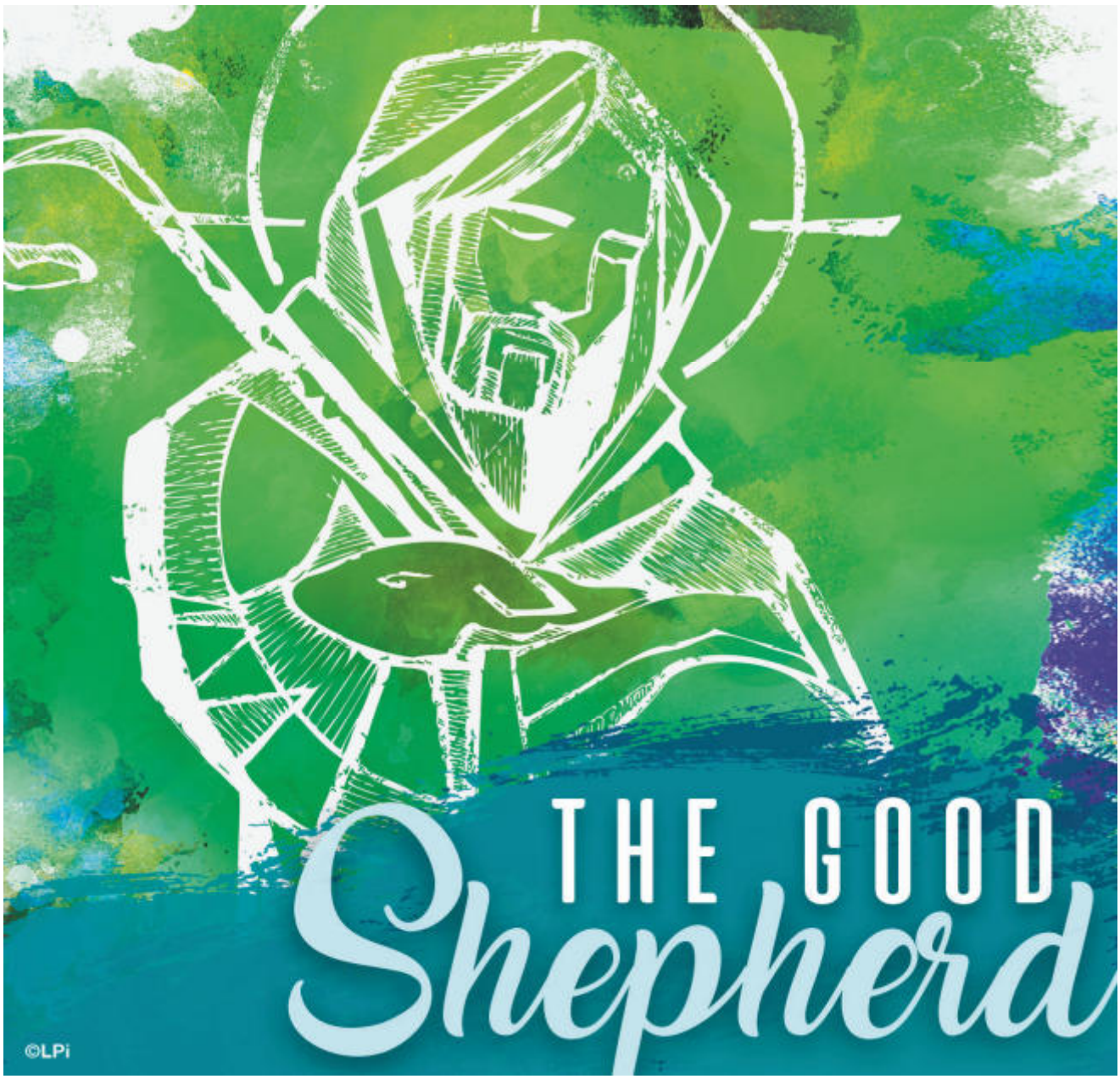
The Good Shepherd Center • St. Nicholas Church • St. Nicholas Center

Saint Nicholas Parish Community

625 ST. NICHOLAS DRIVE • O'FALLON, IL 62269

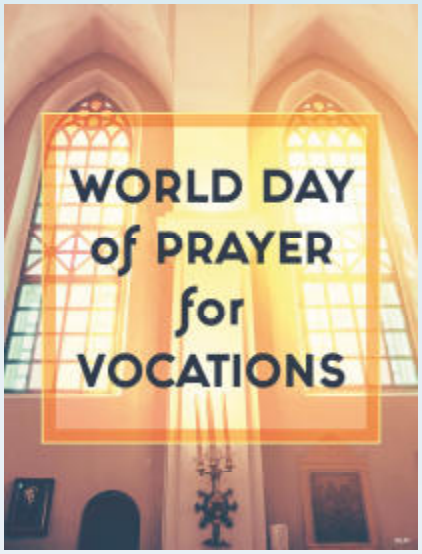


Pastor:
Rev. William J. Hitpas 632-1797
Deacon:
Gary Mueller 558-8932
Parish Office:
Phone: 632-1797
Fax: 632-7703
Parish Secretary
Pam Steinke 632-1797
Business Administrator:
Ann Daniels 632-1797
Director of Education:
Barbara Furdek 632-1137
Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation
Mark Etling 726-6700
Coordinator of Liturgy & Music
Karen Scherrer 632-1007
Coordinator of Youth
Megan Edwards 632-1797
Rectory: 900 N. Smiley, O'Fallon, IL
632-1997
School: St. Clare School
214 W. Third St., O'Fallon, IL
632-6327
Parish School of Religion:
632-1137
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:
632-1137
Pre-School: Good Shepherd Pre-School
726-6532
St. Nicholas Website Address:
www.stnicholasofallon.org

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

St. Vincent de Paul
Emergency Assistance 632-4270

Lottery Update
This week's winning ticket is
Mary Wolf of
St. Nicholas Parish



Not All Factual—But All True
The Story of the Old Testament

When reading the Old Testament the most important question isn't, "Did it really happen?" The most important question is, "When and why was it written?" In this series we will search for the context and meanings of the stories that helped shape our faith. **Mark Etling will start this series starting Wednesdays May 5 and continuing May 12, 19 and 26. Times offered will be 9:30 am and at 7:00 pm.**

Vocation Corner

Today we acknowledge the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. We implore our Blessed Mother to intercede for us, asking the Lord to grant us more men and women who answer the call to a religious vocation. To quote Pope Francis, "Each one of is called – whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration – in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now."

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 25, 2021

Acts 4:8-12. Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29. 1 John 3:1-2. John 10:11-18.
Being Good. Jesus is good. He is the best of shepherds. He knows and protects, leads and loves He offers himself as a pattern for our own living.

- Who needs my guidance?
- Who needs my love and protection?
- How will I be good today, this week, this Easter Time?

"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again."

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, (May 1) at 5:00 pm
Cantor: Scott Bridgeman
Eucharistic Ministers:
Gail Hiles (EM Host 1), Cathy Mueller, Bruce Reno, Laura Rineberg, **Melissa Zimmermann (GEM)**
Guardian Angels: Regina Broeckling, Christopher Heilig
Lectors: Cris Armstrong, Dave Willson
Reopening Team Greeter: Laura Adkins, Julie Weiss
Reopening Team Ushers: Brian Burns, John Knapik

Sunday, (May 2) at 9:00 am
Cantor: Cheri Wessel
Eucharistic Ministers:
Brian Finck, (EM Host 1), Barb Furdek, Joe Siekmann, Loretta Siekmann, **Denny Furdek (GEM)**
Lectors: Pat Kennedy, Olivia Fults
Guardian Angel: Dave Pfeifer, TBD
Reopening Team Greeters: Jay Finck, Jeremy Kampwerth
Reopening Team Ushers: Matt Balance, Jules Eversgerd

Eucharistic Ministers After 9:00 am Mass:
Carla Daggitt
Mark Daggitt
Lu Welsch (GEM)

Sunday, (May 2) at 11:00 am
Cantor: Glenn Mackey
Eucharistic Ministers:
Michael Novy (EM Host 1), Robert Green, Roger Richter, Yolandea Wood, **Crystal McCarthy (GEM)**
Guardian Angels: Christopher Pollard, John Davis
Lectors: Julie Novy, Mike McCarthy
Reopening Team Greeters: Sheila Daniels, Rebecca Hopkins
Reopening Team Ushers: Joe Hopkins, Gerry Riley

New Principal is Hired for St. Clare School

It is with great pleasure that St. Clare Catholic School announces **Mrs. Monica Ybarra** will be our Principal starting July 1, 2021. Mrs. Ybarra comes to us from Holy Trinity Catholic School (HTCS), where she is currently services as Assistant Principal and STEM teacher, along with serving multiple other leadership roles.

WELCOME, Mrs. Ybarra!

We also gratefully acknowledge Mrs. McKay's service to our school and families. Thank you for faith-filled commitment!

YESTERDAY'S KIDS

The first meeting in 2021 of Yesterday's Kids will be a box lunch picnic at Rotary Rock Springs Park on **Monday, May 10 at 11:00 am.** Cost will be $5 and you must contact President Charlie Baughman (618-622-1217) to make a reservation. Once a reservation is made, you are committed to the cost. We will have a social time and discuss possible future entertainment at the meeting. Any parishioner age 50 or older is welcome to join Yesterday's Kids.

The 2021 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

***Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do...* John 14:12**

"With confidence in the Lord, I am turning to you today asking for your support of this year's Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. My hope is that your generous response will help our ministries grow and the compassion of Jesus will be experienced more profoundly in our communities."

-Bishop Michael McGovern Please consider making your gift today!

Gospel Reflection for Our Children

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He wants you to help your family and friends. Jesus wants to guide you like a shepherd guides the sheep. Do what you can to help others. Bring in a bag of groceries. Take someone a drink of water. Get a blanket for someone. Or just sit down and listen to a friend's funny or sad story. Then you will be a good shepherd just like Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, show me ways to help my family and friends

The Flamingos Have Landed!

Want to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, homecomings? The high school kids stealthily deliver the night before and remove 24 hours later. A $25 donation is requested and all proceeds go toward the Mission Trip. Call Megan at 606-1237.

(O'Fallon Deliveries ONLY)

O'Fallon Knights of Columbus Fish Fry....

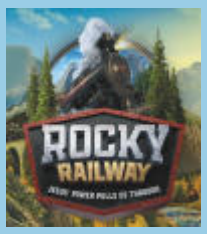
Please continue to support our local KC Hall on Highway 50. Fish is being served on **Fridays for pick up orders and dining in**. Lunch is served from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and supper from 4:00-7:00 pm. The numbers are 632-6229 and 444-2386.

Welcome Home Bags (Shoeboxes of Support)

Due of COVID, college schedules look very different this year. Instead of FINAL EXAM survival kits (what we typically call our SOS packages), we will be doing WELCOME HOME Bags that can be picked up by parents in the church office the week of May 24th.

***IF YOU WANT TO ADD YOUR STUDENT's NAME TO THE LIST,* please email Megan at meganedwards@stnicholasofallon.org**

If you'd like to make a donation, a few suggestions include: candy, gum, $5 gift cards (fast food, coffee), cookies, chips, etc. Please have donations to the office by May 14th. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Vacation Bible School
June 21-25 from
9:00 am - Noon

The theme this year is
"Rocky Railway" *
Jesus Power Pulls Us Through"

All children who will finish Kindergarten thru 5th grade this spring are welcomed! Registration for VBS will be at a later date.

Student Volunteers Needed

We are also looking for student volunteers, grades 7 and above. Please email questions to Megan at meganedwards@stnicholasofallon.org.

Teen Nights are on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm in the youth room! We continue to operate under certain restrictions (groups of 50 or less, masks required). Students graduating 8th GRADE can join us now! We hope to see you there!

A Baccalaureate Dinner will be held for our graduating High School Seniors on Thursday evening, June 3 at 5:30 pm! Please RSVP to Megan Edwards at meganedwards@stnicholasofallon.org with number of people your family will have present. Immediate family only please.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday,	**April 24**
5:00 pm	Omar & Doris Rehberger
Sunday,	**April 25**
9:00 am	For the Parish/Live Streaming
11:00 am	Eileen M. Ernest
Monday,	**April 26**
8:30 am	**NO Morning MASS**
	Funeral Mass for Arline Fohne
Tuesday,	**April 27**
8:30 am	NO Mass
Wednesday,	**April 28**
8:30 am	Diane Vest
Thursday,	**April 29**
8:30 am	NO Liturgy of Word/Communion
Friday,	**April 30**
8:30 am	Tom Padgett
Saturday,	**May 1**
10:00 am	First Communion
3:30 pm	Confession
5:00 pm	John Gedris
Sunday,	**May 2**
9:00 am	For the Parish/Live Streaming
11:00 am	Louis Wolf

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Confidence in Princes

Have you ever confided your problems to a friend, only to get the answer, "have you prayed about it as much as you've talked about it?"

Like all good advice, it can really irritate the recipient at first. Here I am, vulnerable and wounded, unloading my problems, and this joker tries to load them right back up and ship them off to Someone with a higher pay grade.

But again, like all good and irritating advice, it rings true if you sit and think about it.

Sure, venting is helpful. We all need that friend or family member who can listen to our problems. But if we ever start to think that person can solve them, it's a good sign that we're losing perspective.

Are you looking to the world for an answer? Are you looking in the mirror, expecting to find a solution to your problems? Are you expecting happiness, peace, contentment or justice to come from any place other than God?

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes," the Psalms tell us. Well, I've never put much confidence in princes. But when it comes to problems, I often find myself telling God to take a step back — "I've got this."

It's tough to pray about any problem as much as you talk about it. We want so badly to tackle the issue ourselves. But I'll let you in on a secret: it doesn't matter what the question is, we don't have the answer. Take it to the One who does. — *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS* ©LPi

TITHE

Total tithe last weekend	$17,772.20
Offering	$15,772.20
Guatemala	$350.00
Poor	$913.00
St. Vincent de Paul	$120.00
Catholic Relief Services	$50.00
Catholic Home Mission	$155.00
Holy Land/Good Friday	$200.00

Thank you very much!

Easter	$785.00

Readings for the week of April 25, 2021

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14

St. Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/
Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 13:54-58

Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

April 25, 2021 4th Sunday of Easter

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures. ©LPi

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