

Second Sunday of Easter

Mass Intentions

Tues., Apr. 9th, 10 a.m.: Les & Rita Deterding, by family
Wed., Apr. 10th, 8 a.m.: Gladys Carr
Fri., Apr. 12th, 8 a.m.: David Gregson, by Paul Harbaugh
Sat., Apr. 13th, 4 p.m.: Adam Grempe, by Kathy Ratz; Parish
Sun., Apr. 14th, 10 a.m.: Judy Weber, by Ed & May
Stellhorn; Ed & Helen Masterson, by Peg, Allan,
& Seth

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, April 13th, 4 p.m.:

Lector - S. Heine
Ushers - M. & P. Ramsey
Eucharistic Ministers - H. Siegfried, J. Keith, J. Gorman
Servers - Volunteers
Gift Bearers - K. Ratz, G. Wiegard

Sunday, April 14th, 10 a.m.:

Lector - E. & E. Brewer
Ushers - M. Scheffert, W. Ruhmann
Eucharistic Ministers - A. & J. Deterding, M. Poirrier
Servers - J. Sauer, O. Cowell
Gift Bearers - M. & L. Krebel

Please Pray For ...

Adele Cowell; Rev. Mark Stec;
Nursing Home Residents; Homebound Parishioners
Names remain for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.

Thought For The Week

Worship is...discovering the truth, and then rejoicing in it.

On the Lighter Side

Joe stopped by the florists to buy some flowers for his girl friend. "You want to say it with flowers, sir?" the florist asked. "How about three dozen American Beauty Roses?" Joe said, "Make it half a dozen. I'm a man of few words."

Happenings This Week

Sun.: First Communion at the 10 am Mass
Mon.: School dismissal at 11:15 am; Solar Eclipse – will you be watching? You need special glasses!
Tues.: 8:30 am Bible Study in Church; 10 am Mass with school students; 1 pm Personnel Board mtg at Chancery; 7 pm School Board mtg in the library
Wed.: 8 am Mass; 9:30 am Child Protection zoom mtg & Audit; 6:45 pm PSR session in school
Sat.: Gentry Shepherd baptism, after 4 p.m. Mass

Liturgical Roles

The next set of schedules will cover June 1st-September 29th. Please notify Rhonda of conflicts by May 3rd.

Readings

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

The community of believers shared "one heart and mind." No one claimed ownership over anything, everything was held in common, nobody went needy among them, and all "bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus."

2nd Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God. "The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth."

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Jesus appeared to the disciples and said, "Peace be with you" and breathed the Holy Spirit on them. Thomas doubted and then believed saying, "My Lord and my God!"

From the Desk of Fr. Dennis

Basking in the glory of Easter, today we celebrate God's unparalleled mercy on this Divine Mercy Sunday. Out of mercy for all of us, Jesus died on the cross, atoning for our sins, past, present, and future. Out of mercy for those whose faith is weak or doubt is strong, Jesus comes to reassure us of his eternal presence. Out of mercy for those who cannot see him, Jesus blesses them in their faith. In the first reading today, we hear that the entire community of believers bears witness to the Resurrection by what they do and how they live. They treat each other with mercy and love, as Jesus did when he appeared to all the disciples, even Thomas, who had doubted. Let us join in praise, for God's mercy endures forever.

We welcome to the Lord's Table for the first time our 2nd grade students who are making their First Communion this weekend at the 10 am Mass. May their families and all of us not take for granted the nourishment the Lord gives us as we come to His table.

Have a blest 2nd week of Easter! Remember we are an Easter People, and Alleluia is our Song! Also, don't worry so much, and know that you are loved! ~ Fr. Dennis

Why is Easter Greater Than Christmas?

If Easter had not happened, Christmas would have no meaning. If the tomb is not empty, the cradle makes no difference. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then he really is just a misguided Jewish rabbi with delusions of grandeur. If Easter is not true, then Christmas is only the story of an obscure baby born in an out-of-the-way village in a forgotten land 2000 years ago. It is Easter that gives Christmas its meaning. ~ Dr. Ray Pritchard

Pope Francis Speaks to Our Hearts

(The Church's Witness of Brotherly Love.) When a person truly knows Jesus Christ and believes in him, that person experiences his presence in life as well as the power of his resurrection, and cannot but communicate this experience. And if this person meets with misunderstanding or adversity, he behaves like Jesus in his passion: he answers with love and with the power of the truth...Let us ask for the help of Mary Most Holy so that the Church throughout the world may proclaim the resurrection of the Lord with candor and courage and give credible witness to it with signs of brotherly/sisterly love. Brotherly/Sisterly love is the closest testimony we can give that Jesus is alive with us, that Jesus is risen.

Rummage Sale & Bake Sale

Rummage Sale & Bake Sale: Friday, April 26th, 7 am-2 pm and Saturday, April 27th, 7-11 am, inside St. Mary's Church Hall, Ellis Grove. 30 tables of miscellaneous items. (No clothing).

Gibault News

5th & 6th Grade Future Hawk Hangout: Shoot hoops, bump volleyballs, play bags, and MORE. Drinks and Snacks included. Come HANGOUT and HAVE FUN! RSVP: <https://bit.ly/hawkhangout>

Spring Rummage Sale: Sat., Apr. 13, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (1/2 price and bag sale after noon.) Donations can be dropped off April 10 & 11 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

7th Grade Shadow Program: There are only a few weeks left for your student to visit Gibault! Your 7th grader can spend the day at Gibault as a Shadow Visitor. Shadows will be matched with a current student with similar interests and together, they'll attend classes, meet teachers, enjoy lunch in our cafeteria, and more! 7th grade shadows are welcome to come back as 8th graders for another Shadow Visit, too!

St. Anne's: Cookies for Confirmation

CCW is helping with the Confirmation reception April 16. Store bought cookies (to keep with school rules) are requested. You can drop them off at the school cafeteria the morning of April 15th or 16th. You may also place them in the boxes in the vestibule of the church starting April 13th so as not to get them confused with SVDP donations.

Also, volunteers to help put the cookies on trays and set up will be welcome at 3:00 on April 16th. We also need volunteers in the gym to help serve drinks, clean up, and package leftover cookies beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Questions, call Mary 618-443-8264.

Welcome to the Table of the Lord!

Congratulations to our First Communion Class: Tessa Brewer, Abigail Crook, Gabriella Guebert, Fiona Martin, Maddex Mehring, Charlie Mueth, John Restoff, Max Schield, Hudson Schneider, Blake Schoenbeck, Everett Simpson, Barrett Walker, Griffin Walter, Hayden Westerman, Lauren Wetzler, Walker Wetzler

Spring Farm Blessing

All are invited to join Bishop McGovern for the Spring Farm Blessing, which will be held on Friday, April 26, at 1 pm at Braeutigam Orchards located at 2795 Turkey Hill Lane, Belleville, IL. "Farm Blessing" signs will guide you. Those attending are invited to bring harvested grain, fruit, vegetables and garden produce in sealed, marked containers along with animals and farm machinery to be blessed. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food pantry. We look forward to having you join us!

Spring Training for Your Marriage

Spring Training for Your Marriage, Saturday, April 13th, Holy Trinity Parish, Fairview Heights, featuring Fr. Jim Deiters. Cost is \$50 per couple. Mass at 4 p.m.; dinner at 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Diocese of Belleville Department of Life, Marriage, and Family. Space is limited so reserve your spot now: www.diobelle.org or mking@diobelle.org; call 618-722-5048.

Quilts for Fundraisers

3. C. Adele Cowell, Susan Cowell Thank you!

Baptism Preparation Class

All first-time parents who wish to have their child baptized at St. John's must attend our Baptism Preparation Class. The next class will be Monday, April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in Church. Please notify the church if you plan to attend.

Easter Flowers

In memory of the Jacob Schaefer family, Donald Hess, by Marie Hess

In memory of Larry Schnepf, Elmer & Esther Schnepf, Herman & Lillian Skov, by Lorraine Liefer

BBQ at SJB!

Let SJB make lunch for you on Sunday, April 14th! Head over to the cafeteria for a BBQ meal available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (carry-out only). Enjoy BBQ pork steaks, brats, hot dogs, mac & cheese, potato salad, baked beans, slaw, chips. Also having a Bake Sale and 50/50!

Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response Through Catholic Social Teaching

A Small Group Interactive Program on Zoom; 10 Consecutive Thursdays; April 25-June 27, 6-8 p.m.; Facilitators: Beth Gutzler and Cheryl Sommer. Grounded in Catholic social teaching, this program guides participants in exploring the Gospel’s call to respond to poverty in our communities, nation and world, and equips participants with practical tools to take action in effective and sustainable ways. The program contains extensive resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and is encouraged for use in Catholic parishes. For more information, go to <https://justfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/JustFaith-Catholic-Program-1-Program-Booklet.pdf> Register at <https://justfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-biblical-response-catholic-version-st-louis-spring-2024-small-group/>

Spring Rummage Sale

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be: Friday, April 26th (4-9 p.m.; everything priced); Saturday, April 27th (8 a.m.-6 p.m.; \$5/bag; we have bags); Sunday, April 28th (8 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$4/bag). Cash or local check with ID only.

Item Drop-Off: Saturday, April 20th (8 a.m.-3 p.m.); Sunday, April 21st (11 a.m.-4 p.m.); Monday-Thursday (8 a.m.-7 p.m.) We do not accept TVs, computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, used mattresses, non-working items, or heavily soiled items. Before dropping off large items, please call the school first (618-282-3215).

You Can Help!

Set up for the Rummage Sale is Friday, April 19 at 4 pm. The tables will already be up. Meet in the gym and we will bring in supplies from the shed, set up racks and shelves, and organize for the upcoming week. Everyone can help; there are a variety of jobs. We’re usually done in about an hour.

There are several ways everyone can help with the rummage sale. You can donate items, help price and set out items, help unload vehicles as items are dropped off, help with set up and clean up, or make a monetary donation to help defray the costs of advertising and signs.

Thank you for supporting SJB!

Anniversary Celebration

St. Anne Cradle of Hope, one year anniversary celebration on April 11th. Holy Mass at 11 a.m. with a reception to follow. SIU-C Newman Center, Carbondale.

The National Eucharistic Revival

Scandal, division, disease, doubt. The Church has withstood each of these throughout our very human history. But today we confront all of them, all at once. Our response in this moment is pivotal. In the midst of these roaring waves, Jesus is present, reminding us that he is more powerful than the storm. He desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world. How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation. Learn more at EucharisticCongress.org. When: July 17-21, 2024; Where: Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN. Prior to these days, come and join the Belleville Diocese for EMMAUS DAYS July 7 & 8; July 7th special events will be held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows & on July 8th at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Watch the Messenger for times and additional information or go to the Diocesan website: www.diobelle.com.

Born in the USA

St. James CCW presents: Born in the USA, a noon luncheon experience. St. James Parish Center, Millstadt, on Thursday, April 11th, 12-2:30 p.m. Doors open at 10 a.m.; \$15 per person. Menu: Pulled pork, vegetables, hash brown casserole, slaw, Jello salad, apple pie. Featuring a sweet shoppe, quilt/cash raffle, basket raffle, bingo, and attendance prizes. Paid RSVPs are required in advance. Please call Jane Kuester at 618-476-1395.

Your Gifts to God & Parish

Holy Week & Easter

Sunday.....	\$3,772.00
Loose.....	\$1,440.46
Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....	\$5,212.46
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$115.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$10.00
Black & Indian Missions.....	\$25.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$145.00
Easter.....	\$4,306.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$20.00
Holy Land/Good Friday.....	\$561.00
Holy Thursday.....	\$105.00
School Endowment.....	\$25.00
School Support.....	\$35.00
Seminarian Education.....	\$25.00

Thank You!

Thank you so much for your donations of cash, canned goods, snacks, white socks, and so much more. Your contributions mean so much to SVDP. Our parish here at St. John's has a wonderful reputation for giving. Have a blessed Easter season!

Stewardship Thought

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced TOTAL stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

Illinois March for Life

Illinois March for Life, April 17th, Capitol Building, Springfield, IL. Schedule: Rally at 12 p.m.; March at 1 p.m. For more information, visit il.marchforlife.org

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Pastoral Visioning Survey

There are many good things happening in the Catholic Community of Southern Illinois. The many people who share their time, talent and treasure so that the Body of Christ is filled with life across our twenty-eight counties. As we look to the future, we need to consider what should be the priorities for our diocese from 2024-2029. While there will be meetings to hear the priorities identified by fellow Catholics, we are also encouraging people to contribute by writing. This will allow more of the faithful to be consulted. Please go to <https://form.jotform.com/233305253908050> and kindly submit your thoughts about priorities for the Diocese. A FORM IS INCLUDED in the bulletin this week for you to complete and turn in. Please do so by April 14th. Drop it in the collection basket. Thank you for doing this!

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

Number of households that have pledged: 81

Amount pledged to date: \$19,615.00

Our parish goal: \$15,731.00. Thank you!

Faith Flash!

Faith Flash!

T-Shirts optional!

Monday is a total solar eclipse. For those of you who were fortunate to be around for the last one in 2017, it was totally awesome, right? And here we are again, witnessing a repeat performance. It is worth celebrating. It is worth putting on the silly glasses. And it is worth putting on the "only going to wear once in my lifetime" t-shirt. It is worth having an eclipse party. Why? Well, for starters, the next one isn't until 2044. Did I mention it is awesome? Truly, there is nothing like it. The world, for a sudden short period of time, takes on the appearance of dark. The insects start their night time ritual sounds. It isn't long before the sun reappears and bugs the quiet down. The oohing and awing ceases and life goes on. Still, we are left with this unforgettable image of the sun being blocked by the moon. With the Eclipse coming right after Easter, I find myself drawing some comparisons. Good Friday was the day the earth went suddenly dark. The Lord, our source of light, was laid in the tomb with the entrance covered by a big stone. I can picture on Easter morning, the stone slowly being rolled to one side and a bright light behind it, the Son, being slowly exposed. Darkness is dispelled and the light shines once again. Again, awesome! And life goes on with an unforgettable image of the Son. Lucky for us, we don't have to wait until 2044 until the next Easter. We will do it again next year. T-shirts optional!

Youth Group!

Our next Youth Group gathering is Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30pm. All highschoolers are invited to attend. We will meet in the Church basement. Use the breezeway doors of the church to enter. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend!

Dave Hollinshead, Director of Faith Formation