



The Parish of Good Shepherd & St. Joseph

January 31st, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Church of the Good Shepherd - Rhinebeck

Weekend Mass: Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30am. & 11:15am

Daily Mass: Monday through Saturday (Except Tuesday): 9:00 a.m.

Good Shepherd Church is fully accessible for the disabled.

St. Joseph Church - Rhinecliff

Sunday: Temporarily transferred to Good Shepherd

CONFESSIONS

Monday through Friday: 8:30a.m.—8:55a.m. (except Tuesday)

Saturday: 4:00p.m.- 4:55p.m.

SPECIAL DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration every Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

(September through June)

Miraculous Medal Novena immediately following 9:00 a.m. Mass on Monday

St. Joseph Litany and Prayer immediately following 9:00a.m. Mass on Wednesday

Daily Rosary at 8:30 a.m. (except Tuesday)

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are conducted on weekends. Parents who have not previously attended instruction in the sacrament must do so prior to the child's Baptism.

MARRIAGES

Those seeking to marry must meet with the Pastor at least 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date to allow time for pre-marriage program attendance, gathering of appropriate documents, and securing any dispensation from ecclesial authorities.

RECTORY OFFICE

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EnCourage

EnCourage is a Catholic Apostolate for those who have family members with same-sex attraction. EnCourage provides the faithful with information about the Church's teachings as well as spiritual support. Visit: www.encourageny.com

PARISHIONER UPDATE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Change of Address Moving out of Parish

Home Visit Requested Need Envelopes

Please fill out and cut form. Return it through the Collection Basket or by mail to the Rectory Office. New registrants are invited to visit the Rectory during office hours to receive the registration form and information on parish activities.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 9:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M.	January 30 Weekday Perlita Silva † req by Cheryl Miller Stanley Olzenski † req by Tom Olzenski
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Sunday 8:00 A.M. 11:15 A.M. 9:30 A.M..	January 31 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Charles Coratti † req by Elijah Bender Family Joanna Averil † req by the Alvarez Family Special Intention req by Pat Durham
Monday 9:00 A.M	February 1 Weekday Anna Marie Enright † req by Eileen & Frank Weber
Tuesday	February 2 The Presentation of the Lord No Mass
Wednesday 9:00 A.M.	February 3 Weekday William & Catherine McGann † req by Bill and Donna McGann
Thursday 9:00 A.M.	February 4 Weekday James Contarino † req by Rose Marie Healy
Friday 9:00 A.M.	February 5 Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr Francis X. Russell † req by Mary Ann Barrows
Saturday 9:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M.	February 6 Saint Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs Pro Populo Laurie Walters & Family req by Anna Varlaro
Sunday 8:00 A.M. 11:15 A.M. 9:30 A.M.	February 7 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mary C. Kelly † req by the Mid Hudson Kennel Club Dorothea Antonell † req by the Marnell/Brochetti Family Patricia Van Otterloo req by Brian & Kim Orcutt



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

In Memory of
Rita B. Fuchs & Family
req by Thom Christopher

Our First Anti-Catholic “Catholic” President

by Robert Royal, Ph.D.

In recent days, Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago has described the pre-inauguration statement issued by USCCB President and Archbishop of Los Angeles José Gómez as “unprecedented” for what – in any non-partisan perspective – were actually quite temperate warnings to President Biden that the Church will not ignore his departures from clear Catholic teachings. In fact, the Chicago Cardinal has become rather obsessive, tweeting out what some have called a Twitter “storm” about the whole affair.

Cupich’s criticisms of his fellow bishops are themselves also quite unprecedented. Then again, the thing that’s most “unprecedented” – that’s given rise to these recent in-house Catholic squabbles – is the election of a self-described “Catholic” president, who not only believes personally that abortion, gay “marriage” (he performed one as vice-president), transgenderism (“the civil rights issue of our time”), and much more are matters of overriding political urgency, despite the long teachings of the Church and American history. He’s determined – actually seems to be going out of his way – to impose those views. On all of us.

But there’s even worse. As we’ll soon see – I hope to be wrong about this – he and the people he is appointing are poised not only aggressively to advance bad policies, but also to curtail religious liberties where they conflict with the tenets of the Alternative Creed that many Democrats – and not only them – have now embraced. It’s not only going to be the Little Sister of the Poor this time, though they will be back in court again soon. It’s Catholic (and other religious) adoption agencies, poverty programs, hospitals, schools, maybe even parishes or dioceses that are too starkly Catholic.

The Courts or a stray Democrat or so in Congress may stop some of the worst from happening. But that’s a slender hope with so much in play.

What’s truly unprecedented, then, beyond being an unfaithful Catholic, is that Biden has already shown himself by word and deed to be an anti-Catholic “Catholic.” Indeed, he’s an equal opportunity religious bigot who, for all the talk of coming together, will ride roughshod over his co-religionists as well as traditional Protestants and

evangelicals, Orthodox and Conservative Jews, Muslims, Mormons, and even secular citizens who believe that “woke” politics do not abolish ordinary reason and human nature.

Biden has tried to position himself as a moderate and a man who wants to bring back American “unity.” In his inaugural address, however, he and his speechwriters told us exactly where they think the fault lines lie:



I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real. But I also know they are not new. Our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal that we are all created equal and the harsh, ugly reality that racism, nativism, fear, and demonization have long torn us apart. The battle is perennial.

In the unlikely event that you are a racist, hate foreigners, suffer from politically incorrect “phobias,” and – ahem, unlike liberals – demonize opponents, consider yourself forewarned. If, however, you think that by opposing certain policy choices you are yourself being demonized and marginalized by a political clique, well, you’ll just have to bear the stigma of being called bigoted and opposed to American “unity.”

Like Nancy Pelosi, who has said that some Catholics have placed their pro-life views “above democracy,” Biden has over the years talked himself into an alternative faith centered in partisan politics. A Catholic, indeed any sincere religious believer, should have no trouble saying – with the necessary qualifications – that of course he or she places God and his Word above any political order.

Any public figure who goes out of his way to make a display of his Catholicism should expect to receive scrutiny for his claim. Who knew that according to some Catholic Democrats the Constitution, for example, gives the Federal government the power to tell us which pronouns, family relationships, and “genders” can and cannot be used in conducting the business of the American people?

You can carry around rosary beads and bless yourself publicly as much as you want. But please, don’t expect Catholics to be blind. Or stupid. It’s not surprising when political partisans, religious or not, place their party and

cont’d

ambitions first, while masking it as an appeal to compassion and patriotism. But when a Catholic politician openly chooses to follow his wayward political party rather than his Church, lays out a whole set of policies that will negatively impact that Church, and immediately sets out to implement them, he's seeking neither civic unity nor religious fidelity.

But let us also learn a lesson from this: we do not need to act like this ourselves. Christians aren't in the world to cancel people; we're here to convert them. The nation is divided and needs to be evangelized. The alternative is civil war or secession. A nation divided in its ultimate commitments cannot resolve differences politically unless we open up space to live and let live. We can do that and still stand up – forcefully – for truth.

We won't get that from the Biden administration. But we can prepare among ourselves a different mentality by the ways we think, speak, and act, now. It's not an easy road. There are pitfalls everywhere. But God never said that his way would be easy.

Our bishops are shepherds, as well as public figures. They must teach, sanctify, and govern the flock as well as be public witnesses to the Truth. Gomez and the other bishops who joined him were right to express willingness to cooperate, even "dialogue" – however unlikely, given ideological hatreds – with the incoming administration. But they were even more right to make clear that (to borrow from St. Thomas More) they are America's good servants, but God's first.

That may seem unprecedented to some, but let's hope it's the first of many new precedents that will radically shift the understanding of faith in our public life.

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How to Survive a Dark Spiritual Winter

By Christin Ponsard

SOMETIMES HARDSHIPS, WEARINESS, AND FATIGUE BRING US INTO A COLD AND LONELY PLACE.

Winter is an austere season. When nature sleeps, the bare trees seem to have lost their sap and the frost-hardened soil shows no sign of the coming spring. The cold numbs the body, posing a deadly threat to the poor, while the light, too pale and weak, seems to have been devoured by the night.

Our spiritual lives, too, experience periods when the soul is numb, without passion, no longer interested in prayer, immersed in persistent darkness; lost in somber hours where an accumulation of failures, disappointments, and hardships destroys hope; periods of loneliness where we no longer know where to find the warmth of tenderness, or a heart that is willing to listen and understand.

Every season has its importance. And we know that, despite appearances, nature is still at work in winter, preparing for the dazzling outbreak of spring. Periods of cold, silence,

darkness, and waiting, where everything seems to die, are never easy to go through, but they are necessary. The trick is to live through them in hope, without letting adversity harden us, without locking ourselves up in nostalgia and regret, without letting ourselves be trapped by appearances. **Then, sooner or later, perhaps when we least expect it, spring arrives, with its procession of joys, its luminous cheerfulness and the promise of summer.** How do we live in winter? At home, near the fire, in the intimacy of the hearth. In the same way, spiritual winters are an invitation to enter into ourselves to find the fire of the Holy Spirit that will melt the frost encrusted in our hardened soul.

Don't be afraid of winter

The problem, you may say, is that at such times, you feel like you no longer know how to pray. You no longer feel love or joy in yourself, nothing but a frozen desert from which God seems to be absent. Yet the fire is there. **The burning love of our God only asks to warm us.** To find it, we must accept the need to descend to the depths of our darkness, our wounds, our fragility. We must recognize that we are poor sinners.

Don't be afraid of winter: Jesus himself wants to join us there to free us from it. In spite of appearances, these long weeks, even these years—when all prayer seems to us to be in vain, when we have the impression that God is very far away—are in reality a time of choice: we are given the opportunity for intimacy with Him who, out of love for us, descended into the blackest of agony. **The night of winter is an open door to the Light,** if we accept to be immersed in it. Even if we feel nothing at all, we are very close to the burning fire of God's love and the apparent wall that separates us from it is for our protection, so that we can be close to it without being burned.

Lord, you are our hope

It is hope that teaches us this. If hope were the fruit of our reasoning, our impressions or our experience, it would not withstand the rigors of winter for long. But hope is a gift from God. In the darkest night, in the deadliest of frosts, we can untiringly repeat: "Lord, you are our hope. Whatever the words, regardless of whether we address them directly to God or ask the Virgin Mary to convey them through the Rosary, what counts is the plea to him who is "the resurrection and the life," the plea that speaks of both our poverty and our trust.

Spring is already here. The resurrection, Jesus' absolute victory over all the nights and winters of evil, is already here: "with him you were raised to new life," says St. Paul. "God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins" (Col 2:12-13). This is not just a future reality: it is a reality that is here today, even if we cannot yet live it to the full. We need to be attentive to the signs which, in the very heart of our winter, reveal the presence of spring—even if it is only the smile of a friend, a moment of deep peace or a small unexpected joy—and we should give thanks for them. There is nothing like praise to hasten the arrival of spring days.

Good Shepherd is seeking a part-time secretary.

Candidate must be proficient in Publisher software and have a knowledge of web design.

Hours are M/T/Th—19 hours a week.

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Pray for the Sick



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Year End Statements for tax preparation are now available.

Call the Rectory if you are interested.

We Share contributors can access their statement from the *We Share* website.

Thank you for your continued

Next week is Pantry Sunday, February 7th. Please leave your food donations in the Altar server room in the wing. Thank you for your continue

We are live streaming Mass for the homebound.

The link is on our website, see the website for future Masses.

Good Shepherd website:
gsrhinebeck.com



The Divine Mercy image of Our Lord was recently installed in the wing adjacent to the Pieta at Church of the Good Shepherd. The new location will permit better access for our Parishioners and visitors for this popular devotion.



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Pictured is the Sanctuary of St. Joseph Church, Rhinecliff.



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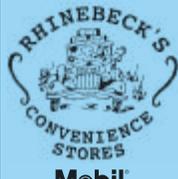
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