



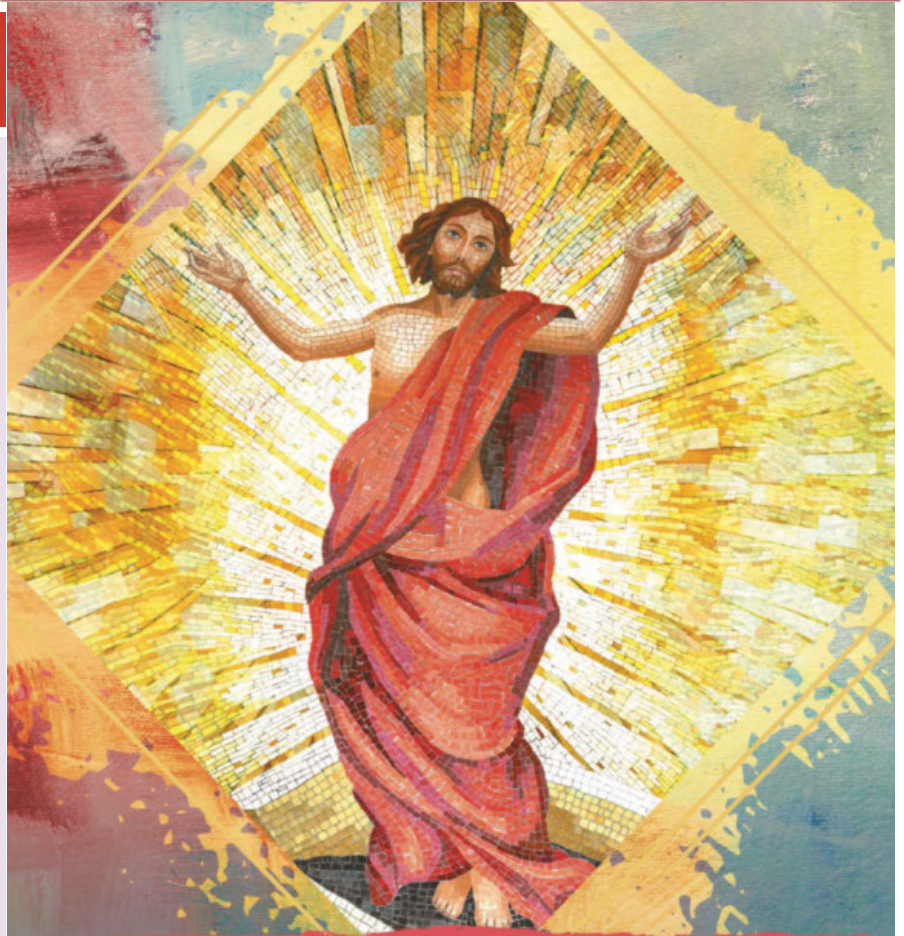
SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

The members of St. Joan of Arc Parish are disciples of Jesus Christ, who recognize God's love for the world & are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to all people through joyful worship, life-long education, compassionate service, responsible stewardship, & active community living.

~ Mission Statement - Pentecost 1998 ~

WHAT'S INSIDE

Parish Directory/Mass Times.....	Page 2
Livestreaming Information	Page 2
TALLer Tales	Page 3
This Week on FORMED	Page 4
Along the Way	Page 5
Grow +Go	Page 6
Readings - Divine Mercy Sunday....	Page 7
Seminarian Desert Formation.....	Page 9
Wind & Fire	Page 10
Weekly Calendar of Events.....	Page 11
Words on the Word	Page 11
Mass Intentions	Page 12
Those Who Have Recently Died...	Page 12
SVDP Camp Ozanam	Page 13
Liturgical Life	Page 14
Prayers for the Sick & Military	Page 15
Bringing Home the Word.....	Page 16



EASTER SUNDAY

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. - Jn 20:8

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

PARISH CENTER
22412 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528
Website: www.sjascs.org

SCHOOL
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574
Website: www.stjoan.net

**FAITH AND FAMILY
FORMATION OFFICE**
22415 Overlake
Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080
Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

Parish Directory / Liturgy Schedule

ST. JOAN OF ARC DIRECTORY

Parish Center

Phone: 586-777-3670
Fax: 586-774-5528

School

Phone: 586-775-8370
Fax: 586-447-3574

Faith Formation

Phone: 586-772-1282
Fax: 586-775-8374

In-Solidum Priest

Team:

Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin
gmbugarin@sjascs.org
Lead for SJA

Fr. Adam Nowak
anowak@sjascs.org

Fr. Jim Commyn (Moderator)
parish@stlucychurch.com

Fr. Eric Fedewa
frericstbasil@comcast.net

Fr. Stan Pachla
stveronicaeast@comcast.net

Msgr. Gary Smetanka
msgsr.smetanka@stargp.org

Non-Resident

Sacramental Minister

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz
tstrasz@sjascs.org

Deacon Dom Pastore
dpastore@sjascs.org

Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone
dciaffone@sjascs.org

Music Director

Catherine Trudell
ctrudell@sjascs.org

Principal

Amy Pattie
apattie@stjoan.net

Assistant Principal

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net

Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass
khass@sjascs.org

Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

Youth Group

Linda Lietaert
llietaert@stjoan.net

Athletic Director

Charles Kaiser
ckaiser@stjoan.net



LITURGY SCHEDULE

Weekdays

Monday thru Friday: 7:00 am
Wednesday: 6:00 pm

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 pm

Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass: (evening prior) 7:00 pm
7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Wednesdays: 5:00 pm
Saturdays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
in the Sister Carol Center

Holy Hour

Thursdays in Church at 7:00 pm

Rosary

Monday - Friday after the 7am Mass

PARISH CENTER OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Center is open:
Monday - Thursday from 8:30am - 5:00pm
Friday: 8:30am—4:00pm

Mass intentions and most services can be done in person or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during these hours.

Our after-hours emergency number: 586-777-1342.

Baptisms: Please go to our website (stjoan.church) and fill out the Baptism request form. You will be contacted to make further arrangements based on submission of that form.

Marriages: Arrangements should be made at the Parish Center at least six months prior to the desired date. Pre-marriage series required.

Registration: It is very important that every family and independent adult be registered in the Church in order to keep our records and mailings current. Please contact the Parish Office to register at your earliest opportunity: 586-777-3670.

OCIA: Please call the Parish Center: 586-777-3670.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARISHIONER?

If you would like to become a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc, please register at stjoan.church and we will contact you by phone. Or by calling us at 586-777-3670 during office hours.

Live Streamed Broadcasts at St. Joan of Arc

Live Stream Broadcasts have become a standard part of our celebrations at St Joan of Arc. This has increased our mass participation at daily and weekend masses. It has also allowed many of our parishioners to stay in touch with their faith community remotely.

Go to: livestream.stjoan.church to watch all live streaming and to view archived celebrations.

Weekday Masses

Monday thru Friday @ 7am
Wednesday @ 6pm

Weekend Masses

Saturdays @ 4pm & 6pm
Sundays @ 8am, 10am, 12pm

Holy Hour

Thursdays @ 7pm

St. Joan^{of} Arc

*This is the night of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness.
The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.
(The Exsultet – The Solemn Proclamation of Easter)*

March 31, 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

The above lines, taken from the Solemn Proclamation of Easter, known as the *Exsultet*, remind us of the incredible power of Christ's resurrection. With all the distractions that fill our every waking moment, the sacred liturgies we celebrated this past week provided a much-needed pause to remind us that we must keep our hearts and minds focused on Christ and the power of His resurrection. Staying focused on Christ can be challenging, whether we are just going about our daily activities, dealing with personal or family tragedies, or we find ourselves worried and discouraged as we watch the news. Yet, through it all, we need to trust that Jesus is walking with us and that He will use the power of His resurrection to bring light into the darkness around us.

Remember that Jesus promised He would never leave us orphaned or abandoned. **Stay close to Him! Bring Jesus into your hearts and homes, unlike any other time.** And reflect on the ultimate message of these days, namely that every Good Friday, every cross we bear, brings about an Easter Sunday. We may not know when that Easter experience will shine forth, but we need to trust that Christ will see it through because of His great love for us!

May we be like the early disciples of Jesus, who used the power and grace of the resurrection to transform lives. In Christ's name, may we go forth to bring peace to our family and friends, may we go out and bring mourners joy, and most importantly, may we go out and help dispel all kinds of darkness and evil so that the Kingdom of Christ may continue to grow in our midst. There is, indeed, great power in the resurrection of Christ. It's up to us to use the great power that Christ has given us!

Happy Easter!

With best wishes and prayers for you and your family, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. G. Michael Bugarin

Lead *in-solidum* Priest for Saint Joan of Arc Parish

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of April 01, 2024



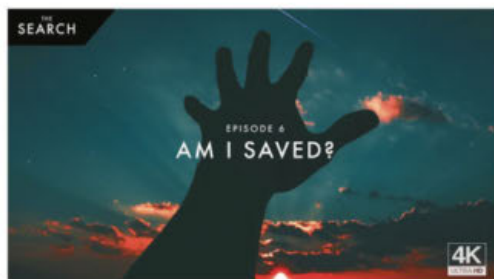
Easter in Art: Mary Magdalene (Part 3 of 3)

Learn about the "apostle to the apostles" in this discussion with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp. They take a look at a famous painting of Jesus's encounter with Mary Magdalene following the Resurrection.



He is Alive! | Laugh and Grow Bible for Kids

Why can we have hope? Because we know how the story ends . . . with the most incredible miracle ever! Follow along and experience the joy of Jesus' friends as they discover He defeated death and rose from the grave.



Am I Saved? | The Search | Episode 6

In this episode of The Search, explore how Jesus' profound act of love, revealed through his life, death, and resurrection, is a personal salvation for each of us. Despite feeling unworthy or burdened, God enters our messy human condition to transform us from within. His generous love, beyond what we deserve, reflects the amazing reality of God's mercy, shaping a relationship that forever changes our lives.

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

Happy Easter! Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

We began our Lenten journey with a recognition of our sinfulness on Ash Wednesday... “repent and believe in the Gospel.” We followed Jesus as we accepted His invitation to take up our cross through acts of prayer, penance and sacrifice, so that we might more wholeheartedly follow Him.

We were with Jesus as He triumphantly entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We sat with Jesus on Holy Thursday when He bent low and washed our feet, so as to prepare us for reception of His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. We stood next to Jesus on Good Friday when He endured the humiliation and passion of the Cross to provide for us a path towards salvation. Having sat at the table with Him and having stood at the cross with Him, we can now stand at the empty tomb and proclaim, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, Jesus is Risen! Death did not have the final word. Light has overcome darkness; new and everlasting life is offered to all people.

Today, as we celebrate and experience the Resurrection of Jesus anew, let us follow the example of Mary Magdalene, Peter and John; let us go and share with others this incredible, inexhaustible, unrepeatable, Good News; Jesus is risen, death has been defeated, light and goodness have triumphed. Jesus is truly risen, and alleluia is our eternal song! Happy Easter!

Be Fearless, Be Joyful, Be Renewed: Living the Spirit of Easter

The Easter season—beginning on Easter Sunday and continuing for 50 days—is an opportunity for us to cultivate a spirit that defines who we are as Christians. So, what does living the spirit of the Easter season mean in practical terms? Here are three concrete suggestions.

Live with Joy

Joy is a deep-down gladness that cannot be taken away, even in the midst of sorrow. The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus teach us that suffering is transformed through faith in the Risen Christ. With this faith, we are able to hold on to an enduring sense of joy even in the midst of the sadness we experience from the loss of a loved one, a failure to achieve an important goal, or a setback during recovery from an illness.



Live without Fear

The Resurrection teaches us that God can overcome anything, even death. When the Risen Christ appears to the women at the tomb and later to his disciples, his first words are “Do not be afraid!” (Mt 28:5,10) These words speak to our hearts, helping us cope with the fear from the loss of a job, a serious illness, or a crumbling relationship. Our faith allows us to trust that God can overcome our most serious problems.

Live with New Eyes

Easter means to live with a sense of newness. Just as the return of spring lifts our spirits and makes us feel like the whole world is new, the Resurrection of Jesus makes “all things new.” (Rev. 21:5) The Easter spirit is a spirit of renewal that enables us to show up at work with a positive attitude, to renew relationships that have been taken for granted, and to express appreciation and affection to those closest to us. It means to see the world through new eyes—God's eyes.

We can use these 50 days to cultivate an Easter spirit that enables us to be truly Christian: embracing joy, living without fear, and seeing the world again—as if for the first time.

In the Risen Christ,

Fr. Adam



March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 | Jn 20:1-9

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Wishing you a blessed Easter! One of our commitments in growing as disciples of Jesus, especially at the beginning of this most important season of Easter, is to *study* Scripture. John's Gospel today depicts the story of the empty tomb – the reactions of Mary of Magdala and the two disciples trying to make sense of what they had seen. What we may have missed, however, are the words of St. Peter in the first reading from Acts speaking of Jesus: "This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, *not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance*, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." Jesus appeared post-resurrection to those to whom he was closest – the witnesses chosen by God whom he had commissioned to preach the Gospel to all people, so all might believe in him. In this way the chosen few, Christ's heralds, would bring the Good News of his resurrection to the many. So we too, now, are witnesses, chosen by God in our baptism and come to this table of thanksgiving and sacrifice. By faith we grow as his disciples, ready to go forth to lead others to him.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As we know, these first disciples of Christ went on mission throughout the known world to preach to the Jews as well as the Gentiles. Their task was not easy; all endured opposition and hardship; many were martyred. But gone was the fear they may have felt at the crucifixion; by the power of the Holy Spirit these early missionaries were full of courage and commitment, and were driven to proclaim the risen Jesus to all. What does this have to do with us today? By virtue of our baptism, we also are chosen by God to be his witnesses in the world. We are called to "preach the Gospel" with how we live our lives. When we trust in the promises of Christ and know the peace that only he can bring, it gives us the strength to testify to friends, family and others that God loves us and has redeemed us. Good News indeed.

GROW & GO Christ is risen, Alleluia! The Resurrection means that nothing can separate us from God's love and presence with us. Spend time this week in prayer contemplating these two truths: The purpose of our lives is to continually GROW in intimate relationship with God; and Jesus' final command to his disciples and us is to "GO and make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28:19)



The Resurrection by Carl Heinrich Bloch, 1884

Readings for Divine Mercy Sunday



SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY – APRIL 7 B

Reading One – Acts 4:32-35

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

Responsorial – Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."
Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His mercy endures forever."

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just:

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.

R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Reading Two – 1 Jn 5:1-6

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the

victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

Victimae paschali laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim

Offer your thankful praises!

A Lamb the sheep redeems;

Christ, who only is sinless,

Reconciles sinners to the Father.

Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:

The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.

Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw, wayfaring.

"The tomb of Christ, who is living,

The glory of Jesus' resurrection; bright angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting.

Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you."

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.

Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia – Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Jn 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose

sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." 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." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.



JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

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SEMINARIAN DESERT FORMATION VISIT APRIL 20/21 AT SJA

Seminarians from Sacred Heart Major Seminary will join us at Masses the weekend of April 20/21 to talk about the upcoming Desert Formation experience, "Pilgrimage of the Saints," and share with us a simple **Desert Meal**.

The objectives of these formation experiences include helping the men know Scripture by immersing themselves in it in a unique way, giving them greater clarity about their vocations, and allowing them to experience growth in virtue – the most important of which is charity.

**Pilgrimage of
the Saints**

May 1 – May 31, 2024

This meaningful trip is
made possible through the
generosity of donors.
Please consider giving.



shms.edu/desert-formation-experience

WIND & FIRE

Hosted and led by our Light in the Spirit Prayer Group, this seven-week seminar takes participants from Easter to Pentecost (and beyond) guided by Scripture, prayer and reflections.

In the Emmaus Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm

April 9, 16, *30 and

May 7, 14, 21, 28

**Note, no session April 23*

 **St. Joan^{of} Arc**

more info at sjascs.org/wind-and-fire

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, April 1st

School and Parish Center Closed

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

10:00AM Walking with Purpose - EH

Tuesday, April 2nd

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

11:30 AM Card Club - St. Perrigin Rm

Wednesday, April 3rd

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 PM Funeral for Margaret Segodnia

5:00 PM Reconciliation

6:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, April 4th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 PM Holy Hour - Live Streamed

Friday, April 5th

7:00 AM Mass - Live Streamed

Saturday, April 6th

8:30 AM Exceptional Faith Formation

11:00 AM Reconciliation

4:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 PM Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, April 7th

8:00 AM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 AM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 PM Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

March 31, 2024 – Ode to Joy

It seems like there are some things in this world one cannot learn out of a book, but ... well, here's this:

According to a headline on an internet news portal, a new college class is proving that "You can learn to be happy."

Now that's an interesting one. It's based on a class being run at a university in the United Kingdom, a class that, by the way, involves no actual work and no tests.

Seems like a good way to make students happy. But, alas, according to the story, while learning about happiness demonstrated some short-term spikes in joy, the real key is that people who want to be happy must keep up habits like meditation, journaling, gratitude and exercise.

"It's just like going to the gym," a happiness expert was quoted as saying in the story. "We can't expect to do one class and be fit forever. Just as with our physical health, we have to continuously work on our mental health, otherwise the improvements are temporary."

Perhaps all of this can be filed in the category of, "Well, duh!"

And yet, the good news is that there is a better way to find and keep happiness and joy. And it's the news of Jesus' resurrection we celebrate today.

"On entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed," we hear in today's gospel from St. Mark.

"He said to them, 'Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'"

He is risen! He is alive!

Amen! Alleluia!

© 2024 Words on the Word

Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

Mass Intentions

Monday April 1, 2024 Monday within the Octave of Easter (White)
7:00 am Joseph Rademacher

Tuesday April 2, 2024 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter (White)
7:00 am Special Intention for the Family of Tina Calisi

Wednesday April 3, 2024 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter (White)
7:00 am Robert Ziolkowski
6:00 pm Charlotte McQuillan

Thursday April 4, 2024 Thursday within the Octave of Easter (White)
7:00 am Jerome Rogier

Friday April 5, 2024 Friday within the Octave of Easter (White)
7:00 am Antonio Calisi

Saturday, April 6, 2024 Vigil for Divine Mercy Sunday (White)

4:00 pm Grace & Sam Valenti, Joseph Drouin, Bonnie Batche, Anna Maria Dombrowski, Charles Semany, and Special Intentions for Alfred Sandoval, the J. Champine Family, the Thomas Family, for Alison Reslow, Pam Haisenleder, Lorraine Jonas, and Linda Frank and Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc

6:00 pm James Forrester

Sunday April 7, 2024 Divine Mercy Sunday (White)

8:00 am For the Intentions for St. Joan of Arc Parishioners
10:00 am The deceased members of the Mara Family
12:00 pm Daniel Drop, the living and deceased members of the Rogier and Dettloff Families, Ignatius Shaheen, Gary Mecurio, Anna Maria Dombrowski and Special Intentions for Alison Reslow, Pam Haisenleder, Lorraine Jonas, Linda Frank and Denise Tujaka on her Birthday.

Daily Readings

Monday, April 1

Acts 2:14, 22-33
Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday, April 2

Acts 2:36-41
John 20:11-18

Wednesday, April 3

Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

Thursday, April 4

Acts 3:11-26
Luke 24:35-48

Friday, April 5

Acts 4:1-12
John 21:1-14

Saturday, April 6

Acts 4:13-21
Mark 16:9-15

Sunday, April 7

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31



I Am The Resurrection & The Life

“Heavenly Father, welcome home those who you have called from this world and grant peace and consolation to their families.”

**Roseann Coules
Erin Swaine**



“I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. and he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.” *Minnie Louise Haskins*



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office at 844-324-3374 or aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting protect.aod.org calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse. Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.




For over 100 years, campers have experienced joy, excitement, and adventure at St. Vincent de Paul Detroit's Camp Ozanam.

Located on the shores of Lake Huron, 85 miles north of Detroit, our Camp Ozanam offers a wilderness adventure where kids can participate in activities like swimming, arts and crafts, sports, camp fires, and so much more ***at no cost to their families.***

We have made a lasting impact on over 128,000 children throughout southeast Michigan, helping to foster a greater sense of confidence, independence, and leadership skills.

Summer staff is the heart and soul of our camp program. As campers step outside their comfort zone and embrace the excitement of camp, our counselors, activity specialists, program administrators, food service staff, and maintenance team work together to create a safe, welcoming, caring, and supportive environment for them to live, play, and learn.



**Apply
today!**



Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

What Would Mary Do?

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene.

I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes — but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers — she didn't dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus' presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt. In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you.

"She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.'" — John 20:2

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

Answer:

The practice of making a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him."

Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Fred Barth	Frank Faiss	Chris Janutol	Mary Pore	Kim Thomas
Geri Beaugrand	Ben Fazio	Lorraine Jonas	Vicky Pranger	Bernadette Thompson
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Bringing Home the Word

Easter Sunday (B)
March 31, 2024

Seeing Is Believing

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Clever phrase. But is it accurate? Believing means that we sometimes accept as true something for which we have no positive proof. We might base our belief on the word of someone we consider reliable, but we ourselves have no undeniable evidence. We may use this phrase in everyday conversation and know what we really mean, but when it comes to the resurrection of Jesus, the phrase “seeing is believing” really doesn’t fit well.

In today’s first reading, Peter states that Jesus was visible to some of his followers. What does this mean? It’s clear from most of the Easter narratives

that many people had a profound, life-transforming experience of the risen Jesus. They may not have realized this at first, but they were convinced of it when he allowed them to recognize him. Was it a visual experience? Was it auditory as Paul describes (Acts 9:4)? Or was it touch as Thomas demanded (John 20:25)? Every mystic describes a revelation of Christ as an experience of one or more senses. Saint Bernadette saw our Lady; St. Francis heard a voice. This isn’t to say that the revelations weren’t real. It is to say that our senses are our only way of experiencing it or talking about it. We are, after all, only human. Maybe when referring to the resurrection we should modify this phrase: believing is seeing or hearing or feeling or being somehow convinced that he is really here. And this can be true for all of us. †



It’s clear from most of the Easter narratives that many people had a profound, life-transforming experience of the risen Jesus.

A Word from Pope Francis

Brothers, sisters, may we rediscover the enjoyment of the journey, quicken the heartbeat of hope and experience a foretaste of the beauty of heaven! Today, let us summon the energy to advance in goodness towards Goodness itself, which never disappoints.... Today let us believe and profess: “Christ is truly risen from the dead!”

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME,
APRIL 9, 2023



Sunday Readings

Acts 10:34a, 37–43

[Peter said,] “He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge.”

**Colossians 3:1–4 or
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8**

Think of what is above,
not of what is on earth.

John 20:1–9

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Have you ever had a moment of profound religious insight?
- The risen Christ is with us still; have you experienced him?

Daily Resurrections

Ron Rolheiser, OFM

What the resurrection of Jesus promises is that things can always be new again. It's never too late to start over. Nothing is irrevocable. No betrayal is final. No sin is unforgivable. Every form of death can be overcome. There isn't any loss that can't be redeemed. Every day is virgin. The resurrection assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves, and that we can regain lost innocence and move beyond bitterness. When Jesus breathes out forgiveness on those who betray him and God raises bodies from the dead, we can begin to believe that in the end, all will be well, including our own lives. However, the challenge of living this out is not just that of believing that Jesus rose physically from the grave, but also,



and perhaps even more importantly, to believe that no matter our age, mistakes, betrayals, wounds, and deaths, we can begin each day afresh. No matter what we've done, our future

is forever pregnant with wonderful new possibility. Resurrection is not just about rising for one singular day after death, but it is also about daily rising from the many mini-graves within which we so often find ourselves.

We are human and cannot avoid falling—into depression, bitterness, sin, betrayal, cynicism, and the tiredness that comes with age. Like Jesus, we too will have our crucifixions. More than one grave awaits us. Yet our faith in the resurrection invites us to live beyond these. As John Shea so aptly put it: "What the resurrection teaches us is not how to live—but how to live again, and again, and again!" †

Source: *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter*, 2004

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "We Believe in the Resurrection" by Thomas H. Groome

If ours is an Easter faith, then surely all is "changed, changed utterly." Now no oppression can hold us bound, no evil can finally triumph, no cross is too heavy to carry, no trouble can rob us of hope, no sin can enslave us, no dependency is beyond recovery, no hurt is beyond healing. If we truly believe that "Christ is risen, risen indeed," then, "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38–39). †

Catholic Update is a practical and affordable four-page newsletter that explores Catholic teaching and tradition on contemporary topics in easy-to-understand language.

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Lord Jesus, make us people of the light and rise in us that we may be an Easter people, witnessing to your glory, we pray—Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 1–6

Monday, Octave of Easter:
Acts 2:14, 22–33 / Mt 28:8–15

Tuesday, Octave of Easter:
Acts 2:36–41 / Jn 20:11–18

Wednesday, Octave of Easter:
Acts 3:1–10 / Lk 24:13–35

Thursday, Octave of Easter:
Acts 3:11–26 / Lk 24:35–48

Friday, Octave of Easter:
Acts 4:1–12 / Jn 21:1–14

Saturday, Octave of Easter:
Acts 4:13–21 / Mk 16:9–15

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