. Mary" and click on "Submit"
6. You will be prompted to set up a password for your account.
7. Enjoy! Download the app!



### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** In Luke's Gospel, how many lepers did Jesus heal, and how many returned to thank him?

**Answer:** Ten were healed. One returned.  
©LPi

### MASSTIMES.ORG



Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) and enter the city, state or zip code of the place you'll be visiting. And bring Fr. Dan back a bulletin!

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

3rd Sunday of Easter / April 19, 2026

**First Reading:** "Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father and poured him forth, as you see and hear." (Acts 2:33)

**Psalm:** Lord, you will show us the path of life. (Ps 16)

**Second Reading:** He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you. (1 Pt 1:20)

**Gospel:** Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32)

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CCC 1346-1347: the Eucharist and the experience of the disciples at Emmaus

CCC 642-644, 857, 995-996: the apostles and disciples as witnesses of the Resurrection

CCC 102, 601, 426-429, 2763: Christ the key to interpreting all Scripture

CCC 457, 604-605, 608, 615-616, 1476, 1992: Jesus, the Lamb offered for our sins



**Virtues, Explained!**

**Fortitude, Explained!**

"When you go out to war against your enemies and you see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, you shall not be afraid of them," we read in Deuteronomy 20:1. "For the Lord, your God...will be with you."

The virtue of fortitude actually requires, first and foremost, the feeling of fear. In order to grow in fortitude, one must face a thing which frightens him; in that way, it is distinct from patience and perseverance. Christ shows perfect fortitude as he endures his Passion and death, of which he was indeed afraid; it is likewise shown by martyrs. But fortitude doesn't require a cinematic battle. Fortitude can be shown by someone who is afraid of losing his job or of being in bodily danger simply for adhering to the laws of God. What is important is that the courage shown is in pursuit of the good, not just bearing with an attack. ©LPi

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER.



**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Within Thy Wounds**

The prayer I love best in the world is the Anima Christi. This private, devotional litany of supplication, begins with the phrase “anima Christi, sanctifica me” (“soul of Christ, sanctify me”) and continues on to appeal individually to each aspect of Our Lord’s crucified flesh: “Body of Christ, save me; blood of Christ, inebriate me; water from Christ’s side, wash me; passion of Christ, strengthen me; Oh good Jesus, hear me.”

Then comes my favorite part: “within thy wounds hide me.”

The Anima Christi is a prayer traditionally said after receiving Holy Communion. The ancient Celts spoke of liminal places, where the veil separating this world from the next is particularly thin, and I believe the moments immediately following the reception of Holy Communion, when the Host is dissolving on my tongue, create a liminal place. When I am in that place, I am as intimately connected to God as I can be while my heart is still beating.

And when I am there, holding God within me, what are the words that I speak? It’s overwhelming to think about. What could possibly be right to say?

There is no right or wrong answer, I suppose. But the best words I can think of are these: “Within thy wounds, Lord, hide me.”

There is a reason Christ showed his wounds as he said the words, “Peace be with you.” It was not just a means of identifying himself — it was a catechism lesson. Here, he was saying. Here is the peace you will not find anywhere else.



**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** In the immediate aftermath of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, the community of believers in

Jerusalem experienced much joy and harmony. *In what ways do you help build up your faith community?*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** With Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, Peter can now speak of an inheritance that awaits all believers and will one day be revealed to us. *How should knowledge of this upcoming gift impact our living in the present moment?*

**Gospel Reading:** Thomas needed concrete evidence before he would believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. *What convinces you that Jesus is risen and alive?* ©LPi

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER



**WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Divine Mercy Sunday**

**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.”

©LPi

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

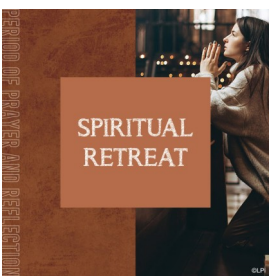
**Give Yourself Completely**

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



**Devotions, Explained!**

**Retreat, Explained**

Spiritual retreats are an act of removing oneself from one's daily life for a period of prayer and reflection, with the intent of returning to that daily life transformed.

It was Christ himself who was the greatest and earliest advocate of spiritual retreat. In the Gospels, he is constantly depicted as withdrawing from other people to be alone in prayer. Likewise, participants in a modern retreat most often go somewhere like a retreat center to seek silence, solitude and communion with God. There are many different varieties of retreats; they can be guided and take place in a group setting, or they can be undertaken alone by just one person. Some are focused on a specific topic or theme; some are defined by periods of total silence. Though clerics are compelled by canon law to go on retreat regularly, all faithful are encouraged to make retreat part of their spiritual life. ©LPi



**PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY**

**Divine Mercy Blessing**

Dear Jesus,  
May your mercy flow over us,  
filling our gaps and healing our  
wounds.

Open our hearts more deeply  
with knowledge of your love for us, understanding of  
the depth of your passion,  
and trust in your never-ending mercy. Amen. ©LPi

**Everyday Stewardship**

**Believing the Unbelievable**

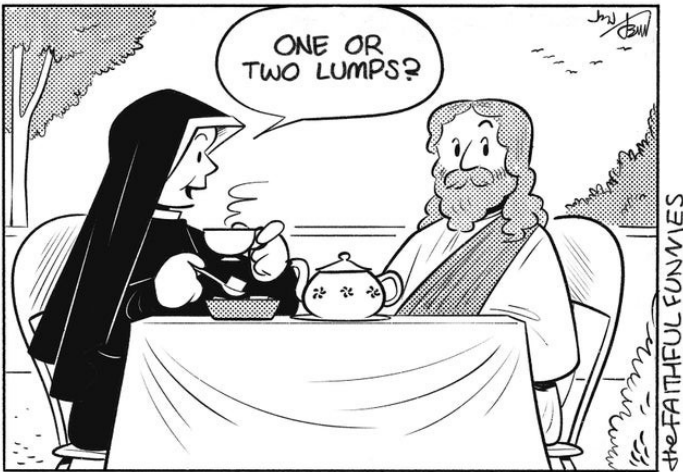
Due to the constant unchecked flow of data and information through the Internet, it can be hard to know when a story is real news or rubbish. It never ceases to amaze me when someone I know has bought into some crazy fake news story. Sometimes the story is just so unbelievable: celebrities who gained two hundred pounds in a month, women having babies who were never pregnant, or people actually being seen who are dead! Like Elvis!

The apostle Thomas found the news that Jesus was alive just too far-fetched to believe. But he didn't first hear the news on the Internet or read it standing in the grocery store checkout line. His friends told him. His fellow apostles told him they had actually seen the Lord with their own eyes. Their testimony was not enough. He needed proof.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us not only hope, but also a reason to be his disciples. We have not seen with our own eyes but, like Thomas, we have a community, the Church, that has relayed the truth to us. This same Jesus now calls us to go forth to spread the Gospel. More unbelievable than that, we have, through the gifts we have been given, a chance to change and even save lives. The day may come that you, moved by this news of the risen Lord, will be an agent of his love to the point where someone will tell the tale that you, a follower of Jesus, actually helped to change his or her life. Pretty unbelievable, right?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**"Which saint would most likely join Jesus for afternoon tea?"**



**"St. Faus-TEA-na."**



St. Faustina was a Polish religious sister who experienced extraordinary visions of Jesus, revealing His deep love through the "Divine Mercy" devotion.

©LPi



**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

How does Christ prove himself to Thomas? Not by his face or his words, but by his wounds. So, when we look for God to show Himself in relief or in triumph, we must remember the wounds of Christ. This is where we find our salvation. ©LPi



**BELLAIRE SERVE DAY**

Our Spring day of service, sponsored by the Bellaire fellowship of Churches, will take place next Saturday, April 18, from 9am to 12:00pm at Union Park in Bellaire. Several projects have been chosen this year to help local Bellaire businesses. Come to the Park at 9am and sign up for a project to help with. All ages and abilities are welcome. This is a wonderful time to come together as Christians and be a visible sign of God's love and care for our community. Please join us!

## The 7 Essential Elements of Parish Life

### EVANGELIZATION Romans 10:12-15

12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him.

13For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach?

15And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring [the] good news!”

#### EVANGELIZATION IN PARISH LIFE: A Tool for Reflection

##### *Step One - Think about these possible Descriptors:*

1. Adults and children are given opportunities for evangelization formation.
2. Newcomers are welcomed into the parish.
3. Efforts are made to reach out to the alienated, the inactive, and the unchurched.
4. Opportunities are provided for small groups to gather and share faith as it relates to their everyday life.
5. The parish has a plan for regular personal visits with parishioners.
6. Parish renewals, evenings of prayer and/or retreat days are planned to enliven and deepen the faith of the people.
7. The public image of the parish is one of hospitality, invitation, and compassion, where no one is excluded.
8. The parish takes steps to influence the values and decisions of the larger community through prophetic action and works of justice and outreach.
9. There is a sense of Christian joy about the Good News of Jesus Christ; it is evident in homilies, in worship, in parish activities, and in outreach efforts.
10. Can you think of other descriptors for an “Evangelizing Parish”? Write them down.

#### ASSESSING EVANGELIZATION IN OUR PARISH

##### *Step Two: Look for Evidence*

(A list of the ways in which our parish currently implements specific items on the checklist)

Example: We sponsor a Lenten renewal program every three years.

##### **Challenges**

(A list of areas that need attention)

Example: We have no outreach to inactive Catholics, even though 68 percent of our registered parishioners no longer attend Mass regularly

From *Revisioning the Parish Pastoral Council*, by Mary Ann Gubish and Susan Jenny, S.C. with Arlene McGannon, Paulist Press, 2001.

#### The 7 Essential Elements of Parish Life

**Evangelization** – The ways in which a parish continues to spread the Good News of Jesus, especially (though not exclusively) through personal and communal sharing of faith. (66)

**Worship** – The communal witness to the sovereignty of God, the abiding presence of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church, particularly in the Sunday Eucharist and other sacramental and liturgical rites. (70)

**Word** – Those things that pertain to the ongoing process of spiritual maturation and growth of individuals and as a community of faith. “The deepening of faith results from echoing God’s word, which takes place in a variety of ways and in multiple contexts within the life of the Church.” The word “catechesis” denotes the process of handing on the faith. (73)

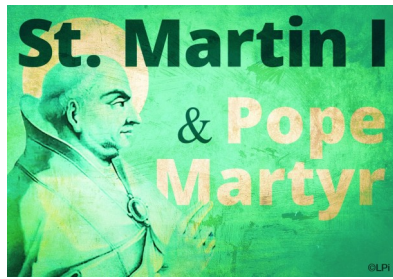
**Community** – The element of parish life which “draws parishioners together in mutual support, activity, celebration and growth. It is the unity that results when members become involved with one another in all aspects of the pastoral mission.” A parish is a place where everyone belongs. Inclusivity and mutuality are hallmarks of community. (76)

**Service** – The mission to which Christ calls the Church clearly includes works of charity and justice. “We cannot be truly ‘Catholic’ unless we hear and heed the Church’s call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace.” *Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Ministry of the Parish*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1993. (79)

**Stewardship** – We are called to make the most responsible use of our gifts and resources. “Stewardship, for believers, involves the sharing of individual time, talents, and treasure, as well as the commitment of communal resources (temporal, financial, human, etc.) in service to the community of faith.” (83)

**Leadership** – “Effective parish pastoral councils require a shared leadership among clergy and laity which calls forth the gifts of visioning, planning, empowering, and evaluating. These gifts are placed at the service of the community for the fulfillment of the pastoral mission.” (87)

**Eucharist at the Center** – “The communal celebration of Sunday Eucharist (which includes the Saturday evening Vigil) is both the source and summit of the seven essential elements of parish life.” (90)



### St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr - Feast Day: April 13

Born in Todi, Italy, Saint Martin was considered a man of great intelligence, piety, and charity. He was serving as the papal envoy to Constantinople when he

was elected pope in 649, upon the death of Pope Theodore. Before long, however, his desire to defend the true faith put him in conflict with a powerful ruler, Emperor Constans II, the head of the Byzantine Empire.

The emperor worked closely with the patriarch of Constantinople, Paul, who was the most influential leader in the Eastern Church at the time. Constantinople was then the capital of the Byzantine Empire.

When Martin became pope, there was disagreement in the Church over how the divine and human natures of Christ existed within his one person. A position known as monotheletism, which was strongly supported by the Eastern Church, held that Christ only had a divine will, not a human will.

To protect, although not directly support, that view, Constans II issued an edict, the Typos, which forbade discussion of the issue.

Pope Martin, however, believing that position to be heretical, convoked and presided over the Lateran Council of 649, during which the 105 bishops gathered condemned monotheletism, issued documents clarifying the Church's position, and censured the Typos, along with an edict supporting monotheletism which had been issued by the previous emperor.

This angered Constans II, who first tried to turn the bishops against Pope Martin and then sent someone to kill him. When neither attempt was successful, the emperor had Pope Martin arrested and brought back to Constantinople. Already in poor health, the pope was seized, tortured, and imprisoned.

Originally sentenced to death, the emperor changed the sentence to banishment, perhaps influenced by Patriarch Paul, who had a change of heart before his death.

Pope Martin was banished to Chersonese (present-day Crimea), an area then gripped by famine. Sick and starving, Pope Martin died a short time later in 655.

At the end of his life, Pope Martin felt abandoned by the Church in Rome but never abandoned his faith. The Church, having lost contact with him, assumed he had died and moved on, electing Eugenius I as his successor. It resulted in the Church having two duly elected popes at the same time.

Pope Martin I was the last pope to be martyred for defending the faith.

### ***AN EASTER GIFT FOR YOU!***

Please accept a copy of **Jesus Shock** by Peter Kreeft as our Easter gift to you! Get ready to discover Jesus like you have never known him. Give a copy to a family member or friend!



### ***BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE***

#### **Divine Mercy and Pro-life**

Saint John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday.

Many of the faithful pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy regularly. There is a link between this devotion and the pro-life movement. Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, who was a principal translator of St. Faustina's diary, and the postulator of her cause of canonization, writes the following: "On at least three occasions, from 8:00-11:00 in the evening, she felt like her insides were being torn apart. She suffered so much that she thought she was going to die. The doctors couldn't figure out what was ailing her, and no medication was able to alleviate her sufferings. Later, she was given to understand that she was undergoing those pains for mothers who were aborting their children (Diary, 1276). "On another occasion, she had a vision of an angel coming with thunderbolts to destroy one of the most beautiful cities of her country. And she felt powerless to do anything about it (Diary, 474). What antidote did the Lord give her? The Chaplet of Divine Mercy. [She explained] that the city was to be chastised for its sins, primarily the sin of abortion." ("Wombs of Mercy," Marian Helpers Bulletin, Summer 1995, p.13).



#### **Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska**

Born in what is now west-central Poland, Helena Kowalska was the third of 10 children. She worked as a housekeeper in three cities before joining the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1925. She worked as a cook, gardener and porter in three of their houses.

In addition to carrying out her work faithfully, generously serving the needs of the sisters and the local people, Sister Faustina also had a deep interior life. This included receiving revelations from the Lord Jesus, messages that she recorded in her diary at the request of Christ and of her confessors.

At a time when some Catholics had an image of God as such a strict judge that they might be tempted to despair about the possibility of being forgiven, Jesus chose to emphasize his mercy and forgiveness for sins acknowledged and confessed. "I do not want to punish aching mankind," he once told Saint Faustina, "but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart." The two rays emanating from Christ's heart, she said, represent the blood and water poured out after Jesus' death.

Because Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska knew that the revelations she had already received did not constitute holiness itself, she wrote in her diary: "Neither graces, nor revelations, nor raptures, nor gifts granted to a soul make it perfect, but rather the intimate union of the soul with God. These gifts are merely ornaments of the soul, but constitute neither its essence nor its perfection. My sanctity and perfection consist in the close union of my will with the will of God."

Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska died of tuberculosis in Krakow, Poland, on October 5, 1938. Pope John Paul II beatified her in 1993, and canonized her seven years later.

**Readings for the week of April 12, 2026**

**Sunday:** Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31  
**Monday:** Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8  
**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 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

**BELLAIRE SERVE DAY**

Next Saturday, April 18th, 9am-12:00pm Union Park Bellaire. Come and help beautify our community! Service projects for all ages and abilities!

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy**  
 9:30am-10:45am Parish School of Religion (SMRE)  
 2:00pm—4:00pm Divine Mercy Devotions (SJ)  
 2:00pm Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions  
 3:00pm-4:00pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour  
 6:00pm-7:15pm Youth Group (SMRE)  
**Monday:** 10:00am SFC Mtg (Nazarene Hall)  
**Tuesday:** 9:00am -5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration (SM)  
 11:15am BFC Mtg  
 6:00pm Pastoral Council Mtg (SJH)  
**Thursday:** 7:00pm OCIA (SJH)  
**Friday:** 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)  
**Saturday:** 9:00am -12:00pm BFC SERVE Day (Park)  
 2:30pm Hanle/De Coy Wedding  
**Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter**  
 9:30am-10:45am Parish School of Religion  
 12:15-2:00pm Spring Assembly (SMSH)

**March Is National Nutrition Month**



“Keys to a healthy you. Drink 48 or more ounces of water daily. Eat dark green vegetables, whole grains, beans and lentils, fish, winter squash, berries, and soy. Cut back on red meats, sweets, and salty snacks. For you and the ones you love.” **Evelyn Krapa Parsons, RDN**



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*By Anita & Jeannine*

*In Loving Memory of The*  
 Westlake, Gress & Novy Families  
*By Terry & Linda*

*In Loving Memory Of*  
 John, Rose & Cathy Magistro  
*By Bruce & Mary Ann*



*Happy Easter To The*  
 The Boston & Donahue Families  
*By Cheryl Boston*

*In Loving Memory of*  
 Joseph, Patricia & Erin Padyjasek ~ Peter & Frances (Pronishun) Stemkowski ~ Andrew & Helen (Ashmanas) Padyjasek.  
*Love Son~Brother~Grandson ~Peter*



*In Loving Memory of*  
 The Masciarelli & Smigill Families  
*By Sunny & Anita Smigill*

*In Loving Memory of*  
 Bill Kahl *by Wife Karen*  
 George, Bud, Murph & Jerry Snider  
*By Sister & Family*

*In Loving Memory of the*  
 Kuchinka, Teasdale & Stolz Families  
*by Marion & Jeff*