



The Parish of Good Shepherd & St. Joseph

April 25th, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Church of the Good Shepherd - Rhinebeck

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

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: 9:30 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

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

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.- 4:55 p.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 9:00 a.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

3 Mulberry Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Phone: 845.876.4583 Fax: 845.876.7884

PASTOR

Rev. Douglas Crawford

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PARISH LAY TRUSTEES

Mr. Daniel Higgins, Mr. Sean Kemp

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Mr. Thomas Hanna, Mr. Christopher Leggett,
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COLLECTION REPORT

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER \$5735.00
 WE SHARE—ONLINE GIVING \$ 900.00

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Daytop for a Drug Free World

If a loved one has a serious substance abuse issue, please call 845.876.3789.

Birthright

Provides love, support, and hope to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Located on Main Street in Poughkeepsie near Holy Trinity Church. For information, please call 845.473.1300.

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.	April 24 Easter Saturday Leonard Babiarz † req by Maria Clark Marie Gavin † req by Tom Olzenski
Fourth Sunday of Easter	
Sunday 8:00 A.M. 11:15 A.M. 9:30 A.M.	April 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter Lillian & Frank D'Agostino † req by Joseph D'Agostino Jeffrey Wypych † req by Richard & Rosemary Bialek Father Carl Johnson † req by Anthony & Dolores Putorti
Monday 9:00 A.M.	April 26 Easter Weekday John Nielsen † req by Nancy Nielsen
Tuesday	April 27 Easter Weekday No Mass
Wednesday 9:00 A.M.	April 28 Easter Wednesday Mary Williams & Cosimo Tacopino † req by Trudy Halbert
Thursday 9:00 A.M.	April 29 Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church Louise Roberts Rodak † req by Ed Roberts
Friday 9:00 A.M.	April 30 Saint Pius V, Pope Pro Populo
Saturday 9:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M.	May 1 Saint Joseph the Worker Emery Ruger † req by Barbara Ruger Raymond, Gary & Barry Lutz † req by Betty Lutz
Sunday 8:00 A.M. 11:15 A.M. 9:30 A.M.	Fifth Sunday of Easter Truman Bartlett † req by Mary & Peter Richard Deceased Members of the Grady/Fregosi Families † req by Joan Grady The Holsapple Family † req by the Browne Family



THE SANCTUARY LAMP

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
In Memory of Mary C. Kelly
 req by the Mid-Hudson Kennel Association

St. Joseph Church
For the intentions of Bob Hechler
 req by Lew & Helen Gardner

THE ONE NECESSARY THING

by Francis X. Maier

About two weeks ago, the *Wall Street Journal* ran a story with the headline “Virtual Reality Brings Joy to People in Assisted-Living Facilities.” The theme of the story was pretty simple: Studies show that old people using virtual reality, or VR, feel healthier and happier because they can travel and sightsee – virtually – almost anywhere on the planet.

Now that’s very good news for a couple of reasons. First, if I were in a nursing home, especially in New York, I’d want at least the illusion of being able to escape to Paris or Tahiti. And second, the story is a perfect alibi for the expensive VR headset that now sits on my desk in our basement. I’ve been a video gamer for nearly 40 years, and VR gaming is simply fantastic. As it turns out, the lovely Suann, my bride of half a century, fully supports me in this because when I’m on the headset, I can’t be pestering her.

But here’s my real point in mentioning this. Suann and I were both shaped by a culture of books; a culture made possible by typography and anchored in the sequential logic of a well-organized, printed sentence. Print culture frames the way we think. It feeds our imaginations, governs our discourse, and orders our lives. It has a kind of stability and permanence.

So for me, whatever VR’s negative effects might be, they’re modest and short-term because I wasn’t formed by that world. That same print culture shaped the American Founders and the American Founding, and thus our politics, our laws, and all of our civic institutions. Our grandchildren are growing up in a very different thought-world, and that experience will have not just personal, but also public consequences.

We’re living through a re-formation not in so much in religious doctrine or theology, which are now seen as a waste of time by many in our leadership classes, but in the fundamental way we understand culture and anthropology – in other words, how we think about what it means to be human. This “Great Reset,” to borrow a term from the World Economic Forum, is driven by very rapid advances in science and technology, and it’s a mix of light and shadow.

We’ve seen wonderful advances in medicine, communications, transportation, and support for the disabled. And we’ve also seen a seismic growth in cultural illiteracy, internet mobs, and pornography. Any tech-savvy boy of 15 can right now find and download intensely explicit VR sex games without too much trouble. Today’s new tech tools will inevitably impact the learning skill, mental health, and sexual behavior of our young people.

But the even more immediate problem is the way

our technologies cocoon us all in self-absorption, with endless distractions and constantly new appetites. The pronoun “us” that constitutes our identity as a nation shrinks proportionately as the pronoun “me” expands. And this is *not* good news, because the Founders created a country that requires an actively engaged, thinking citizenship with a sense of shared responsibility for the *res publica*, the “public thing” or republic, we know as America.

That’s not the nation we now have. The current American understanding of personal liberty is not the freedom to know and do what’s right, but a repudiation of *real* reality itself. This has consequences.

The United States is a uniquely man-made creature. As a country, we’re grounded not in blood or land or even language, but in a system of ideas – ideas instrumentalized in law. From the start, America has been a mixed marriage of Biblical realism on the one hand, and Enlightenment aspirations on the other. The more the Biblical side of the marriage gets kicked out of bed, the more unreal and disincarnate our politics becomes.

The transgender issue is a great example. We’ve created a virtual fantasy world where the flesh and blood *fact of sex*, the very real, tactile, incarnate differences between male and female bodies, can simply be erased by an abstraction like gender theory.

There’s a moment in Lewis Carroll’s novel, *Through the Looking Glass*, where Humpty Dumpty says to Alice in a rather scornful voice, “When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less.” That’s exactly where we are now. And it raises a question: What’s our vocation as Catholics in the increasingly unreal public life of our country?

Twenty percent of American Catholics have left the Church since the year 2000. Some might find that dispiriting. It can be tempting to look back on our lives of faith as fruitless, and the good we try to do as pointless. But that kind of defeatism is actually a subtle form of pride. What we do, or don’t do, does matter. But none of us is important enough to derail the will of God.

We’re important because God loves us. When we really believe that, we become people of hope, and we radiate our hope to others. Our job isn’t to succeed, but to witness. That’s the central lesson of the Cross, of Easter, and all of Christian history – God brings life from death, and victory from failure and defeat.

St. Augustine, who lived a long time ago but in conditions very much like our own, said that people are always complaining about the darkness of the times, but we make the times; we are the times. And if we *cont’d*

Christ, then the times will make us worse in the name of lesser and uglier gods.

Which means that the world's hostility to the Church is an unintended gift. The tepid leave and the committed grow stronger. Hatred of Jesus Christ has the miraculous effect of growing a spine in the people who really know him and love him. The vocation of Catholics, here in the real world, is thus always the same: Make disciples of all nations, *including* our own; and be leaven in society, *especially* our own.

If we pursue that with all our hearts, we do the one necessary thing.

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WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN YOU FEEL "WORTHLESS" COMPARED TO OTHERS?

Take a good look at the pictures of Olympic podiums. Obviously, the gold medalist has a euphoric face. But more often than not, the bronze medalist looks happier than the silver medalist. The silver medalist has performed better, yet he is less happy with himself.

This is understandable. The silver winner compares him- or herself to someone who has been better than them; the first place escaped them. The bronze winner, on the other hand, compares himself to all those who don't have the joy of being on the podium.

All this leads us to reflect on how we think of competition in our educational system. And to the environment of our young people. Very often, we hear children or students sighing: "It's no use; I'll never make it." In fact, even students preparing for exams must valiantly fight against these inner messages that are so demobilizing. We can see the combined effects of the overly competitive spirit and the comparative tension that permeates our environment.

Comparisons weaken

There's a misunderstanding about the place we give to competition. If we regard it for the most part as a healthy source of energy, a catalyst for progress or self-improvement, we overlook its fundamental driving force: comparison. It is often more about surpassing others than it is about surpassing oneself. But by perpetually comparing ourselves to others, we end up constantly looking at ourselves in a judgmental way.

What, then, will our criterion of judgment be? The performance of others, or their social status, or their physical appearance — the list is endless. The ultimate criterion being the ideal model proposed by the touched-up and unreal images that literally pollute our daily universe. There is nothing like it to shatter self-confidence. Far from engendering solid self-confidence, the comparison weakens confi-

dence: the criterion of my supposed value will always be external, changing, and often impossible to equal.

Competition is only healthy if it is based on gratitude to others

So what can we say to those entrusted to us, to those who strive to succeed in what they have undertaken? Competition is only healthy if it removes toxic comparisons and gives gratitude to others. To have in mind all that I owe to others, to be aware that I can count on them, to be grateful to them: this way of looking at others reinforces self-confidence, invigorates the hope of success, avoids the glorification of success, and softens the effects of failure.

Deep down, nobody wants to be loved for their performances. Let us then place our young person under the gaze of God, who in the secret of prayer will constantly tell him or her how incomparable, absolutely unique, precious and formidable they are—just as they are.

Prayer for Strength During Sickness

Sickness can prove to be a very difficult trial to endure. Not only are we tested in our bodies, our soul is similarly put under much strain.

Sometimes even our faith in God is tested during such suffering.

Here is a brief prayer to God from *The Catholic's vade-mecum*, asking him for **strength during your sickness**, placing all your trust in him.

O Lord Jesus Christ, I receive this sickness as coming from your fatherly hand. Confirm my soul with strength from above, that I may bear with true Christian patience all the uneasiness, pains, disquiets, and troubles under which I labor; preserve me from all temptations and murmuring thoughts, that in this time of affliction I may in no way offend you; and grant that this and all other earthly trials may be the means of preparing my soul for its passage into eternity, that, being purified from all my sins, I may believe in you, hope in you, love you above all things, and finally, through your infinite merits, be admitted into the company of the blessed in heaven, there to praise you for ever and ever. Amen.

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Pray for the Sick



John Bernitt
Robert Hechler
Jan Murray
Herbert Owens
Kenneth C. Russell
Scott Schaffer
Christina Vaczi

“It’s time to set aside your gently used items for our yard sale.”

September 10th, 11th, and 12th.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday May 12th at 7pm in the church hall for anyone interested in helping plan this years yard sale.

Call Kitty Ghee at 876-6798 for more information.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will **NOT meet this Sunday**, April 25, but we will continue knitting and crocheting Prayer Shawls for those in need of God’s merciful healing and compassion.

For a shawl, or for further information, please contact Bette Sturm, 233-1201, or any Ministry member.

Please pray for our ministry and for those we serve! "H Peace be with you'."

Read Lk 24:35-48

May Christ's Peace remain with you always!

Pantry Sunday is next week...



April is National Volunteer Month

People who choose to volunteer with us engage in a mutually beneficial experience for the residents and volunteer. Archcare at Fencliff has several volunteer opportunities available to meet everyone’s interests.

No experience is necessary to volunteer your time and talents. Just a desire to help others and make a difference in your community. As an individual volunteer, you can provide love and companionship to a senior, share skills and activities you enjoy, or just have a pleasant conversation.

Volunteer Opportunities include:

Assisting with group Activities

Outdoor walks / visits

Transportation to clinics, the hair salon or therapy gym.

Friendly one to one visits

Share a talent, interest or skill such as music, art, gardening, knitting, cards, and board games.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact me using the information below.

Volunteers bring so much joy into the lives of our residents through their kindness and willingness to help. Volunteers are an important part of the Mission of the facility, and we are thankful to have such dedicated volunteers in our home.

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

Mother Teresa

Michelle Feller

Michelle Feller

Director of Recreation / Volunteers

mfeller@archcare.org or 845-616-1673

Cardinal's Appeal Update

Thank you to all who have contributed to this year's appeal. Our parish goal is \$63,000 and to date we have reached \$31,41.00 with only 89 gifts

It's not too late to donate.



the
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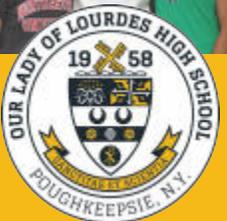
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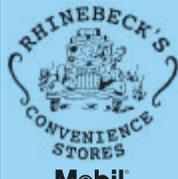
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