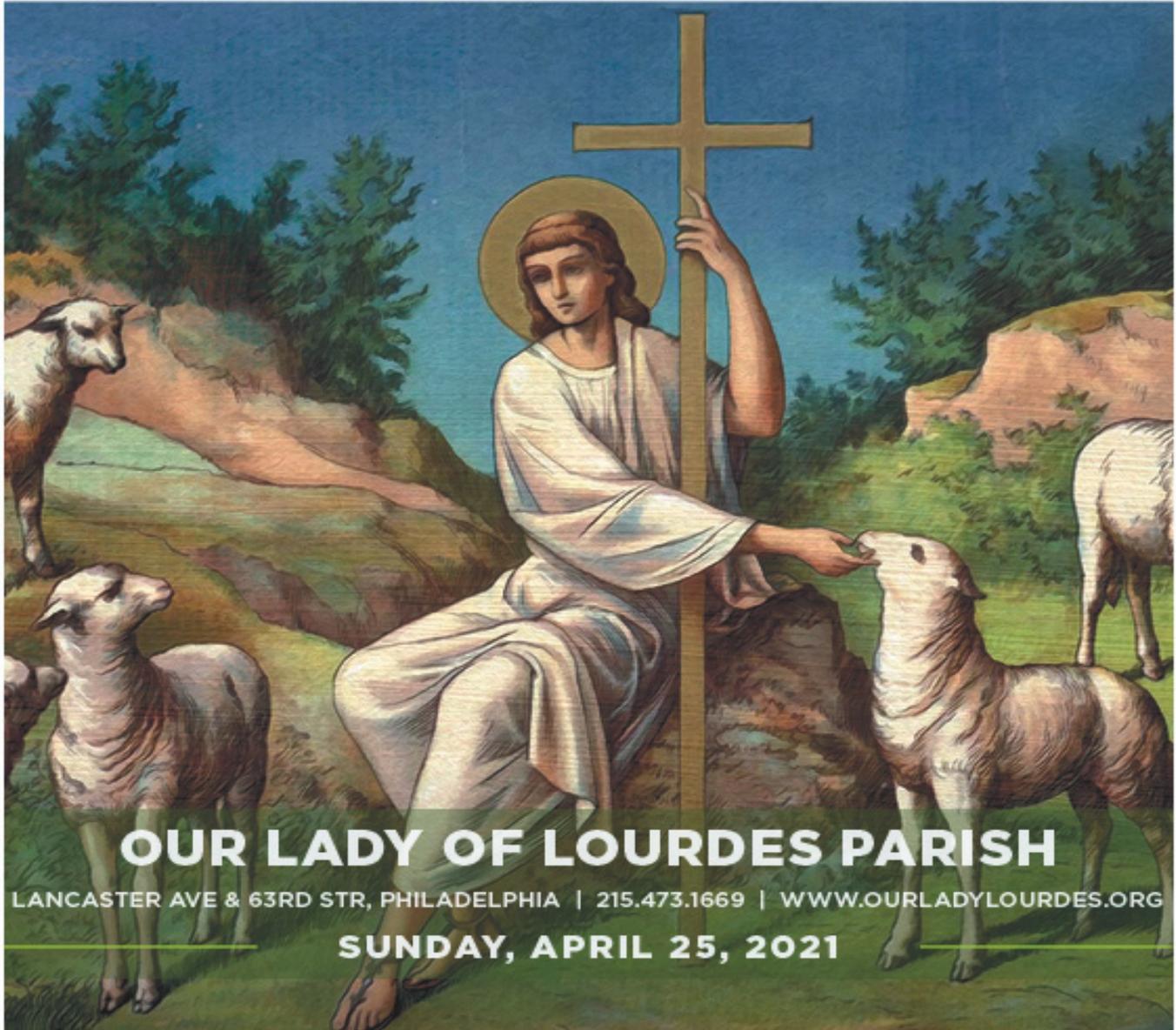




*Founded in 1894 our parish is served by the Mercedarian Friars
Father Michael Rock, O. de M., pastor
Father Scottston Brentwood, O. de M., associate pastor*



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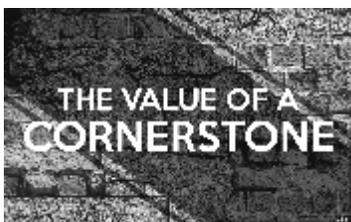
SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

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

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.

Readings for the Week of April 25, 2021

- Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18
- Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10
- Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30
- Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50
- Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20
- Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6
- Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/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/Mt 13:54-58
- Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-



Sunday, April 25

- 8:00am +Grace Rock
- 9:30am Fatima Consecration of Russia
- 11:30am +Marie T. Tramo
- 8:00pm Pro Populo

Monday, April 26

- 8:30am +Pierce Butler

Tuesday, April 27

- 8:30am +Patricia Fallon

Wednesday, April 28

- 8:30am Maria Estela Choy

Thursday, April 29 *St. Catherine of Siena*

- 8:30am +Kenneth Sifontis (*19th Anniversary*)

Friday, April 30 *St. Pius V*

- 8:30am +James Jimmo

Saturday, May 1 *St. Joseph the Worker*

- 8:30am +Deceased Mercedarians
- 4:00pm +Vincent and Anna Carbone; and Anthony DiSante

Sunday, May 2

- 8:00am +Pamela Post
- 9:30am For the First Communicants
- 11:30am For the First Communicants
- 8:00pm Pro Populo



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Good and gracious God,
 You call each person by name
 and invite them to follow you.
 On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations,
 may each person hear and respond
 to the call they have received.
 We pray for all discerning marriage,
 the chaste single life, consecrated life,
 or ordained ministries,
 that your Holy Spirit would guide,
 inspire, and strengthen them.
 May your Church and the world
 be enriched by the "yes" of your children. Amen.



VOCATION OR CALLING

Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it apply to religious life?

A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.

Confessor, Marian devotee, and founder of the Sisters of Divine Wisdom He was born Louis Maie Grignon in Montfort, France, in 1673. Educated at Rennes, he was ordained there in 1700, becoming a chaplain in a hospital in Poitiers. His congregation, also called the Daughters of Divine Wisdom, started there. As his missions and sermons raised complaints, Louis went to Rome, where Pope Clement XI appointed him as a missionary apostolic. Louis is famous for fostering devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary. In 1715, he also founded the Missionaries of the Company of Mary. His True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin remains popular. Louis died at Saint-Laurent-sur-Sevre. He was canonized in 1947.



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM

Please remember the souls of the faithfully departed.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Dorothy Hardy, Kurt Mohammed, Patricia Nicholson, Colin Ramberan, Avery Lofton, Eugene Colombaro, Monica Ramberan, Margaret Davis, Kaela Davis, Yosan Gabriel, Daisy Gray, Jenell Sifontis, Cathy Norman, Sabrina Freeman, Leslie Wade, Esmond Family, Aileen Regan, Sarah and Michael Regan, Kelly Regan, Scott Stierbeim, Sr. Mary Charles, A.S.S.P., Mecca Taylor, Melissa Becker, Christian Lafty, Lisa Becker, Debbie Everett, Nigel Simon, Donald Graham, Jean Hargraves, Marci Wade, Mary Frances Doran, Maureen Doran Hendrix, Melissa Potts, Cayla Wade, Theresa Gilliam, Suzanne Dupre, Indramattie Somwaru, John Bricker, Alina Simon, Carmelina Desiderio, Graham Family, Chuck Murrin, Samantha Johnson, Holly, Damon, and Stephen Anthony, Charles Epps, Ramona Wade, Charles V. Murrin

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The Sanctuary Lamp intention is:

For the First Communicants

We offer to anyone who may wish to 'donate' for the following "Memorials":

For personal intentions;

For your beloved dead; and/ or For the living

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church - \$15.00 per week

STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

Our Lady of Lourdes - A Tithing Community

Total Collection for Sunday April 18th \$ 8,347.52

Offertory: \$ 6,853.79

Electronic Giving: \$ 1,493.73

Thank you for your generosity!

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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