

### PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Selvaraj Lucas, M.S.C.

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Tony Ripp, M.S.C.

Finance Manager: Carolyn Marchese

Dir. of Religious Education: Donna Sciacca

Parish Office Manager: Donna Sciacca

Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok

Bulletin Editor/Webmaster: Donna Sciacca

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

Mon - Thurs: 8:35am / Fri: 9am

Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:30pm

**CONFESSION:** Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm

or by appointment.

**Register:** Please contact the parish office to register when you move into our parish.

*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. A Christian of other denominations may serve as a Godparent along with a practicing Catholic.

**MARRIAGE:** A Saturday Mass for the Sacrament of



Matrimony may be celebrated no later than 1pm. Couples planning marriage are to contact the parish office & schedule a meeting with our wedding coordinator no later than 6 months in advance of the wedding. Shorter preparation

periods must be approved by our Pastor. Couples will meet several times with the Pastor throughout the preparation process. Couples are to attend a Pre-Cana program 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.*

### Weekly Mass Schedule

## **ALL PUBLIC MASSES SUSPENDED**

**OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR YOU TO PRAY**

**Weekdays: 8am – 10am**

**Sundays: 8am – 12noon**

**Our Weekly Collection Basket** is at the entrance to the center aisle for you to leave your weekly Mass envelopes or cash offerings.

**Confession is by appt. only, and will be held in the main church please call 610-847-5521.**

### **Mass Intentions for April 13 - 19, 2020**

**Monday:** Mike Renzi (*Mom & Dad*)

**Tuesday:** Miriam Burke (*Mike & Colette Kirk*)

**Wednesday:** Elizabeth Petritsch (*Loving Husband*)

**Thursday:** Neil Mietz (*Mary Kosmin*)

**Friday:** John Zdanowicz (*Harold Rick*)

### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

**Please remember to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm on Sunday**

**Saturday 5pm: Souls in Purgatory**

**Sunday 8am & 10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions**

### Meetings this Week

**ALL EVENTS & MEETINGS CANCELLED**

### Weekly Mass Collection for April 5, 2020

*Not Available at Press Time.*

Easter contributions will be included in our April 19<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

### **DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:**

**THE PARISH OFFICE** is closed. If you are in need of service, please call 610-847-5521

**THE LORDS PANTRY** IS OPEN NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

NO in-pantry shopping.

Pre-bagged items available for curbside pick-up.

# THE EMPTY TOMB

A Reflection on the Gospel of John 20: 1-9



**Have you ever seen something so unusual that the experience gave you pause?**

One woman had such an experience. She told two others who saw what she saw. Only one of these witnesses saw God's hand in the experience. The empty tomb proved a transcendent event.

This resurrection scene from John's gospel emphasized the empty tomb as a cause for faith, not the appearance of Jesus.

Why was the empty tomb so important? The discovery of the empty tomb took place in the context of a charitable act. Only the disciple whom the Lord loved believed. In John's gospel, Jesus revealed himself to those he loved. After the resurrection, the "other disciple" (*unwavering in faith at the foot of the cross*) was the first to understand, then Mary Magdalene (20:14-17), next the other disciples and Thomas (20:19-29), and finally, Peter by name (21:1-23). Those who fully believed in the time of testing were those who said "yes" to the Lord and who understood the full impact of the empty tomb.

The scene of the empty tomb and two reactions: skepticism (Mary Magdalene) and faith (the beloved disciple). Many experiences in life present us with the same options. Was it the activity of the evil? Or, was it the hand of God? Like St. Paul insisted, these experiences

need to be tested. But we should not draw hasty conclusions. Instead, we should look to the source of the experience and its "aftershocks." Does good come from the experience or more evil? And if good does result, was God its ultimate cause?

After all, how did you know that the death of Jesus was the will of God? ***Look to the empty tomb. You will see the Resurrection!***

*On this glorious day, look at the experiences and events of the past weeks. Thank God for the good and the bad. Allow that reflection and prayer to lead you to the joy of the Resurrection.*

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done,  
it is wonderful in our eyes.

*This is the Day the Lord Has Made, Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*



An immediate concern the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our parish doors is the sudden loss of our regular means of income. This income which sustains our parish comes from one source, our Sunday Mass collections.

During a time when we are forced to stay at home, would you please consider making your weekly offering to our parish through our online program...***Parish Giving***. Funds are electronically deposited from your checking, debit, or credit card account. No binding contract. You may adjust the amount you contribute at any time. ***It is simple, convenient, and most of all secure.*** A link to this program is on our parish website, [www.stjohnsottsville.org](http://www.stjohnsottsville.org) Click on the tab and follow the screen prompts. *It's that easy!*

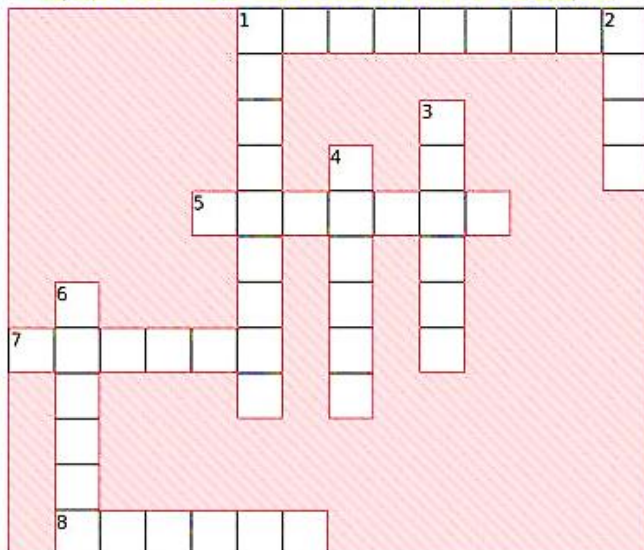
*We are humbled by your generosity and grateful for your ongoing support to our parish.*



TEACH the CHILDREN



## Easter Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

- 1 WHAT PEOPLE DO ON EASTER
- 5 RHYMES WITH SHOPPING
- 7 A WOVEN CONTAINER TO HOLD OR CARRY THINGS
- 8 A LONG EARED ANIMAL THAT HOPS

### DOWN

- 1 A FAVORITE EASTER TREAT
- 2 THESE ARE DECORATED FOR EASTER
- 3 EASTER IS ON THIS DAY OF THE WEEK
- 4 ONE OF THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE YEAR
- 6 A HOLIDAY IN THE SPRING

## Easter Word Search Puzzle

R S J O M M O F V H V F F W Q  
S M G W X I L Y A R W H E T L  
C P N G P D S C C I O L Y Y Z  
B B I B E T A T I L T N C L S  
X D R L M R I F I S N H D I H  
X G P Q U B W D F U Z E Z M U  
F L S R B T A C B O B Z R A N  
L U D A U Y O K A K D E C F T  
O P R C C H I C K S T I R X N  
W V T E K S A B G S R W L W T  
E U G J Z V E T A L O C O H C  
R C A N D Y B E L S B S K S M  
S Z Z G U J U S Q K I T D I K  
E I Y S U N D A Y L Z G G L E  
N O I T A R B E L E C E M R B

BASKET BUNNY CANDY CELEBRATION CHICKS CHOCOLATE  
DAFFODIL EASTER EGGS FAITH FAMILY FLOWERS  
HOLIDAY HUNT RABBIT SPRING SUNDAY TULIPS

## 2020 Sacraments Postponed due to the Coronavirus restrictions in place.

**Sacrament of Confirmation** – currently awaiting a new date from the Bishops office.

**Sacrament of First Holy Communion** a new date will be selected for a time convenient to all once we are back to a normal Mass schedule.

**It is imperative your child continues with their Sacrament preparation work.**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Donna Sciacca, DRE  
[prep@stjohnsottsville.org](mailto:prep@stjohnsottsville.org)



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

*Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading*

The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist is now accepting **Registrations for the 2020/2021 School Year.**

\$1500 transfer grants are available for students transferring from another school.

### Why register your child for our school?

Here are just some of the wonderful benefits:

- ~ Joy Filled Authentic Catholic Community
- ~ **Classical** (not Common Core) Catholic Curriculum
- ~ Protective and Nurturing Environment that allows *Children to Become Who God Intended Them to Be*
- ~ Weekly Mass and Adoration
- ~ Full Day Pre K and Kindergarten
- ~ Transfer Grants Available
- ~ Busing from All of the Local School Districts

To register your child now, or for more information, visit our **ADMISSIONS PAGE** on our website.

Mrs. Tami Koerber, Head of School  
[tkoerber@rasjb.org](mailto:tkoerber@rasjb.org)

Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director  
[amattle@rasjb.org](mailto:amattle@rasjb.org) / 267-424-5762

[www.rasjb.org](http://www.rasjb.org)



## Pope Francis' extraordinary "*Urbi et Orbi*"

In a moment of global crisis, with the Church physically separated from its people and the people from their Church, Pope Francis blessed the city of Rome and the world with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It was a solemn and powerful reminder of Christ's unending presence and his undying love for us, his suffering people. And it was exactly what we — the Church and the world — needed as we continue to face the coronavirus pandemic.

With millions of people livestreaming the event from around the world, Pope Francis led a prayer service that included a Scripture reading, a meditation, veneration of the cross and Eucharistic adoration. It ended with benediction overlooking a vacant St. Peter's Square — what will be an iconic image from this time — and the monstrance held high as bells pealed loudly from above. It was a time of quiet reflection and prayer, and a chance to lay our anxieties and fears of the unknown at the feet of Christ. In him, we were reminded, we need only to put all our trust.

"Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you," Pope Francis said. "This Lent your call reverberates urgently: 'Be converted!', 'Return to me with all your heart (Jl 2:12).'"

"You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgment, but of our judgment: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others."

"The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities," the pope said. "It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities."

"We find ourselves afraid and lost," Pope Francis said.

"Like the disciples in the Gospel, we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."

"How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and

fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons."

The world is in a collective time of trial right now, and our response dictates how it will turn out. Will we trust in God, loving him and one another?

This is what Our Lord calls us to — and what Pope Francis urged us toward as he held Jesus as high as he could before an empty St. Peter's square.



### Pray the Divine Mercy Novena of Chaplets

A novena is typically nine days of prayer in preparation of a celebration of a feast day. At the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy Novena is recited perpetually at the Hour of Great Mercy — the three o'clock hour.

The Chaplet can be said anytime, but...**the Lord specifically asked that it be recited as a novena. He promised, "By this Novena (of Chaplets), I will grant every possible grace to souls."**

### For each of the nine days, our Lord gave Saint Faustina a different intention:

All mankind, especially sinners; the souls of priests and religious; all devout and faithful souls; those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Jesus; the souls who have separated themselves from the Church; the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children; the souls who especially venerate and glorify His mercy; the souls detained in purgatory; and souls who have become lukewarm.

***"I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw therefrom strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death" (Diary of St. Faustina, 1209).***

Ministry Schedule for: **April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5pm	<div>Per the Archdiocese of Philadelphia:</div> <div>ALL PUBLIC MASSES</div> <div>HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED</div> <div>UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE</div>			
Sunday 8am				
Sunday 10:30am				



**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**



**March 1<sup>st</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup> prayer list.**

**To RENEW or To ADD a name to our prayer list, **please call the parish office.****

**OUR SICK:** Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Julia Ferguson, Patricia Fite, Maddie Gardner, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, MaryAnn Hauber, Valerie Korbar, Nate Leidtke, Jackie Litzenberger, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, Maria Middleton, Nancy Moreno, James O'Hanlon, Steve Salva, Riley Telesco, Cynthia Tocci, Helen Wall.

**PRAY FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS**

***Our Doctors, Nurses, Hospital Technicians, EMT's, First Responders, Care Givers, the isolated sick and their families.***

**OUR TROOPS:** Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, Casey DeLauretis, David Fisher, 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, Steven Salva, Kate Salva, Jack Salva, Ann Salva.