

DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish

Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point

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.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

APRIL 5TH, 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

3745 Tallman Ave., Bellaire, OH 43906

Phone - (740) 676-0051 - Fax - (740) 671-9776

Email: office@bnspcatholic.org

Office Hours: M,W,F -

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

Fr. Daniel Heusel, Pastor (SJ), Pastor (SM)

Cell: (740) 298-4158

Email: dheusel@diosteub.org

Mrs. Tonya Grimm, Secretary

(740) 676-0051

Email: office@bnspcatholic.org

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal



We use Flocknote to connect with you!

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



www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs

www.fb.me/stmary.shadyside.powhatan



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. 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 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



AN EASTER GIFT FOR YOU!

Please accept a copy of **Jesus Shock** by Peter Kreeft as our Easter gift to you!

The life of Jesus Christ is indelibly engraved upon history; neither the erosion of time nor the devastating and compounding effects of evil have been able to erase his influence. Some people thought he was crazy; others considered him a misfit, a troublemaker, a rebel. He was condemned as a criminal, yet his life and teachings reverberate throughout history. He saw things differently, and he had no respect for the status quo. You can praise him, disagree with him, quote him, disbelieve him, glorify him, or vilify him. About the only thing you cannot do is ignore him, and that is a lesson that every age learns in its own way.

You can't ignore Jesus, because he changed things. He is the single greatest agent of change in human history. He made the lame walk, taught the simple, set captives free, gave sight to the blind, fed the hungry, healed the sick, comforted the afflicted, afflicted the comfortable, and in all of these, captured the imagination of every generation.

But who is Jesus today? Who is Jesus to you? Get ready to discover Jesus like you have never known him.

Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 4th, Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

8:30p.m. (SJ) + For the Newly Initiated

Sunday, April 5th, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Ed & Irene Snyder (Family)

11:00 a.m. (SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

Monday, April 6th, Monday within the Octave of Easter

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Julie Harrison (Trouten Family)

Tuesday, April 7th, Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

8:00a.m. (SM) + Landon Sawchuk (Aunt Patsy)

Wednesday, April 8th, Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Clara Weyrick 90th Birthday deceased (Husband ~ John)

Thursday, April 9th, Thursday within the Octave of Easter

8:00a.m. (SM) + Judy Fahey (Family)

Friday, April 10th, Friday within the Octave of Easter

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Elizabeth "Betty" Brinker (Lindy, Jack & Family)

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)

11:00a.m.(SM) + Rose Grammer (Janie Ruskowski)

Happy Easter!



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 11/12

St. John's

April 11th EM: B. Wallner **Lector:** M. Kosky

April 12th EM: I. Louda **Lector:** T. Bonfini

St. Mary's

April 11th EM: I. Louda **Lector:** E. Kalinowski

April 12th EM: L. Kernik **Lector:** M. Kernik

Offertory Collection

For the Weekend of March 28/29

St. John's: Adult (142env) \$4,201, Loose \$532, Easter (1env) \$50, Easter Flowers (10env) \$175, Holy Thursday (4env) \$50, Good Friday (4env) \$50, Building Fund (4env) \$539

St. Mary's: Adult (82env) \$3,630, Loose \$182, All Saints (1env) \$25, Easter Flowers (6env) \$115, Holy Thursday (3env) \$70, Rice Bowl (1env) \$25, Good Friday (2env) \$20, St. Vincent de Paul (2env) \$50, Grade School (1env) \$20, Building Fund (3env) \$100, Food Pantry (3env) \$150, Arch. Diocese Military (1env) \$50, Priest Retirement (1env) \$100, Mother's Day (2env) \$60, All Souls (1env) \$50, Candles \$31



Prayer List *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



Congratulations On Our Newly Baptized

Addison, Isabella & Kayleigh Roth

St. John's Church on 3/28/26

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Catherine Silverio & Gloria LeMasters**. We offer our prayers also for the comfort of their loved ones. *If you have a family member that dies but was not buried from our parishes please call the parish office, we would like to include them here in this space.*



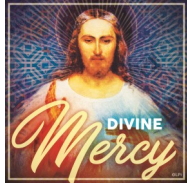
Happy Easter!

Jesus is risen and we can be made new in Him! May your faith in Him be renewed.

Spring Assembly

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend our Spring Assembly, Sunday,

April 19, 12:15pm-2:00pm in St. Mary's Sartori Hall. This is one of the most important gatherings we have—to reflect on where we have been and where we are going.



Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions
2-4 p.m.

St. John Church

Next Sunday April 12

Schedule:

Eucharistic Adoration: 2-4 p.m.

Confessions: 2 - 3 p.m

Divine Mercy Holy Hour: 3-4 p.m. Including: Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Litany of Divine Mercy

St. Mary Central School Martins Ferry Quarter Auction
Sunday, April 12, 2026, school gym. Doors open at 11 a.m. for shopping , Auction begins at noon. Tickets, \$5 on sale in the school office. Includes your entry and 1 paddle. 20 vendors, 3 rounds of bidding. Chinese Auction, 50/50 raffle. Concessions. Get your tickets now!



ST. MARY CENTRAL FLOWER SALE

St. Mary Central School is having its annual flower sale. Flowers are sold by flats, hanging baskets and ferns. These beautiful flowers are also the perfect Mother's Day gift.

Order forms are available in the back of the church. To place an order, fill out the order form, include your payment, and drop in the collection basket. You may also place an order through any St. Mary's student. The last date to order is Friday, April 10, 2026.

Flowers will be available for pick up on Wednesday, May 6 2026, from the hours of 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's parking lot.

If you have any questions, you may call the school office at 633-5424. Thanks for your support of our fundraisers.



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.



THANK YOU!

The Caring Crafters would like to thank those who supported our Bake Sale and Raffle. 50/50 take home was \$337.00 went to Jennifer Edgar who donated it back. Thank you! Happy Easter to all!



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Zander Price was the fastest kid at my grade school. He won every race on Field Day. To me, his swiftness meant he was the greatest. Zander was the best.

It's the same with the speediest Apostle on Easter morning. John tells us he "ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first." (John 20:4) But only *after* Peter entered did John go in, see the burial cloths, and believe. Here is a symbol of two dimensions of the Church. John, the beloved disciple, represents the contemplative, mystical life: affection, prayer, intimacy. Peter, the rock, represents the Church's institutional life: steady, authoritative, structured...but slower.

Of course, John runs faster! Love is the heartbeat of Christian faith, so love will always arrive first. Peter's role is, in a sense, secondary. He arrives later, but is still very much needed. John waits for him. The Church must be built, balanced, protected, and led. Love without structure can vanish; structure without love becomes lifeless.

This dynamic is not just historical — it is personal. In you, there is a John who longs to run to the tomb in love. Let him run! Pray, sing, love Jesus. There is also a Peter, who eventually gets to the tomb and takes charge. The Risen Christ wants both. Remember: if you want to get to the mystery of Jesus' resurrection *fast*...love him, for love is best.
— *Father John Muir* ©LPi

Celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation!

Congratulations to the Catechumens who are receiving Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist:

- Kendall Noel Bradshaw**
- Peter Derrick McAfee**
- Gracie Jo McAfee**
- Branson Douglass Howell**
- Branntlee Jolene Howell**
- Kennedy Rose Leonard**

Congratulations to the Baptized Christians who are being received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church:

Kiersten Marie Schnegg

Congratulations to the Baptized Catholics who are receiving their First Holy Communion:

- Ashley Marie Blumenauer**
- Sally Ann Campbell**
- Kevin Alan Johnson**

Congratulations to the Baptized Catholics who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- Walter Edmond Skaggs, Jr.**
- Denise Michele Skaggs**

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

While It Is Still Dark

If you are a person who is religious in any way, chances are that at some point, someone has asked you to give a reason why.

I meet lots of people who identify as *spiritual* but not *religious*, lots of people who are more comfortable splashing in the shallow end of belief but hesitating to wade into the more uncertain depths of doctrine. So when they ask the question “Why do you believe what you believe?” it usually comes out as “Why do you go to church?”

They want to know why I come to this specific place at this specific time. What am I expecting to happen?

We read that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb “while it was still dark.” I imagine she could not sleep. She was traumatized. Grieving. Confused. Angry, perhaps. Doubting? Maybe. It’s possible. We cannot know what was in her heart.

We only know what she did. We only know where she went. And we know that it was dark, that the light of Easter’s dawn had not yet pierced the sky.

Often, I am grieving when I go to church, or angry, or confused, or all three. I have gone many times with a doubting and resentful heart.

Because, you see, it is still dark. The dawn of eternity, which will illuminate all understanding, has not yet even begun to creep across my horizon.

My answer to the question, when I am asked, is that I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again. ©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Easter

Question: *Why is the Easter season so long? And should we be doing something special for it?*

Answer: You’ve probably noticed the priest continuing to wear white vestments at the Sunday liturgy. While we celebrated Christ’s resurrection several weeks ago, the Easter season extends fifty days — just over seven weeks — from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. For most of that time — about six weeks — Jesus is still with the disciples, teaching and encouraging them. The Easter season isn’t just a celebration of when Jesus is with us. At the Last Supper, Jesus promised to send an “advocate” or “counselor” when he left. At the Ascension, he directs the disciples to await “power from on high” — the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension completes the Paschal Mystery, beginning with Jesus’ suffering and death and continuing in the resurrection. But the Holy Spirit ushers in a new era for the Church.

After spending weeks in prayer, fasting, and service during Lent, it may seem odd that we don’t widely have similar practices for Easter. That doesn’t mean you can’t embrace the season! Commit to taking moments of little joy throughout the weeks, like random acts of kindness towards others. Consider reading the Acts of the Apostles to learn more about the early Church or picking up an Easter devotional to pray with. He is still risen indeed! ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS


Come to Christ

Life is perhaps God’s greatest gift to each of us. Without life, we would be unable to experience all the wonder of this world, the love of family and friends, and the joy that comes from using our talents and skills. Life itself is more profound a gift than we can even truly contemplate. On Easter, we celebrate life. For on this day, Jesus Christ conquered death and gave to us the chance for a life eternal. The wonder, love, and joy of this world does not have to end. Through a life in Jesus Christ, these emotions are heightened, and we find even greater fulfillment in this world.

Maybe this Easter you are finding yourself open to taking a next step in your relationship with Jesus. This could be the moment you decide to follow Him more closely and take seriously all that he has given you. If so, welcome to the journey, where there are many other disciples on that same path who can help show you the way and share their stories. If not, hopefully it doesn’t take a whole year for this possibility to be considered again. Jesus is alive and waiting to get closer to you. May this Easter season find you and Our Lord getting to know one another in a whole new way. Happy Easter!

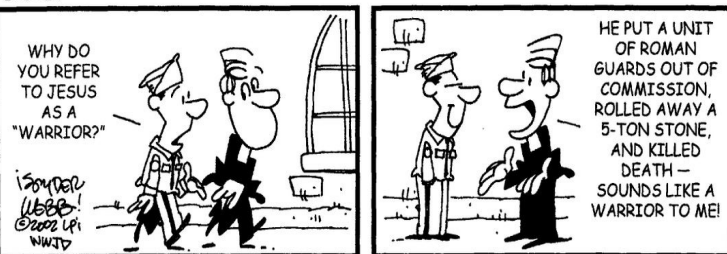
—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK
 The disciples didn’t understand, at first, what happened at the tomb. Often, we can’t fathom the purpose of God’s plan. We only see a stone in the wrong place. When we pause and look deeper, we see it: God has moved the stone. So, we must ask ourselves: why? ©LPi

EASTER



WHY DO YOU REFER TO JESUS AS A "WARRIOR?"

HE PUT A UNIT OF ROMAN GUARDS OUT OF COMMISSION, ROLLED AWAY A 5-TON STONE, AND KILLED DEATH — SOUNDS LIKE A WARRIOR TO ME!

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This Week on Formed
Week of April 05, 2026



What Catholics Believe About the Resurrection: Was Jesus a Ghost?

Join Dr. Michael Barber as he answers some of the Internet's most popular questions about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Did the Resurrection actually happen? Was Jesus a ghost when he appeared to the apostles? And what's the deal with the Easter Bunny?



Easter and the Resurrection | The Augustine Institute Show

Alleluia! He is Risen! Join Fr. Brian Larkin, Pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Denver, Colorado, as he discusses the Resurrection and the Easter season with Dr. Tim Gray on the Augustine Institute Show.



The Resurrection

In this episode, Mark Hartfiel and other experts unpack the mystery of the Resurrection, going back to the historical places where these world-changing event happened.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

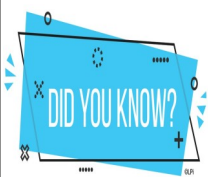
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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN



Question: What is the name of the patron saint of travelers and lost items?

Answer: St. Anthony of Padua ©LPi

MASSTIMES.ORG



Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to 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

2nd Sunday of Easter April 12, 2026

First Reading: They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (Acts 2:46-47)

Psalm: Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)

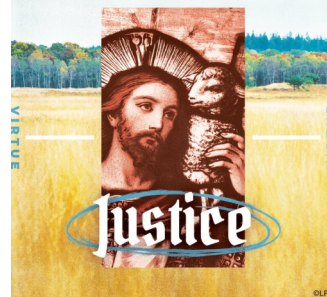
Second Reading: Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Pt 1:8-9)

Gospel: 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. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

- CCC 448, 641-646: appearances of the risen Christ
- CCC 1084-1089: sanctifying presence of the risen Christ in the liturgy
- CCC 2177-2178, 1342: the Sunday Eucharist
- CCC 654-655, 1988: our new birth in the Resurrection of Christ
- CCC 976-983, 1441-1442: "I believe in the forgiveness of sins"
- CCC 949-953, 1329, 1342, 2624, 2790: communion in spiritual goods

Virtues, Explained!



Justice, Explained!

"Original justice" is what the Catechism calls the state of harmony that existed between God, mankind and all creation (CCC 376) before the fall.

Though original justice perished when sin entered the world, our souls still bear its memory, and we are oriented toward this virtue like a flower is oriented toward the light of the sun: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will have their fill." (Matthew 5:6)

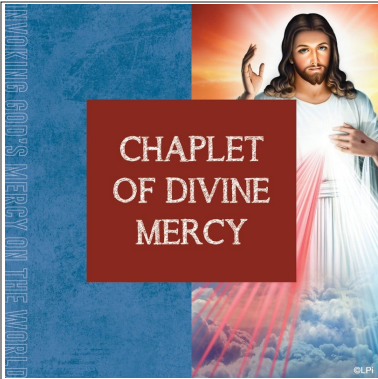
The cardinal virtue of justice has to do with the fulfillment of our duty to one another and to God (religion is the justice we owe to our Creator). Justice gives us a framework for existing in the Justice is made possible by the virtue of charity (CCC 1825) because justice demands what is right for all, not just for one. ©LPi

Devotions, Explained!

Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Explained!

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer invoking God's mercy on the world, utilizing words drawn from the text of The Diary of St. Faustina Maria Kowalska. St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions of Christ imploring her to spread the message of his Divine Mercy, specifically through the recitation of this chaplet.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed using an ordinary five-decade Rosary. To begin, make the Sign of the Cross, then pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed. On each of the large beads (where the Our Father is said), pray: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world." On each of the 10 smaller beads (used for the Hail Mary), pray: "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." This pattern is repeated for all five decades of the Rosary. To conclude the chaplet, pray three times: "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."



PRAYER – FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY

Easter Blessing

Dear Lord,

Where there has been death, bring new life! Renew and redeem the sorrow in our stories with Your goodness and grace. Bless our hearts and homes this Easter and always. Amen.

hearts and homes this Easter and always. Amen.



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading

Peter testifies to others about what the Apostles witnessed with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. *Do*

you ever share your faith with friends or family?

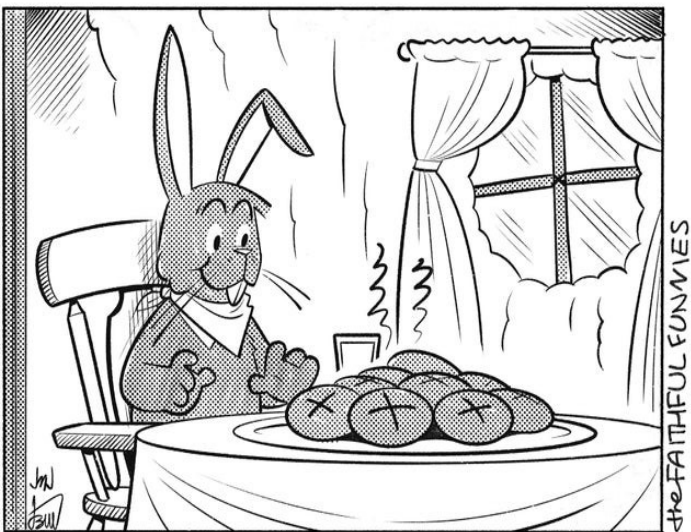
2nd Reading

Paul encourages the Colossians to see themselves as already risen with Christ, anticipating his return in glory. *Does anticipating Christ's return impact any of your daily decision-making?*

Gospel Reading

Both the angel of the Lord and the risen Jesus greet Mary Magdalene and the other Mary with these words of comfort: "Do not be afraid." *Who in your circle of friends or family needs to be comforted this week?* ©LPi

"What does the Easter Bunny eat for breakfast?"



"Hot Cross Buns."



An English priest, Father Thomas Rockcliffe, popularized the distribution of Hot Cross Buns at Easter in the 14th century, inspiring the famous rhyme.

©LPi

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE



Our Easter Mission

"Have no fear. The outcome of the battle for life is already decided, even though the

struggle goes on against great odds and with much suffering... "Christ is now raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep ... so in Christ all will come to life again" (1 Cor. 15:20-22). The paradox of the Christian message is this: Christ - the head - has already conquered sin and death. Christ in his body - the pilgrim people of God - continually suffers the onslaught of the Evil One and all the evil which sinful humanity is capable of.

"The liberating message of the Gospel of life has been put into your hands. And the mission of proclaiming it to the ends of the earth is now passing to your generation. Like the great apostle Paul, you too must feel the full urgency of the task: "Woe to me if I do not evangelize" (1 Cor. 9:16). Woe to you if you do not succeed in defending life. The church needs your energies, your enthusiasm, your youthful ideals, in order to make the Gospel of life penetrate the fabric of society, transforming people's hearts and the structures of society in order to create a civilization of true justice and love." – St. John Paul II to Youth, August 15, 1993, Denver, Colorado.

**SPRING ASSEMBLY
of St. Mary's and St. John's Parishes**

**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
2. Review the Pastoral Plan
3. Evaluate our progress on this year's Objectives
4. Brainstorm new 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)

From the workbook:

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.

After the evaluation of objectives has been completed, the agenda for an annual Spring Assembly can be finalized. The council will need to develop a format for convening the parish again. 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.

What is important is the communication process. Parishioners ought to know what's going on and how their ideas can fit into a parish plan. The annual assembly is a celebration of achievements, naturally, but it also provides for dreaming exciting possibilities for the parish. In whatever form it takes, the annual assembly gathers "the baptized" to seek their wisdom and contributions toward fulfilling the parish mission.

After the assembly, the council returns to its task of shaping objectives-based on the input of the parishioners for the next year. Once again, the entire parish is asked to ratify the mission statement, goals and objectives-the Parish Plan-and to help form new implementation teams based on the new objectives. Spring is the perfect season to plant new seeds in a parish life cycle.

The Spring Assembly is one of the most important events in the life of the parish community. It's one of the places where parishioners take responsibility for living out the mission of the church and actively participate in shaping how the parish responds to changing situations, discerning the working of the Holy Spirit and seeking to work together, as the Body of Christ, to be the Church that Jesus made us to be.

Readings for the week of April 5, 2026

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35
Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

THIS WEEK

Sunday: Happy Easter!
 3:00pm Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)
Monday: 3:00pm Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)
 7:00p.m. K of C Mtg
Tuesday: 9:00am -5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration (SM)
 3:00pm Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)
Wednesday: 3:00pm Divine Mercy Novena
 5:30p.m. Caring Crafters (SJH)
Thursday: 3:00pm Divine Mercy Novena (SJ)
 5:30pm-6:30pm Holy Hour of Reparation (SJ)
 7:00pm OCIA (SJH)
Next 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 with Sung Chaplet

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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In Loving Memory Of
 The Sharpe & Cerasoli Families
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