

APRIL 16, 2017 – THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Simone Volavola, M.S.C.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Tony Ripp, M.S.C.
Dir. of Religious Education: Donna Sciacca
Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok

PARISH SPIRITUALITY

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am
Mon - Thurs: 8:35am / Friday 9:00am
Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:30pm

CONFESSION: Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm or call the parish office to schedule an appointment with a priest.

REGISTER: Please register when you move into the parish. This is an opportunity to become acquainted with our faith community and to experience the joy of being part of the Church. Only registered parishioners, in good standing, can receive a Certificate of Eligibility to act as a Godparent or sponsor.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered on the fourth Sunday of every month. Parents are encouraged to invite family members to the 10:30 Mass as the Sacrament of Baptism takes place immediately following the Mass. Parents and Godparents must attend an enrichment class approx. 1 month prior to the Baptism. You will need to call the Parish Office to register for this class. A Godparent must be a committed, practicing Catholic, and if from another parish, must provide a certificate of eligibility from their pastor. This certificate should be brought to the enrichment class. A Christian of other denominations may serve as a Godparent along with a practicing Catholic.



MARRIAGE: Couples planning marriage are to contact the parish office & schedule a meeting with our wedding coordinator approx. 10-12 months in advance of the wedding. Shorter preparation periods must be approved by our Pastor. Couples will meet with several times with the Pastor throughout the preparation process. Couples are to attend a Pre-Canva program that is approved by our Pastor.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please call the rectory at any time for the Sacrament of the Sick. Also the Holy Eucharist will be brought to the sick and shut-ins upon request to the Parish Office. We celebrate a Communal Anointing of the Sick in June, near the ***Feast of St. John the Baptist.***



Masses for the Week of April 17 - 23, 2017

Morning Prayer in St. Joseph Chapel, Mon. – Fri. at 8:15am

Monday, April 17

8:35am (chapel) Gladys Proca (Bette, David & Diane)

Tuesday, April 18

8:35am (chapel) Kevin Lawlor (Robert Hueston)

Wednesday, April 19

8:35am (chapel) John Reidler (Wife, Janet & Family)

Thursday, April 20

8:35am (chapel) Angela Graham (Donna Sciacca)

Friday, April 21

9:00am (church) Mr. Hank Tancredi (Fr. Simi)

Saturday, April 22

5:00pm (church) Intentions of Denny & Debbi Litzenberger
(Loving Family)

Sunday, April 23 Divine Mercy Sunday

8:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am (church) Mr. Hank Tancredi (Fr. Simi)

3:00pm (church) Divine Mercy Chaplet Service

Meetings for the week of April 17 - 23, 2017

Thurs. April 20: Nitty Gritty Garden Club, 7pm - Marian Room

Sat. April 22: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room



**Weekly Mass Collection
April 9, 2017**

Not Available at Press Time

Thank you for your generosity!

**SJB Cleaning Team for the week of April 17th is
Team # 4:**



*Karen Parash, Jean Keller,
Chris Zdanowicz, Dot Cegielski,
Diane Watson*

Your parish Thanks You!

**Our Mass READINGS this week may
be found in our Journeysongs
Hymnal:**

Easter Vigil - Section 901

Easter Sunday - Section 902



Gospel Reflections

*A Letter from
Our Pastor, Father Sími*



Dear brothers and sisters,

*"For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead."
(John 20:9)*

Happy Easter!!

Today we experience something extraordinary, something mysterious, something that has never happened before. The grave, the tomb, that final and most definitive place of sin laden and death riddled humanity is now also the definitive and permanent residence of Jesus Christ who is the resurrection and the life!

We recall how our Lord Jesus was resolute about going to Jerusalem to go and suffer grievously at the hands of the chief priests, the elders and the scribes; at the hands of sinners. (Mark 8:31, 10:33-34, Matthew 16:21; Luke 9:22, 24:7)

We also recall how difficult it was for His disciples to understand and accept this resolve of their Lord and to follow Him there.

Today, with those same disciples, we begin to understand why. It was out of love for us.

We are the ones who are bound up in the bandages of sin and death and He was resolute to be bound with us, in us, for us so that at that very deep and empty tomb of our existence He may take up residence and there raise us up also with Him to a completely new life, a life no longer enslaved in sin and trapped in death and corruption.

You and I, like Peter and the other disciples intuitively resist going to and embracing the extent of our own sinful nature, our brokenness, our emptiness. It is a place in our souls that we constantly run away from and prefer to stay away from.

We dread going there because too much shame and pain and suffering is involved and it is counter intuitive for us to go there because we know we have not the needed courage and power to go there on our own. We rightly sense that at the end of that road to the emptiness of our souls, lays our most powerful, dreadful unforgiving enemy: death.

So we instinctively keep running away from it as much as possible, as far away as possible by clinging rather to a life that for us looks powerful, successful,

fruitful, courageous, and enduring. It is a life of denial, a life of delusion.

But today, you and I begin to experience a sudden infusion hope, a surge of courage, of a profound faith that is from without us, from a non-human source, not from flesh and blood. It comes from above. It comes from our Father, our Abba.

Our Father who has never abandoned us since the moment we abandoned Him, has always been following us and in the fullness of time took up residence with us in flesh and blood, time and space, in the person of His own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having become one with us in so complete a manner, He sends His Son to become even more perfectly one with us by descending into the depths of our own shameful and sin laden souls, into the deepest and darkest recesses of the empty tomb of our human existence and there taken up residence to awake to Himself His long lost brothers and sisters, the long lost children of His Abba.

That is why we now begin to see Mary Magdalene, Peter and the beloved disciple, boldly run towards the empty tomb. That place once feared is no longer to be feared for there they will hear the good news announced by an angel: "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." (Matthew 28:5-6)

The tomb that represents our own souls that was once empty of love and communion is where the crucified Jesus chose to lay. That same tomb is now empty of death but filled the reunion of God the Father and His long lost children.

Happy Easter brothers and sisters!!!

Father Sími



**FIRST HOLY
COMMUNION RETREAT
SATURDAY April 22nd
9am - 12noon**

Reminder

- 1. Bring your child's banner.**
- 2. Completed & signed "Contact/Info Retreat Form."**
- 3. Photo Order Form & Payment.**
- 4. Snack if you child has any allergies.**



TEACH THE CHILDREN

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-9

In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118:
"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

School Calendar Reminders:

April 13-18th: Easter Break

April 19th: School back in session

April 25th: School Pilgrimage to Padre Pio Shrine, Grades 1-8.

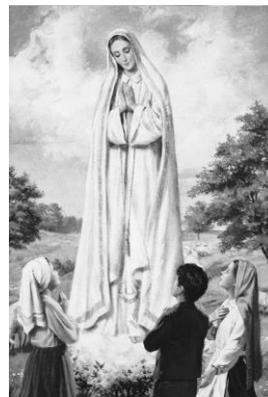
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School Headmaster: Mr. Michael J. Patterson
Dir. of Institutional Advancement: Geoff Meyer
Ph: 610-847-5523
www.sjbottsville.org



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Monday 7:30PM – Adoration & Prayers

Wednesday 9:30AM – Adoration & Prayers

3rd Sunday 12PM – Adoration & Prayer for Vocations.

1st Saturday 10AM

Mass, Confession, Rosary & Lunch

For more information or to volunteer at Fatima House,
please call Joan Black at 215-536-3508

A Reflection for Easter Sunday

by MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO, PH.D.

The serpent's bite was a deadly one. The venom had worked its way deep into the heart of the entire human race, doing its gruesome work. The anti-venom was unavailable until He appeared. One drop was all that was needed, so potent was this antidote. Yet it was not like Him to be stingy. He poured out all he had, down to the last drop. The sacrifice of His entire life, poured out at the foot of the cross—this was the Son's answer to the Problem of Sin.

Three days later came the Father's answer to the Problem of Death. It was equally extravagant. For Jesus was not simply brought back to life like Lazarus. That would be resuscitation, the return to normal, human life, with all its limitations. Including death. Yes Lazarus ultimately had to go through it all again . . . the dying, the grieving family, the burial. Jesus did not "come back." He passed over, passed through. His resurrection meant that he would no longer be subject to death. Death, as St. Paul said, would have no more power over him.

You may say that physical death was not the worst consequence of sin, and you'd be right. Separation from God, spiritual death, is much more fearsome. But enough with the talk that physical death is beautiful and natural. It is not. Our bodies are not motor vehicles driven around by our souls. We do not junk them when they wear out and buy another one (that's one problem with the reincarnation idea). Rather, our bodies are an essential dimension of who we are. Our bodies and immortal souls are intimately intertwined, which makes us so different from both angels and animals. Therefore death separates what God has joined. So it is natural that we rebel against it and shudder before it. Even the God-man trembled in the Garden.

So Jesus confronts death head on, for our sake. The Roman Easter sequence, a traditional poem/song stretching back into the first millennium, highlights the drama: "*Mors et vitae duello, conflixere mirando. Dux vitae mortuus regnat vivus.*" ("Death and life dueled in a marvelous conflict; the Dead Ruler of Life reigns Alive!") . . . Gandalf the Grey who sacrificed himself to take out the Balrog, returns as Gandalf the White (Tolkien heard this sung for many Easters before he wrote *The Lord of the Rings*).

"He descended into Hell" of the Apostle's Creed means that Jesus endured the wrenching of body and soul for our sakes and came out the other side endowed with a new, different, glorified humanity. How does the Bible describe it? Well, Mary Magdalene did not recognize the Risen Christ at first, until He called her by name. The disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize him either. But doubting Thomas shows us that his wounds were still evident. And though he could pass

through locked doors, he proved he was not a ghost by asking for something to eat. Paul describes it as a "spiritual body" in I Corinthians 15, which sounds like an oxymoron to me. But we have to take off our shoes here, realize that we are on holy ground, and that we do not have words adequate to describe the awesome reality of the new humanity he has won for us.

For resurrection is not something that He intends to keep for Himself. All that He has he shares with us: His Father, His mother, His Spirit, His body, blood, soul, and divinity, and even His risen life. And we can begin to share in this Life now, experiencing its regenerating power in our souls and even in our bodies. We have access to it in many wonderful ways, but especially in the Eucharist. For the body of Christ that we receive is his Risen, glorified body, given to us so that we too might live forever (read John 6:40-65).

Each of us will have to pass through physical death, but not alone. He will be with us, just as the Father was with Him as He made his perilous passage. And while we will experience indescribable joy when our souls "see" him face to face, this is not the end of the story. He will return. And the resurrection will have its final and ultimate impact. Joy will be increased still further when he makes our bodies like his own, in glory. "*I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen!*"

TIME TO REPLACE OUR ALTAR SERVER ALBS



Our parish is in need of new albs for our Altar Servers. The cost to replace each alb is \$60.00 per. We need to order 20 albs in various sizes. The total cost to replace our albs will be roughly \$1,200.00. We are asking our parishioners to buy or donate toward the cost of an alb. Please, if you are able to help defray the cost of these much needed albs, place your donation in a plain white envelope with your name and the word "ALB" on the front and place it in our Sunday Mass collection basket. Please make checks payable to St. John the Baptist Parish. Thank you for your help.

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Please remember in your prayers our parishioners who are sick, homebound, in the hospital, under hospice or residential care.

PRAYER REQUEST

*Susan Ackerman, Lillian Appleman, Larry Baker, Patricia Baker, Nancy Beans, John & Loretta Bodisch, Emmalee Bryan, Patti Bucci, Libby Chapman, Dorothy Cegielski, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Matthew Crance, Jim Crawford, Chrissy Davis, Joy Davis, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin, Bernice Fees, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Joe Fite, Patricia Fite, Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, Thomas Fleck, Claire Fratrick, Violet Freeh, Janet Galen, Patricia Gall, Kathi Gallegher, Kathleen Gaughan, Dylan Geroni, Kathy Geroni, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Anna Giebler, Mary Halwski, Florence Hancharik, Bill Hejnor, Joyceann Heley, Charles Houston, Martha Juchnowicz, Dotsy Keenan, Georgine Kocher, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, Sally Lindenmuth, Barbara Lavelle, Charles Lutcavage, Julia Maher, Loretta Malloy, Ray Malachowski, Adelaide McElderry, Bridget Julia McHugh, Anne McNichol, Emma Michael, Joseph Moore, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine Mosolgo, Wanda Muth, James O’Hanlon, Gary Palmer, **Joseph and Mary Victoria Pepkowski**, Nicholas Powell, Gladys Proca, Don Raman, Mike Ramos, Rachael Rice, Betty Rick, Gregory Rickert, Joy & Teddy Rodman, Sandy*

Romaszewski, Sam Rothman, Frederick R. Rude, Dolly Rutherford, Zina Sauerwine, Andrew Schad, Lana Schell, Florence Schroker, Ginny Schulberger, Ronald Schultz, Sr., Frank & Joyce, Joe Shuman, Mary Jane Shuman, Gail Silveira, Baby Ella Stack, Carolyn Stahley, Shane Stroup Sean Thatcher, Baby William Patrick Thomas, Maddie Tomaszewski, Douglas Toner, Betty Ventresca, Diane Wesoski, Maryjane Whealton, Tamara Widmer, Edward Wismer, Baby Logan Yoder.



Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, Casey de Lauretis, Steehly de Lauretis, Michael Froeder, A.J. Giovino, Aaron Given, Matthew Gumprecht, Bob Hankinson, Victor Hormilla, Stephen Lindmeier, Jason Litschauer, Cory Litzenberger, Dan O’Connor, Jonathan Pucci, Dusty Rhodes, Craig Russell, Don Valdez, Justin Walsh.

Thank you for serving & protecting our freedoms

April 22nd & 23rd – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5pm	Darlene Bittenmaster Peg Glancey Cathy Leidtke Joel Roney	Melissa Johnson	Luke Grindrod Mead Grindrod ?	Julia Costello Sue Rogers
Sunday 8am	Jim McHugh Renee Moyer Dave Slifer Ron Watson	Anne Slifer	Maggie McArdle Grace McArdle ?	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Sunday 10:30am	Jim Black Joan Black Phil Donahue Bruce Keyser	Patti Keyser	Dakota Campbell Brickston Vinal Emily Vinal	Ordinary Time

“JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU”