



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

*Saint Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
134 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
(570)823-4168*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 25, 2021

THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ACTS 4:8-12
1 JOHN 3:1-2
JOHN 10:11-18



NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE

ACTS 9:26-31
1 JOHN 3:18-24
JOHN 15:1-8

JESUS, GOOD SHEPHERD
(gospel reading)

WHOM GOD RAISED
FROM THE DEAD,
(first reading)

WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR KINDNESS,
WHICH ENDURES FOREVER.
(responsorial psalm)

YOU ESTABLISHED US
AS GOD'S CHILDREN.
CONFIRM OUR HOPES
TO BE WITH YOU
IN EVERLASTING GLORY.

(second reading)

AMEN.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

April 25, 2021 — 4th Sunday of Easter

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.



Sacrificial Giving

WE ARE A STEWARDSHIP PARISH God's Plan For Giving

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREASED OFFERINGS

APRIL 18, 2021

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Sunday Offering | \$ | 3,239.00 |
| Sunday Loose | \$ | 173.00 |
| 12:10 Masses | \$ | 15.00 |
| Parish Membership | \$ | 509.00 |
| Diocesan Charity | \$ | 59.00 |
| Ash Wednesday | \$ | 5.00 |
| Holy Thursday | \$ | 57.00 |
| Easter Flowers | \$ | 30.00 |
| Easter | \$ | 845.00 |
| Parish Maintenance | \$ | 25.00 |
| Eastern Europe Churches | \$ | 5.00 |
| Diocesan Priest Health | \$ | 32.00 |
| Religious Education | \$ | 10.00 |
| Insurance | \$ | 382.00 |
| Utilities | \$ | 10.00 |
| Home Missions | \$ | 66.00 |
| Catholic Schools | \$ | 65.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ | 5,527.00 |

Mass Count

4PM—122 10AM - 73

12:10PM—57 7PM—81 Total—333

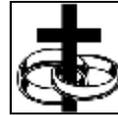


CONGRATULATIONS TO
Ron and Charleen Wrobleski
who are celebrating their
50th Wedding Anniversary,
April 24th.

May God continue to bless
your marriage
and guide both of you
through the years ahead. Congratulations!

Wedding Anniversary Mass

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2021 to a Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 6 at the Cathedral of St. Peter. The Mass will begin at 2:30PM, and attendance will require advance reservation. To register for the celebration you may go to the following website:



<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/enrichment/wedding-anniversary-mass-june-6-2021/>.

For questions or concerns, or if there are issues registering online, please reach out to Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development. (jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104)

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

The *Catholic Home Missions Appeal* will be taken up in the *Diocese of Scranton this weekend of April 24-25*.

This special collection, established by the U.S. bishops in 1998, primarily supports home mission dioceses - those dioceses in the United States that are unable to offer their people the basic pastoral ministries of word, worship, and service without outside help. It may also give grants to other dioceses in the U.S. for particular projects, and to organizations and religious communities engaged in missionary work.

The collection supports a wide range of pastoral services. However, it principally focuses on evangelization activities; religious education; ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and laypeople; and support of poor parishes across the country.



FIRST EUCHARIST

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Community at St. Mary's Church extends its congratulations and best wishes to our young parishioners who will be celebrating First Eucharist at St. Nicholas Church this month. Please remember the girls and boys who will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time at the Table of the Lord's Body and Blood.

*Samantha Ball ** Connor Bonczek ** Jordan Cosenza
Keegan Cryan ** Corey Klug ** Laura Montrose
Speranta Montrose ** Noah Shortz ** Elysa Torres*



Mass Schedule

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE —IN CHURCH

Saturday, 4PM — Sunday, 10AM, 12:10PM and 7PM

With social distancing, face masks are required NO EXCEPTIONS.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE—ST. THERESE CHAPEL

Monday, and Friday 12:10PM

There will be no Wednesday Mass until further notice

With social distancing, face masks are required NO EXCEPTIONS.

Masses For The Week

MONDAY– APRIL 26 (EASTER WEEKDAY)

12:10PM *Jose and Consolacion Tolentino*

TUESDAY– 27 (EASTER WEEKDAY)

****NO MASS****

WEDNESDAY– 28 (EASTER WEEKDAY/

ST. PETER CHANEL

****NO MASS****

THURSDAY– 29 (ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA)

****NO MASS****

FRIDAY—30 (EASTER WEEKDAY/ST. PIUS V)

12:10PM *Geraldine Kranson*

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

SATURDAY– MAY 1

4:00PM *MASS*

SUNDAY– MAY 2

10:00AM *MASS*

12:10PM *MASS*

7:00PM *MASS*

MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARE CALLED TO A FOUR*FOLD MISSION:

- ***TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST;***
- ***TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH;***
- ***TO BE TRANSFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE;***
- ***TO BRING GOD'S JUSTICE AND PEACE TO OTHERS THROUGH SERVICE.***

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

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.

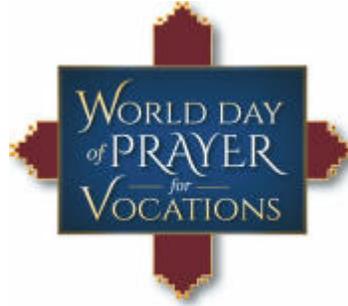
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

ST. NICHOLAS CREDIT UNION

Pay attention to your 1stquarter statement and even more IMPORTANT = pay attention to the enclosed flyers with your statement. If you need to think about what to do with your stimulus check, there are some good ideas listed on there for you.

POOR BOXES IN THE VESTIBULE

Our deepest thanks to all who give to the poor via our parish poor boxes. God bless you for your Christian generosity.



The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, at 5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as celebrant at the Mass. In addition to the

Diocesan celebration, parishes are encouraged to have vocation- based homilies, vocation-themed youth ministry nights, lessons in religious education programs, recitation of the Rosary for Vocations and Holy Hours. ***“It is the joy of simplicity, the joy experienced daily by those who care for what truly matters: faithful closeness to God and to our neighbor. How good it would be if the same atmosphere, simple and radiant, sober and hopeful, were to pervade our seminarians, religious houses and presbyteries,”*** Pope Francis said on the upcoming occasion of the 58th Anniversary of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. He continued, ***“I pray that you will experience this same joy, dear brothers and sisters who have generously made God the dream of your lives, serving him in your brothers and sisters through a fidelity that is a powerful testimony in an age of ephemeral choices and emotions that bring no lasting joy. May Saint Joseph, protector of vocations, accompany you with his fatherly heart!”***

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Faithful God,
You sent your son, Jesus,
to be our Good Shepherd.
Through our baptism you blessed us
and called us to follow Jesus
who leads us on the path of life.
Renew in us the desire to remain faithful
to our commitment to serve you and the Church.
Bless all who dedicate their lives to you
through marriage, the single life, the diaconate,
priesthood, and consecrated life.
Give insight to those who are discerning their vocation.
Send us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus,
our Good Shepherd,
Through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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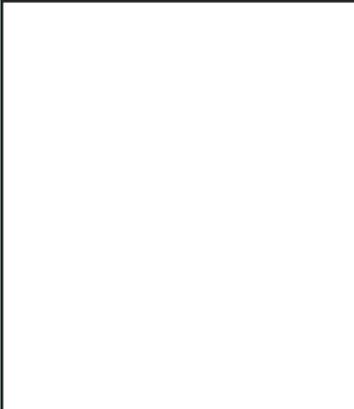
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