

#### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Feast of the Divine Mercy** 

<u>Divine Mercy Sunday</u>: Celebrating God's Unconditional Love and Forgiveness

The Second Sunday of Easter, which falls on the Sunday after Easter Sunday, is a special day of celebration for Catholics all over the world. On this day, Catholics celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, a day dedicated to reflecting on God's infinite mercy and love for all people. Divine Mercy Sunday was officially declared by Pope John Paul II in the year 2000 at the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus and is considered the Apostle of Divine Mercy.

The Image of Divine Mercy was one of the most important of the many visions and messages that Jesus gave to St. Faustina. In this vision, Jesus appeared to her while dressed in white, with red and white light beams emanating from His heart. He told her that He wanted the Image to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. Jesus also said that He desired the Feast of Mercy to be a refuge and shelter for all souls, especially for poor sinners. Jesus promised complete forgiveness of sins to those who partake of Communion and go to Confession on the Feast of Mercy, according to St. Faustina's diary.

The Image of Divine Mercy holds great significance for Catholics as it is a reminder of God's infinite love and mercy for all people. Pope John Paul II spoke about the Image in his homily for St. Faustina's canonization, where he said that the two rays of light shining from Jesus' heart represent blood and water. The blood recalls Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and the gift of the Eucharist, while the water represents Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Together, these rays symbolize the complete forgiveness and renewal that comes from God's love and mercy.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** is a day of celebration and reflection for **Catholics** worldwide. On this day, they are encouraged to attend **Mass**, receive Communion, and go to **Confession**. Through these acts, they receive **God's** mercy and forgiveness and are renewed in their faith. **Divine Mercy Sunday** is also an opportunity for **Catholics** to reflect on their own lives and consider how they can extend **God's** mercy and love to others.

In a world filled with pain, suffering, and sin, **Divine Mercy Sunday** offers hope and a reminder that **God's** love and mercy are always available to those who seek them. It is a day to celebrate the unconditional love and forgiveness of **God** and to reflect on how we can extend that same love and forgiveness to others in our lives. As **Pope John Paul II** once said, "**Mercy is the ultimate and supreme act by which** God **comes to meet us.**" **On Divine Mercy Sunday**, **Catholics** celebrate this ultimate act of love and are reminded that they, too, can be instruments of **God's** mercy in the world.

Please come and join us at the celebration of the **Divine Mercy** holy hour at **Sacred Heart Church**.

Fr. Andrew

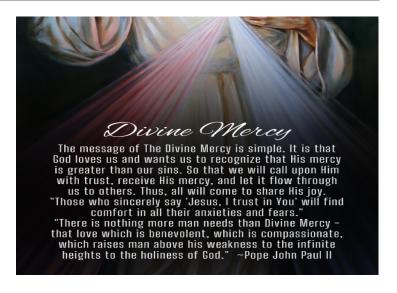
Divine Mercy Sunday at Sacred Heart April 16, 2023

2:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

2:00 p.m. Confessions

3:00 p.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy

3:15 p.m. Benediction



The Mass is available on St. John's Facebook page or YouTube channel, <u>Saint John the Baptist</u>, <u>Cbus</u>. Go to our <u>website</u>: <u>www.sjbitaliana.com</u> <u>under Livestream Mass</u>.

PARISH INFORMATION
The Italian Catholic Community at
St. John the Baptist
Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets
Church Mailing Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 294-5319

Fax: (614) 294-4303

Livestream our 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on our St. John the Baptist Facebook page or YouTube channel, Saint John the Baptist, Cbus, by visiting our website www.sjbitaliana.com.

Office Hours are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Email: info@sjbitaliana.org

Father Andrew Kozminski, SAC – Administrator/Rector Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community

Ms. Aggie Howard - Executive Assistant

Ms. Victoria Scruggs - Secretary and Bulletin Editor

Ms. Gina Bishop - Director of Liturgy

Mr. John Huffman - Organist and Musical consultant

**Holy Sacrifice of the Mass –** 9:30 a.m. each Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mondays & Tuesdays

Sacrament of Penance – 9:00 a.m.

(before Sunday Mass or by appointment)

Sacrament of Baptism and Baptism preparation (by appointment)

Sacrament of Matrimony (you must be registered at Saint John at least 6 months prior to scheduling your wedding by Deacon or Priest)

Sacrament of Confirmation and Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (please make an appointment with Parish Administrator)

Saint John Italian Festival (please visit our website for more information)

Sala Hall and Marrapese Hall (scheduled with approval of Parish Administrator)

**Bulletin Deadline:** Announcements must be submitted in writing by **Tuesday** at **noon**.

Confessions heard before Mass - Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

#### **LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

Sunday	Sunday, April 16, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Valerie Milano, Nick Sciarretti
Euch. Min 1 & 2:	Andrea Myers, Antonio D'Alberto
Euch. Min 3 & 4:	Sharon D'Alberto, Al Iosue
Sunday	Sunday, April 23, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Antonio D'Alberto, Tania Wade
Euch. Min 1 & 2:	Margaret Panico-Harn, Sharon D'Alberto
Euch. Min 3 & 4:	Gretchen Heininger, Kurt Heininger

#### MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 4/16	9:30 a.m.	+ Leo Santilli by Dr. Linda Records
Monday 4/17	9:00 a.m.	+ Arlene Weissenstein by Paule Family
Tuesday 4/18	9:00 a.m.	+ Ledia Camelo by Caterina Sestito
Sunday 4/23	9:30 a.m.	+ Geno Natalucci-Persichetti by Toni Natalucci-Persichetti
Monday 4/24	9:00 a.m.	+ Bill Finissi by Caterina Sestito
Tuesday 4/25	9:00 a.m.	+ Jim Graf by Howard & Beck Mc Aninch

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: Mildred M. Sabine

by Gianantonio Family

Blessed Sacrament: Tony Corova

by Chris Soteriades

# PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS\*\*

\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. For Vienna D'Alberto who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village. Also, keep in your prayers, Laura Williams, Guy Williams, John Contino and Tony Caradonna.

The Rosary before Mass on Sunday: We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact Kevin Koesters at 937-902-7446 or via email at k.koesters32@gmail.com. Leaders for April are:

April 16 Gary Bosco
April 23 Kevin Koester
April 30 Maureen Iosue

# WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S April 9, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday - 38

Easter. Env:	\$ 2	2,205.00
Loose:	\$ 3	3,296.00
Total	\$ 5	5,501.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ -	<u>(330.06)</u>
	\$ 5	5,170.94
Votives	\$	71.00
Good Friday	\$	30.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$	20.00
Total	\$	121.00

#### ? \$ ? \$ ? HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? \$ ? \$ ? Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/22-6/30/23)

 Budgeted
 Actual
 Difference (\$) (%)

 This Wk.:
 \$2,885.00
 \$5,501.00
 \$2,616.00
 91%

 FYTD:
 \$118,285.00
 \$118,233.76
 -(\$51.24)
 0%

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, April 17, 2023

Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, April 24, 2023

Nick Persichetti and Aggie Howard

#### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

4/16	SJB Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski
Sunday	9:30 a.m. – SJB Church
	SJB Altar Guild – Meeting – Marrapese Hall
	10:45 a.m.
	SJB Italian Language Class – Marrapese Hall
	11:00 a.m12:00 p.m.
	KCC Religious Education Meeting with Parents
	11:00 a.m12:00 p.m. – Italian Cultural Room
	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim – SJB Church
	12:00-3:00 p.m.
	San Giovanni Dancers – Marrapese Hall
	3:30-5:30 p.m.
4/17	SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski
Monday	9:00 a.m.
	Rotary Club Meeting - Marrapese Hall
	11:00 a.m1:00 p.m.
4/18	SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
4/20	Sacred Heart Young Professionals Meeting -
Thursday	Fr. Kozminski, 7:00-8:30 p.m. –
	Italian Cultural Room
4/21	KCC Mass – Fr. Kim
Friday	7:00 p.m. – SJB Church
4/22	Howard Bridal Shower - Marrapese Hall
Saturday	8:00 a.m5:00 p.m.
	Altar Guild Reminder - Every 2nd Sunday of the
	Month - Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.
	Le Donne Group - Meetings are the last Sunday
	of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall

<u>Altar Guild Meeting:</u> The meeting for May 14 will be changed to a later date due to Mother's Day and May Crowning. Details to come.



#### Thank You

A big **St. John the Baptist** "Thank-you" to all the parishioners who contributed to the **Easter Flowers** this season! Your generosity is appreciated!



#### **COFFEE AND DONUTS AFTER SUNDAY MASS IN SALA HALL**

### **AROUND US**

The Holy Father's Intention for the Month of April 2023: We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by **States** and citizens.

Liturgical Calendar: The month of April is dedicated to The Holy Spirit. The first eight days of April fall during the season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical color violet or purple – a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remainder of April falls during the Easter season which is represented by the liturgical color white – the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

Catholic Man's Luncheon – Friday, May 5, 2023 – Speaker Father Tyron Tomson. Join us Friday, May 5 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring a talk on The Traditional Latin Mass by Father Tyron Tomson, Pastor of St. Bernadette Parish, Lancaster and St. Mary Parish, Bremen. If you are interested in sponsoring this or another luncheon, please contact Jim Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Fr. Tomson's presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! Our next luncheon is on Friday June 2, 2023, and will feature Fr. Adam Streitenberger, Vicar for Evangelization, speaking about The Newman Center Today.

Missions: Rosaries – The Missions Office provides free of charge, Rosaries crafted by the faithful across the country. They are a unique way of instructing prayer and devotion to the Blessed Mother. We have been distributing Rosaries for parish retreats, schools, PSR programs, fairs, festivals, Parish mission, prison ministry, hospital, and Nursing home visits. Also, we sent rosaries to Belize Mission, Indian Mission, and African Mission. Please contact the Missions Office if you would like to utilize this resource. Thanks to the generosity of Rosary makers in your parishes, over the past year, we have distributed 5,760 Rosaries! If your parish has a Rosary guild, we would be grateful if they could include us as a recipient of the Rosary ministry. Thank you for your consideration.



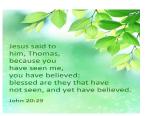
St. Charles Drama Department to present "Almost, Maine" April 27-30: The St. Charles Preparatory School Drama Department is proud to announce its spring production, Almost, Maine by John Cariani. Almost, Maine will be presented April 27, 28, & 29 at 8:00 p.m. and April 30 at 3:00 p.m. in the St. Charles Campus Theatre. Adult tickets are \$15.00 each, and student tickets are \$10.00 each. Reservations may be placed by visiting the St. Charles website homepage at <a href="https://www.scprep.org">www.scprep.org</a> – Buy Tickets button. (Tickets will not be sold at the door).

Catholic Climate Covenant Film: Join us later this month for a Catholic Climate Covenant community ONLINE SCREENING of *The Letter*, followed by a discussion session. *The Letter* features frontline champions from around the world and offers a compelling new message for our planet and a timely and authentic way to engage our communities. Please visit info@catholicclimatecovenant.org to register for one of these two April screenings today: Tuesday, April 25 – 1:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Pacific) or Wednesday, April 26 – 7:00-9:00 p.m. Eastern (4:00-6:00 p.m. Pacific)



Today's Gospel: The Gospel is taken from John 20:19-31. Last Sunday's Gospel, also taken from St. John, described the first hint at the Resurrection which the Apostles received. Peter and **John** were beginning to believe. But the others were skeptical, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus paid no heed to the women's story, and Thomas refused to believe the testimony of the other ten, even when the appearance of our Lord had convinced them. Their slowness of faith had its value for the future Church and for all of us. If they had been expecting the Resurrection, and anxiously looking forward to it, people could say that they imagined it, that they persuaded themselves it had happened. The conviction that it could not happen, could not be removed from their minds except by impressive evidence. We can thank the Apostles and especially Thomas, the last to give in, that our faith in the Resurrection and divine glorification of Christ is that much the stronger. Our Christianity spread rapidly to the then known world and is still spreading because its author was none other than Christ "our Lord and our God." How prophetic were the words of **Gamaliel** at the meeting of the **Sanhedrin** which tried to prevent the **Apostles** from preaching the new **Christian** faith: "If this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it" (Acts 5:38-39). - Excerpted from The Sunday Readings, Cycle A, by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

To rise again, to start anew, to accept the journey, we always need to return to Galilee, that is, to go back to the living, concrete and palpable memory of our first encounter with him. @ Pontifex



#### <u>Prayer</u>

God of everlasting mercy, Who in the very recurrence of the Paschal Feast kindle the faith of the people You have made Your own, increase, we pray, the grace You have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they

have been washed, by Whose Spirit they have been reborn, by Whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

#### Sunday, Apr 16, 2023

#### Put disappointments behind

Learn a lesson from the experience of the apostle we've come to know as "doubting Thomas." Insisting that our expectations be met is often the path to disillusionment and heartbreak. The way to peace is another route entirely. As Saint John Chrysostom taught, "So you want peace of heart? Then do not seek health, nor wealth, nor fame, nor power, nor luxury. Seek wisdom in God's sight, stick to the virtues, and nothing will be able to make you sad." Start by cultivating the seven big virtues: faith, hope, love, prudence, temperance, courage, and justice. And leave disappointment in the rearview mirror.

SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 (43). "Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"

#### Monday, Apr 17, 2023

#### Reborn and renewed

Are Catholics "born again"? Yes, when we are baptized. In Baptism, we die with Christ, in that all sins are purified, and are reborn as children of God. Once done, it need not and cannot be repeated because by Baptism we are incorporated into Christ, configured to Christ, and sealed forever with the "indelible spiritual mark" of belonging to Christ. Catholics can, however, renew baptismal vows—and often do at Mass, especially during the Easter season, including the Easter Vigil Mass. Cherish this opportunity to restate your promises, profess your faith, and strengthen your commitment to Christ and church once again.

#### EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8 (267). "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

#### **Tuesday, Apr 18, 2023**

#### The high cost of beauty

On this day in 1506, Pope Julius II laid the cornerstone for today's St. Peter's Basilica, initiating the most celebrated architectural project in all of Christendom. The work involved renowned Renaissance artists Raphael and Michelangelo and took 120 years to complete. The result? Ralph Waldo Emerson declared it "an ornament of the earth . . . the sublime of the beautiful." To appreciate its beauty and grandeur, take a virtual tour of St. Peter's Basilica.

#### EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268). "The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes."

#### Wednesday, Apr 19, 2023

#### Free advice

From the Book of Exodus to the Book of Acts, biblical literature is filled with stories of God delivering people from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light. And, as the church instructs in its 1984 document on liberation theology, the "most radical form of slavery is slavery to sin." Reflect on God's activity in your own life, especially during times that you were stuck or caught in a

destructive pattern. God created us free and longs to see us free. Whatever fetters might have you tied down or wrestling in the dark at the moment, know that you can turn to God for release. Liberation is what God loves to bring!

#### EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269). "The angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison [and] led them out."

#### Thursday, Apr 20, 2023

#### More than enough to go around

If you grew up in a household marked by scarcity, the "theology of abundance" might be hard to embrace. This concept, popularized by Lutheran theologian Walter Brueggemann, is that God's generosity and abundance are overflowing, and that discipleship means sharing freely of both material and spiritual riches to rid the world of poverty in all its forms. How do you experience God's overflowing generosity? And how are you paying it forward?

#### EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270). "He does not ration his gift of the Spirit."

#### Friday, Apr 21, 2023

#### Sad face emoji

Behind smiley emojis and Instagram-worthy photos, many people are struggling to make it through the day. With so much heaviness of heart, Easter can seem totally out of place. Yet, the Paschal Mystery reminds us that we need not be struggle-free in order to allow the warmth, light, and new life of Easter to wash over us, if even a little. God welcomes us in just as we are and offers to us abundant love, holding us when we ourselves can hold no more. As we continue this season, what might you allow God to hold for you?

#### EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271). "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."

#### Saturday, Apr 22, 2023

#### Calming the waters

The Sea of Galilee is said to be prone to sudden, violent storms, with temperature swings and gusty winds provoked by the high mountains that surround it. Whether we understand Jesus walking on the choppy waters literally or figuratively, the message is clear: Jesus is our bridge over troubled waters. Whatever turbulence you might be experiencing, reach out a hand to the many incarnations of Christ in your life—those who will stand by you and stand with you, those who are ready to reach out a steadying hand as you face the storms of life.

#### EASTER WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272). "The sea was stirred up because a strong wind was blowing."

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