

**St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes**

**(902) 535-2053**

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## **April 7, 2024, Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday**

*"I shall sing forever the Lord's mercy" (Ps 89 [88]).*

Today is the Sunday of Divine Mercy, the Octave Day of Easter.

From Creation, God has revealed his nature as love itself, in Sacred Scripture and most perfectly in the life, Passion, death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus. In his second encyclical, *Dives In Misericordia (Rich in Mercy)*, Pope Saint John Paul II offers an extended meditation on the mystery of God's mercy, which he calls "the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God" (*Dives in misericordia*, 13). He returned to this theme throughout his pontificate:

As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!

Lord, who reveals the Father's love by Your death and Resurrection, we believe in You and confidently repeat to You today: Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy upon us and upon the whole world. —Pope John Paul II, *Regina caeli* message for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2005

The Divine Mercy Sunday origin is from a revelation to Saint Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. Between 1930 and 1938 Jesus requested numerous times a Feast of Divine Mercy. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of Saint Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

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## **Mass Readings**

The **First Reading** is taken from *Acts 4:32-35*. In this brief glimpse of the life of the first Christian community in Jerusalem, St. Luke (the author of Acts) emphasizes the ideal of Christian brotherhood, which animated the first Christians so much that many gave their possessions gladly for distribution among those of their brothers. While our Christian religion does not demand of all of us that we should follow the example of the first Christian community in Jerusalem, we still have an important lesson to learn from today's reading. While we can, and the vast majority of us must, retain our personal possessions, we must still be always ready to share them with those in need. We are not the real owners of what we possess; we are only the administrators of the property God has given us. He is the real owner, and he expects us to use what he has give us justly and charitably.

The **Second Reading** is from the *1 John 5:1-7*. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith." In one short sentence, St. John, the beloved disciple of Christ, expresses the profoundest philosophy ever put before thinking man. We have had many philosophers and many searchers after the meaning and purpose of rational life on earth. We have had many attempts at explanations, but all have failed, for none of them satisfied the innate desires and total capacity of human nature. Of all the beings on our planet, man alone has the faculties for perceiving the truth and for enjoying the beautiful. While he shares with the animal kingdom the impulse to self-preservation, and the perpetuation of the species, he has within him powers that surpass all animal instincts and raise him above the material world where he lives and moves. He can perceive beauty, truth, love, joy and happiness. With his will, which is motivated by the good, he can and does desire to possess these supra mundane "goods," not only for a few short years but forever.

The **Gospel** is read for all years (Cycles A, B and C) and 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, convinced that the body had not been taken away, because the winding sheets were left behind, 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 this present appearance of our Lord had convinced them.

It may surprise and amaze us that the Apostles were so reluctant to believe that Christ had risen from the dead, to live forever in glory with his Father in heaven. But we must remember that during their two or three years with him they saw nothing in him but a mere man, one with divine powers, but yet a man; certain prophets of the old covenant had some such powers also. Christ had "emptied himself" of his divine nature, and he had foretold his resurrection many times. But that he could be really God, as well as man, was something they could not then grasp, and if he was a mere man death had to be the end.

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. Indeed, there have been men proud of their acuteness of judgment, who have said that the story of the resurrection is a story of mass hallucination, although all the evidence proves the opposite. Their conviction that it could not happen, could not be removed from their minds except by impressive evidence that it had. Hallucination is born in a mind already expecting and hoping for the *imagined fact*.

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 which would have ended before the first Easter week had passed, if Christ had not risen in glory, 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 the 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 B, by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

# **Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony**

Please call the office:  
902-535-2053

## **Receipts:**

### **St. John the Baptist**

**March 30, 2024**

Envelopes & Loose	\$	1,507.00
Good Friday		673.00
Lenten Project		
“Operation Smile”		100.00
Dev. & Peace		70.00

**Total**                                 **\$ 2,350.00**

### **St. Peter’s**

**March 30, 2024**

Envelopes & Loose	\$	505.00
Good Friday		600.00
Share Lent		20.00

**Total**                                 **\$ 1,125.00**

### **Holy Guardian Angels**

**March 31, 2024**

Envelopes & Loose	\$	1,095.65
Candles		39.00
Share Lent		50.00
Donation for Priesthood		
Candidates		100.00

**Total**                                 **\$ 1,284.65**

## **The Easter Triduum 2024**

Our first experience of holding the Triduum, that is one liturgical experience; Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday, went very well due to the leadership of SJB’s Liturgy Committee Chairperson, Deidre Boyd. With her committee we saw a fine example of teamwork as each of the days of the Triduum included members from all four parishes: Sacred Heart, Holy Guardian Angels, St. Peter, and St. John the Baptist. The many details of each day were successfully addressed as Deidre invited the participation of many parishioners. Thank you to Deidre and the Liturgy Committee.

## This week's masses

Saturday, April 13, 2024

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *John & Alma Burke*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *Adrian Burke*

Sunday, April 14, 2024

SH 9:30 AM

HGA 11:00 AM

+ *Lawrence, Clara, Ralph & James Bona*

## Community News

**SJB:** The CWL would like to express their appreciation for the monetary donations for Easter flowers or those who donated flowers, we had a lovely display. Thank you.

**Note:** Because there were three funerals in the week following the Triduum the usual post-Easter break is moved to the week of **April 8 to April 12, inclusive;** there will not be weekday Masses in this week.



Tickets on Gift Card Basket  
\$5.00 each 3 for \$10.00

Gift cards from  
St. Peter's businesses totalling  
over **\$500**

Tickets may be purchased by EMT to  
Dianne\_Landry@hotmail.com or contact  
\* Shirley 535-2093 \* Pam 535-2595  
\* Julie 623-0725

**Lottery number: AGD 337956-24**

**Sponsored by:**

*St. Peter's Parish Altar Society*



# Mother's Day Lobster Meal

Sunday, May 12th  
L'Ardoise Community Centre  
11 AM - 1 PM

## Lobster Meal

(Complete with Salads, Dessert, Tea & Coffee)

## Optional Ham Meal

Eat In or Take Out

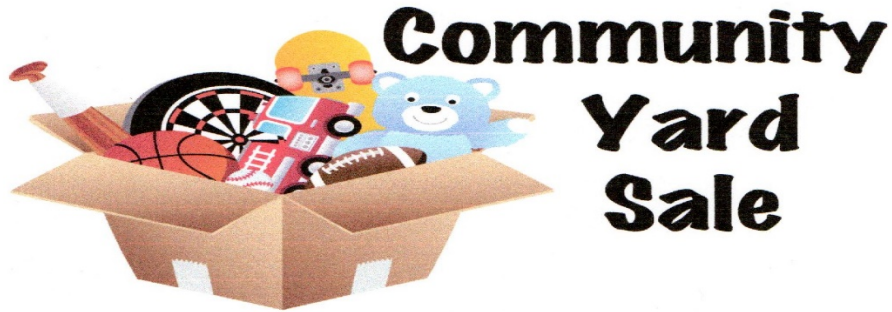
\$40 per person

For Tickets Contact: Sally Anne Mombourquette @ 902-587-2171

Elaine Sampson @ 902-587-2458

Leona Middleton @ 902-587-2617

Andree Sampson @ 902-587-2175



**3RD ANNUAL  
INDOOR YARDSALE  
L'ARDOISE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
In support of the Cemetery Fund  
Saturday, April 13th  
8:30am-2pm  
Includes Auction Bake Table**

A shout out to anyone wanting to donate items to  
the community tables

To arrange for pick up the week of April 8th

Contact: Steve Sampson 902-631-4460

Blair Sampson 902-535-4107

Vendor Table Rentals available

Thank you in advance for your participation