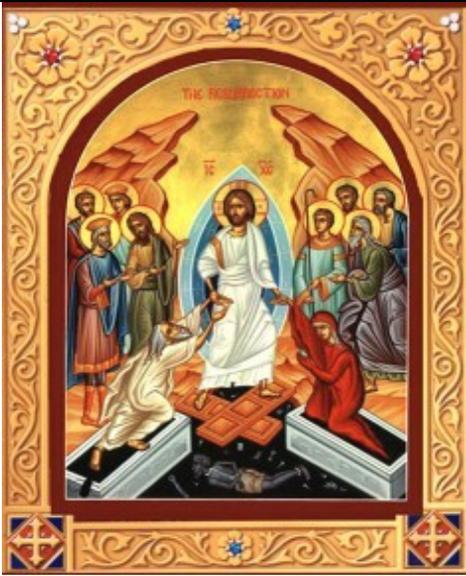


EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 12, 2020

From the desk of **Father John**



On Easter Monday, April 6, 2015 (the day after Easter), some 40,000 people gathered on St. Peter's Square in front of the Basilica to pray with Pope Francis, and to hear another Easter message from him. The Pope said, "In Him, through our Baptism, we are risen; we have passed from death to life, from the slavery of sin to the freedom of love. This is the Good News that we are called to carry to others in every environment, animated by the Holy Spirit. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus and the hope He has brought to us is the most beautiful gift a Christian can and must offer his brothers and sisters. To one and all, therefore, do not tire of repeating: 'Christ is Risen'."

Then the Pope invited the crowd to repeat the phrase with him, and they all chanted under the leadership of Pope Francis "Christ is Risen" over and over. Maybe that is what we should do on this glorious Easter Sunday as that is what this day is all about. It can all be summed up in those three words: "Christ is Risen."

Of course, all of our readings on this day of rejoicing reflect that reality. Our First Reading comes to us from the Acts of the Apostles, more commonly called just Acts. It is the fifth Book of the New Testament and comes immediately after the four Gospels. Scholars seem to agree that Acts was written by Luke and might be considered in fact a second Book of his Gospel.

Today's passage reports a sermon given by St. Peter in which he strongly confirms and witnesses to the resurrection of Christ. Peter, like the other apostles, always concentrated on the resurrection as the key to everything else, the real Good News. Naturally that is why we hear this reading on Easter Sunday. Peter says, for example, "This man God raised on the third day and granted that He be visible, not to all people, but to us, the witnesses chosen in advance, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead." We, too, are called to be witnesses to Christ's Resurrection and our hope. That is part of what stewardship is all about.

Our Second Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians is another witness to the Lord's Resurrection. This is a very short reading (only four verses), but it is filled with the same assurances and hope found in Peter's brief sermon in Acts. Paul states, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." This also affirms why we celebrate so much on Easter. Christ being raised from the dead is the sign to us that we do have hope.

As Paul indicates, we were raised with Christ; therefore, we should act as He did after He was resurrected. He left the tomb; so should we. He spent His time ministering to His disciples. We, too, need to live our lives serving others. Jesus looked forward to heaven, and so should we, recognizing that our citizenship is in heaven. As Paul reminds us, "Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."

Our Gospel on this Easter Sunday is drawn from the Book of John. It is John's perspective of what happened on Easter morning. He reports that Mary of Magdala "came to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark." Other Gospel writers report that she was not alone but accompanied by other women. The point nonetheless is that she rushes back to inform Peter and John of what she has seen. Since John is the author of this, he humbly refers to himself as "the other apostle."

Then, he, being younger than Peter we suspect, outruns Peter to the tomb and gets there first. It is at this point that we must point out some of the subtleties of this reading. It says that John, arriving first, stooped down and "saw." The Greek word translated as "saw" is *blepo* meaning "to clearly see." When Peter arrives, he saw, but the Greek work translated as that "saw" is *theoreo* meaning to contemplate and observe. They both grasp that there is more here than merely an empty tomb. The fact that the grave clothes were neat and orderly would indicate that this was not a grave robbery, that something absolutely amazing had happened here.

Now John saw but did not enter the tomb. Then Peter saw after entering the tomb. And finally John entered the tomb and "saw" again. It says, he "saw and believed." Another Greek word was used for this third "saw." It is *eido*, which means to "understand and perceive the significance of." These men are witnesses of the resurrection. We are witnesses of the resurrection and just as they share their experience and their belief and their faith with others, we are called to do the same. Christ is Risen. Let us rejoice!

"Online Giving" is now AVAILABLE.

Please go to your perspective website and click on the ONLINE GIVING box!

Thank you for your generosity during these difficult times in our nation.

www.stjohnspringgreen.com

www.stlukecatholicchurchplain.com

Greetings! I recently started communicating electronically with those of you that have either an email address or cell number on file with us. The system used is called "Flocknote" and it's a good means for the "shepherd" to communicate with his "sheep," especially during this pandemic time. This is totally FREE. If you are not currently receiving these communications but would like to, please call either St. John's office at 588-2028 or St. Luke's office at 546-2482 and request to be added OR text SLRV (St. Luke) or SJRV (St. John) to 84576. Thank you. ~ Father John

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS FOR ST. LUKE/ST. JOHN

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020

Private Mass by Father

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020 (Easter Sunday)

Private Mass for the People of Sts. John & Luke

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020

Private Mass by Father

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

Private Mass for George Liegel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

Private Mass by Father

No Mass / Word & Communion at The Meadows

No Mass / Word & Communion at Greenway Manor

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

Private Mass for Vernon Bindl

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

Private Mass by Father

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020

Private Mass for Rick Alt; and The People of Sts. John & Luke

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

Private Mass for Margaret Fargen; and Charles Ruhland

PLEASE NOTE: Until Public Masses are approved by the Bishop, Father will say a Daily Private Mass for the Intention previously booked at both St. John's and St. Luke's.

MEMORIAL LIGHTS

St. John's
Sanctuary Lamp
in Memory of
Deceased Members of
the Leo Scholl &
Reuben Kraemer
Families



St. Luke's
Sanctuary Lamp
in Memory of
Dick Marino



Readings for Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20: 19-31

These readings can be found in the
back of the *Gather* book, # 1066

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabbrica di San Pietro/M. Falconi.

O Mary,
you always brighten our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain
while remaining steadfast in faith.
O loving Mother,
you know what we need,
and we are confident you will provide for us
as at Cana in Galilee.
Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,
the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill,
for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.
Intercede also for those charged with
protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick
and seeking a cure.
Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our
sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,
O Holy Mother of God.
In our needs, despise not our petitions,
but deliver us always from all dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

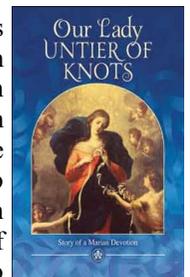


Lighthouse CD—A Voice for the Unborn

Lila Rose is the president of **Live Action**, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending abortion and building a culture of life through new media. Although she is only in her early 20s, she is a regular guest on *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Hannity*, and several other TV programs. In this talk, Lila describes her daring undercover investigations into America's most notorious abortion facilities, shedding light on the greatest human rights abuses of our time.

Lighthouse Book—Our Lady Untier of Knots

During his studies in Germany, Pope Francis encountered a local devotion centered on an image of Our Lady in the Church of St Peter in Augsburg. Many had come to pray with seemingly irresolvable family and marriage problems and had been helped. On his return to Argentina he set about spreading this devotion and its novena. This booklet gives a brief history of the devotion and the main prayers to "Our Lady Undoer (or Untier) of Knots."



Note: These materials are available in the Kiosk at both churches!

ST. JOHN SCHOOL NEWS

School will remain closed until further notice



Many Prayers - All of us at St. John's have been praying daily for our school and parish families. This is a very difficult time. Please email Terrie at tfeigl@stjohnspringgreen.com if you have any questions or concerns.

Yes – You Can Register! We are currently accepting registrations in all grade levels. Please go to our website stjohn.springgreen.com. You may also email us at tfeigl@stjohnspringgreen.com.



Do Your Shopping with SCRIP! – Gift cards make great gifts, and purchasing them through SCRIP will help our school! Gift cards for Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Amazon.com, and area restaurants are usually in stock. We can order cards from many other stores and restaurants as well. If you're shopping in a store or online, SCRIP can be used to pay for your purchases, too. SCRIP is available at the pharmacy while the school is closed.

Like us on Facebook! – See for yourself all the GREAT things that are happening at St. John's School by liking our Facebook Page – *St. John the Evangelist School Spring Green, WI*. You can also learn more about our school by visiting our website at www.stjohns-springgreen.org.

ST. LUKE SCHOOL NEWS

School will remain closed until further notice

LITTLE LUKE DAYCARE – We are accepting registrations for the fall for Little Luke Daycare. The daycare will open in September. Children 6 weeks old to 4 years are eligible. Registration forms are available in the school office and on our website, www.stlukes-plain.org. If you have any questions please feel free to contact St. Luke School.



ST. LUKE SCHOOL REGISTRATION – We are accepting registrations in all grade levels, 4K-8. For more information, please call 546-2963 or e-mail the principal diane.mueller@stlukecatholicchurchplain.com.

ST. LUKE CAR RAFFLE DRAWING POSTPONED

– Due to our present COVID-19 health circumstances the Saint Luke Classic Car Raffle drawing that was scheduled for **April 19, 2020 at 11:30 AM** at St. Luke Church will be postponed until **Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 7 PM** at St. Luke Church. Following the State of Wisconsin Department of Gaming's rules and regulations, tickets can still be purchased until 11:30 AM on April 19, 2020 and on the day of the drawing August 23, 2020 until 7 PM. You will not be allowed to purchase tickets between those dates. If you have any questions please call the school office at 546-2963 or contact Diane Mueller at diane.mueller@stlukecatholicchurchplain.com



St. Vincent de Paul - River Valley Conference

GROCERY DELIVERY: We will be delivering groceries for our Senior Citizens, purchased in advance from Hometown Supermarket during this crisis. Order must be called in to the store (608-588-2155); Then contact Sharon May at 608-403-8067 and she will coordinate the delivery. Payment can be by credit card to the store over the phone or EXACT cash/check upon delivery. Please have your order complete, as we cannot do revisions once the order is placed.

DONATION PICK-UPS: Are canceled until further notice.



Deepen Your Faith with the Catholic Herald - April 16

This week, the *Catholic Herald* recognizes National Volunteer Week honoring those who give their time and energy to help others. The *Catholic Herald* also includes the latest headlines from Catholic News Service with news from around the nation and world of importance to Catholics. If you do not currently subscribe, but wish to receive the print or e-Edition at home, contact your parish office.



THANK YOU to everyone for all your thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. I am home and staying isolated because of the Coronavirus. Many thanks!! ~ Sue Renger



Recycle your aluminum cans - Both schools have aluminum can drop off sites. St. John's is located behind their school and St. Luke's is located on the south side of the Crypt in the cemetery. There is a door to use; please do not throw your bags over the fence.

Thank you for your contributions!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR AREA???



American Red Cross Blood Drive - is scheduled to be held at the Plain American Legion Club House on Monday, April 13 from 1:00 - 6:00 PM. There is a desperate need for blood, especially this year as many are cancelling blood drives. The Red Cross assures that all precautions will be taken, such as screening and spacing of donors and special equipment for the staff to provide safety to the donors. Walk-ins are accepted, but it may be wise to make an appointment ahead of time. Call: 1-800-733-2767, or visit redcrossblood.org.

OUR FEATURED BULLETIN SPONSOR THIS WEEK IS:

LPL Financial - Michael Peterson

PLANS FOR OUR PARISHES DURING THESE TIMES:

As you are most likely aware, the Bishop has called for no public sacrifice of the Mass for the foreseeable future.

Following are some points:

- No **public celebration of the Mass**. The Masses will be said in private, and the special intentions of the Masses for that day will be offered.
- The church will be **open** during the day.
- No **public Stations of the Cross** (books will be available for anyone wishing to pray the stations)
- No **CCD classes** until further notice. Grades 1st-8th; Sanctus and Confirmation.
- **Funerals**: Funerals will be immediate family only (9 or less), with a private viewing before the celebration of the Mass (immediate family only) and burial at the cemetery. There will be no parish hosted funeral lunches.
- **Weddings**: Please call the parish office to discuss wedding dates.
- **Baptisms**: Please contact the parish office to discuss baptisms at a later date.
- **Confessions**: Please call for an appointment.
- We will continue preparing a **Parish Bulletin**. They will be available in the entrance of the church and online.

An Act of Spiritual Communion My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 PM, Celebrate Easter Vigil Mass St. Patrick Church, Cathedral Parish, Madison*

Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/CathedralParishMadison/>

Sunday, April 12, 10:30 AM, Celebrate Mass for Easter Sunday at St. Peter Church, Ashton*

Livestream: <https://www.ashtoncatholic.org/live-stream>

***Note that the churches where the bishop is present will NOT be physically open to the public for the celebration of these liturgies.**

SAINTS FOR THESE TIMES

As we continue to pray during this Pandemic time, there are powerful intercessors for us to call upon. This is not the first time the world's population has come under attack in the form of a plague or other disease, and undoubtedly it will not be the last. I believe the best way forward is to reflect on the past, and seek help where it might best be found, through the intercessions of the many saints that have walked through this vale of tears in their lives on earth.

During the 3rd century, the plague of Cyprian killed up to 5000 people a day in Rome, with Christians reported rushing to offer care and whatever support they could. In Alexandria, which lost 2/3 of the population to this plague, **St. Dionysius** wrote: "Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pains." In fact, so many Christians died nursing the sick in Alexandria, the group of unnamed heroes was awarded a feast day (Feb. 28) and venerated as martyrs. Some others we may call upon for their intercession:

St. Roch (1295-1327) embarked on a pilgrimage to Rome when he was 20, begging all the way. When he arrived in Italy, he discovered a country ravaged by the plague. Roch set about caring for the sick strangers he came upon (often curing them miraculously) until he himself contracted the disease. Knowing nobody, Roch dragged himself to the forest to die, but a local dog brought him food and licked his wounds until Roche recovered.

St. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584) was a cardinal when famine and plague struck Milan. Though most nobles fled the city, Cardinal Borromeo organized the religious who remained to feed and care for the hungry and sick. They fed over 60,000 people a day, the bill largely footed by the Cardinal, who went into personal debt to feed the hungry. He also personally visited those suffering from plague and bathed their sores, having first written his will and prepared himself for death. But the good Cardinal was spared, living another six years after what would eventually be called "the Plague of St. Charles."

St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli (1587-1651) was a wealthy widow when a plague broke out in Genoa. She housed many of the sick in her home; running out of space, she rented a vacant convent, then built more housing. Though the plague ended, Virginia's hospital continued serving hundreds of sick people, and the religious order Virginia founded in the midst of all this continues to this day.

St. Marianne Cope (1838-1918) answered the call of the king of Hawaii to bring her Sisters to Hawaii and serve the lepers alongside **St. Damien of Molokai**. Though many feared the disease then thought to be extremely contagious, Marianne assured her Sisters that not one of them would contract it. Through strict hygiene practices and a good amount of grace, the Sisters worked with the lepers of Molokai for nearly a century without one of them contracting the terrible disease.

These and more are available, waiting for us to call upon them, seeking their intercession as we place our utmost trust in God and His grace to bring us through these times.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

St. John's (Week 40)	Church	Cap. Imp.
Weekly Envelope Goal	\$ 5,480.00	\$ 538.00
Apr. 4/5 Actual	\$ 2,275.00	\$ 345.00
ACH Weekly Average	\$ 1,926.00	\$ 200.00
Difference:	-\$ 1,279.00	+\$ 7.00
Envelope Goal YTD	\$ 219,200.00	\$ 21,520.00
YTD Total to Apr. 5	\$ 214,941.00	\$ 22,211.00
Difference	-\$ 4,259.00	+\$ 691.00

Give Your "First Fruits" Back to God!
To Parish5-8%
To Diocese.....1%
To Charities.....1-4%

Would you prayerfully consider treating St. Luke/St. John Parish as one of your children in your will/estate planning?
Call Parish Office for details.

St. Luke's (Week 40)	
Weekly Envelope Goal	\$ 6,513.00
Apr. 4/5 Actual	\$ 3,309.00
ACH Weekly Average	\$ 2,273.00
Difference:	-\$ 931.00
Envelope Goal YTD	\$ 260,520.00
YTD Total to Apr. 5	\$ 248,964.00
Difference	-\$ 11,556.00