

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

69 VALLEY STREET, HILLSDALE NJ 07642 • STJOHNHILLSDALE.ORG



APRIL 11, 2021

2nd Sunday OF EASTER

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you." – John 20:21*

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Peter Smutelovic

WEEKEND ASSISTANT

Rev. Bogumil Misiuk

DEACONS

Deacon Jack Gray
Deacon Albert Ganter

• RECTORY 201.664.3131

Jennifer Cannon, Business Administrator
Naomi Kavanah, Parish Secretary
Glen Ford, Plant Superintendent

• PARISH CENTER 201.666.2707

Cathy Wollyung, Faith Formation
Nicole Mahncke, Confirmation Coordinator
Dee Ford, Youth Ministry
Kathy Breitenbach, Registrar / CCD
Roberto Sabastiani, Director of Music

• ST. JOHN'S ACADEMY 201.664.6364

Suzanne Socha, Principal
Penny Jackson, Tuition Manager / Registrar
Heather Hurley, School Secretary

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL

5:00 PM

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

WEEKDAYS

8:00 AM

HOLY DAYS

8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

- Saturdays 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- After 8:00 AM Mass—Weekdays
- Any time by appointment

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Saint John the Baptist Parish Family,
Dear Friends of our Parish,

As we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter, our gatherings and prayers remain abundantly filled with the outpouring of blessings, graces and joy which our parish family of Saint John the Baptist experienced during the entire Holy Week, during the Easter Vigil, and during the Easter Sunday celebrations. So many of you joined us; so many connected and prayed with us online; so many expressed your joy at being "reunited" in our beautiful church and your gratitude for many grace-filled moments of our Easter together. Many "thank you's" to all of you for your personal witness of faith, your generosity, and for making our Easter 2021 so special.

This Second Sunday of Easter is in the Catholic Church throughout the world dedicated to the remembrance and celebration of boundless and never-ending Divine Mercy towards each and every one of us. (You can find more about this annual liturgical celebration on the following page of our bulletin.) Perhaps it is not a coincidence that on this Divine Mercy Sunday we listen to a passage from the 20th chapter of the Gospel according to John where the Apostles, and among them especially Saint Thomas, make (eventually) their declaration of faith in the Risen Lord. As we read that story so filled with astonishment, joy, surprise, faith, doubt, disbelief, perplexity and hope, we are all either tempted to pass judgment on Saint Thomas' doubts and disbeliefs, or to feel good about ourselves because, as some of the Apostles, we have no doubt about the marvelous reality of the Lord's Resurrection. Meanwhile, that story is actually presented to us as "a spiritual mirror" so that we all can - with peace and sincerity of hearts - confront our own moments of astonishment, joy, surprise, faith, doubt, disbelief, perplexity and hope in our relationship with the Risen Savior. Once we do, and recognize in that "Gospel mirror" both the moments of our own beliefs and disbeliefs, we begin to acknowledge and appreciate even more the extraordinary gift of God's boundless mercy and forgiveness. Symbolically, three times within that short passage Jesus greets and encourages the Apostles - as well as all of us - with his "Peace be with you." Even in the most difficult and trying moments, when it is so difficult to recognize Him, Jesus reassures us with that unwavering "Peace be with you." Pope Saint John Paul II who designated the Second Sunday of Easter as the Sunday of Divine Mercy often defined our personal experience of the loving mercy of Eternal God as one of the most essential aspects of our Christian religious belief and practice, as the experience of boundless love "which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises each and every one of us above our weakness to the infinite heights of the holiness of God." Our daily experience of this Divine Mercy is, and will continue to be, one of the most fundamental building blocks of our parish community's life. In the words of Pope Francis, we strive to build a community of faith "which will always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."

May the Risen Lord be our light, our guide, and the eternal source of our peace on that wondrous journey.

-Fr. Peter

KEEPING THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PRAYERS:

Kenneth Jackson, Kathleen Rooney, Fr. Tom Norton, Rich Correr, John Angermeyer, Gene DiTor

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED:

Nigel Barnes, Gloria Petingi, Leszek Gregorek, Kim Cochrane, Charlie Barila

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 PM Larry Campbell

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

8:00 AM John Pocali

10:00 AM Antoinette Zagaroli

12:00 PM Mr. Farinella

MONDAY, APRIL 12

8:00 AM Corelia Ansel

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

8:00 AM T.J. O'Brien

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

8:00 AM William Latierno

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 AM Frank DeMarco

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

8:00 AM Ronald Von Urff

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

8:00 AM Rosalie Delillo

5:00 PM Ellen & Daniel
Caulfield

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 AM Tony Jurcevic

10:00 AM Antoinette Zagaroli

12:00 PM Protection of Babies in
the Womb & their
Families

THE TABERNACLE LIGHT
BURNS IN MEMORY OF

NIGEL BARNES

AT THE REQUEST OF
THE CANNON FAMILY

PLEASE HELP A CHILD FEEL SPECIAL ON THEIR FIRST COMMUNION!

There are several families in our community, and many just beyond our community in NJ, who cannot afford to purchase a Communion outfit for their child. Please help these children feel special on their big day by donating used or new Communion dresses, suits, shirts, head pieces or shoes.

We have set aside one day this year when donations will be received:

Saturday, April 17 from 10am to 4pm at St. John the Baptist Church (or call Kathy at 201-666-4185). Please bring all articles, clean, on hangers, and covered in plastic. Monetary donations will also be accepted. If you or anyone that you know may need an outfit, please contact Kathy. More details about the exact location will be provided in the coming weeks. Thank You!

During this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also the time which has been filled with so many blessings and acts of compassion and love, through the initiative and creativity of wonderful mothers of our parish we will match every suit and dress with a specially made mask and will provide additional masks for the children who might need them for their "very special First Communion day." Would you like to assist us with sewing, cutting the fabric, or with any monetary donation for this special project which will bring the love, concern and compassion of our Saint John's Family far beyond the boundaries of our parish? We will supply fabric and all components.

Please contact Megan Callea at 212-920-6686, (megancallea@ourlegendaryladies.com), or the aforementioned number of Kathy, 201-666-4185. Thank you so very much!

Saint John's Parish Family Mourns & Remembers

One of the most sorrowful consequences of the Covid-19 State-wide lockdown during the early months of the global pandemic, was our parish community's inability to publicly mourn and celebrate funerals of members of our Saint John's parish community who passed away during those tragic months. During the coming weeks we will inform you about the Memorial Masses which will be celebrated for some of these brothers and sisters.

JOHN CUFFE, SR.

On Saturday, April 17 at 12 p.m. we will be celebrating a Memorial Mass for John Cuffe, Sr. (86) who passed away on April 11, 2020. As head of maintenance here at St. John's between 1960 - 1970, and upon retirement from Metro Fuel, for another ten years, John assisted with zeal and dedication in daily maintenance of our church, parish property and the Academy. His service as head usher for our Sunday 12 noon Mass, as well as his many acts of dedicated Christian discipleship, are remembered by our parishioners with love and affection, and are now certainly rewarded by Almighty God whom John loved so very much. May John rest in the peace of our Lord. This faith community is better and stronger because John and Kathleen made St. John the Baptist their spiritual home.



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

On May 5, 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave of Easter, would be known in the entire Catholic Church as Divine Mercy Sunday.

The feast was established by the pope after he canonized Saint Faustina Kowalska, a humble Polish nun to whom Jesus revealed his message of divine mercy and the depth of his love for each and every one of us. Born in 1905, Saint Faustina became a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy at age 20. While at the convent, beginning in February 1931, she received several private revelations from Jesus, who communicated to her the depth of his mercy and his desire that all be merciful to one another. During the Canonization Mass of Sister Faustina, which took place in Saint Peter's Square in Rome on April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II preached also these memorable and prophetic words, so relevant to all of us even during these challenging times of the global COVID-19 pandemic:

"[...] What will the years ahead bring us? What will man's future on earth be like? We are not given to know. However, it is certain that in addition to new progress there will unfortunately be no lack of painful experiences. But the light of divine mercy, which the Lord in a way wished to return to the world through Sister Faustina's charism, will illumine the way for the men and women of the third millennium.

However, as the Apostles once did, today too humanity must welcome into the upper room of history the risen Christ, who shows the wounds of his Crucifixion and repeats: Peace be with you! Humanity must let itself be touched and pervaded by the Spirit given to it by the risen Christ. It is the Spirit who heals the wounds of the heart, pulls down the barriers that separate us from God and divide us from one another, and at the same time, restores the joy of the Father's love and of fraternal unity. It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called "Divine Mercy Sunday";. In the various readings, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings. Christ has taught us that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but is also called to practice mercy towards others: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7). He also showed us the many paths of mercy, which not only forgives sins but reaches out to all human needs. Jesus bent over every kind of human poverty, material and spiritual.

"[...] Love of God and love of one's brothers and sisters are inseparable, as the First Letter of John has reminded us: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments" (5:2). Here the Apostle reminds us of the truth of love, showing us its measure and criterion in the observance of the commandments. It is not easy to love with a deep love, which lies in the authentic gift of self. This love can only be learned by penetrating the mystery of God's love. Looking at him, being one with his fatherly heart, we are able to look with new eyes at our brothers and sisters, with an attitude of unselfishness and solidarity, of generosity and forgiveness. All this is mercy!"

An excerpt from the Homily of Pope John Paul II, Mass for the Canonization of Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska, April 30, 2000

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Envelope & In Pew Giving: \$26,024
Online Giving via Faith Direct: **

COVID EASTER 2020

\$15,460
\$ 5,210

BUDGET

TOTAL

\$26,024**

\$20,670

\$40,000

This preliminary report of our Easter collection contains only donations received in the church, including those mailed or delivered to our parish office and received as of Easter Sunday. Faith Direct donations have not yet been fully processed and reported to us in the early part of this week as the bulletin is submitted for print. We will provide you next week with more complete report, and will also update the totals as any Easter donations will be received in the coming weeks.

Your financial support enables our parish home to continue the mission of the Church in these difficult times. Thank you and God bless you!

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE

The Roche Mavridis Family, who has underwritten the cost of the Paschal Candle in loving memory of Gabino M. Roche, Sr. The Paschal Candle signifies the light of Christ, and was lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil. It will adorn our sanctuary throughout the year.

All our parishioners who contributed toward the beautiful Easter flowers.

THANK YOU!!!

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREATS

Our constant reminder during the season of Lent is the fact that our church is a place to heal. We are called to "be merciful like the Father." So many are suffering from the effects of abortion. Where can they heal? Where can they feel safe and loved?

The Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life Office will be hosting two upcoming Rachel's Vineyard retreats to heal the wounds from abortion: May 14-16, 2021 (English) and April 23-25, 2021 (Spanish).

Call for more details 973-497-4350 (Spanish option 2) or email Cheryl.riley@rcan.org (English), elvinedoderauelinfo@rcan.org (Spanish).

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL! 2021 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

We have received \$45,465 in pledges and donations toward our parish goal of \$66,062. We thank the 132 parishioners who have already pledged, but we still need your help. Pledge envelopes are at the doors of the church. Please fill one out today and return to the Rectory Office or in the collection basket. You may also make your pledge online at www.rcan.org/sharing. Please indicate on your pledge that you are a member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale and that your donation should be credited to our Parish. May God bless you always!

"O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."

~Saint John Chrysostom (347 - 407 A.D.)