

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 7, 2017**



SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017

5:30 P.M. Ted Srodon
Eleanor Leppin
Margharita Davis
Mary Luciani

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Angela & Francis Bacigalupo
Charles Thielitz
Cecelia Sagan

10:00 A.M. Rose Whitman
Stella Eagen
Intentions of Virginia Taylor
John Steindl

12:00 P.M. Rose Gerace
Nancy Bennion

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

8:00 A.M. Peggy & Leonard VanOudenaren

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017

8:00 A.M. Eroli Alvino

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

8:00 A.M. Theresa Casazza

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017

8:00 A.M. Virginia Burns
Ray Colsant

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017

5:30 P.M. Mothers of the Parish

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Mothers of the Parish

10:00 A.M. Mothers of the Parish

12:00 P.M. Mothers of the Parish

Pray for the safety of the servicemen and women who are serving our country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK: Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Ron Moebisch
Nina Margossian Veny Hongo Jeremy Dymowski
Gary Ragusa Reva Zanetti Joan Deblasio
Baby Michael Soojian Jan Hongo Susan Nichols-Boggio
Baby Ryder Sasso Carmela Fusco Frank Morici
Frances De Maria Dorothea King Jerome Foray
Gabe Bellantoni Millie Farina Eileen McPartland
Rosemary Liebman Cenia Soto Gertrude Tindoc
Stacey Caropreso Sharon Acquire Noah Lorencovitz
Sister Marie Louise Silverio Conte Barbara Kincaid
Brenda McWeeney Rosemary Pannone Virginia Taylor
Frank Sanclementi Tom Guzowski

DECEASED: Deceased of the Parish

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday - \$5,154.50
Thank you for your continued support.



Dear friends in Christ,

Today is the 4th Sunday of Easter and it is commonly known as “**Good Shepherd Sunday**,” a day in which the Church recalls the relationship between God and His people as described in the image of Shepherd and Sheep. Each year, the Gospel Reading of today is chosen from Chapter 10 of St. John's Gospel, where Jesus speaks of himself as the “**Good Shepherd**.” Today, in fact, we listen to the first and the beginning part of that chapter.

In recent times, this day has also become known as “**Vocations Sunday**,” a day when our Church prays especially for new shepherds and pastors to lead the Christian communities.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd because of his gentle care and loving commitment to the flock he pastures and protects. The Gospel Reading of today tells us that Jesus is also the “**gate for the sheep**” because he is the way to salvation. As sheep gate, he leads us to eternal life. Jesus Christ takes on himself the task of reuniting the sheep, as shepherd and guardian of our souls..

The Gospel Reading of today from St. John also contains a mixed metaphor. In this passage Jesus gives two comparisons. He compares himself to the Shepherd and to the Gate. The first title represents his ownership and the second title represents his leadership. The first is a warning against people who would want to steal the sheep and the second focuses on the relationship between the sheep and their shepherd. Jesus is the Gate, the door through which the sheep have an access to the shepherd. The central image, too, is not so much that of the shepherd as of the gate. In fact, later on in the passage, Jesus says, “I am the gate for the sheep,” and the shepherds who come in and out are pastors who are faithful to Jesus.

Anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, for instance, by climbing over the fence or breaking through it, is dangerous and should be avoided. Only a thief and a brigand who comes to steal and do harm to the sheep will not use the gate. The genuine shepherd, however, enters by the Gate and is recognized and admitted by the watchman outside. The true shepherd knows which ones belong to him and calls them out one by one. The sheep recognize the shepherd's voice and stay with him. They will not follow other shepherds, even if called by them. It is a free relationship. They follow, not because they are forced to but by their own choice.

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray to the Lord that we may be his good sheep, listening attentively to his voice, and follow his example of self-giving love. Let us also pray for all our shepherds, especially our religious and political leaders. May they follow the example of Jesus who was willing to serve and lay down his life for his sheep.

Saint Catherine of Siena

Feast Day: April 29

Saint Catherine of Siena was born on March 25, 1347. She was the 23rd child of Jacopo and Lapa Benincasa. As a child, she was considered very intelligent, happy, and quite religious. Her mother often encouraged her to try to improve her physical appearance so she might attract a husband. Catherine responded by cutting off her hair as a protest. Her

father stepped in, and directed that she be left in peace. He gave her a separate room for prayer and meditation.

At the age of 18, Catherine entered the Dominican Third Order. Soon she began to attract a group of followers with her prayerful ways. The group included lay people, priests and religious. Soon, this group grew to a large number of people, all drawn to her contemplative lifestyle.

Catherine spoke out on of public affairs. She was verbally attacked because she was not afraid to address the political problems of the day. She was also completely committed to Christ, and she did not just talk; her words and actions demonstrated a sense of purpose and authority. Catherine is probably best known for her efforts to bring the papacy of Gregory XI back to Rome after it had been displaced to France. Catherine was determined to accomplish this very difficult task. She succeeded. The following year, she was called upon by Pope Urban VI to help defend the Church against yet another attack. Again, she was successful. Her accomplishments required great inner strength. It is said that she had many visions including a ‘mystical marriage’ with Christ, who told her to emerge from her quiet life and enter the world. She drew her strength from her belief that she was united in spiritual marriage with Jesus. Her letters mention that she wore the wedding ring He gave her; it was not visible to others, but she had received it in one of her visions. Catherine died in Rome on April 29, 1380. She was canonized in 1461.

In 1970, Pope Paul VI named Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila doctors of the Church. What is a Doctor of the Church? This is a very special title accorded by the Church to certain saints. This title indicates that a saint’s writings and teachings are reliable sources of information and instruction for us as Catholics. There are only 33 Doctors of the Church. Out of the 33, only 3 are women; St. Catherine of Siena, St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese Lisieux.

St. Catherine of Siena and St. Francis are the co-patron saints of Italy. Pope John Paul II (St. John Paul II) also named St. Catherine of Siena as one of the six patron saints of all of Europe, along with Benedict of Nursia, Saints Cyril and Methodius, Bridget of Sweden and Edith Stein.

MAY 2017 EMMAUS MEETING

The Emmaus Group will meet Monday, May 8th in the Church Hall at 7:00pm. We will do a Fish/Chicken Fry wrap up, review what we did the past year (2016-17) and get some ideas going for the fall. All are welcome.

THURSDAY PRAYER GROUP

Every Thursday at 11 AM the Prayer Group of St. Francis will meet in the Chapel to pray for those who are sick and are need of prayers.

Please come and join them and if you know someone who needs prayers you are welcome to add their name for those to be prayed for.

AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE will take place on Saturday, May 13th at 12 Noon, at the top of the hill in front of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 1799 Hamburg Tpke, Wayne. The prayer will be for peace in the world and to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima’s appearance. Everyone is invited to join. Please bring your Rosary and a chair. For more information, call Rosemary at 973-835-7050.

LADIES GUILD

SAVE THE DATE:

Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

Day trip to “Sight & Sound Theater” in Lancaster, PA to see *Jonah* at 3PM. Dinner is at 6:15 PM. The bus will leave St. Francis parking lot at 10:45 AM. Price is \$110.00 due at sign-up. Seating is limited. You will have the opportunity to sign up after 5:30pm Mass, Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th after the 10 AM & 12 Noon Masses. You may also stop in at the rectory to sign up Monday – Friday 9 – 4.

CHAPEL RENOVATION

The renovation to the chapel is now complete. For those parishioners who would like to help toward the cost of the renovation, there are several options for you. These can be either Memorials or Gifts-whatever the giver chooses.

First option: Bronze plate (leaf) will be made for anyone who gives \$250 - \$499.

Second option: Silver plate (leaf) will be made for anyone who gives \$500 - \$999.

Third option: Gold plate (leaf) will be made for anyone who gives \$1,000 or more.

Additional option: Anyone who would like to give a donation in a lesser amount may either mail/or drop it off at the rectory or place it in the lucite boxes that will be placed in the Narthex and by the side door. Every dollar counts.

The plates (leaves) will be placed on a giving tree donor plaque that will hang on a wall in the Chapel.

KIDNEY NEEDED

There is a parishioner in our parish who needs, most of all, your prayers, but who is in need of a kidney. Sometimes just knowing of a need or talking about it, brings amazing results. So, in your conversations, you may want to bring this topic up because you never know whose ears that this story falls upon, might be the lifesaving ones. But, above all, prayers are priceless.

Thank you and God bless you.

DIAPERS FOR BABIES

Anyone who has had a child knows how expensive diapers, wipes, and formula have become. The **Knights of Columbus** would like to remove this obstacle to the choice for life by providing much needed economic assistance.

St. Francis Council K of C has decided to hold a “Diaper Drop” at St. Francis parish to collect diapers, wipes, and formula. We plan on giving these items to Birth Haven, a pregnancy care center, located in Newton, NJ.

We will start collecting items on Mother’s Day weekend (May 14th) and finish on Father’s Day weekend (June 18th).

We would like St. Francis parish to be the surrogate fathers to children saved from abortion.

Drop off will be in the church Narthex. Any questions, call Frank La Sala, FDD-PGK at 973-839-8399.

FOUND IN PARKING LOT

A ladies ring was found in the parking lot last weekend by a parishioner and it was brought to the rectory. If you just lost a ring and it was one of your favorites, give the rectory a call. It might just be yours! 973-835-0480.

St Francis Spring Clothing Drive!



Where: St. Francis School
When: May 20, 2017
What Time: 9 – 2:00



Please support St. Francis Parish by donating clothing, linens, stuffed animals and any other soft goods you no longer have a use for.

Clean those closets out!
Clothes, sheets, blankets, we'll take it!

If you can't make it the day of the clothing drive, you can drop your bags off at the Rectory before 4 pm Monday – Friday or at the school on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during Zumba class from 7pm to 8pm. Receipts available upon request.



ANNIVERSARY MASS

All couples in our parish who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 50th or any year beyond their 50th anniversary this year, are invited to renew their Marriage Vows at the 10 AM Mass on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

If you plan to celebrate with us, please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or at the rectory. We ask those celebrating their anniversary to invite your family and friends to the Mass and reception afterwards.

Reservation deadline is June 19th.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY RESERVATION

Names: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Anniversary year: 25th – 30th - 35th – 40th – 45th - 50th –
beyond 50th

(Please circle year)

Approximate number of family/friends attending _____
(not including anniversary couple)



FAITH RENEWAL MASS

Parishioners at 5:30pm Mass on April 29th attended our first Faith Renewal Mass. It was a more lively worship experience for all. Our Faith Renewal Mass will be held every third Saturday of the month. Come see for yourself!

HEADS UP!!

SAVE THE DATES: July 18th – 23rd.

It's CARNIVAL – CARNIVAL – CARNIVAL!!!

Plans are already in the works for this year's annual parish carnival. It is our hope, as usual, that our parishioners give of themselves and volunteer to help out in an area that is best for them: in a game booth, food booth, selling 50/50's, etc. For many years St. Francis has been known for having the best carnival in the area. Let's keep it that way! So please, as time gets closer and the volunteer sheets are made available, we would be very grateful for all your positive consideration in helping run our carnival. Thank you! This is a great way of having an active part in your parish.

LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017

Jolene Colsant & John Minnett

LECTORS

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017

5:30 P.M. Ted Luciani

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017

7:30 A.M. Jay Markot

10:00 A.M. John McMurray

12 NOON Linda O'Connell

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017

5:30 P.M. Martha Bisaccio & Maria Invernon

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017

7:30 A.M. Sue Raoul & Hatima Omolon

10:00 A.M. Melissa Rivera & Judy Moran

12 NOON Linda O'Connell & Tony Mazza

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017

5:30 P.M. Scott & Steven Bracken

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid

10.00 A.M. Kelly Frisina & Jonathan Hogue

12 NOON Angelique Salcedo

Joseph & Jon Karlo Villacis

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

FIRST COMMUNICANTS

MAY 7, 2017



Jacqueline Abbate
Maximus Abbate
David Ackerly
Gavin Berger
Gavin Casale
Sofia Ciarlo
Michael DaSilva
Amelia Diaz
Nathan Karp
Kiera Killian
Mackenzie King
Aiden McCabe

Katelyn Morley
Collin O'Keefe
Emily Orsato
Sophia Ortiz
Edward Pasznik
Tyler Smith
Jack Stack
Diana Szczecinski
Maya Tully
Braden Villavicencio
Hayden Whitaker-Currie
Matthew Zak