



ST. JOAN OF ARC

CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL 4, 2021 | EASTER SUNDAY. 4TO DE ABRIL, EL DIA DE LA PASCUA

WELCOME

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM-4:00 PM

closed for lunch 12-1:00 PM

MASSES NOW

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 & 11:00 AM

Spanish Mass is at 1:00 PM

DAILY MASS

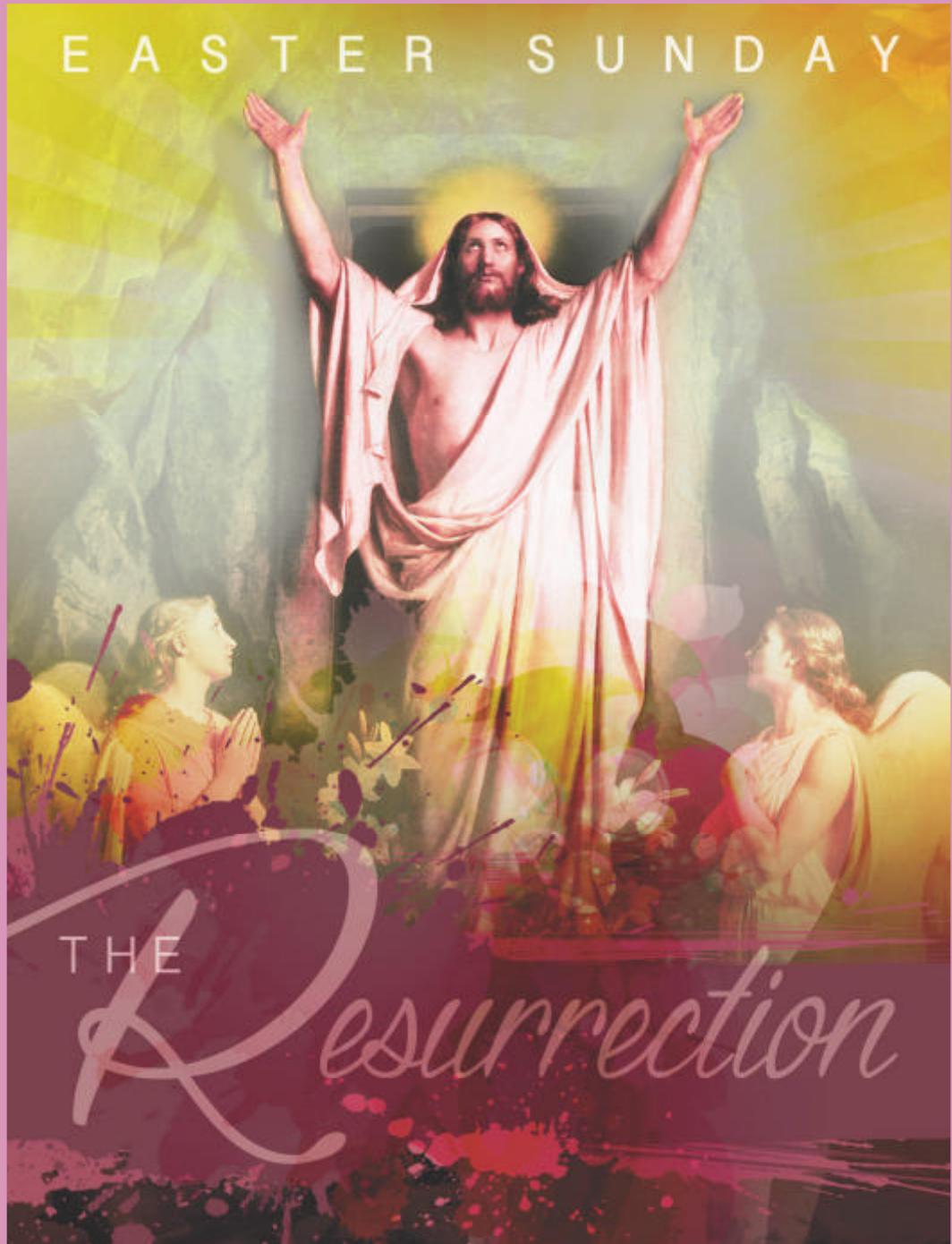
9:00 AM Monday-Saturday

MISSION

The Mission of St. Joan of Arc Parish is to put Jesus first in our lives by seeking to know Him in Scripture, Encountering Him in Prayer, Celebrating His Presence among us in praise and worship and uniting with one another in loving service.

NOTE

WEEKEND MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED AT THE TIMES LISTED ABOVE UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF MAY 2021.
MASKS ARE REQUIRED. WE WILL ALLOW ONLY 50% CAPACITY FOR EACH MASS AND YOU MUST PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING. THANK YOU. YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS.



The Divine Romance: Dying And Behold We Live (edited) by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Having delivered His farewell address from the pulpit of the Cross and finished the work of His Eternal Father, Jesus bows His head and dies. To make certain of His death, a centurion, Longinus by name, pierces His heart with a lance and the Divine Master, who saved up a few drops of His Precious Blood, now pours them out to prove that His love is stronger than death.

Two men who lacked courage to declare their affiliations while He was living, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, brought perfumes and spices and embalmed the body of Jesus. His body was taken down and laid on Mary's lap, and it seemed to her that Bethlehem had come back again — but really it had not. Between Bethlehem and Calvary our sins had intervened. The body was lifeless. Jesus was dead.

He was buried in a stone tomb and a seal was placed on the sepulchre and a great stone rolled in front of the door. They took every precaution against fraud, but could take none against Divinity. Our vigilance and that of the soldiers will not permit any one to steal away the body. He who said he had life in abundance is now dead; he who said he could summon twelve legions of angels to his assistance now is cold as death; he who said he could raise up a child of Abraham from a stone is now buried under stone. The imposter is dead! How wonderfully effective is a Roman death! Nothing can survive a crucifixion! He will never rise again!"

Is that true? Can one rise from the dead? Does not the very fact that He was born in a stranger's cave and buried in a stranger's grave prove that human "birth and death are equally foreign to Him? Look about at nature. Is not the springtime the Easter Day of the Good Friday of winter? Has not all death within itself the germs of life? Does not the "falling rain bud the greenery"? Does not the falling acorn bud the tree? Why should all creation rise from the dead and not the Redeemer of creation?

Sunday morning came, and it was one of calm, like the sleep of innocents, and the clear, benign air seemed almost as if it had been stirred by angels' wings. Mary walked in the garden and someone near her spoke a word, and pronounced it longingly, wistfully, in that touching and unforgettable voice which had called her so many times: "Mary." And to this one and only word, she made an answer, a word and only one: "Rabboni." And as she fell at His knees in the dewy grass and clasped in her hands those bare feet, she saw two scars, two red-lined marks of nails — for Christ was now walking in the glory of His new Easter morn.

That was the first Easter Day. Centuries have whirled away since, and on this new Easter Day as I turn from that garden to the altar, I behold placed over the tabernacle, on this Resurrection Day, the image, not of a Risen Savior, but the image of a dying one, to teach me that Christ lives over again in His Church, and that the Church, like Christ, not only lives, not only dies, but always rises from the dead. She is in love with death as a condition of birth; and with her, as with Christ, unless there is a Good Friday in her life, there will never be an Easter Sunday; unless there is the crown of thorns there will never be the halo of light; and unless there is the Cross there will never be the empty tomb. In other words, every now and then the Church must be crucified by an unbelieving world and buried as dead, only to rise again. She never does anything but die, and for that peculiar reason she never does anything but live. Every now and then the very life seems to have gone out of her; she is paled with death; her blood seems to have been sapped out of her; her enemies seal the tomb, roll a stone in front of her grave, and say: "The Church will never rise again!" But somehow or other she does rise again.

"If this bright lily
Can live once more,
And its white promise
Be as before,
Why cannot the great
stone
Be moved from His
door?

If the green grass
Ascend and shake
Year after year,
And blossoms break
Again and again
For April's sake,
Why cannot He,

From the dark and mold,
Show us again
His manifold
And gleaming glory,
A stream of gold?

Faint heart, be sure
These things must be.
See the new bud
On the old tree! ...
If flowers can wake,
Oh, why not He?"

Blessed Resurrection Sunday to all of our Parishioners and a Blessed Easter Season.

NOTES FROM DEACON FRED

Tell a Story Touch a Heart

A new day! As the sun rises on this Easter Morning, do we feel the glory of God in His creation and in us? Some of us are morning people and some not so much... but on this day we are all morning people. We greet the day with a new hope, with a new joy. Like Mary Magdalene we hear Jesus calling us by name to greet the day, the new reality... Jesus is risen. Although this happened so many years ago, we have taken the journey of Lent and are awaking to its fruits today. Our faith's journey just got a little bit more exciting, with a better understanding of the path we need to take... not because we have to, but because we choose to.

When we were growing up we remember some of the stories that our grandparents told us. Some were funny, some sad and some awesome in the eyes of a child. All stores were repeated over and over as they, and we, grew in years. There are very fond memories of stories told between intimate partners sharing the journey of life and they were special for that reason. I remember as a child my grandfather taking me out on the front porch of his house and pointing to the moon and what a sight that was. He shared with me a secret as he took me to the back porch and showed me a secret second moon. I was convinced. Looking back it wasn't so much the story but the time spent together that was so precious. He frequently told a true story of his Uncle Felix, whom he loved so much, who lost both his hands and feet to frost bite as a teenager. How he grew up to be the best pool player in Shenandoah. Telling and listening to stories touch our hearts in very many ways.

Telling the story of our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection is even more powerful than one can imagine. It is not just remembering the awesome story of what went down 1,988 years ago, but the saving power behind the story and the incredible love behind the story that offers salvation for all those who tell it and all those who listen to it. The story will change a heart of winter to a heart of spring. The Easter story will open the gates of the most beautiful garden created, inviting us to enter.

It is the story of Easter that gives us cause in recognizing the dignity of each person and the wisdom to know that we all share life together. It is the story of Easter that gives each of us that Emmaus moment with our Lord.

NOTITAS DEL DIÁCONO JOSE CRUZ

Estamos acostumbrados a usar términos tales como a.C. (antes de Cristo) y A.D. (anno domini) o E.C. (era cristiana o era común) y A.C.E. (Antes de la Era Común) para dividir la historia humana en dos; pero tal vez la división más significante ocurrió con el suceso que celebramos hoy. Cuando Dios resucitó a Jesucristo de entre los muertos, Dios marcó el inicio de una nueva era: el tiempo de la resurrección. El tiempo de la resurrección significa compartir la esperanza de la vida eterna con el Señor. Significa que Dios quiso traerle la salvación a este mundo imperfecto. Significa que tenemos el mandato de darle al mundo una vida nueva, una vida "resucitada". En el principio Dios creó el mundo y con la resurrección de Cristo salvó al mundo. Por haber sido creados a imagen y semejanza de Dios tenemos el desafío de ser creativos y llevar el mensaje de la salvación en todo lo que hacemos. "Busquen las cosas del cielo, donde está Cristo", nos ordena san Pablo (colosenses 3, 1). Nosotros acudimos a Cristo, que está junto al Padre en el cielo, pero también está con nosotros siempre. Cuando amamos a nuestro prójimo, cuando ayudamos a nuestras hermanas y hermanos, no sólo hacemos lo que es correcto, no sólo hacemos lo que Jesús nos mandó, sino que también participamos así en la obra redentora del Señor. Vivimos en el tiempo de la resurrección.

En el Evangelio según san Juan escuchamos tres diferentes reacciones al sepulcro vacío. María Magdalena, la primera en escena, se siente temerosa y confundida. Ella es la primera en ver que la piedra ha sido removida y el sepulcro está vacío. Está oscuro, ella está sola e inmediatamente se echó a correr para pedir ayuda. Pedro, el primero en entrar en el sepulcro, también está confundido. Se toma el tiempo para ver que el sudario está doblado y en sitio aparte, no junto a los lienzos en el suelo, como se esperaría si el cuerpo hubiese sido arrastrado hacia afuera. Sin embargo, Pedro no entendió. Ni tampoco Juan, el otro discípulo "a quien Jesús amaba" entendió, pero vio y creyó. Tal vez fuera la intensidad de su amor que lo llevó a creer inmediatamente. Su corazón se adelantó más que su mente. No entendía aún la resurrección, pero deseaba tanto que la crucifixión del amado no fuera el final de todo, que en seguida creyó que tenía que haber algo más.

El encuentro inicial con el sepulcro vacío expone una paradoja. No es la presencia de Jesús lo que inspira a Juan a creer, sino su ausencia. Creyó sin ver, sin oír, sin tocar. Sin tener una prueba. Creyó en medio de la duda y la confusión. Pero, no obstante, creyó. La ruta de cada discípulo para llegar a creer fue diferente. Esto lo escuchamos hoy y lo volveremos a escuchar en los dos próximos domingos. También nosotros, aunque tomamos rutas diferentes, llegamos a ser creyentes, ya sea en presencia de Jesús o en su ausencia física.

Pregunta de la Semana

¿Cómo he llegado a creer? ¿Cómo puedo dar testimonio del "tiempo de la resurrección" en esta era en que nuestra vida tiene una dimensión más profunda y un mayor propósito?

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Who are you? This question was most assuredly asked of Jesus on the day of resurrection and it is a question asked of each of us. Our identities can be described in so many ways. We can start with our gifts and our talents, expertise and unique personality expressions. We can describe things we like and things we prefer to set aside. As descriptive and captivating as these can be, none come close to our essence, our real and true self. While accurate in their own right, the self who lives and interacts with the world is the self we want others to see, the one we project. But there is much more to us just as there is much more to Jesus.

Jesus could describe himself based on all of the same criteria we use for ourselves. After all, Jesus is totally human. With all that people witnessed and all that Jesus knew about his physical human self, his divinity also shined forth. There was so much more to know about him. Whereas once Jesus was transfigured on top of a mountain before his disciples' eyes, so today he is transfigured before our eyes as he reveals his resurrected self as the Christ. Alleluia, Christ is risen! His glorified presence stands before us showing us that we are all much more than we see ourselves to be and show to others. We have a depth, purpose, and essence that go way beyond the superficial treasures of our existence to the very core of who we are.

Within each one of us is a spark of Divine Love where creature and Creator meet, and we are known uniquely by the name God whispers to us. It is not the earthly name that was given to us but the one that flows from Divine Power and claims us as one who is special and chosen in God's eyes. This is the self that will rise one day with the eternal Christ of God and live eternally as God provides. This is the self that when free from all superficial constraints layered upon it in this life can discover and know freedom in a way never possible before. This is love lifting us up and transforming us into who we really are, not who we want or need ourselves to be. Who are you? A special, unique child of God who has been fashioned in God's image, sustained by the power of God's love and kept eternally with the Blessed Trinity in heaven. Get to know this deeper, truer self as it is who you really are. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A Happy Ending Isn't the Whole Story

"Is there a happy ending?"

When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, "Is there a happy ending?"

I can't say I blame them. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it's not going to go badly — or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It's a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast-forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily-ever-after.

Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It's the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It's the day that puts everything right.

But if we learned anything from this week — from the Passion and death of the Lord — it's that we can't press fast-forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear — it's crucial, isn't it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter doesn't happen without Good Friday.

So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn't all that matters.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

"Abortion is not a sign that women are free, but a sign that they are desperate."

"Aborto no es una señal de que las mujeres son libres, sino una señal de que están desesperadas."

Frederica Mathewes-Green

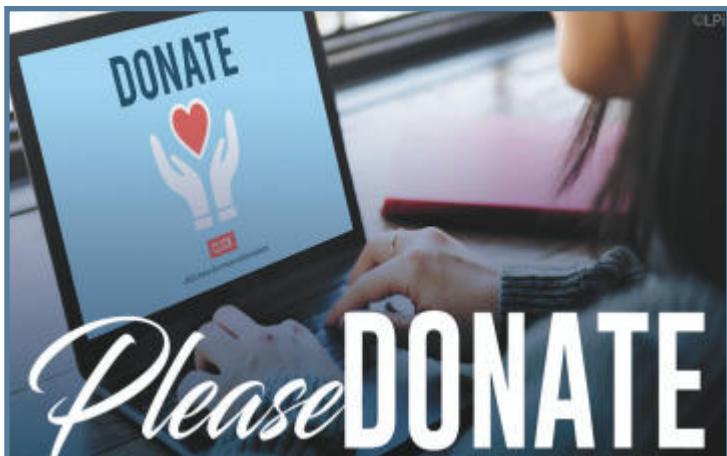
The History of our Church-Archbishop Sheen

There emerges, then, from her history one great and wonderful lesson and it is this: Christ rose from the dead, not because He is man, but because He is God. The Church rises from the sepulchre in which violent hands or passing errors would inter her, not because she is human, but because she is Divine. Nothing can rise from the dead except Divinity. The world should profit by experience and give up expecting the Church to die. If a bell had been tolled on a thousand different occasions and the funeral never took place, men would soon begin to regard the funeral as a joke. So it is with the Church. The notice of her execution has been posted but the execution has never taken place. Science killed her and still she was there. History interred her, but still she was alive. Modernism slew her, but still she lived.

Even civilizations are born, rise to greatness, then decline, suffer, and die; but they never rise again. But the Church does rise again; in fact she is constantly finding her way out of the grave because she had a Captain who found His way out of the grave. The world may expect her to become tired, to be weak when she becomes powerful, to become poor when she is rich, but the world need never expect her to die. The world should give up looking for the extinction of that which so many times has been vainly extinguished.

Like a mighty oak tree which has stood for twenty centuries she bears fresh green foliage for each new age, that the age may come and enjoy the refreshing benediction of its shade. The flowers that open their chalices of perfume this spring are not old things, but new things on an old root. Such is the Church. She is reborn to each new age, and hence is the only new thing in the world. It is the errors that are old, for our so-called new thought is only an old mistake with a new label; it is not a new enthusiasm nor is it a new loyalty. The Church has put to bed all the errors of the past for she knows that to marry the passing fads of any age is to be a widow in the next. She is therefore not behind the times, but beyond the times, always fresh while the age is dying.

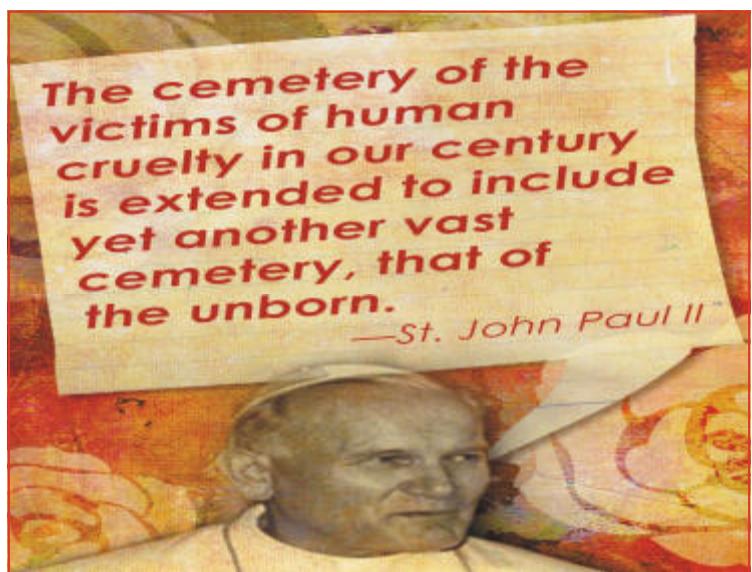
She will go on dying and living again and in each recurring cycle of a Good Friday and an Easter Sunday her one aim in life will be to preach Christ and Him Crucified. What she does seek, with the full ardor of her soul, is to bring minds captive to the understanding of Christ, to lead wills to the glorious Liberty of the sons of God, to thrill human hearts with the Love that leaves all others cold, and to open eyes to a Beauty that leaves all other beauty pain.



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STEWARDSHIP
WEEKEND OF MARCH 21, 2021
Attendance: 476
Offertory: \$7374.00
Catholic Relief Services: \$85.00

Readings for the week of April 4, 2021

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

Observances for the week of April 4, 2021

- Sunday:** Easter Sunday
- Monday:** Monday within the Octave of Easter
- Tuesday:** Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
- Wednesday:** Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
- Thursday:** Thursday within the Octave of Easter
- Friday:** Friday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday:** Saturday within the Octave of Easter
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday

MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL 3, 8:00 PM	HOLY SATURDAY, EASTER VIGIL	For Abundant Blessings for our newest Catholics: Lee Gutshmidt Patrick Foley James Leavy
APRIL 4 7:15 AM	EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE	For our Parish community
11:00 AM	† Theodore and Maryann Statuto req by Loving Family	
1:00 PM	Dando gracias por nuestra comunidad hispana	
MONDAY, APRIL 5		
9:00 AM	For the health of Don and Sharon Sanders req by Howard Rosenthal	
TUESDAY, APRIL 6		
9:00 AM	† Barbara Reid req by Solome Syrene	
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7		
9:00 AM	† Fr. Ray O'Neil req by parish staff	

THURSDAY, APRIL 8	9:00 AM	For healing for those suffering with Covid-19—req by parish staff
FRIDAY, APRIL 9	9:00 AM	Healing from cancer for Donovan Lovelock- req by parish staff
SATURDAY, APRIL 10	9:00 AM	In thanksgiving for those in our parish who have survived Covid-19 req by parish staff
	4:00 PM	† Joseph Viola req by Karen Sigmund
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY		
SUNDAY, APRIL 11	8:00 AM	For our Parish community
	11:00 AM	For healing for Lisa Hartle req by Keith and Vickie Geelen
	1:00 PM	† Duane Gabriel Lopez req by Ligia Lopez
	3:00 PM	DIVINE MERCY SERVICE

PARISH STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Patrick Rebel
Asst. Priests.....	Rev. Edward Reiter Rev. Michael Kouts Rev. Dennis Kaelin Msgr. Joe Sobiesiak
Deacons	Deacon Fred LaPiana Deacon Jose Cruz Deacon Mike Ruffner
Parish Business Manager	Anne Cofone
Director of Faith Formation	Mary Jo Waggoner Stjoanreled@gmail.com
Director of Junior High and Youth Ministry	Nancy Lovelock Sjoa-youth@tampabay.rr.com
Director of Music.....	Joyce Thorpe Sjoaorganist@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 10:00 am-11:00 am & by appointment.

BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN

Please call the Parish Office. (352) 688-0663

MATRIMONY IF YOU ARE CONTEMPLATING MARRIAGE AT ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH, PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT THERE IS A SIX MONTH PRIOR NOTICE REQUEST REQUIRED.

PARISH INFO

OFFICE EMAIL

Sjoa-office@tampabay.rr.com

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

(352) 686-7864

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MARY & MARTHA'S GIFT SHOP (NOT OPEN AT THIS TIME)

Wednesday 9:30 am-10:30 am

Saturday 3:30 pm-5:30 pm

Sunday 7:00 am-1:00 pm

Closed during all Masses & the month of August.

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