



MAY THE SOULS *of*  
*the* FAITHFUL DEPARTED,  

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*THROUGH the* MERCY  
*of* GOD, REST IN PEACE.



1936 – 2025

## 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  
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#### In-Solidum Priest Team:

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Lead for SJA

Fr. Robert Voiland  
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Msgr. Gary Smetanka  
(Moderator)  
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Fr. Jim Commyn  
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Fr. Eric Fedewa  
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Fr. Stan Pachla  
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#### Non-Resident Priest Support

Fr. Rich Bartoszek

#### Permanent Deacons

Deacon Tom Strasz  
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Deacon Dom Pastore  
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#### Business Manager

Dina Ciaffone  
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#### Music Director

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#### Principal

Amy Pattie  
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#### Office of Faith & Family Formation

Kristine Stewart Hass  
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#### Exceptional Children

Michelle Russo

#### 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: 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](http://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](http://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**





## Rest in Peace, Pope Francis:

By the time you read this in print, the funeral for Pope Francis will have concluded, and attention will have shifted to the Conclave to

elect the next Supreme Pontiff. These moments in Church history are both poignant and deeply personal. They're personal in that each of us will experience our own emotions as we witness the beauty of the Church's rites for the funeral of a Pope and the process of electing the next one. These moments become global events, not only because billions will be watching but also because many heads of state will be in attendance.

Pope Francis' final note in the "symphony of his life" was especially poignant. Against his doctors' advice, he made several surprise appearances to the faithful during the Triduum liturgies. People were ecstatic to see him. I know I was when I saw him appear in his Popemobile in the Square and on the balcony for the *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing. True to his life's mission, he wanted to be with his people and his flock and made it happen.

The Vatican News Service reported that the Holy Father wanted to make one last significant surprise by riding through St. Peter's Square in his Popemobile on Easter Sunday. At first, the Pope was unsure and asked his nurse, Massimiliano Strappetti, who had been by his side since 2022, "Do you think I can do it?" Strappetti, who had been at his bedside 24/7 during his stay at Rome's Gemelli Hospital and later at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, assured him that he could. And so, for 15 minutes, the Pope rode around St. Peter's Square, surprising the more than 50,000 people gathered there.

One of the last things the Holy Father said before slipping into a coma was to thank Strappetti for helping him return to the Square. The Pope rested that Easter Sunday, enjoyed a relaxing dinner, and then went to bed. At 5:30 a.m. on Easter Monday, the Holy Father required immediate medical attention. About an hour later, he gestured a farewell wave to Strappetti and slipped into a coma. The Vatican reported that the Holy Father did not suffer, as everything happened quickly. The Pope passed away at 7:35 a.m. from a stroke, a coma, and heart failure.

These final days, not by accident but according to God's plan, unfolded during Holy Week, allowing the final note of Pope Francis' life to be seen and heard by the world. It ended in a visible, beautiful, and deeply meaningful way.

A symphony is a masterpiece that reveals its true beauty only when the final note fades into silence, connecting every movement into a cohesive whole. Its moments of triumphant and beautiful harmony and quiet dissonance are not meant to stand alone but to contribute to an extraordinary narrative that becomes clear upon its conclusion.

And, so now, we can reflect on the words and actions of this 266th Bishop of Rome through a new lens. Each word and action takes on greater meaning when viewed as part of his life's grand composition. Throughout his papacy, some moments inspired reverence and unity, while others sparked debate or deep reflection. It's easy to judge individual moments in isolation, but only in the fullness of his life can we see how all those moments contributed to a larger vision of love, mercy, humility, and service to the Church and humanity. His unwavering dedication, his calls for mercy, and his commitment to the poor and marginalized may seem like isolated notes but are, in fact, integral movements in his life's symphony. Now that we've heard and seen that final note, we can revisit his actions and words in the context of the symphony of his life. This perspective may foster a deeper appreciation for his life and legacy.

One of the most poignant aspects of the Holy Father's ministry that set an example for me is how he ALWAYS met people where they were. He wasn't afraid to meet people where they were. He took time to be with them and to listen. He didn't chastise or judge; he listened with a pastor's heart. The Holy Father would tenderly embrace people, even those with disabling or disfiguring ailments. He was never afraid to get his hands dirty!

Throughout his pontificate, the Holy Father often encouraged priests to get dirty with the sheep entrusted to their care. In a homily on June 3, 2016, for the Jubilee of Priests, the Holy Father said, "Christ loves and knows his sheep. He gives his life for them, and no one is a stranger to him (cf. Jn 10:11-14). His flock is his family and his life. He is not a boss to be feared by his flock, but a shepherd who walks alongside them and calls them by name (cf. Jn 10:3-4). He wants to gather the sheep that are

not yet of his fold (cf. Jn 10:16). So it is also with the priest of Christ. He is anointed for his people, not to choose his own projects but to be close to the real men and women whom God has entrusted to him. No one is excluded from his heart, his prayers, or his smile. With a father's loving gaze and heart, he welcomes and includes everyone, and if at times he has to correct, it is to draw people closer. He stands apart from no one, but is always ready to dirty his hands. The Good Shepherd does not wear gloves. As a minister of the communion that he celebrates and lives, he does not await greetings and compliments from others, but is the first to reach out, rejecting gossip, judgments, and malice. He listens patiently to the problems of his people and accompanies them, sowing God's forgiveness with generous compassion. He does not scold those who wander off or lose their way, but is always ready to bring them back and to resolve difficulties and disagreements. He knows how to include." The Holy Father certainly lived the very advice he gave to priests.

The Holy Father set an example for many to follow. He showed us how to reach out to the marginalized and the forgotten. He showed us how to follow Christ's example, who had great concern for his sheep and was willing to do anything for them. Pope Francis' life was about love, mercy, compassion, and service. Each of these qualities are great "notes" that made up the grand score of his symphony of life. And that great symphony ended on the morning of April 21, 2025, Easter Monday, when he went home to the Father.

We thank God for the ministry of the 266th Bishop of Rome, the Vicar of Christ, Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Bergoglio. May Pope Francis enjoy eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

"O God, who in your wondrous providence chose your servant Pope Francis to preside over your Church, grant, we pray, that, having served as the Vicar of your Son on earth, he may be welcomed by him into eternal glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. AMEN." (From *The Roman Missal*; Masses for the Dead, for a Pope).

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb  
gmb@sjascs.org



# This Week on Formed

## Week of April 27, 2025



### The Boy from Milan

You may have heard of him, the sneaker-wearing, computer-loving "gamer saint" of our time. But beyond the headlines and hashtags, the real story of Carlo is something deeper, something the world desperately needs to hear. Known for his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and quiet acts of charity, Carlo's life was a testament to everyday holiness.



### The Wild Goose

In this Easter season, join Fr. Dave Pivonka in the Wild Goose, a 14-part series on living a life inspired by and with the Holy Spirit.



### 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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I was never much of a competitive athlete. As a little kid, I played some baseball. I was on a Little League team for a couple of years. Our team must have been made up of whatever kids they could scrape up off the bottom of the barrel. I felt like I and a couple other boys were at least *somewhat* competent at playing the game – but that’s not saying much. Basically, we stunk. I think it was then that I first learned about being “mercied.” The ‘mercy rule’ was invoked when a team was getting hammered so badly by their opponent that no one could take it anymore. It was just too painful to watch. So, after fifteen or twenty runs (or whatever it was), they would call the inning and give us a chance to strike out a few times ourselves, before getting pummeled again by the other guys. Oh, the joy of growing up! There was truly a certain mercifulness in stopping the baseball bloodletting. It was like having someone say “uncle” for you, so you could stop having your arm twisted behind your back. But as mercy goes, it was actually pretty shallow. Interestingly, our common understanding of mercy similarly lacks depth.

Pope Francis, God rest his soul, was big on mercy. He said the Church should be a field hospital for those who are injured in any way. Pope John Paul II was a big mercy guy, too. He is why we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday today. In the year 2000, he designated the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, in connection with the canonization of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. St. Faustina urged such a designation in her diary writings in the 1930s.

Mercy. At its best, it is much more than feeling sorry for someone. To feel someone’s pain, to sympathize with him or her, can spur us to do something to bring relief. Providing relief from distress can take a variety of forms. One way to help is to stop the source of the pain. We can “end the inning” and prevent the inflicting of more misery. By this, results come

fairly quickly and at little cost. But the little personal investment that accompanies this kind of mercy, circumstances don’t really change much. The potential for more hurt is still likely. Mercy like this focuses as much on making the giver of mercy feel better as on the receiver getting some relief.

We can go a little further and try to offer mercy that seeks to be a better fix. We might see the homeless guy on the street – dirty, embarrassed, and disoriented – and decide to drop a 5, or a 10, or a 20(!) on him. “Maybe he can go grab a burger . . . or take the bus to his mother’s house, like he said.” Or go buy another bottle, or some ‘gummies’. “Whatever. There’s only so much you can do, right?” Right. . . . But, given the realities of our culture, was this truly the merciful thing to do, or not? It’s a tough question. The cash is given with good intentions, but with insufficient background information. We understandably feel better about *trying* to help. Yet, we end up driving off or walking away, uncertain about the results.

There’s another kind of mercy, let’s call it ‘divine mercy’, that is of an entirely different kind. It is not the drive-by mercy we see offered above. It is a mercy that comes out of the heart and soul of the merciful one. It is an odd kind of mercy, because the one to whom the mercy is extended may not even want it. This mercy is personal. It’s relational. It can make people squirm.

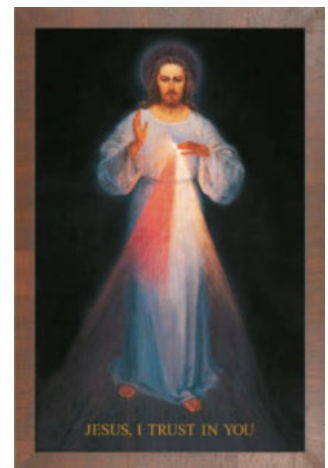
Divine mercy – it could even be called ‘Jesus mercy’ – is a very high-cost type of mercy. It involves the sacrifice of *oneself* to try and stop the pain and heal the injury of another person. It is a personal sacrifice that takes an often heavy toll on its giver. Because divine mercy is so demanding, it is far more rare than worldly mercy. The loving desire that motivates the soul of a deeply merciful person is like a vein of pure gold running far down into the earth.

It is heavily Godlike.

Being merciful like God, especially as demonstrated by Jesus, is an expression of love that goes all out. When Jesus became a human being and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, he was expressing the height and depth of mercy. His sacrifice on the cross didn’t simply act as a temporary pause in our human waywardness. It’s not as if he threw a few miracles our way, then ran for the hills, leaving us to flail around on our own. Jesus’ mercy was so rich that he came and *stayed* with us. He gave *himself* to make right what *we* had made wrong. His is the mercy of all mercies. Christ’s mercy upon us is the gift that we should ceaselessly thank and praise him for. Christlike mercy is the mercy we are called to practice!

Christian mercy comes from the heart. It pours out of a soul that aches with love for the lost and the suffering. That ache arises from inside. Therefore, we cannot *make* someone else be merciful. We can only demonstrate it and encourage it. Yet, the witness of mercy is powerful. It is powerful because it is a dramatic expression of love – Godly love. God loves us at the highest possible cost to himself. He refuses to casually *excuse* our sin; *he pays the price for it*. Jesus Christ paid the price of our salvation. Jesus is Mercy itself. We owe him, bigtime.

Peace in our Risen Savior,  
Fr. Bob



Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

April 27, 2025

## Second Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 5:12-16 | Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 | Jn 20:19-31

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

On this Easter Octave, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. As Jesus revealed to the Polish nun St. Faustina Kowalska, the blood and water that gushed forth from his side during his crucifixion would become a “fountain of mercy” for all of us. In today’s first reading, we witness what happens now that the Apostles have received that mercy flowing from the foot of the cross. Motivated by the mystery of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension and emboldened by the gift of the Holy Spirit, these men are now continuing his ministry of healing. Just as the ill and possessed flocked to Christ, so now those sick in body or spirit see the power of Christ working through the Apostles. The beauty of receiving God’s mercy is that it doesn’t stop once it’s been poured into us – his mercy *compels us*, inspiring us to become living fountains of mercy to those we encounter.

### GO EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In a somewhat confusing chronology, today’s Gospel takes place in time before the events in our first reading. So we go with the disciples back to “the evening of that first day of the week.” They have been through a *lot* over the past weeks. They have watched their community turn on Jesus and give him over to be brutally killed. They have walked with him through his agonizing passion and bitter death, and they have witnessed his glorious resurrection from the dead. “Overwhelming” seems too small a word. Can you imagine the weight of their experience on a physical, emotional, and spiritual level? Now, in today’s Gospel, we see them gathered together behind locked doors, shaken from the recent events, and fearing for their own lives. Somehow, mysteriously, Jesus enters the room and says, “Peace be with you.” Three times, Jesus repeats this phrase to his disciples in this reading. Untethered by space and time and in the wake of grief and glory, the Savior of the world extends himself in an intimate encounter, radically present to those who love him.

### REFLECT

Throughout today’s Scriptures, we see the Lord’s relentless pursuit of the human heart. We see a God who loves us so passionately that he pours himself into us, inviting us to partake in his mission by the outpouring of his mercy and the power of his Holy Spirit. Today, pause to reflect on the mercy of God. In what areas of your life can you see God’s mercy at work? How can you be an instrument of his mercy for others?





# Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter



## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 4 C

### Reading One – Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

When the captain and the court officers had brought the apostles in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, the high priest questioned them, "We gave you strict orders, did we not, to stop teaching in that name? Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles said in reply, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Sanhedrin ordered the apostles to stop speaking in the name of Jesus, and dismissed them. So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

### Responsorial Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

**R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld; you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime, his good will. At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn, rejoicing.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me; O LORD, be my helper. You changed my mourning into dancing; O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

**R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

### Reading Two – Rev 5:11-14

I, John, looked and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing." Then I heard every

creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor, glory and might, forever and ever." The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### Alleluia

#### Alleluia, Alleluia

Christ is risen, creator of all; he has shown pity on his people.

#### Alleluia, Alleluia

### Gospel – Jn 21:1-19

At that time, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. He revealed himself in this way. Together were Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We also will come with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment, for he was lightly clad, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from shore, only about a hundred yards, dragging the net with the fish. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." So Simon Peter went over and dragged the net ashore full of one hundred fifty-three large fish. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord. Jesus came over and took the bread and gave it to them, and in like manner the fish. This was now the third time Jesus was

### St. Joan of Arc

revealed to his disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you

know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." Jesus said to him

the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

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## ARE YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE STRUGGLING? DOES YOUR MARRIAGE NEED SAVING?

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## Next local weekend is May 2-4, 2025

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email: DetroitRegistration@HelpOurMarriage.org

Scholarships are available for SJA parishioners who cannot afford the weekend cost. Contact the Parish Center (586-777-3670 or info@sjascs.org) for more information.





# Remembering Pope Francis

Jorge Mario Bergoglio  
1936-2025



As the first pope from the Americas and a Jesuit, Pope Francis broke new ground from his 2013 debut on St. Peter's Basilica's balcony. His papacy has been defined by humility and a deep commitment to the poor and marginalized.

In a 2017 TED Talk, he urged a "revolution of tenderness," describing it as seeing, hearing, and caring for others. These words embodied the essence of his pastoral mission—one rooted in encounter, listening, and love.



A defining moment of his papacy came on March 27, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he stood alone in a rain-soaked St. Peter's Square, offering the Urbi et Orbi blessing. Holding the Blessed Sacrament high, he reminded a fearful world, "Jesus is in the boat" with us.

**"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."**

Angelus, March 17, 2013



# Liturgical Life

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** It does sound unbelievable, the story of the Resurrection. But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true. Take Thomas' example: stay close to the people you trust. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you.

### **Wonder, Don't Wander**

My daughter recently asked me if it's okay to "wonder if all the Jesus stuff is true."

I wasn't surprised by her question. I've expected it, in fact. If you're raising a child to be a critical thinker, you don't want them to accept everything you tell them simply because it comes from your lips. I have promised my children that I will always give them the truth about God. But that's all I can do — give it to them. Whether or not they accept it, ultimately, is their own choice.

"I know it's true," she told me. "But sometimes it just all sounds so...unbelievable."

She's not wrong. It *does* sound unbelievable that an all-powerful God could create us for no reason other than sheer love, that He could be generous enough to give us free will to accept that love, that he could be merciful enough not to destroy us when we reject that love, and finally that he could be faithful enough in that love to become flesh and die in order to save us from the consequences of our own poor choices.

But lots of things are unbelievable. That doesn't mean they're not true.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed," he isn't calling Thomas a fool for questioning something that sounds a little outrageous. He's just highlighting the fact that Thomas is afforded a luxury that none of the Christians born after him, my daughter included, will have: he gets to see proof with his own eyes.

I told my daughter it's fine to wonder — just don't wander. Take Thomas' example. Stay close to the people you trust. Return to the warmth of the upper room. Be willing to recognize Jesus when he's in front of you. Never be afraid to believe.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### **Catholic Life Explained**

#### **Question:**

If Jesus destroyed sin, why are sins still with us?

#### **Answer:**

We are the children of God, heirs of the Father's work, which is life. The struggle is between good and evil and the greatest weapon of evil is death. It is final — the end of hope and all possibility of change. Jesus must destroy death so that life, eternal life, might be possible. That is why Jesus dies: to take on sin's weapon and destroy it by his resurrection. It was not to satisfy God's sense of justice, but to meet sin on its own terms and defeat it.

Since we are heirs and coworkers with God, ours is the struggle with the remnants of evil, its last desperate attempt to overcome good. Like Jesus, we are about the Father's business in our daily life, carrying the message of salvation to everyone. We are strengthened in our struggle and come to realize the great gift of life with which we are graced. It is our hope that one day we will rejoice with the Father in a job well done!



### Weekly Calendar of Events

#### **Monday, April 28th**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed  
10:00 AM: Walking with Purpose  
5:00 PM: Baptism of Gianna I. Bahr

#### **Tuesday, April 29th**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed  
5:00 PM: Baptism of Madalyn S. D'Angelo

#### **Wednesday, April 30th**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed  
5:00 PM: Reconciliation  
6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

#### **Thursday, May 1st**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed  
5:00 PM: Wedding Rehearsal  
7:00 PM: Holy Hour - Live Streamed

#### **Friday, May 2nd**

7:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed  
3:30 PM: Wedding of Elli Sekelsky and Paul DiTrapani

#### **Saturday, May 3rd**

8:30 AM: Baptism of Rocky & Day L. LaBarge  
11:00 AM: Reconciliation  
1:00 PM: First Communion  
4:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed  
6:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

#### **Easter Sunday, May 4th**

8:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed  
10:00 AM: Mass - Live Streamed  
11:00 AM: Family Faith Formation - Gym  
12:00 PM: Mass - Live Streamed

### Words on the Word

#### ***April 27, 2025 – Lights Out***

When the power is out, our perception of time can be skewed.

On the one hand, time seems to slow down considerably. Hours that pass quickly while the television channel or streaming service automatically flips to yet another show or movie offering don't pass as quickly in silence. One might check the clock, if it's still working, only to notice that it's only five minutes later than the last check.

On the other hand, time can fly, especially in the context of noting that, in a worst-case scenario, days have passed and there's still no juice.

That was undoubtedly the case a few weeks ago for thousands of people in northern Michigan, who lost power as a result of a massive late winter/early spring ice storm and waited, in some cases, for more than a week for crews to work their way through the downed trees and lines to get things back in order.

At times like these, it might be normal to wonder if the power is ever going to come back on, if things are ever going to get back to normal.

Faced with such circumstances, one might, in a sense, lose faith in the power company.

Keeping the faith can, indeed, be touch.

Today's gospel passage recounts the story of Thomas, who, notably and understandably, is struggling in the aftermath of Jesus's crucifixion and death. Jesus of course had already appeared to the others, and Thomas was skeptical.

Until, of course Jesus again appeared. And Thomas no longer had doubts.

"Jesus said to him, 'Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed,'" St. John writes.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, may we be reminded of the importance of continuing to believe, even in the difficult times, when it feels like we have no power left.

#### **2025, Words on the Word**

# Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

## Mass Intentions

<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 28, 2025 Easter Weekday; Saint Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; Saint Louis Grignon de Monfort, Priest (White/Red)</b>
7:00 am	Hugo Calisi
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 29, 2025 Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church (White)</b>
7:00 am	Tina Calisi
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 30, 2025 Easter Weekday; Saint Pius V, Pope (White)</b>
7:00 am	Leona Mecha, Howard & Lola Lefevre, James & Florence Gillette, Paul Lefevre
6:00 pm	Raymond Strussione
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 1, 2025 Easter Weekday; Saint Joseph the Worker (White)</b>
7:00 am	In thanksgiving for Frank & Monica Fazi
<b>Friday</b>	<b>May 2, 2025 Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (White)</b>
7:00 am	Dennis Fleming
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 3, 2025 Vigil for Divine Mercy Sunday (White)</b>
4:00 pm	Bonnie Batche, George J. Bugarin, John Richardson, Maxine Uniewski, Magdalena Helen Winter, a Special Intention for the living and deceased members of the J. Champine Family, for the Thomas Family, Tom Sheppard, Marie Stahl and Sam Baur
6:00 pm	Tina Calisi
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 4, 2025 Divine Mercy Sunday (White)</b>
8:00 am	The Intentions of SJA Parishioners
10:00 am	Thomas Middleton
12:00 pm	For the living and deceased members of the DeFazio Family, Evelyn Soule-Novak, Rosemary Casaceli, Emily Kloenhamer, a Special Intention for Laurie Ruda, Tom Sheppard, Marie Stahl and Sam Baur

## Daily Readings

### Monday, April 28

Acts 4:23-31  
John 3:1-8

### Friday, May 2

Acts 5:34-42  
John 6:1-15

### Tuesday, April 29

Acts 4:32-37  
Matthew 11:25-30

### Saturday, May 3

1 Corinthians 15:1-8  
John 14:6-14

### Wednesday, April 30

Acts 5:17-26  
John 3:16-21

### Sunday, May 4

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41  
Revelations 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

### Thursday, May 1

Acts 5:27-33  
John 3:31-36



## 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.

“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](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov).

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org) calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing [vac@aod.org](mailto: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.



# St. Joan<sup>of</sup> Arc *High School* **Youth Group**

**Wednesdays @ 7 pm  
in the Sr. Carol Center**



## *Join us!* **SJA Knitting & Crocheting Ministry**

The St. Joan of Arc Knitting and Crocheting Ministry has crafted hundreds of afghans, hats, scarves, and baby items for veterans, seniors, hospitals, soup kitchens, and shelters. We'd love for you to join us! Whether you're experienced or just learning, we meet Wednesdays in Emmaus Fellowship Hall, 1-3 p.m., and provide yarn.

**For more information,  
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at 586-777-3359**

... and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

*Acts 20:35*



*Join our SJA Card Group*

**11:30 am on the  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
each month**



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Art Camp	June 23-26	\$135
Football Youth Camp	June 24-25	\$100
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Football Kicking Camp	June 29 & July 21	\$99
Basketball Camp	July 7-10	\$150
Speed & Agility Camp	July 8-31	\$100
Wrestling Camp	July 14-17	\$150
Ice Hockey Camp	July 14-15	\$200
Medical Camp	July 14-17	\$250
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9th Grade Orientation Camp	July 21-24	\$130
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Soccer HS Camp	July 28-31	\$150
eSports Camp	July 28-30	\$150



*\*All dates and times are subject to change.*

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## Prayers Needed

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

John Antone	Jean Edwards	Delaney Kraemer	Rebecca Nehra	Patty Stevenson
Geri Beaugrand	Frank Faiss	Shirley Kraemer	Connor Pieper	Palma Strussione
James Belloli	Taylor Fisher	Laurie Krim	Vicky Pranger	Cathy Sullens
Kristen Benedict	Jeanne Fleming	Carolyn Kunz	Carol S. Provencal	Mary Surmont
Edna Burton	Linda Frank	Concetta Leone	Tracy Rauch	Bernadette Thompson
Maryann Carlin	Larry Gehrke	Rosalie Lewakowski	Fe Reyes	James Thompson
Ed Cole	Larry Graham	Mila Lictawa	Sr. Alice Riegel	Jeff Trudell
Toni Glaeser-Collins	Peter Grantz	David Lott	Paulette Russia	Linda Vitale
Joan Combellack	Chris Gretchen	Ingrid Manalo	Jenna Rose	Eileen Wallace
Maura Corrigan	Pam Haisenleder	Sam Manalo	Marilyn Rose	Elaine Walters
John Crawford	Judith Hasten	Ilene Manning	Victoria Rydholm	Tom Ward
Olivia Crimando	Pat Haver	Joan Mannino	Lily Saith	Larry Weber
Jerry Dedene	Ilona Higgins	Sandy McCabe	Barbara R. Scharneck	Adrienne Weidenbach
Joan DeDene	Gracie Hinz	Darina McCarty	Dianne Schelosky	Robert Werthman
Anita Dembeck	Ted Hinz	Cyndy McMahon	Josh Schultz	Joseph Whalen
Debra Dembeck	Chris Janutol	Kevin McFarlane	Tom Sheppard	Geraldine White
Grace Dickerson	Barbara Jarosz	Heather A. Miller	Kathleen Smith	Marilyn Wicker
George Dickerson	Lorraine Jonas	Mark Moffitt	Cathy Spindler	Joyce Wiekrykas
Ray Dinser	Rosemary Jonas	Nina Mondalek	Frances Stafford	Loretta Williams
Liana Doe	Lorraine Kilroy	Jennie Mooney	Darlene Stanisky	Joan Wright
John Donovan	Catherine Konen	John Morrison	Wendy Stevens	

**Pray for the Sick List:** Please note that we regularly clear the “Pray for the Sick List” because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don’t always hear from people when they’ve gotten better. If you would like to add a person please call the Parish Center front desk at 586.777.3670 or send an email to our general inbox at [info@sjascs.org](mailto:info@sjascs.org).

### PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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President Donald J. Trump



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Dave Russell

Joseph R. Kozlinski  
Michelle Kuznia, DDS  
Greg Lietz  
Chris Listilla  
Daniel Meagher  
Kyle Richardson  
Christopher Scholz  
William F. Sottrel  
Mekhi Terry  
John C. Tramazzo  
Dan Travis  
Joseph VanDusen  
David Weise  
Samantha Williams  
Timothy L. Wilt III

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David J. Kennedy  
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Paul Koss  
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Jeffrey LaTour  
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Nick Lienemann  
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David Light  
Lee Michael  
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Daniel Sparkman  
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Brad Converse  
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Michael Franklin  
Christopher Rogers

#### NATIONAL GUARD

Robert Douglas III  
William DuBay



# Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) (C)

April 27, 2025

## Take My Word for It

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

**T**his is easier said than done. Growing up, we insisted on doing things ourselves, learning from our own experiences, developing a sense of our own abilities. We came to know that there are times when we should—in fact, we must—take someone else’s word for something. If we refuse to do this, we might be called a “doubting Thomas.” Is that fair to us? Is it fair to Thomas?

As today’s gospel passage reports, gathered in a room, several disciples of Jesus experienced him truly among

them. Thomas was absent. When the others told Thomas what had occurred, he refused to take their word for it. To believe, he also would have to experience Jesus. It is unfair to credit them with faith and label him a doubter. After all, their experience probably convinced them, an event Thomas did not enjoy with the other disciples.

The point of this story is not Thomas’ eventual visit by Jesus or his subsequent profession of faith. Rather, it is the source of such a confession. Thomas was unwilling or unable to accept the truth of the resurrection unless he saw Jesus and touched him. Jesus told him, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). Blessed are you and me, who have come to know Jesus and the truth of his resurrection on the word of others—our parents and teachers, pastoral ministers and friends—those who have come to know him and who witness to this in their lives. †



**Thomas was unwilling or unable to accept the truth of the resurrection unless he saw Jesus and touched him.**

## A Word from Pope Francis

Let us ask ourselves: do I believe in the power of the resurrection of Jesus...? Do I believe in his victory over sin, fear, and death? Do I let myself be drawn into a relationship with the Lord, with Jesus? And do I let myself be prompted by him to love my brothers and sisters, and to hope every day?

REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 7, 2024



## Sunday Readings

### Acts 5:12–16

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles.

### Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19

Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld.

### John 20:19–31

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.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How do I share my faith with others and listen when they share?
- How can I be quick to forgive and to seek the forgiveness of others?





# Witnessing to God's Mercy

*Redemptorist Mass Companion*

**T**oday, the Church celebrates the feast of Divine Mercy, inviting us to reflect on the boundless mercy of the Lord. The devotion to Divine Mercy is deeply rooted in the revelations given to

Saint Faustina Kowalska, who was told by Jesus that he embodies "Love and Mercy."

Sister Faustina was instructed by Jesus to paint an image of him with the inscription: "Jesus, I trust in You." Although she had concerns about the painting's accuracy, Jesus emphasized that the significance lay not in the image itself but in the message it conveyed. The message is clear: God's mercy is so profound that he cannot punish even the greatest sinner if they sincerely appeal to his compassion. No soul that seeks his mercy is ever turned away.

Today, the Divine Mercy image and its associated devotions

are widespread, embodying the call to trust in Jesus' merciful love and to practice mercy in our own lives, as highlighted in Luke 6:36: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." The gospel emphasizes that faith must be accompanied by action.... Our faith should translate into tangible acts of charity. While not everyone needs financial assistance, a kind smile,

a compassionate word, or a supportive gesture can make a significant impact. Mother Teresa of Kolkata famously said, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." As we celebrate this feast, let us embrace Jesus' invitation to dwell in his merciful love and extend that mercy to others through our

actions and kindness. In doing so, we make the mercy of Christ tangible and impactful in our daily lives. †

From the *Redemptorist Mass Companion 2025*, a Redemptorist Pastoral Publication, Liguori Publications (828812). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

**Let us embrace  
Jesus' invitation  
to dwell in  
his merciful love.**

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

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

Jesus' resurrection was not just wishful thinking on the part of his disciples. To begin with, they clearly were not expecting it; those two disciples on the Emmaus road spent a whole day with him before recognizing who he was. Others, upon his appearance, were "startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost" (Luke 24:37). If this were a made-up story, they surely would have represented themselves better. Then, the disciples were transformed by their conviction that God had raised him up, many giving their lives in witness to this truth; such commitment is impossible from a conspiracy of fond hopes. The disciples knew that his resurrection was real because Jesus had shown them the wounds in his body—even inviting Thomas to touch them. (See John 20:24–29.)

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).



Lord Jesus, when I find it  
hard to believe, live in me  
and show me the way to  
live until I believe again.  
Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

April 28—May 3

**Monday, Easter Weekday:**

Acts 4:23–31 / Jn 3:1–8

**Tuesday, St. Catherine of Siena:**

Acts 4:32–37 / Jn 3:7b–15

**Wednesday, Easter Weekday:**

Acts 5:17–26 / Jn 3:16–21

**Thursday, Easter Weekday:**

Acts 5:27–33 / Jn 3:31–36

**Friday, St. Athanasius:**

Acts 5:34–42 / Jn 6:1–15

**Saturday, Sts. Philip and James:**

1 Cor 15:1–8 / Jn 14:6–14

Bringing Home  
the Word

April 27, 2025



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