



Easter Sunday, April 20th *Christ Is Risen.*

Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia!

During Lent, the Church gives us 40 days of fasting preparing for the great Feast of Easter. We are then gifted with 50 days of feasting! She does this in her wisdom to remind us of two important aspects of hope. Penance and sorrow can be tough, but it is only temporary. In time sorrow dissipates with the rising sun (Son). It is as the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen used to say, “We can’t have a halo of light without a crown of thorns. There is no Easter without a Good Friday...We can’t have the King of Glory without the Man of Sorrows.” In other words, we can’t obtain our goals without sacrifice.

Secondly the church reminds us that we are made for joy. Therefore, let us celebrate the 50 days of Easter by remembering the value of the cross and the joy to which we are called. Let us remember God’s tremendous love and the depth of joy awaiting us. “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”
Jn 15:11

During the Easter Season, let us joyfully find ways to celebrate and love one another. All love demands sacrifice, and this was the purpose of Lent. While at the same time, the Church reminds us that it is the love of God that changes history and our lives.

Confirmation 2025

Having celebrated Confirmation on Sunday March 2nd our Confirmands were sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Congratulations to each and all!

“Be Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge,
Reverence, Right Judgment, Courage,
Wonder and Awe

Divine Mercy Sunday – April 27th



God’s great mercy abounds as we humble ourselves and take the steps necessary to allow God’s great mercy and love to transform our lives and restore us to the grace and beauty of our Baptism. It is our hope that our parish family will gather to celebrate this solemn Feast of Mercy. The Parish Divine Mercy celebration will begin with Eucharistic Adoration following the 11:00 am mass. A Holy Hour will begin at 2:00pm and conclude with Benediction.

Blessed Carlos Acutis will also be canonized on Sunday April 27th

First Holy Communion – April 26 – 11:00am



Retreat Day: Sa. April 12th 8:30am to 2:00
***Please note:**
Rehearsal-Tuesday, April 22nd 6:00 pm at the Main Church – We ask that one Parent attend with your child.

Our 2nd grade students have been preparing these past two years (1st & 2nd grade) to receive Jesus into their hearts in Holy Communion for the first time. We welcome them in joining our church family at the table of the Lord. Jesus said to them,

“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall not thirst.” (Jn 6:35)



May 4th – May Crowning

May Crowning of the Blessed Mother. All First Communion Students and their Families are invited to attend and participate. Students are asked to wear their First Communion attire.

Ascension of the Lord – May 29th **Pentecost Sunday, June 8th**

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit.



Many Thanks!

A special note of thanks to all our students who contributed toward our Youth Lenten collection on behalf of our Parish Outreach program. To date we’re pleased to announce that we collected about \$500 to date. Many thanks for all your little and big sacrifices, while translating them into almsgiving offerings during Lent. Each student received a personal “almsgiving” donation box and were asked to return this box sometime during Lent.

Parish Annual On-Line Auction

A reminder also that our Parish (one-week) On-Line Auction event opened on Wed. March 26th and will continue to be open for bids until Wed April 2nd. Be sure to check out our Rel. Ed “Gardening Basket”. Check out the auction website and place your bids - www.tinyurl.com/SJBAuction2025

“Come and See” -Good Shepherd Catechesis

Perhaps you’re hearing a lot about our “Good Shepherd” classes and their impact on your children and their Faith Formation these days. In response to your many inquiries, our Good Shepherd Staff would like to host a “Come and See” opportunity on Saturday May 10th, beginning at 8 :30 am with hospitality. Parents are most welcome to come, participate in some initial presentations, ask questions, and see for yourself the beauty of our two Atriums here at St. John’s. Please if interested in joining us for this initial day and perhaps some follow up days, please contact Sr. Jane at Rel. Ed Office reled@sjbnf.org call 717-235-2156 option # 1. Your attendance and participation can and will undoubtedly have a great impact on your “Domestic Church”.

Religious Education Registration **For the 2025-2026 School Year**

Registration Forms have been mailed electronically to all registered families and are due by June 1st. Forms are also available on St. John’s web site. If you do not receive a form or have difficulty with the web site, please call the Religious Education office at 717-235-2156, option 1.

Please note that:

- Pre-School Good Shepherd classes are offered on Sunday mornings and on Wed. Evening for 3 Year Olds through Gr. 2.
- Sacrament Prep Grade-1-2 classes are offered on Sunday morning, and on both Wed/Thurs. evening.
- Rel. Ed Classes for Grade 3 – Grade 8 are offered on both Wed. and Thursday evening.
- Confirmation prep classes for Grade 7-8 and offered on both Wed and Thursday evening.
OCIC classes (for those in Grade 3-8 preparing for Sacraments of Initiation) are held on Wednesday evening.
- Teen Disciples (High School Students) meet on Wed. evenings in our Youth Ministry Room at 6:00pm.

It is our hope that by expanding our offerings, all students will be able to make their weekly attendance a priority on all grade levels.

Planning is underway for our 2025-2026. **Religious Ed program.**

Catechist Teams are needed per grade level. If you desire to assist or if you know someone who would like to assist as a Catechist, Aide, Teen Assistant, hospitality etc. please take the time to personally invite them to serve with us and help attend to the various levels and needs of our Youth. Diocesan Clearances are required for all adults. The clearance process should be completed during the summer months prior to the beginning of classes. *(These can be procured FREE of charge)*

Last Religious Education Classes
Sun. May 4th Wed. May 7th , & Thurs. May 8th .

We wish you a safe and Blessed summer!