



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel
A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
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April 2024 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

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CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Worship Services are at 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

April 7, 2024:	Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday	+Fr. Bob
April 14, 2024:	Third Sunday of Easter Baptism of Reese Thomas Whiteside at this Mass	+Fr. Bob
April 21, 2024:	Fourth Sunday of Easter	+Fr. Bob
April 28, 2024:	Fifth Sunday of Easter	No Mass

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Diocesan Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 314.650.1487, domcarl@charter.net

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact one of our priests.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS – Cycle B

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

April 7, 2024 – Second Sunday of Easter: On his first Easter appearance, Jesus bestowed three significant gifts: peace, the mandate to preach, and the Spirit of Reconciliation and Mercy. These gifts brought grace as well as obligation. However, the Lord's commandments "are not burdensome," but life-giving. We are grateful to the Lord that through these gifts, we are made one with him and all our brothers and sisters in faith. (Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31)

April 14, 2024 – Third Sunday of Easter: Peter and the other apostles boldly preached that Jesus is the Messiah, put to death as "an expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world." By his death and resurrection, forgiveness and peace were restored. The charge of Jesus to the disciples of Emmaus is our mission, too: "You are witnesses of these things." (Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 John 2:1-5a, Luke 24:35-48)

April 21, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Easter: The Good Shepherd reminds his followers to be wary of the many voices that call out for allegiance. "The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." The Son, the cornerstone, was rejected by those who presumed to build. But we want to recognize Jesus as the cornerstone of our lives, so that we can look forward to being one with him and seeing him "as he is." (Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18)

April 28, 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter: "Ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you." This promise is made to those disciples who remain united to Jesus as branches on a vine. John echoes this by saying that if one's conscience is clear, God is with them, and that person *will receive at his hands whatever is asked*. One gift received will be peace similar to that which the early Church enjoyed. (Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8)

Divine Mercy Sunday

THE SECOND Sunday of Easter is also called “Divine Mercy Sunday.” When Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina in the Jubilee Year of 2000, he added the title to this day. In visions, Faustina heard Jesus request that the image of Divine Mercy be venerated on the Sunday after Easter, a day John Paul lovingly chose for Faustina’s canonization.

Many communities display the image of Divine Mercy on this day. Jesus’ penetrating, compassionate gaze reaches out to the viewer. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbols of blood and water—Eucharist and Baptism. Many Catholics confess their sins or pray before the Blessed Sacrament in conjunction with this feast.

A priest may use the prayers from the Votive Mass for Divine Mercy on any day when a stronger feast does not conflict. The Second Sunday of Easter has its own prayers and readings, so the Votive Mass for Divine Mercy is never permitted on that day. Instead, we observe the much older tradition of the octave day of Easter. The Gospel story of the doubting Thomas is heard every year on this day because Jesus appeared to him a week after the Resurrection. The other texts for this Mass refer to the season and to Baptism. This day used to be called *Dominica in albis*, the Sunday of white garments, because those baptized at the Easter Vigil wore their new vesture to conclude a week of catechesis about the sacraments.

Today the only change to this liturgy is its title: the Second Sunday of Easter, or Divine Mercy Sunday. The mercy of God may be proclaimed in the homily or the Universal Prayer, but especially in the actions of believers, who extend God’s mercy to all they meet.

From the Pastor's Desk

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Congratulations! Congratulations to our parishioners who have a special reason to celebrate this month!

Birthdays: Jan Williamson – 4/9
 Emily Jacobi – 4/19

Anniversaries: +Carl & Rosann Swaringim – 4/3 – 53 years!

Blessing of the Altar and St. Joseph Bread: On Sunday, March 17, +Fr. Bob blessed the Altar and St. Joseph Bread. Thanks to Mr. Michael Vitale, Owner of Vitale's Bakery ("On the Hill") and Vitale's Deli ("Off the Hill" in Glendale, Mo.) for his very generous donation of specially baked bread for the occasion. Everyone at mass that day took home the delicious, blessed bread for their homes.



Sympathies: The parish offers its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of our long-time parishioner, Rebecca Ann "Becky" Kaley, who passed away peacefully on March 5, 2024. Becky was a very generous, caring person and will be deeply missed. She was buried in her hometown of Robinson, Illinois on Sunday, March 17, 2024.

Bulletin Inserts (page 3): We continue "getting to know the church, its practices and other pressing issues" with *Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish*. The short bulletin inserts provided in this resource cover a variety of liturgy-related topics that aim to assist the parish in the liturgical formation of the assembly. The author, Fr. Paul Turner, provides short catechesis on a wide variety of topics to help the reader gain a better understanding of the "what, how, and why" of the liturgy. Each insert is designed to help the reader engage the liturgy and manifest it in their lives. Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of Sant'Anselmo in Rome. ***This month, we learn about the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as "Divine Mercy Sunday."***

No Mass on Sunday, April 28, 2024: Due to a scheduling conflict with St. Timothy's Church, we will not celebrate Mass on Sunday, April 28, 2024.