

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES | ST. JOSEPH'S

20 RIVER ROAD, PITTSFIELD, NH 03263 | 844 FIRST NH TRNPK(RTE4), NORTHWOOD, NH 03261

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Weekdays** Our Lady of Lourdes:  
Tue. 12 PM, Wed. - Fri. 8 AM

### Saturdays

Our Lady of Lourdes: 4 PM  
St. Joseph's (Memorial - Labor Day) 5:30 PM

### Sundays

Our Lady of Lourdes: 8 AM  
Saint Joseph's: 10 AM

### PHONE LISTING

Rectory	603-435-6242
Religious Ed. Ctr. St. Joseph	603-942-8716
Fax	603-435-5531
Email Parish	ololstjoseph@metrocast.net
Website	ourladyoflourdes-stjosephs.org
Email CCD	stjgar@outlook.com

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. John B. MacKenzie	Pastor
Jeannie Garcia	Religious Ed. Coord.
Ellen Barbasso	Secretary

### OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—FRIDAY 8AM-12PM

### RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Our Lady of Lourdes  
Saturday 3 PM

### BAPTISM

Families must be registered parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes or St. Joseph's. Please call the rectory for arrangements.

### MARRIAGE

Couples must contact the rectory at least six months before intended date to fulfill preparation requirements.

### Mission Statement

We the faith community of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Joseph, strive to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ through the Catholic Tradition. We are called by Baptism to proclaim the Good News using our time, talent, and treasure. We aim to grow in our relationship with God through our worship, education, service, fellowship, and by loving our neighbor.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Saturday, April 24**

4:00 PM George MacKenzie by Father John OL  
 5:30 PM No Mass

### **Sunday, April 25**

8:00 AM For Our Parishioners OL  
 10:00 AM Donald Graves by His Loving SJ  
                   Wife Janet

### **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tuesday, 12 noon OL  
 Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 AM OL

Monday April 26 No Mass  
 Tuesday April 27 Victor Riel  
 Wednesday April 28 Jacqueline Drew  
 Thursday April 29 George MacKenzie  
 Friday April 30 Sr. Kathleen Murray S.A.

### **Saturday, May 1**

8:00AM Intentions of Our Lady of Fatima  
 4:00PM Alice Lunde by Fr. John  
 5:30 PM No Mass

### **Sunday, May 2**

8:00 AM For Our Parishioners OL  
 10:00 AM Jose Garcia & Sanora Cordona by His Cousin  
                   Anna Cook & Aunt Jill Tozier SJ

Weekly amount needed to meet Budget  
 Requirement: \$ 4,000

Weekend of April 11, 2021

Weekly Offering	\$ 2,246
Capital Improvements	\$1,599

We are, as always, very grateful for all who share, in a generous way, their Time, Talent and Treasure.

### WELCOME TO OUR PARISH !

We pray that you enjoy celebrating with us this weekend. Whether you are new to the community or live here, know that you are invited to join our Parish family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Father after Mass. You may register with us by dropping in or calling our rectory during the week at 435-6242. If you are just visiting for the weekend, we hope you enjoy your visit with us and consider us your "home away from home".

Lay Ministries	April 24/25	May 1/2
Lectors		
4 PM	Diane Bird	Ben Brown
5:30 PM	No Mass	No Mass
8 AM	Anne Boisvert	Karen Cote
10 AM	Pauline Marston	Jen Klingensmith

### Parish Ministries

#### Serving God, Our Parish and Our Parish Community

#### Our Lady of Lourdes – St. Joseph’s Church

#### Parish Center

- **Interfaith Community Kitchen Monday Meals** – Due to the rise in Covid-19 cases, all meals are suspended until further notice.
- **The Clothes Closet** – Free clothing for men, women, and children. Open: on Mondays 3:30-4:30, Thursdays 11:00-Noon, and the first Saturday of the Month from 10:00-11:00.
- **The Northwood Emergency Food Pantry** – Please stop by for our monthly schedule.

#### DIVINE MERCY MILITIA

Please join us every Thursday evening beginning at 5:30 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church as we pray for our nation, our Church, our parish, and our world. Concludes with Benediction.

## READING

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

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**"We are God's children now" (1John 3:2)**

**Question of the Week**

Who are you? What are your most important identity markers? Where does being a child of God fit in ?

**HIS WORD TODAY**

All over the world people seem to be searching for their "identity." Some find it in religion, race or gangs, often with disastrous results. There are also others, especially the young, with very little sense of identity or self-esteem. Here too the result is sometimes tragic, issuing in violence or even suicide.

"Who am I?" remains for everyone an important question, with personal and social consequences. The Scripture readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter illustrate how early Christians found their true identity in the paschal mystery of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and how their discovery changed them and the course of history.

The reading from 1 John 3 insists that through Jesus' death and resurrection "we are God's children now." Every part of that statement is important. As Christians we are not alone. Rather, we exist and find our identity in a community of faith, beside and with other children of God. We are now God's own children, sharing in the dignity of the one whom we call the Son of God. Our identity is a present reality, not something that begins only when we die or experience some dramatic conversion. Being God's children now is our truest and most basic identity as Christians, and here we can find meaning and direction in our lives.

The Gospel text from the Fourth Sunday of Easter is taken every year from the Good Shepherd discourse in John 10. The image of the good shepherd evokes feelings of mutual knowledge, trust and personal care with regard to the risen Jesus. He is the way by which we find safety and direction in our lives. The image of the flock elicits thoughts of the community formed by Jesus' death and resurrection. What is striking about today's excerpt is the repeated emphasis on Jesus as the good shepherd who willingly lays down his life for us. Our communal identity as Christians is shaped by the paschal mystery.

Identity is important. We need to know who we are and feel that we are part of something important. The Easter Season provides an opportunity to consider our individual and communal identity in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection.

**FATHER JOHN'S JOTTINGS**

*I am the good shepherd. (John 10:11)*

*This is the fourth of seven "I am" declarations that Jesus makes about himself in the Gospel of John. In other ones, Jesus says that he is the bread of life, the light of the world, the resurrection and the life, the gate, the true vine, the way, and the door. Each of these declarations tells us something unique about Jesus and who he is as the Son of God.*

*Using the simple analogy of sheep and their shepherd, Jesus is telling us something central to our life of faith. Like a shepherd, he leads us, feeds us, protects us, and saves us from death. But there's one mystery that this statement--or any of the others--doesn't answer; why does God have such unending and boundless love for us?*

*The answer to this question is both simple and profound. God is love. It's who he is. He can't stop loving us. We are his children, and he will always care for us. He loves us so much, in fact, that he asked his Son to leave his heavenly home, take on a human body, and lay down his life for us.*

*Now risen in glory and enthroned with his Father, Jesus stills cares more about us than he cares about himself. Like a good shepherd, he guides us to safety, restores our strength, and anoints us with his grace (Psalm 23). He is the "shepherd and guardian" of our souls ( 1 Peter 2:25). He is the "great shepherd" that gives his all to his sheep (Hebrews 13:20).*

*Jesus knows that his sheep are defenseless against the temptations of Satan, the "thief" who wants to steal, kill, and destroy us (John 10:10). He wants us to know it as well, so that we will cling to him like faithful innocent sheep. Aren't you glad that God is so faithful to you?*

### YOUTH RELIGIOUS FAITH FORMATION

**Jeannie Garcia, Religious Education Coordinator, Contact Phone: 942-8716 / 269-4143**  
**Email: [stjgar@outlook.com](mailto:stjgar@outlook.com)**

**Our Lady of Lourdes/St Joseph's Faith Formation: [ourladyoflourdes-stjosephs.org](http://ourladyoflourdes-stjosephs.org).**

- ◆ **In-person faith formation classes resumed Sunday, April 11, from 8:30-9:30 for all grades.**
- ◆ **Please pray for our third grade students who are participating in a confirmation retreat this Sunday, April 25.**

New Online Support Group  
from Catholic Charities NH

Divorce/separation can be an uncomfortable and often misunderstood topic, and for those directly impacted, a painful process with many questions often left unanswered. Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, "Divorce/Separation: Why me? What can I do?" for those navigating the divorce process or trying to find their way afterward.

Participants will learn more about all the dynamics of divorce, better understand their options, learn helpful coping strategies, and support others on the same journey. The program will be held via Zoom for six consecutive Wednesdays (at noon) starting April 21.

Register at: <https://www.cc-nh.org/events/divorce-separation-why-me-what-can-i-do> or please call 603-752-1325.

**APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**  
The Diocese of Manchester provides child safety articles, parent guides, and other helpful information about child protection on its website. If you wish more information, please visit [www.catholicnh.org/safety](http://www.catholicnh.org/safety) during April and share this information with others.

### PARISH NEWS FLASHES

- ◆ *Father John would like masks to be worn by all who attend any Mass. Thank You all for your anticipated compliance.*
- ◆ *Please continue to keep each other safe and limit the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. This includes:*
  - ◆ *Wearing a mask.*
  - ◆ *Practicing social/physical distance*
  - ◆ *Cleaning your hands.*



The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note and posted on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE, God is watching'.

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note. "Take all you want. God is watching the apples...."

### Diocesan Organist Training Program

The Office for Worship is offering a 10-month long program geared towards pianists or organists wishing to improve their skill level!

Based on a master-class type of model, this program meets twice a month (Saturdays, 10-2 accounting for 80 hours) and is capped at 10 participants to allow for sufficient one-on-one time between student and instructor. Visit [www.catholicnh.org/worship](http://www.catholicnh.org/worship) for more information.

### MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 9th



If you would like to remember your Mother, living or deceased, with a Mass in her honor, please call the Rectory, 435-6242.

What better gift could you give!



Please remember to pray for peace in the world and please keep our military men and women in your prayers.

**Sharing the Gospel**

Without a good shepherd to lead them, sheep would get lost. Without a good shepherd to protect them, sheep would get hurt. A good shepherd would even die, just to keep his sheep safe. Jesus is your good shepherd, and you are his precious little lamb. When you get lost, Jesus comes to find you. When you are in danger, Jesus comes to comfort you. Listen to the voice of Jesus. Spend time reading the Bible every day. He wants to lead you to life with God. He wants to protect you from sin. Jesus gave up his life just to save you. Jesus is your good shepherd.

**Prayer**

God, help me to always follow Jesus, my good shepherd.

**Something to Draw**

Draw a picture of yourself as a little lamb and Jesus as your good shepherd.

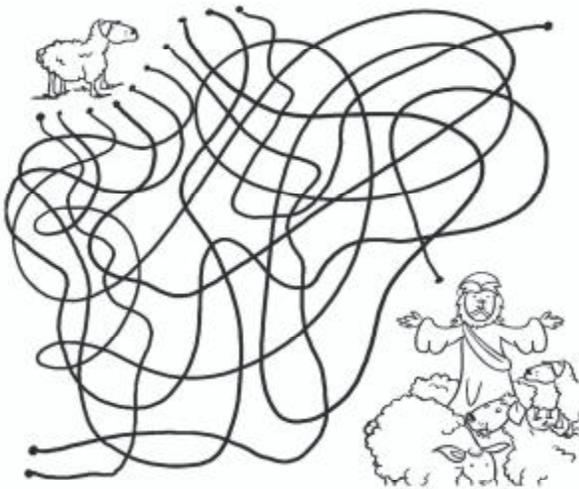
**Mission for the Week**

Learn as much as you can about Jesus, so you can follow him. Read a Bible story with your family every night before bed.

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 **PUZZLE**

Help this lamb find his way into the sheep pen with Jesus.



 **MISSION**

Learn as much as you can about Jesus, so you can follow him. Read a Bible story with your family every night before bed.

 **COLOR**

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.





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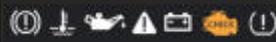
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