

APRIL 23, 2017 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

Finance Manager: Carolyn Marchese

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-Can program that is approved by our Pastor.



ANOIDING 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 24 - 30, 2017

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

Monday, April 24

8:35am (chapel) Sam & Josephine Vinceguerra (Kathy Vinceguerra)

Tuesday, April 25

8:35am (chapel) Ann Joseph (Barbara Sabath)

Wednesday, April 26

8:35am (chapel) Elizabeth Petritsch (Loving Family)

Thursday, April 27

8:35am (chapel) Intentions of Anita Colahan (SJB Staff)

Friday, April 28

9:00am (church) Lucy Sciacca (Her Girls)

Saturday, April 29

5:00pm (church) for our First Holy Communicants

Sunday, April 30

8:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am (church) for our First Holy Communicants

Meetings for the week of April 24 - 30, 2017

Mon. April 24: Christ Life Prayer Group, 7pm – Chapel

Tues. April 25: Choir Practice, 7pm - Church

Thurs. April 27: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHEARSAL,
6pm, Parish Hall

Sat. April 29: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room

SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST, 10am

K of C "A Night At the Races" 6pm, Parish Hall



Weekly Mass Collection April 16, 2017

Envelopes \$14,960.00

Parish Giving \$ 367.00

Thank you for your generosity!

SJB Cleaning Team for the week of April 24th is Team # 5:



**Marion Wolf, Janet Reidler, Fred Furmaniak,
Beth Baird, Patricia Combs**

Your parish Thanks You!

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

SECTION 903 A



**Second Sunday of Easter: The Journey
through Doubts to Faith**
by Msgr. Joseph A. Pellegrino

The Gospel reading for today takes all of our Easter idealism, our delight in the Risen Savior, and applies a sobering dose of reality. The reading as well as recent events in our parish, country and world, lead me to write about faith, doubts and crises.

It is very, very easy to be a person of faith when all goes well. When life is without any really deep crises, when the hardest things to accept are the deaths of elderly parents and hospitalization for minor ailments like appendicitis, it is easy for each of us to be a person of faith. But when a crisis tears at our hearts, as when a young spouse dies or, worse still, a child dies, or a marriage is evidently on the rocks, then very often we feel our faith ebbing. Many times we enter into a period of anger at God and a time of doubts. This does not mean that we have lost our faith. It simply means that we are being called to a deeper faith.

It was easy for the disciples to believe in the Lord when they felt the magnetism of His words, when they witnessed His healings, when they saw His miracles. But it was much harder for them to believe after He had been taken away to be killed. It was harder for them to believe when they realized that they also could be killed for having been His followers. Thomas doubted the Resurrection because he had suffered the crisis of the crucifixion. His faith in God waned. Like the other specially chosen disciples who would later be called apostles, like Peter, James, Andrew, Bartholomew, Simon and all the rest, Thomas ran and hid. He was not being found on Golgotha. He was too afraid to remember the promises of the Lord. But his faith was restored when he saw the Lord. At this point Jesus told Thomas about a greater faith, a faith that He has called you and me to. The Lord looked at Thomas and then looked down the ages at us and said, "Blessed are those who have not seen yet believe."

When a crisis hits us we all pray for deliverance. "God, please keep my husband, my child alive. God, please save our marriage. God, protect my son at war." If deliverance comes we feel that we have seen the Lord. This is all well and good, but how much greater is our faith when we hold onto the Lord even when our prayers are not answered. "Blessed are those who have not seen yet believe."

Last Sunday we were called to believe in the Resurrection. Our own faith in the Resurrection is not based on experiencing a presence of the Risen Lord, but on an empty tomb. When we feel empty, when we feel that the Lord is no longer in our lives, we have to recognize that more than ever He is alive, among us.

We should not feel bad about having crises in faith. We should feel very human. We should also realize that our crisis can lead us to an even stronger faith. That which challenges us often strengthens us. Let me give you an example of this from everyday life. A fourteen year old child does something very wrong, something that could have resulted in harm for him or

herself or others—like go for a joy ride in a car and then get into an accident. Once caught, the teenager has to deal with the law and whatever reparations need to be made. The teenager also has to go before his or her parents. The parents will most likely have their own punishment connected to the incident, such as, "Regardless of what the law says, you will not get your driver's license until you are seventeen," but good parents will still say to their teenager, "I love you despite your irresponsible behavior." When they do this they demonstrate a fuller, deeper love of their child than before their love was tested by what the child did.

On a higher plane, for us to say to the Lord, "I love you and believe in you despite the times that I have been uncertain of you in my life," demonstrates a deeper faith than we had before our faith was challenged.

A young wife dies. A young man is devastated. He argues with God, even gets angry with God. "How could you let this happen to her," he says in his grief forgetting that God does not do bad things or cause bad things, but cries with us in our crises just as he cried with Martha and Mary when Lazarus died. In time, after the initial shock and upset, the young man recognizes that God is present in bad times as well as in good times and then chooses to believe. His faith is now based not just on his experience of the good, but also on his choice of God during crisis. The crisis, while not caused by God, led him to a deeper faith than he had previously.

Let's not persecute ourselves. Doubting is part of being human. A person who does not react with anger at the time of a tragedy might be a saint, but most likely is a person who really never had a high quality of love. The person, who recognizes that God was certainly there even at the time of anger, is a person whose faith has grown.

We pray today that we might all have a mature faith, able to grow through crises. We pray today that we might all be included in that phrase of the Lord's, "Blessed are those who have not seen but believe."

**The SACRAMENT
of
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS**



**SATURDAY April 29th
10am Mass**

PREP TEACH THE CHILDREN

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Celebrating God's Merciful Love

In the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed that from that year forward the Second Sunday of Easter would be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. This was proclaimed at the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska, who

worked throughout her life to make all aware of the merciful love of God. St. Faustina (1905–1938) was born and raised in Poland. Following a vocation to religious life, she was accepted by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. As a member of the Congregation, she worked as a cook, gardener, and porter. In her spiritual life, her contemplation on the Mercy of God led her to develop a childlike trust in God and deep love for her neighbor. In her years in the convent, St. Faustina heard a call from God to make God's mercy known to the world so that the world may more fully receive God's healing grace. St. Faustina promoted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which consists of the recitation of prayers to the Eternal Father with the use of the rosary for the sake of Christ's sorrowful passion.

When celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday, the faithful are called to reflect more personally on the graces won through the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this way their hearts may be more fully aware of the mercy of God for them personally and for the sake of the world.

The Chaplet is prayed as follows:

1. Begin with the **Sign of the Cross, one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.**

2. On the Our Father beads, recite the following:

"Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."

3. On the ten Hail Mary beads, say the following:

"For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

4. Repeat step two and three for all five decades.

5. Conclude by reciting three times:

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Invites you to:

SHADOW DAY 2017

Monday, April 24th @ 8:15 AM

Your Child is Invited to Spend a Day at the Academy!

Your child /children can spend the day at the Academy with our students.

The students will be able to experience the many exciting things going on in our school.

Should you believe that Children benefit from a Classical Catholic Liberal Arts Education then we invite you to come and explore what The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist has to offer.

Financial Aid & Transfer Grants Available to Qualifying Families-- Ask For Details & Aid Applications

For Information and to Register please call the School Office at 610-847-5523

Or visit us at

www.sjbottsville.org

Knowing Loving Serving Leading

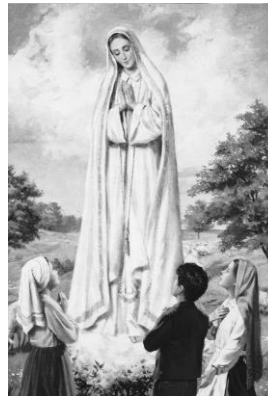


School Headmaster: Mr. Michael J. Patterson

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 Saturdays 10AM

Mass, Confession, Rosary & Lunch

**Call for more info about our upcoming
100th Fatima Anniversary Celebration on
Saturday, May 13th**

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

Catholic Family Living

Join us today at 3pm for our
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY SERVICE

Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

"Jesus, I trust in You!"

National Child Abuse Prevention Month



Each April, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia observes National Child Abuse Prevention Month by encouraging our parishes, schools, and programs to raise awareness and show their solidarity in preventing child abuse. This year's sponsored activities include:

Pinwheels for Prevention©

Pinwheels are a symbol of a carefree childhood and pinwheel gardens an outward sign of awareness and commitment to prevent child abuse. They can be planted in patches of grass, planters, and garden beds. They can even be 'planted' by posting colored pictures in office and school windows. Join the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center by 'planting' a pinwheel garden at your parish, school or program. Pinwheel coloring and activity sheets can be found in the Archdiocese's Child Abuse Month Prevention Month Resource Packet which may be downloaded from [OCYP's](#) website.

Blue Monday

Blue Monday is the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's signature event! On **Monday, April 24** the entire Archdiocesan community - adults and children alike are encouraged to show their solidarity by wearing the color blue to demonstrate the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse.

Blue Sunday

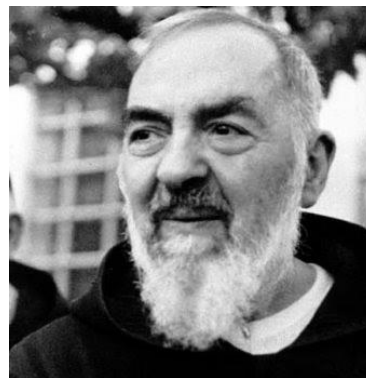
The Blue Sunday National Day of Prayer for Abused Children began in 1994 with 20 churches and has grown to include over seven million participants on five continents. Archdiocese churches are encouraged to take a moment during their services to pray for abused children and for those who rescue them. This year, Blue Sunday takes place on **Sunday, April 30**.

TIME TO REPLACE OUR ALTAR SERVER ALBS



We are almost there...please help us reach our goal.

Our parish is in need of new albs for our Altar Servers. The cost to replace the albs is \$60.00 each. **To date we have collected just over \$1,000.00!** We are asking our parishioners to buy or donate toward the cost of an alb. Please, if you are able to help, place your donation in a plain white envelope with your name and the word "ALB" on the front and drop it in our Sunday Mass collection basket. Please make checks payable to: St. John the Baptist Parish. Thank you for your help.



Great news!

The Relics of Saint Padre Pio are coming to the Cathedral on the weekend of May 6-8!

Stay tuned...the schedule is coming soon and will be posted to archphila.org/fatimaevents

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PRAYER REQUEST

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

*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 29th & 30th – Third Sunday of Easter

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5pm	Lynn Gammello Cathy Leidtke Marianne McEvoy Joel Roney	Marie Louzon	Luke Grindrod Mead Grindrod Hannah Hughes	Patty Leidner Karen Parash
Sunday 8am	Nancy Kaczinski Jim McHugh Kevin Murphy Donna Nice	Laura Fleck	Joseph Gonzales-Fleck Maggie McArdle Natalie Nice	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Sunday 10:30am	Gerri Belsito Phil Donahue Dolly Kovacs Jackie Litzenberger	Kate Irvine	Aidan Blaikie Kaelin Costello Toby Irvine	Mary Pucci Sue Rogers

"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"