



SAINTS JOACHIM & ANNE AND SHAKOPEE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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LETTER FROM REVEREND ERIK LUNDGREN

"Anyone can hope that he will come out safe, and all the more so than almost innumerable others whom we see continuously going about their business in the middle of this raging pestilence with no precautions and no self-control. But if someone does contract the disease, and others are no longer there, then I myself who will be going about among you every day on account of the sick, will be there. I shall be charged with caring for your health in both body and soul. I will willingly come to your aid. I offer myself indeed on divine help, I have decided to spare no labors or dangers in order to fulfill my pastoral office and to serve the flock committed to me in any way I can for their salvation."

– St. Charles Borromeo, Sermon to Monks & Priests during a plague, 1576

My dear parish flock of Saints Joachim & Anne, church & school, ALLELUIA!

Charles Borromeo is the famous Bishop of Milan, Italy, who, during a raging plague of the 16th century, was basically a living superhero. He was humbly ahead of his time in finding ways to bring the Sacraments, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and sincere inspiration and hope to the people without endangering their lives by unnecessary contact. For example, he would offer Mass outdoors in large public spaces so people could join from their windows. Perhaps he should be named the patron saint of live-streaming! The quote above is such a perfect summary of who we, as Catholic Christians of Easter Faith, are called to be in this uncertain time of the Covid-19 pandemic. We can find creative ways to express and share our faith and never lose hope. It is because of the Resurrection of Our Lord that we do not fear death, nor economic downtown, nor even separation from friends. For, in the Resurrection on the last day, we Hope for the greatest of joyful reunions, the most majestic banquets, and the infinitely marvelous fun of eternal beatitude. ALLELUIA!



This is why Saints Joachim and Anne, church & school, has continued to nourish souls in creative ways, to educate children with the most resilient and brilliant of determination of any school I know, to serve and show our gratitude to our healthcare worker community by taking care of their kids during the day at SJA-SACS and praying for their safety daily. We've found ways to feed the hungry with Matterboxes from Matter.ngo and with school lunches delivered to families, while feeding souls with a curbside Confessival that made the Star Tribune, and a drive-in Eucharistic Procession with Archbishop Hebda that filled the old St. Francis (Scott County) parking lot.

In the First Reading for Easter Sunday (Acts 10), St. Peter describes Jesus after the Resurrection: "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did..." May our spiritual family continue to be witnesses of Christ in such beautiful ways, ancient and new. For the glory of God and the salvation of souls, confidently and joyfully under the banner of our Triumphant Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ!

Alleluia!

Fr. Erik



SHAKOPEE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL (SACS)

Happy Easter Sunday Parish Friends!

These last few weeks of Lent have been well, the lentiest Lent, I ever remember. The restrictions in our state due to the COVID-19 outbreak have forced me to fast from social situations and have given me more time to pray and reflect. In this time of uncertainty, the additional prayer has been good and drawn me closer to Jesus. I wanted to share with you a few heartwarming stories that remind me God is at work among us.

Our school, while closed per the Governor's order, remains open to care for children of essential workers. Each day we serve up to 26 students from 6:30 am until 5 pm. It is an honor to spend the day with these children, while their parents serve the needs of the community. We have many parents who work in the nursing field. These parents are very thankful for the consistent good care for their children in this uncertain time.

At this time, I must also give a shout out to our amazing teachers. This dedicated bunch of professionals has been putting in some long hours changing the way we deliver education to our students and families. This has been no easy task, but our teachers met it with great enthusiasm. They got right to work learning new technologies to be able to teach from a distance, and also to find ways to keep the personal connection to students and families. I am happy to report that just a week after our school closed due to the governor's order, each SACS family had received a phone call from their teacher(s) to check in and help transition to distance learning. Our teachers are doing amazing work. We have a great plan in place, and we are adjusting the plan weekly, as this is new to us, too.

I have had great support from other Catholic School principals as we all work to meet the needs of our families. We share ideas, resources, and prayer. I am proud to be part of the great group of 79 Catholic elementary school principals in the archdiocese.

Finally, today, I was scheduled to help care for the children of essential workers, and after my shift, I took time to pray the Rosary at school. I started in the school chapel, but because the sun was shining, I moved my prayer to the courtyard under the gaze of Mary. While I was there praying, another woman, whom I did not recognize, walked into the courtyard with her Rosary beads in hand. We shared just a glance and a smile as we united in this powerful form of prayer.

Happy Easter Parish Friends!



Julie Moran | Principal
952-445-3387 ext. 164
JMoran@SacsSchools.org

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WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12, 2020

SUN 4/12	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 Mt 28:1-10
MON 4/13	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15
TUE 4/14	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18
WED 4/15	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35
THR 4/16	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48
FRI 4/17	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118: 1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a [22]/Jn 21:1-14
SAT 4/18	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-15
SUN 4/19	Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12, 2020

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 or Divine Mercy Sunday

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Our world wants us to believe that life is only what we make of it. Today, we realize how untrue that is. Life is ultimately about what God makes of it, and the resurrection of Jesus reveals this. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Who do you understand yourself to be? What we did yesterday, are doing today, and may do tomorrow pretty much determine how we perceive ourselves. We even perceive Jesus this way in limiting our vision of him

to his earthly accomplishments. But, we know through today's triumphant celebration that Christ is much more than his earthly legacy. The transfigured and resurrected Christ is the beginning, the end, and the fulfillment of all things and every person. All that Jesus did stands in second place to who we now know him to be. Do we realize that this will be our journey too? Christ is risen. Alleluia, alleluia!





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When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up into a separate place. Then the other disciples also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and he believed.

- John 20: 6 - 8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

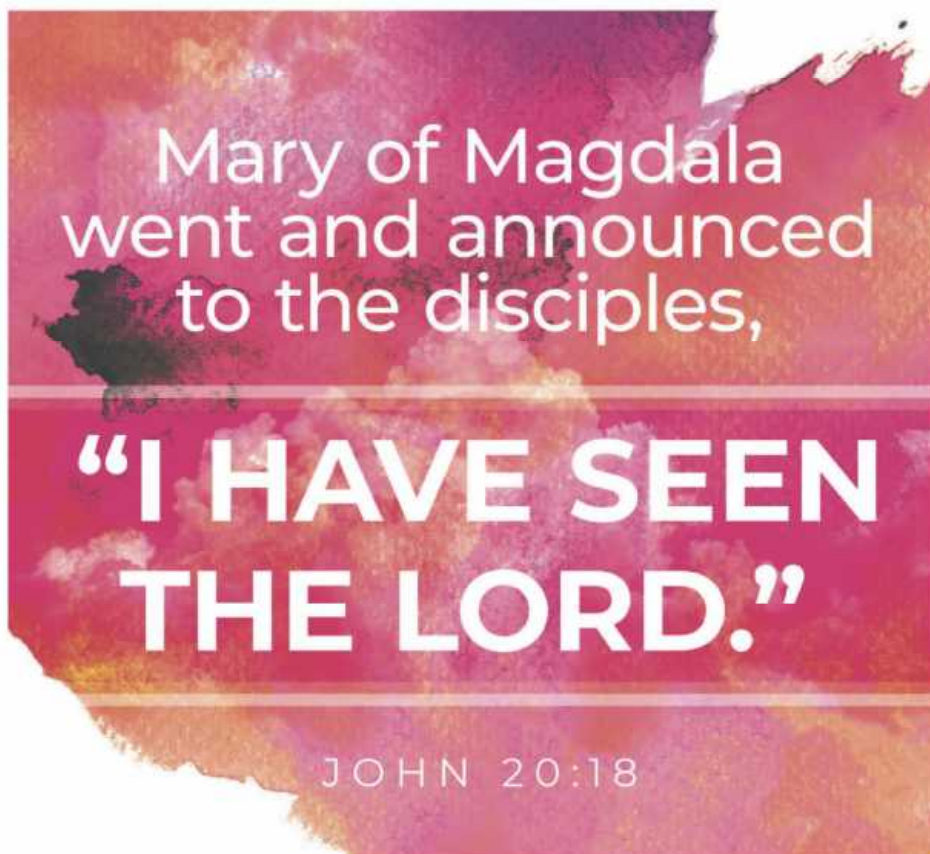
Peter's speech about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus offers us a glimpse into the Church's earliest kerygma (oral proclamation) about Jesus. How is Peter's speech persuasive to you?

Second Reading

Using the metaphors of yeast and unleavened bread, Paul viewed the death and resurrection of Jesus as bringing a new life of "sincerity and truth" to the community of believers. How does the celebration of Easter unite your faith community?

Gospel Reading

Mary Magdalene is the first to realize that Jesus had risen from dead, and twice is told, "Do not be afraid." What fears are alleviated in you knowing that Jesus rose from the dead?



EASTER





WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

"He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead." (Acts 10:42)

PSALM

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118) or Alleluia

SECOND READING

When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory. (Col 3:4)

GOSPEL

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

ALTERNATE SECOND READING

1 Cor 5:6b-8

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When we awoke this morning, we found ourselves blessed with another day. It is Easter Sunday. As that thought crossed our minds, did we find ourselves saying "so what" or "alleluia"? For many, today is truly a day of alleluia. For others, it is just another day of "so what." Faith makes a huge difference. It not only makes a difference in how we understand today and the significance of what we celebrate, it also makes a huge difference in terms of how we understand ourselves.

Succeed, live well, be productive, find your niche, follow your dreams, make money, protect your social status, be politically correct, and keep your preferences to yourself are pretty good examples of the messages our secular life wants us to hear. In and of themselves, they don't sound all that harmful. But when really examined, they are. The life of resurrection embodied in the Gospel tells us a much different story.

Life keeps us busy. We are always connected, distracted, occupied, and working. For many of us, an agenda awaits us before we even start our day, and unfinished stuff is brought with us when we retire at night. Make the best of life and "find your own road to happiness" are messages we all too easily believe. The "so what" response to the new life of resurrection is often the result of believing that life is only what I make it. What God has to say isn't important to me securing my next raise.

Sadly, we live as if the grave is the end. While we may give the wonder of heaven a blink now and then, its glory really doesn't impress us or matter all that much. It's all about the here and now and what I need to do today to get where I want to be tomorrow. We tend to put off considering the one significant "tomorrow" that will come the millisecond after we take our last breath. When that happens, will we want to be thinking "so what?" or "alleluia"?

There is only one Jesus, one mission, and one resurrection. There is also only one of us. Have you ever pondered what one solitary, humble human life can do? Faith, not our world, tells us how special we are. We are not robots. We are not replaceable. We have one shot. There are no do-overs. Love is at our core and unites us together as one with the God of love who so desperately wants us to be with Him forever. This may not match our secular agenda, but it ought to make our true inner agenda leap for joy. There doesn't need to be an end. I can live forever. Alleluia!



LITURGICAL LIFE

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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Come to Christ

Life is perhaps God's greatest gift to each of us. Without life, we would be unable to experience all the wonder of this world, the love of family and friends, and the joy that comes from using our talents and skills. Life itself is more profound a gift than we can even truly contemplate.

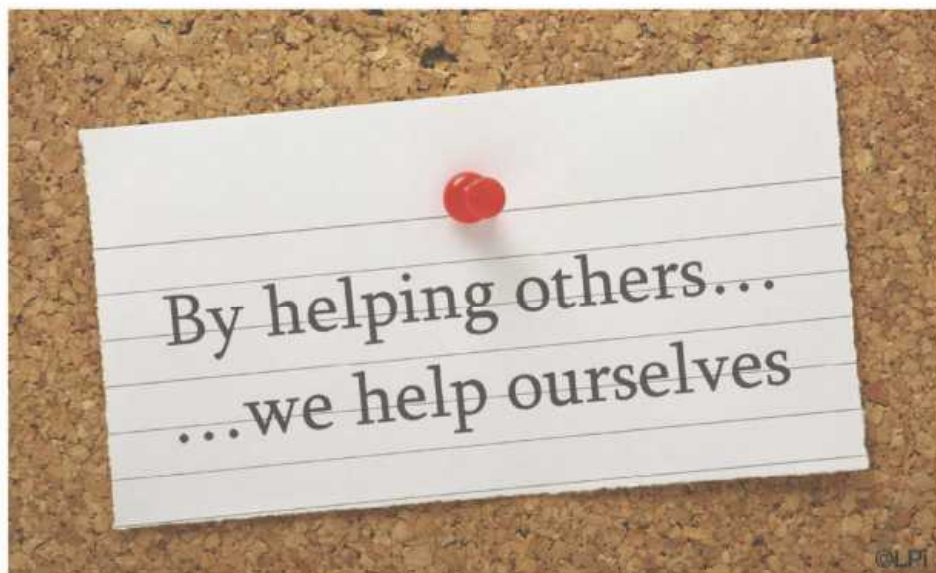
On Easter, we celebrate life. For on this day, Jesus Christ conquered death and gave to us the chance for a life eternal. The wonder, love, and joy of this world does not have to end. Through a life in Jesus Christ, these emotions are heightened, and we find even greater fulfillment in this world.

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

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:
Confessing Sins

Question:

If I go to the Sacrament of Penance and end up repeating the same sins, does that mean I do not have a strong enough intention to amend my life?

Answer:

There is a popular expression that says, "Be patient. God isn't finished with me yet!" Growing in faith and holiness is an ongoing, life-long project, and our struggle with sin is at the heart of it. As St. Paul says, the good he intends to do, he does not do. The evil he does not intend, he does! It is not always a lack of intention, but more often the allure of evil that makes it difficult to change.

When we confess our sins, we are to come with a fully contrite heart. You need to reflect on your true feelings toward your actions before approaching the sacrament. After confession, there are strategies you can make to avoid falling into the same traps of sin. First, pray for and seek out strength and perseverance through multiple sacraments, charitable work, and personal sacrifice. Second, avoid occasions of sin when you might fail or be sorely tempted. In doing these things, remind yourself daily that it is a spiritual war we wage, and with God's grace, we will succeed.



GIVE ONLINE TODAY

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Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



Please sign up for a recurring contributions through one of our online giving ways:

- **Set up Electronic Funds Transfer**
 - * Visit our website: www.SSJACS.org Under "Parish Info & Resources," "Offerings & Financials," and "Tithing & Offerings (EFT form)," click on "SJA EFT form," fill it out, and mail (see address below) or email the completed form to Laurel at: LEichten@ssjacs.org.
 - * Call the parish office to request an EFT form: 952-445-1319
- **Give Online Now** - Visit our website and click on the "Give Now" at the top center of the page to donate online. This will take you to a secure page where you can process a one-time or recurring donation.

If you are not comfortable with electronic giving, you may also mail in your contribution. Check made payable to SJA. Memo: Sunday donation. Mail to: SJA 2700 17th Ave E, Shakopee, MN 55379.

TITHING AND OFFERINGS

No public Masses and, thus, no offertory, is a concerning challenge, first to our souls, but also to savings. *Thank you* to those who have made the effort to continue giving, either online or by checks in the mail. Special "shout out" to those who have chosen to increase giving in this uncertain time. Nevertheless, the reality and results still show a stark decrease in revenue. The past few weekends, our Sunday collection has been under 50% of our normal Sunday collection.

As of today, we are not in a financial crisis. SJA leadership has worked hard to make proactive and conservative decisions to ensure long-term viability in this precarious time. The most difficult decisions made thus far have been to reduce hours and pay for some employees, and we have had to furlough a few employees. If we do not see an increase in giving in the near future, we will need start dipping into our cash reserves or make further cuts to our expenses. We will continue to monitor our financial situation and prayerfully make the best decisions for the long-term financial health of our parish.

How can you help?

- Continue your normal Sunday contributions and tithing.
- Prayerfully consider whether you are able to increase the amount during this current crisis.
- Sign up for a recurring contribution through our online giving or EFT form. See information to the left. **Choosing to give online protects the health of our staff and volunteer money counters. Recurring contributions also help us to create a better forecast for budgeting purposes.**

Please continue to pray for our SJA family, especially the infirm, elderly, healthcare workers, and those struggling emotionally, spiritually, and financially during this crisis. We are praying for all of you!

TREASURES - MARCH 2020

Envelopes	\$ 62,818	CURRENT FISCAL YTD	
EFT	\$ 46,292	Total	\$1,139,669
Plate	\$ 5,486	Budgeted	\$1,085,700
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$114,596</u>	Last Fiscal YTD	\$1,054,923

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SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES

AFTER OFFICE HOURS: 952-445-1319 PRESS THE # KEY

Please call us regarding urgent matters especially requests for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. We will observe protocols established by hospitals and senior care facilities.

MASS INTENTIONS OFFERED BY PRIESTS

DAY OF MASS	MASS INTENTION
Monday, April 13	† Robert Kreuser
Tuesday, April 14	† Thomas & Collier Families
Wednesday, April 15	† Marty Novotny
Thursday, April 16	† Michael Preston
Friday, April 17	† Vinh La
SATURDAY, APRIL 18	
5pm Vigil Mass	† Don Breeggemann
SUNDAY, APRIL 19	SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
8am Mass	Parish of Saints Joachim & Anne
9am Mass	† Gordy & Lila Klehr
10 am Mass *	† Richard Olson
12:30 pm Mass *	† Saints Joachim & Anne CCW
6pm Mass	† Larry Link

* These Masses are offered live to view on our parish Facebook page.



Shakopee Knights of Columbus have canceled the April 9 meeting due to COVID-19.

The Knights of Columbus Shakopee leadership team would like to offer help, particularly to our elderly parishioners. Please call the Knights if you need any assistance during the Stay at Home directive. Contact Bob Blake at 612-387-1922 or bob.r.blake@gmail.com

PRAYER

952-698-4080

PRAYERCHAIN@SSJACS.ORG

Requests will be added to the prayer chain email for 30 days.



Feeling isolated or vulnerable in the midst of the Coronavirus concerns? Let us know if you'd like a volunteer from our parish to give you a phone call to make sure that you're ok and that you have what you need.

This ministry is intended especially for parishioners who are homebound, living by themselves, or at high risk due to the virus. Calls will generally be limited to a 5-minute check-in.

If interested contact: **952-698-4080**
or **PrayerChain@ssjacs.org**

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SSJACS.FLOCKNOTE.COM

To receive our eNews email, sign up for the "SJA eNews" group! Call the office if you have any questions to get signed up.



Watch our parish Masses, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplets, & more.

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SAINS JOACHIM & ANNE, SHAKOPEE

PARISH OFFICE

SJA OFFICE & SACS: 2700 17TH AVE E. SHAKOPEE, MN 55379
952-445-1319 WWW.SSJACS.ORG

Although the parish office is closed, Juanita Menke, parish secretary, is available from 9 am - 3 pm by phone. If she is unable to answer, please leave a voicemail and someone will return your call as soon as possible. We will do our best to address urgent matters as quickly as possible.

SJA STAFF

The majority of our parish staff are working from home. Email may be a more effective means of communication. Find a list of our staff and emails on our website at www.SSJACS.org. If you prefer to have a staff member call you back please feel free to call our parish office and leave a voicemail.

FAITH FORMATION (FF)

Visit our FF Facebook page: [f SJASHAKOPEEYOUTH](https://www.facebook.com/SJASHAKOPEEYOUTH)

Please contact Cathy Wideman, our Director of Catechesis & Evangelization, regarding Baptisms, Weddings, RCIA, and any adult or youth Faith Formation questions, including Confirmation, that you may have.

Please contact Kathleen Dierberger, for any questions regarding our Kindergarten through 6th grade and First Communion Coordinator.

SHAKOPEE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL (SACS)

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The SACS office welcomes any questions that you may have ranging from "how is SACS handling eLearning" to "how can I register my child for Fall 2020?" For general inquiries, please use the main phone number above or check out our website for staff emails. For registration questions, please contact Alison Mertz at Admissions@SacsSchools.org. **This is what you want for you child!**



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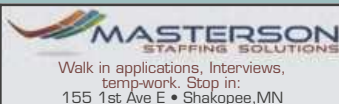
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Divine Mercy Novena

April 10 - April 18 | 3 pm

Live at Facebook.com/ShakopeeCatholic

Grab your Rosary and join us
in prayer at 3 pm. or when you are able.

Jesus asked that we pray the Feast of the Divine Mercy novena, starting on Good Friday. He gave St. Faustina an intention for each day of the Novena.

In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that Jesus told her: "On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy...On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for these souls." - EWTN



CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Penance will be offered
by the priests at a safe social-distance.

Wednesdays, Fridays, & Saturdays
After Holy Week 4 - 6 pm

Curbside outside the St. Mark rectory from
Scott Street follow the signs to drive through
the alley until a priest becomes available.

Faith Formation: April update

HAPPY EASTER! We miss you!

We are sorry to share that **we have canceled the remainder of our in-person classes for the Faith Formation year**, because school will not be in session again until early May. We will continue to send lessons home to you through email to work on with your children. If you have not been receiving these emails, please let us know at faithformation@ssjacs.org.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 27 - 31 from 9:15 am - 12:15 pm at SACS

Join the fun at ssjacs.org by clicking on Vacation Bible School!

ROCKY RAILWAY:
JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH

Current PreK (age 4 & 5) - 4th graders, join the fun this summer!
Current 5th graders - adults, volunteer with us!

Games | Crafts | Snacks | Faith-filled Music | KidVid Cinema | Bible Buddies
| Daily Mass | Bible Skits | and more!

Faith Formation: Easter Basket Service Project Update

We are hoping that we can gather for a fun night of Easter Basket packing, ice cream, and prayer, when it is safe. We are not going to put this on the calendar until we know when we might be able to meet again. For now, you can keep your Easter Basket donations at home until we are able to pack them. We will keep you updated!

To our beloved homebound parishioners, know that we are thinking of you and praying for you! *He is risen; let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia!*



"Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you."

- Mt 28:5b-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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