

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish

545 Stratfield Road

Fairfield, CT 06825-1872

Tel. (203) 333-9065

Fax: (203) 333-2562

Email: info@olaffld.org

Website: <https://www.olaffld.org>

*"Ad Jesum per Mariam"
To Jesus through Mary.*

Clergy/Lay Leadership

Rev. Peter A. Cipriani, Pastor
Rev. Michael Flynn, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Raymond John Chervenak
Deacon Robert McLaughlin
Michael Cooney, Director of Music
Daniel Ford, Esq., Trustee

Masses (Schedules subject to change)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4 PM

Sunday Masses: 7:30 AM, 9 AM 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM (Subject to change)

Morning Daily Mass: (Mon.-Sat.) 7:30 AM

Evening Daily Mass: (Mon.-Fri.) 5:30 PM

Holy Days: See Bulletin for schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 1:30- 2:30 PM or by appointment.

Every Tuesday: 7-8:00 PM

Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet

7 AM Monday-Saturday, Rosary

8 AM First Saturday of each month, Rosary

3 PM Monday-Friday, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of each month from 8 AM

Friday to 7:15 AM Saturday. To volunteer contact Grand Knight, Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528.

Novenas

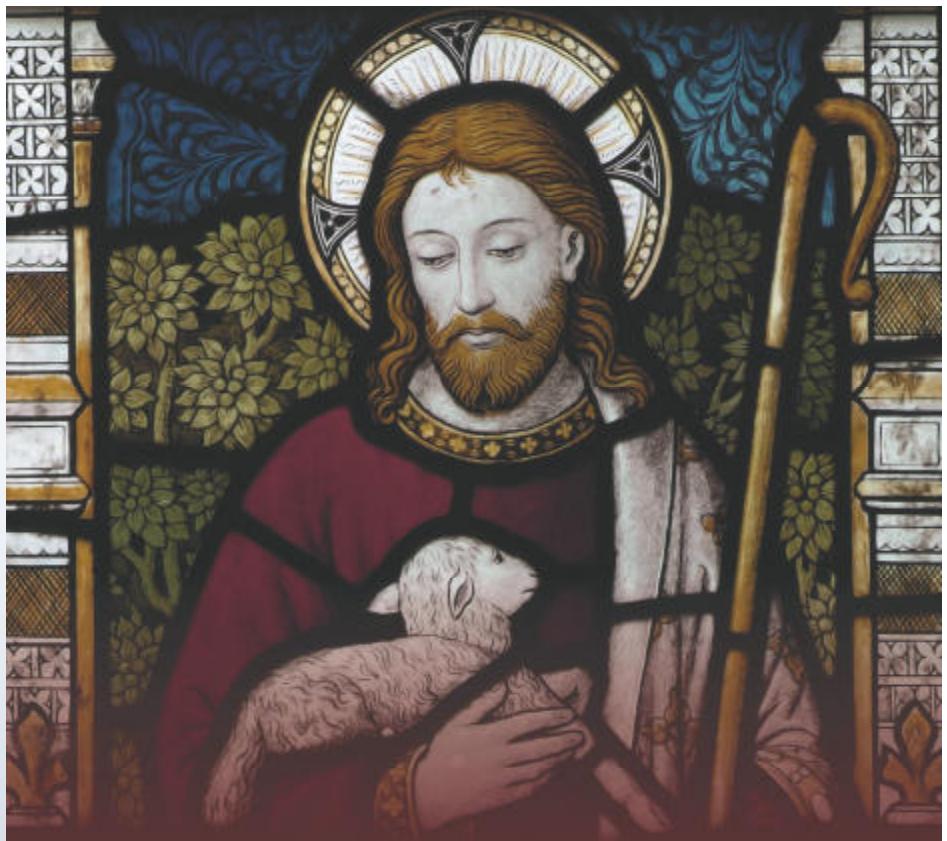
Miraculous Medal-8 AM. Monday

Saint Joseph-8 AM. Wednesday

Divine Mercy-8 AM. Friday

Parish Membership

Our parish family invites all of its members to participate fully in our spiritual and social life. Every family moving into the parish is requested to register at the Rectory or go to our website for a registration form. If you move to another parish, or change your address, notify the Rectory.



4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"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." - Jn 10:17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Anyone interested in becoming a Roman Catholic becomes a part of this process, as can any adult Catholic who has not received all the Sacraments of initiation. For further information contact the Faith Formation office.

Sacrament of Baptism

This Sacrament is celebrated on Sundays at 1:00 PM. It is required that parents participate in a Pre-Baptismal class. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month. Registration is required by calling the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the parish office as soon as possible so as to ensure a proper time and adequate preparation for this Sacrament. Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounters are required.

Anointing of the Sick Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

This Sacrament of healing expresses the love of God and our Church for our sick, our shut-ins and the elderly, unable to come to Church. For the dying, please contact the Rectory immediately. For the confined, the elderly and our shut-ins, whether at home, or in the hospital, please inform the Rectory.

- Red Riding Hood and The GOOD Shepherd -



Who of us do not love a good story...from the moment we are able to sit up in bed as little children.

As children, the hope is that there is someone lying down on the bed next to us to read us bed time stories, like the one today's Good Shepherd Gospel may remind us of: Little Red Riding Hood.

"One day her mother said to her, "Come, Little Red Riding Hood, here is a piece of cake and a bottle of wine. Take them to your grandmother, they will do her good.

Just as Little Red Riding Hood entered the wood, a wolf met her.

"What a tender young creature. What a nice plump mouthful, she will be better to eat than the old woman. I must act craftily, so as to catch both." So he walked for a short time by the side of Little Red Riding Hood, and then he said, "see Little Red Riding Hood, how pretty the flowers are about here. Why do you not look round."

When she saw the sunbeams dancing here and there through the trees, and pretty flowers growing everywhere, she thought, suppose I take grandmother a fresh nosegay. That would please her too.

And while Red Riding Hood ventured off the path...this gave the wolf time to run to Grandma's house...eat her and lie in wait to do the same with Red, which is exactly what occurs...a double devouring!

The wolf then fell asleep and began to snore very loud. The huntsman was just passing the house, and thought to himself...I must see if she wants anything.

When he came to the bed, he saw that the wolf was lying in it. "Do I find you here, you old sinner," said he. "I have long sought you." Then prying open the wolf's stomach...Red Riding Hood and her grandmother came out alive. Little Red Riding Hood, however, quickly fetched great stones with which they filled the wolf's belly, and when he awoke, he wanted to run away, but the stones were so heavy that he collapsed at once, and fell dead.

Then all three were delighted. The huntsman drew off the wolf's skin and went home with it. But Little Red Riding Hood thought to herself, as long as I live, I will never again by myself leave the path my Mother forbid me to."

From the moment we are placed in the womb of our mother, our journey begins and of course any journey must have a destination, what then exactly is our

destination...is it happily ever after? Of course, who of us do not want to be happy...but is an emotion a destination, there is no greater journey for anyone to take than a Christian for our destination is not an emotion or even place of happiness but a person who is pure joy, someone who is our happily and peace and love ever after...Jesus Christ.

One of the great Easter Stories is the Road to Emmaus. Two disciples who are walking away from Jerusalem where the passion and death of Christ has taken place. In their heart brokenness and disappointment, the journey seems to imply that they have given up all faith and hope, certainly in the Christ who they believe to be dead and not the Messiah He made Himself out to be.

But how soon that feeling is to change and how it changes is the fairy tale formula of how things will change in our lives and in our whole world...if as Red Riding Hood's Mom insists, once back on the proper path we do not leave it.

But here's the kicker...even if we do leave it...all is not lost as it wasn't for Red Riding Hood because what is it that happens...the Huntsman comes along and saves the day just at that moment when all seemed lost...when Red and her Grandma were dead.

And so must it have been for all the Apostles who witnessed the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross that Good Friday...how all must have seemed lost...all that they were led to believe about Jesus being the Son of God and the Messiah must have died with Him that day.

And how often have we felt that way, so disappointed so depressed as to have lost all hope in oneself or worse in Christ Himself and when the darkness gets darker how easier it is to get off the beaten path or perhaps we have been tempted off that path by the real life wolf and Villain the Devil, who holds before us that same shiny fruit he held before the eyes of Adam and Eve so that eating it, they could become like God themselves...craving His power...not His love.

And what is Jesus' response to our self-destructive off-roading tendencies: As today's Gospel reminds us He is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep.

From The Pastor's Desk

And beating back those wolves, the good shepherd even at the cost of personal injury or worse death...ensures that the sheep return safe and sound to the sheepfold to graze happily ever after...as Jesus says:

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them."

But not Jesus, which reminds us of one of the most beloved hymns of all time Psalm 23:

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want
 He guides me along right paths
 for the sake of his name.
 Even though I walk through the valley of the
 shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil, for you are with me

And there is the formula...the right path is not so much the path that while walking it brings one the most joy and happiness...the right path is the one with Jesus Christ walking along-side you on because like it or not, as we are experiencing right now...we must walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death...

That we must make our Way of the Cross to Calvary and it is a journey that is filled with great danger...great loss...great disappointment...great sorrow...but we must maintain that Divine Mercy Attitude of Jesus "I trust in you" and repeat with confidence those same words of the Psalmist..."I will fear no evil for you are with me."

As the Huntsmen is able to liberate Red Riding Hood and Grandma from the belly of the wolf...we are saved from the belly of Hell where death is everlasting...we are pried freed from the grasp of the devil, and like the

stones dropped on the big bad wolf, there is one stone that is dropped on the big bad devil...and that is the same stone that was once placed before the Tomb of Christ...what once appeared as the ultimate defeat is instead transformed into the greatest victory.

Oh the joy Red and her Grandmother must have felt being liberated from the awful darkness of death inside that wicked wolf, but how greater must have been the Huntsman's joy having liberating them, having destroyed the wolf.

What must our joy be then knowing Christ is Risen, knowing that because He is, one day we shall be as well? The relief of Red's Mom knowing her daughter and her mom are safe and alive! The relief knowing that loved ones who have passed are safe and alive in the arms of Christ, who waits to embrace us?

But what then must be the Joy of Jesus knowing that He has liberated us from death, from the devil, from all despair...what Joy must there be for the Father knowing His children are safe and sound having been rescued by who the Prophet Isaiah describes of the Messiah, "the God-Hero" who is Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd the very best Shepherd.

As awful as pain and sorrow are in this life...can we imagine any of our favorite adventure stories having none of those elements...no obstacles to overcome...no villains to defeat...no set-backs to return from...no snatching victory from the mouth of defeat...we can only fully appreciate the joy of Easter having experienced the terrible and horrific pains and sorrows and seeming defeat of Good Friday.

God's joy is greater than our own because He is infinite joy...and this infinite joy is now ours if only we remain on that path with Christ.

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021

Temporary Parish Office Hours:
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM
 Closed on Wednesday, Friday, 9 AM to 12 PM

Assumption Catholic School

Mr. Steven J Santoli, Principal - (203) 334-6271
 Grades: Pre-K 3 through 8 Hours: 8:40 AM - 3 PM
 Before and After School Programs Available
 (Before School program begins at 7:00 AM and After School program ends 5:30 PM)

Faith Formation

Mr. Frank Macari, Director - (203) 367-1108
 Email address: Our.lady.assumption@snet.net
 Tuesday Classes For Grades 1-5 from 4-5 PM
 For Grades 6-8 from 7-8 PM
 Office of Faith Formation Hours: Weekdays 10 AM - 3 PM and Tuesdays 10 AM-5:30 PM

Parish Finance Council

Our parish Finance Council is a consultative body of lay persons established to advise the pastor in matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the church. The chairman is Ron Fiske, (203) 330-0375.

Parish Activities

American Heritage Girls Troop #4862: Monthly (except summer), 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4:00 PM , parish center. For girls ages 5-18. Jillian Plomin at jplomin@gmail.com. Currently suspended

Altar Society of St. Joseph the Worker: Monthly, 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month following 7:30 AM Mass. Cleans and beautifies the Sanctuary and chapels in the church.

Alcoholics Anonymous Friday, 8:00 PM, parish hall.

Narcotics Anonymous Wednesday 7:30 PM, parish hall.

Bible Study: Thursdays, 9:15 AM and 7 PM, parish center. Study sessions will be posted in our bulletin. Currently Suspended

Choir: Adults: Wednesday, 7 PM in the church.

Resurrection Choir: Sings at funeral Masses.

Contact Michael Cooney, Director of Music, at (203) 572-2213 or email music@olaffld.org for details. Currently suspended

Knights of Columbus: Monthly, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7 PM parish hall. Grand Knight Michael Lauzon at (203) 817-7528 or email mplauzon@aol.com.

Parish Nurses: Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, Sept. to June, at 7 PM St. Vincent Medical Center

Blood pressure screening: Currently suspended

Sisters in Faith: Monthly, 2nd Monday, 7 - 9 PM, parish hall, except July & August. Ministry for women of Assumption Church. Mary Garbe at marygarbe@gmail.com.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 24th

4:00 p.m. Patrick Saldey

Sunday, April 25th

7:30 a.m. Pancio Cosimo

9:00 a.m. Carmela & Santo Alaimo

10:30 a.m. George & Esther Parks

12:00 p.m. Pauline Quinn



Weekday Masses

Mon. 4/26 7:30 a.m. Ellen Mary Costa

5:30 p.m. Jean Kadar

Tues. 4/27 7:30 a.m. Jeanette Lanese

5:30 p.m. Souls in purgatory

Wed. 4/28 7:30 a.m. Special Intention of Alfredo & Perlita Villaflor

5:30 p.m. Adam Gardner

Thurs. 4/29 7:30 a.m. Robert Orem

5:30 p.m. Pedro Amezquita

Fri. 4/30 7:30 a.m. Milagros Tirado

5:30 p.m. Mary Ellen Crowley

Sat. 5/1 7:30 a.m. Special Intention of Nicole Azemi

Saturday, May 1st

4:00 p.m. Donald Casazza

Sunday, May 2nd

7:30 a.m. Special Intention of Nicolas Cipriani

9:00 a.m. Oliver MacKinnon

10:30 a.m. Ann Trovarelli

12:00 p.m. Paddy Joe Curtin



*Our Sanctuary Light
 Will burn this week
 In loving memory of
 Emery Wach*



*Our Devotional Light
 Will burn this week for
 For those who passed away
 during the month of April*

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Mary Alberico

Larry DiPalma

Sandy MacArthur

Josephine Amiot

Fred Eichhorn

Eugene Madara

Christopher Amiot

Diane Fasanella

Peter Maioriello

Solange Anziano

Dcn Joe Gagne

Noah Martinez

Lorraine Artale

Charlie Gordon

Kaitlin McLaughlin

Ellie Art

Holly Graham

Leroy Moye

Carol Bertanza

Suzanne Hannan

Dave Reynolds

Michael Black

Leonard Iwanski, Jr.

Donna Schmidt

Diane Breton

Clare Kelleher

Laurie Squilla

Eleanor Bruckmann

Christian Kong

Lillian Squilla

Letitia Ciccio

Tim Lambert

School Sisters of ND

Nicholas DeMaio

Robert Lancia

Elizabeth Thompson

Michael Devaney

Georgette Lawko

Valle Family

April 17/18

2021

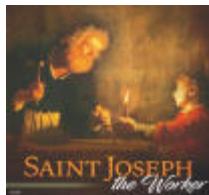
Weekend Offertory:	\$4,083.00
Online Giving	\$2,345.00

Thank You**DONATE Online**

We realize many of our parishioners are still not be able to attend Mass regularly, please consider making your offertory through Online Giving. Please visit our website and click on the Tab "Donate" and create an account.

Mass Capacity Update

As you may have read, effective March 19th, there is no capacity limitation on Mass attendance. However, the state still requires masks, social distancing, and regular cleaning. Given the requirement of social distance, we **MUST** continue to use every other pew and maintain six feet distance between individuals/household units. We will **continue to require on-line registration for our weekend and Holy Day Masses**. In addition, we will live-stream our weekend Masses (with the exception of the 7:30 AM Mass) to accommodate more people in the parish hall.

Saint Joseph the Worker Celebration

Anticipating **Saint Joseph the Worker Day May 1st**, there will be a special **Saint Joseph Themed Rosary recited on Tuesday April 27th at 7:00 PM in the Church**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession will be available as well. The Service will be live streamed.

Vigil Mass of Saint Joseph the Worker Celebration will take place at the **5:30pm Mass on Friday, April 30th**. The Mass will have music and will be live-streamed as well.

Special Thank You!

In addition to the generosity of people dropping off food items for the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry as they picked up their Friday Fish Fry Dinners, a portion of the money collected during the Friday Fries allowed us to purchase these additional items to donate to the food pantry:

200 plus rolls of Toilet Paper

200 bars of Soap

100 cans of Tuna

65 cans of Kidney Beans

65 cans of Black Beans

And money donations totaling around 1,000 dollars.

Your generosity and continued concern is immensely appreciated!

Time CHANGE for Sacrament of Reconciliation

Effective **May 1, 2021** the time of our Saturday afternoon Sacrament of Reconciliation will be changing. The new start time will be at **3:00 PM and end EXACTLY at 3:45 PM**. Please arrive prior to 3:45 PM in order to provide sufficient amount of time.

Mother's Day Remembrance

If you would like to memorialize and honor your mother, either living or deceased this Mother's Day with her name in our bulletin, please send in your offertory and name before **May 2nd**. Mother's Day envelopes are included in your envelope packet and through online giving.

Parishioner's Corner

Looking for some further outstanding reflections on the Sunday Mass Reading? Please visit Assumption's own Dr. Frank DeStefano's wonderful "Sunday Sunday" blogs at <https://doctorfrank.blogspot.com/>.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

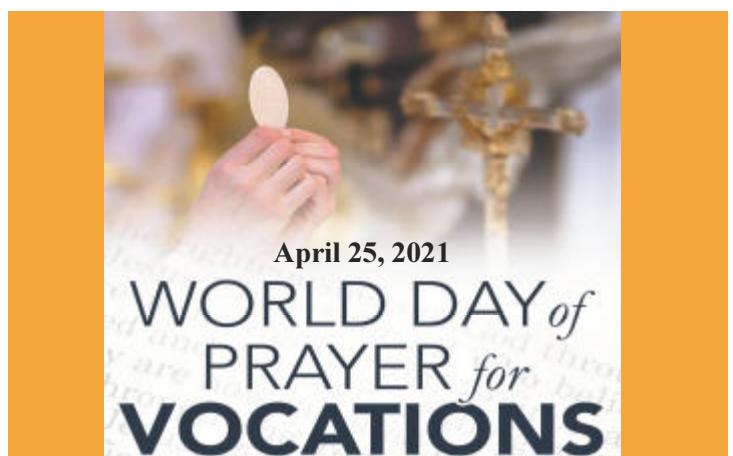
Will take place on **Friday, May 7th**, following the 7:30 AM Mass and will conclude on **Saturday, April 8th**, prior to the 7:30 AM Mass. **Due to our evening Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from 5:15 to 6:00 PM**. All are welcome to come and spend an hour with Jesus.

The Parish May Crowning of Mary

This year we are happy to announce that our **Mary May Crowning** will take place on **Monday, May 10th at 7:00 PM in Church**. Please join us, our First Communion candidates (who will have received their First Communion), and their families as we celebrate the love of the Blessed Virgin Mary for us and our Parish. Communicants are asked to come dressed in their **First Communion attire and arrive at 6:45 PM**.

**Remembering Our Military**

As you know, The Knights of Columbus, continue to update and acknowledge those men and women of our Parish family who are serving the Armed Forces. We ask you to please submit any new names to us in the **offertory basket or by calling Fred Coseglia at 203-371-8181**, indicating branch of service and rank.



**5th Annual Sword & Shield Golf Classic
Hosted by Knights of Columbus
Councils 11077 & Council 14360**

Date: Monday, June 14, 2021

Time: 9:30 AM

Place: Brownson Country Club, Huntington, CT

Cost: \$175 / Person OR \$700 / Foursome

No golf option, (Pool / Dinner / Open Bar) \$75.00 / Person

9:30 AM Registration / Coffee / Breakfast, Putting Contest

11:30 AM Shotgun Start

4:00 PM Appetizers / Open Bar

5:00 PM Prizes / Awards Ceremony/ Dinner / Raffle

Player Fee includes: Breakfast Buffet, 18 Holes of golf, Best ball format, Water / Soda/ Beer & Snacks on the course, Open Bar reception, Dinner, Awards, On-course contests, and MORE.

Proceeds to benefit Knights of Columbus-supported charities including: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Malta House, Coats for Kids, Homes for the Brave, AI's Angels, VA Hospital, and more.

We are registering now for Sponsor and Player opportunities. Forms are available at <http://www.olaffld.org/> under the Community tab, then Knights of Columbus, Sword and Shield Golf Classic, and click on link. Please contact Co-Chairman, **Greg Matera at 203-209-2164**, email to **greg.mtra@yahoo.com** for more information, or visit their website at <https://swordshieldgolf.com/>.

**Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments
Confidence in Princes**

Have you ever confided your problems to a friend, only to get the answer, "have you prayed about it as much as you've talked about it?"

Like all good advice, it can really irritate the recipient at first. Here I am, vulnerable and wounded, unloading my problems, and this joker tries to load them right back up and ship them off to Someone with a higher pay grade.

But again, like all good and irritating advice, it rings true if you sit and think about it.

Sure, venting is helpful. We all need that friend or family member who can listen to our problems. But if we ever start to think that person can solve them, it's a good sign that we're losing perspective.

Are you looking to the world for an answer? Are you looking in the mirror, expecting to find a solution to your problems? Are you expecting happiness, peace, contentment or justice to come from any place other than God?

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in princes," the Psalms tell us. Well, I've never put much confidence in princes. But when it comes to problems, I often find myself telling God to take a step back — "I've got this."

It's tough to pray about any problem as much as you talk about it. We want so badly to tackle the issue ourselves. But I'll let you in on a secret: it doesn't matter what the question is, we don't have the answer. Take it to the One who does.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Acts 4:8-12/Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 John 3:1-2/John 10:11-18
Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/ John 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/ John 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24—13:5a/Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/ John 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25/Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/John 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/ John 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/ John 14:7-14 St. Joseph the Worker: Genesis 1:26—2:3 or Colossian 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Psalm 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf. 17b]/Matthew 13:54-58
Next Sunday:	Acts 9:26-31/Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 John 3:18-24/John 15:1-8

Communion Antiphon

"I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep, and mine know me." - Psalm 33:1

Foundations in Education 2021

Foundations in Education invites you to its re-imagined Virtual Hybrid Benefit on Thursday, May 6th. Join Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano to celebrate our Honorees Dr. Julia M. McNamara and Lynn and Frank Mara of the New York Giants and participate in an online auction from the comfort of your home. All to celebrate and support Catholic education! Proceeds support foundations in Education, whose mission is to provide hundreds of children from low and middle income families with quality education focused on Christian values and character formation. To purchase tickets and sponsorships or for more information, please contact Megan Quinn at 203-416-1671 or by email at: mquinn@foundationsineducation.org.

Diocesan Mass to Honor Healthcare Workers

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano will celebrate a special Mass this Spring for all healthcare workers throughout the Diocese.

The special celebration of Mass to honor workers will take place on **Saturday, May 29, 2021 at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Church, Brookfield**.

Bishop Caggiano said he felt it was important that the diocese recognize healthcare workers and participants in the Ambassador program called for in his pastor exhortation, "Let us Enter the Upper Room with the Lord."

"Over this past year, many of our healthcare workers offered heroic service on behalf of those who fell ill with the Coronavirus, often risking their own lives to care for those who were sick. While I am sure that we have kept them in our prayers each day, we also look forward to this opportunity to affirm their healthcare ministry," he said.

Given the limited capacity in Church due to the pandemic, participants will be required to register online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/healthcare-workers>

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