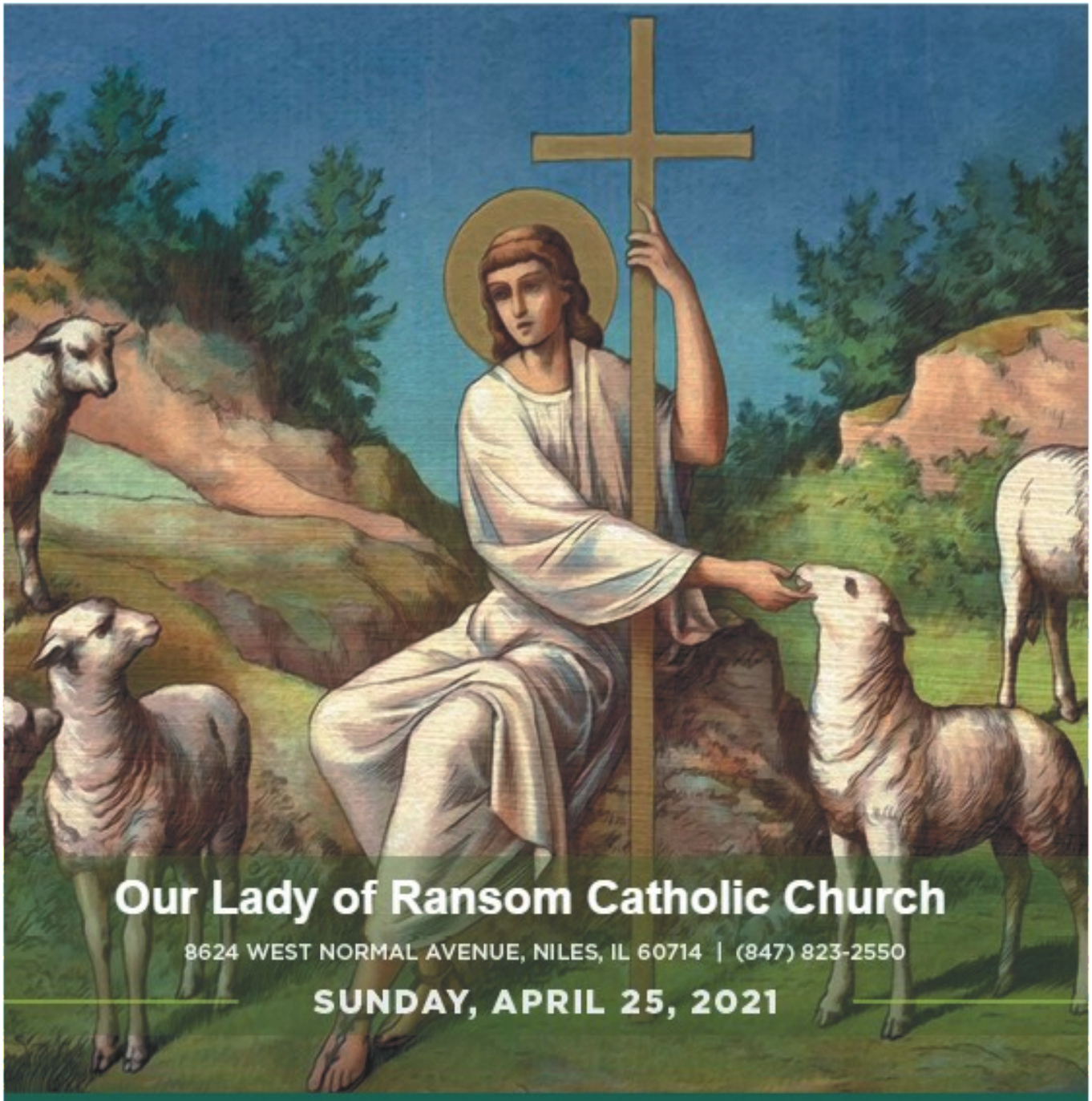

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SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." - Jn 10:14-15

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SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

"There is no salvation through anyone else,
nor is there any other name under heaven
given to the human race by which we are to be saved."
(Acts 4:12)

PSALM:

The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone. (Ps 118) Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn 3:2)

GOSPEL:

"I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine and mine know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;
and I will lay down my life for the sheep." (Jn 10:14-15)

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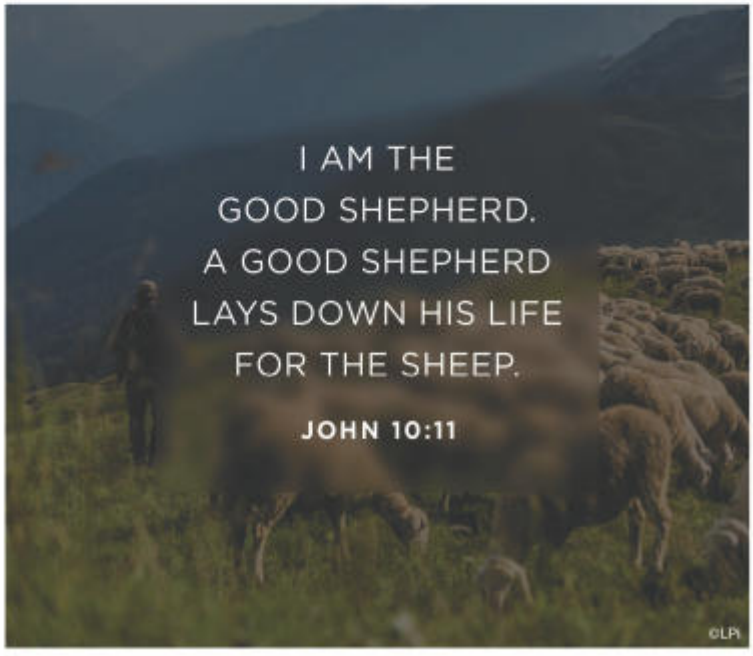
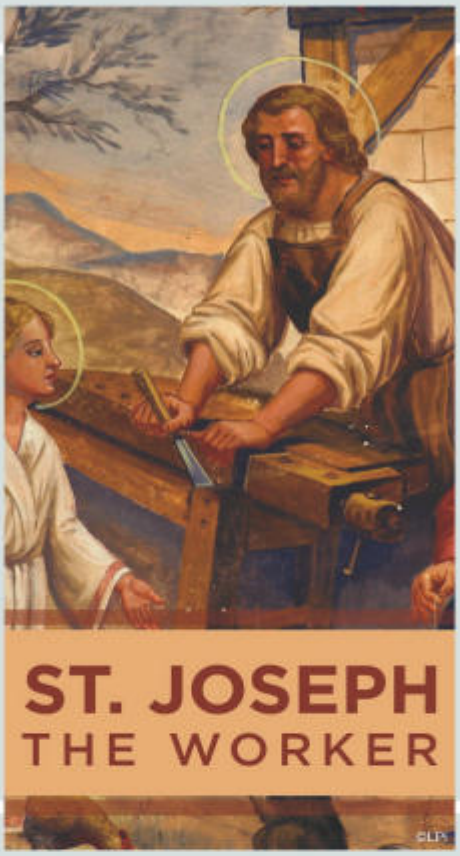
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 25, 2021

Sunday:	4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Wednesday:	St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
Thursday:	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Friday:	St. Pius V, Pope; Arbor Day
Saturday:	St. Joseph the Worker
Next Sunday:	5th Sunday of Easter





REFLECT

FIRST READING

We hear how Peter courageously testified before the Sanhedrin that in Jesus' name the crippled man was healed and in Jesus' name all believers are saved. How strong is the conviction of your faith when someone challenges you?

SECOND READING

John speaks to his community of believers as "children of God." What do you see as some of the implications of such a designation?

GOSPEL READING

In speaking of himself as "the good shepherd" who cares deeply for his sheep, Jesus contrasts himself to "a hired man" (the Pharisees) who has no concern for his sheep. How should have the Pharisees reacted to this criticism?

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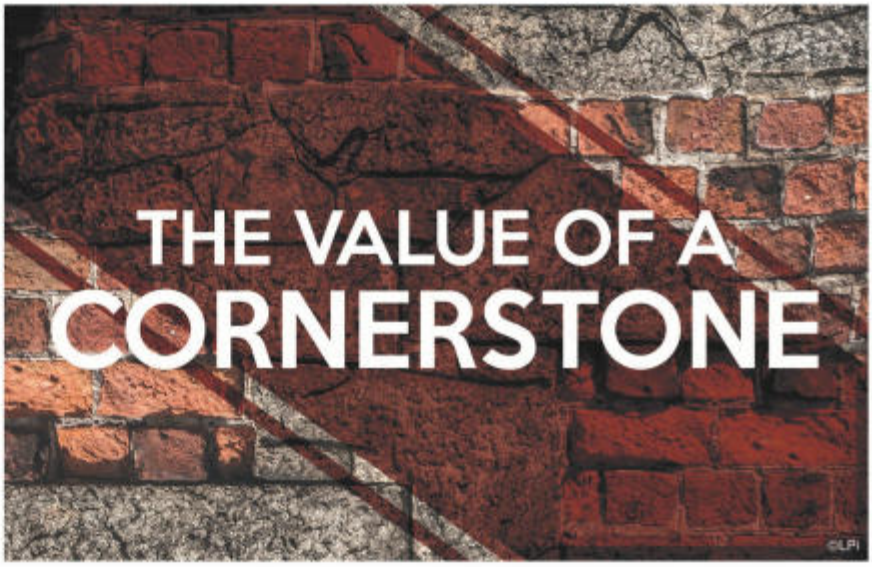
WORSHIP & MEDITATION



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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.

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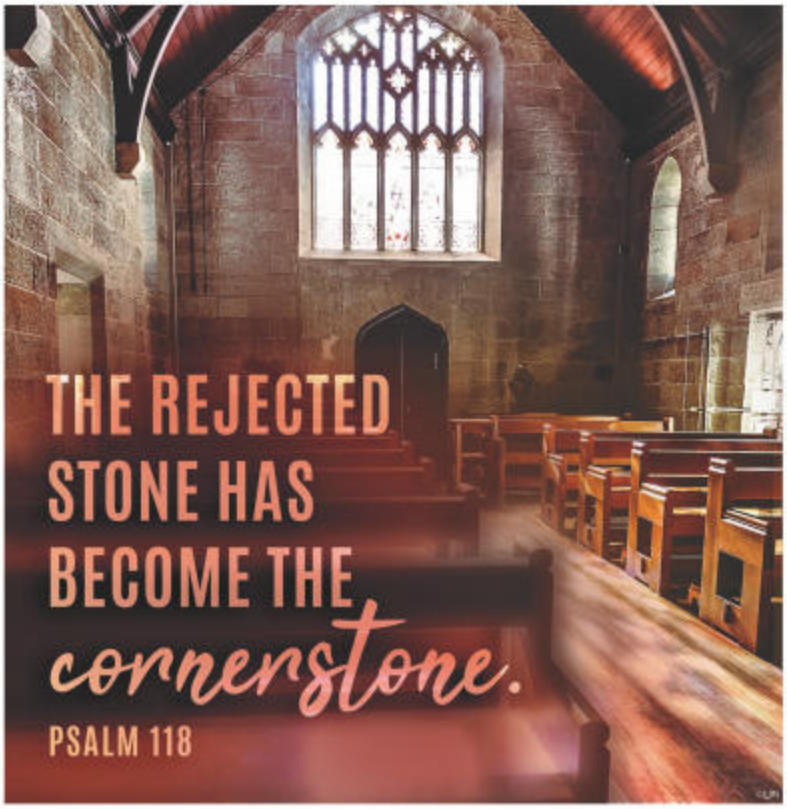
LIVE THE LITURGY
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The cornerstone is the first stone that is laid and the stone that not only determines how the other stones are placed but the position of the entire structure. As human beings, we need a cornerstone or reference point so that our lives can be properly placed and positioned. Our cornerstone determines not only how we see ourselves but who we will become. Without a cornerstone or reference point, we will be disconnected, disoriented, and poorly positioned for effective action in our world. In order to be the children of God we are, Jesus Christ needs to be our cornerstone and the reference point for all that we do. He alone is the Good Shepherd who can guide through life's questions and challenges, bringing us to proper pasture. Without this proper base, we can easily fall into the trap of self-aggrandizement and quickly lose our way. If that happens, then moral principles, proper conduct, justice, wisdom, and virtue will be difficult to find. We need to listen to the right voices and allow God to show us how to build our house well. Salvation only comes from God and only God will protect us, no matter the cost.



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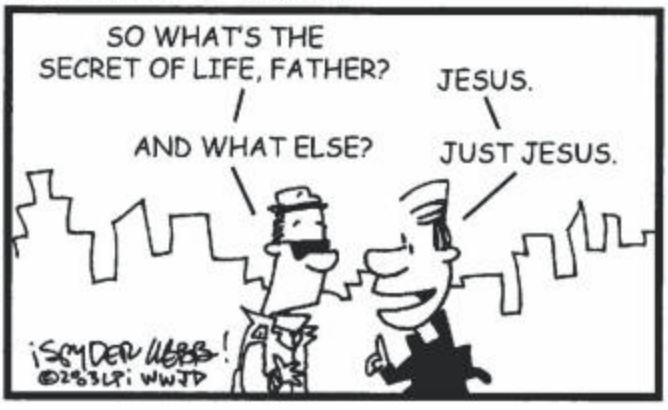
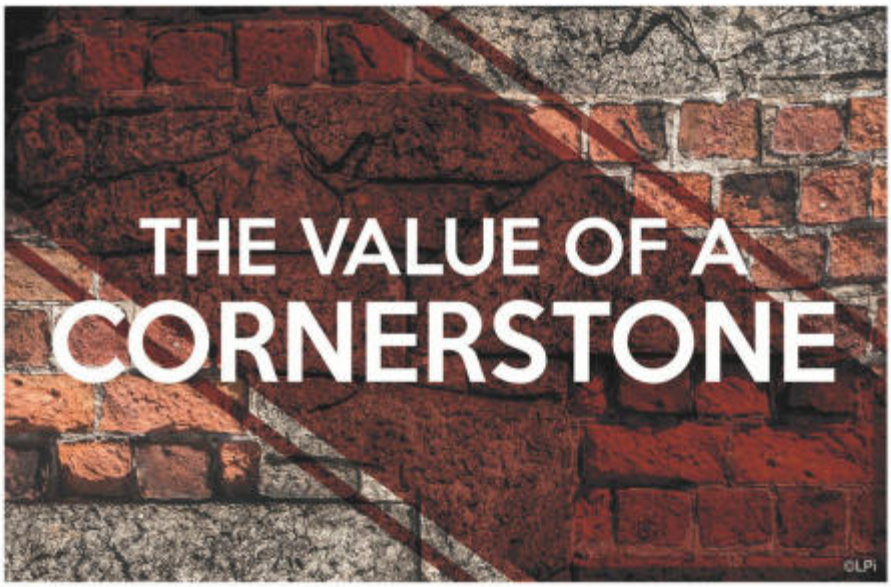
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



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"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." - Jn 10:16-17

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Kids Corner

READ THE GOSPEL & COLOR

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.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Every morning I will ask my parents, "How may I help you today?"

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3 EASY STEPS
To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.

Wash Your Hands

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

Don't Touch Your Face

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

Keep Your Distance

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.

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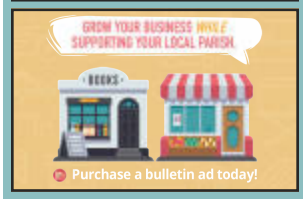

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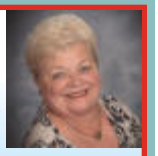
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