

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 22, 2018**



Manuel Esguerra Eileen McPartland Karen Cisco
 Cenelia Soto Sandra Pacifico Robert Moreno
 Sharon Acquaia Noah Lorencovitz Mike Durkin
 Sister Marie Louise Florence Grim Estella Soto
 Barbara Kincaid Carmela Caropreso Bitondo
 Christine Morrison

DECEASED: Our Deceased Loved Ones

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday – April 15, 2018 - \$4,851.00
 Thank you for your continued support.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018

5:30 P.M. Mary & Joseph Purcella
 Tom Norton
 Silverio Conte
 Frank O'Donnell
 Rose DeStefano
 Rose & Charles DiMiceli

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
 Frances & Anthony Yavorosky
 Antonio, Louise, Mary Casazza
 Paul Barsa
 Alice Bautista

10:00 A.M. Dorothy & Frank Orofino
 Roy & Shirley Parian
 Rocco Tarulli
 Mario Colecchia
 Intentions of Sharon & Victor Acquaia –
 40th Anniversary

12:00 NOON Ted Srodon
 Tom Karwacki
 Frank Caropreso
 Kelly Pinand
 Kathleen Cook
 George Kuredjian

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018

8:00 A.M. William A. & Agnes Cori
 Anthony Demarest

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018

8:00 A.M. Rita Graham

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

8:00 A.M. Tom Norton

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

8:00 A.M. Sebastian Lentini

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

5:30 P.M. Tom Norton
 Silverio Conte
 Joseph "Ace" Tachine
 Frank O'Donnell

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

7:30 A.M. Michael Gorzelany
 John & Rosemary Englehardt

10:00 A.M. Garbarino Family
 Rose DeStefano
 Frank Sanclementi, Jr.

12:00 NOON Tom Karwacki
 Patricia Barberich
 Rita Graham

Pray daily for the safety of our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Barry Bach Vincent Vagola
 Tom Guzowski Ava Rae Nebbia Joan & Sal Ruffino
 Gary Ragusa Alex Haines Larry Perry George Link
 Baby Michael Soojian Jan Hongo Susan Nichols-Boggio
 Baby Ryder Sasso Frank Morici Mike Tidaback
 Frances De Maria Dorothea King Jerome Foray

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. This Sunday is also known as **“Vocations Sunday.”**

It is obvious that our Church today is in great need of good shepherds, totally committed to the Way of Jesus. So, the Church invites us to reflect on the meaning of God’s call and asks us to pray for good vocations. Those called to ministry in whatever capacity in the Church are like shepherds. They are called to care for the spiritual welfare of those they serve. The readings therefore focus on the Risen Lord, the Shepherd par excellence. The central image is that of a caring shepherd – Jesus Christ. And he calls himself as a good shepherd. Now, **“Vocations Sunday”** is not for a few selected, it is for all of us here. It is a pity that we tend to narrow the term 'vocation' to those who feel called to the priesthood or what we fall 'religious' life, as when we ask, 'Do you think you have a vocation?' So, we need to emphasize very strongly that every single baptized person has a 'vocation'.

Everyone is called by God to play a specific role in the Christian community and in the wider community. Unless we Christians see that 'vocation' is something that we are all called to, it is not likely that there will be enough people to meet the service needs of our Christian communities. Our Christian communities can only grow and thrive when every member makes a contribution to the well-being of the whole.

Jesus is obviously our Good Shepherd, there is no doubt about it but there can be a lot of doubt about whether we are the kind of sheep that we ought to be. 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.

Again, the Church today insists that vocations are a responsibility of the Christian family. To foster vocations, the family must foster the Christian life. The family must live its faith in Christ on a daily basis in unity and prayer. The Church of Jesus fosters a living faith in the Christian family. Through such families, the grace of God is manifested and vocations flourish to ensure that the needs of the Church are all met.

Today let us pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, that many will be inspired to show true love, to the point of sacrificing many other attractive options to become priests of Jesus, to follow him in religious life.

"I BELIEVE" - "WE BELIEVE"

We begin our profession of faith by saying: "I believe" or "We believe". Before expounding the Church's faith, as confessed in the Creed, celebrated in the liturgy and lived in observance of God's commandments and in prayer, we must first ask what "to believe" means. Faith is man's response to God, who reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time bringing man a superabundant light as he searches for the ultimate meaning of his life. Thus we shall consider first that search, then the divine Revelation by which God comes to meet man, and finally the response of faith.

MAN'S CAPACITY FOR GOD

WAYS OF COMING TO KNOW GOD

Created in God's image and called to know and love him, the person who seeks God discovers certain ways of coming to know him. These are also called proofs for the existence of God, not in the sense of proofs in the natural sciences, but rather in the sense of "converging and convincing arguments", which allow us to attain certainty about the truth. These "ways" of approaching God from creation have a twofold point of departure: the physical world, and the human person.

The world: starting from movement, becoming, contingency, and the world's order and beauty, one can come to a knowledge of God as the origin and the end of the universe.

As St. Paul says of the Gentiles: For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.

And St. Augustine issues this challenge: Question the beauty of the earth, question the beauty of the sea, question the beauty of the air distending and diffusing itself, question the beauty of the sky. . . question all these realities. All respond: "See, we are beautiful." Their beauty is a profession [confessio]. These beauties are subject to change. Who made them if not the Beautiful One [Pulcher] who is not subject to change?

The human person: with his openness to truth and beauty, his sense of moral goodness, his freedom and the voice of his conscience, with his longings for the infinite and for happiness, man questions himself about God's existence. In all this he discerns signs of his spiritual soul. The soul, the "seed of eternity we bear in ourselves, irreducible to the merely material", [9] can have its origin only in God.

The world, and man, attest that they contain within themselves neither their first principle nor their final end, but rather that they participate in Being itself, which alone is without origin or end. Thus, in different ways, man can come to know that there exists a reality which is the first cause and final end of all things, a reality "that everyone calls God". [10]

Man's faculties make him capable of coming to a knowledge of the existence of a personal God. But for man to be able to enter into real intimacy with him, God willed both to reveal himself to man, and to give him the grace of being able to welcome this revelation in faith. (so) The proofs of God's existence, however, can predispose one to faith and help one to see that faith is not opposed to reason.

Conrad was born on December 22, 1818 to Bartholomew and Gertrude Birndorfer who lived near Parzham, Bavaria. His country was still recovering from the devastation of the Napoleonic wars at that time. Conrad loved peace and solitary prayer. He decided to join the Capuchin Franciscans as a brother. He made his profession in 1852. That city's shrine to Mary was very popular. Conrad worked at the nearby Capuchin friary, and there was a lot of work; but for Conrad, there was only one job. He was the porter for 41 years.

At first, some of the other friars were jealous because being the porter was considered a fairly good and important job. Conrad was very young to be assigned such work, but he was patient and tried hard to lead a holy life. Soon his loving ways overcame the older brothers' doubts. As porter, he dealt with many people, often receiving supplies for the priory and providing food for the poor who came to the door. He treated everyone with courtesy. He was so good, he sometimes got on people's nerves.

Once, Father Vincent went up the bell tower of the church because he wanted to work on his sermon in complete peace and quiet. Someone came to the friary door wanting to go to confession and he wanted to make his confession with Father Vincent. Conrad searched all over for Fr. Vincent, and finally found him in the bell tower. Fr. Vincent was not too happy to be disturbed, but Conrad was happy that he had helped the penitent.

The children of the area also liked Conrad very much. He promoted a wonderful ministry called the Seraphic Work of Charity, which was formed to help neglected children.

Conrad spent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. He regularly asked the Blessed Mother to intercede for him and for the many people he included in his prayers. Everyone liked Conrad and felt joy in his presence. His job was to let people in and out of a door, but his good work was to encourage people to let God into their lives.

.Pope Pius VI beatified Conrad on June 15, 1930 and the same Pope canonized him on May 20, 1934.

First Saturday, May 5th "You at Least Try to Console Me."

World Apostolate of Fatima, Blue Army Shrine, 674 Mt. View Rd East, Asbury, NJ, 08802 invites all to Honor Our Lady's plea of Dec. 10, 1925 requesting Five Consecutive First Saturdays of Reparation.

Speaker/Celebrant: Fr. James Walling.

10:00 a.m. Confessions

11:30pm Rosary w/15 minute meditation

12:00 pm Holy Mass

1:00 pm Enrollment in Brown Scapular, Confessions

2:00 pm Talk on Last Vision of Fatima; Fatima Video

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet. Bring your family and friends to answer the call of the Child Jesus: **"And have you spread through the world what our heavenly Mother requested of you?"** www.bluearmy.com (908) 689-1700 Ext 210

KIDNEY NEEDED

Fran Ferraro 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.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

April & May

- 4/28 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – 11:30AM
4/29 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BREAKFAST
After all Masses – Church Hall
(Communicants Free)
5/4-5/5 OVERNIGHT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT followed by 11AM 1st Saturday Mass to Mary concluding with the Patriotic Rosary for our country
5/12 CLOTHING DRIVE 9AM – 2PM

DON BOSCO PREP HOLDS SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Don Bosco Prep will host its spring Open House for prospective students on Thursday, April 26, 2018, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All seventh and eighth grade students and parents are invited to attend. Come and get a tour of the campus and hear about our exciting programs, classes, clubs, activities, sports teams, and financial aid opportunities. To register, visit www.donboscoprep.org.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

As we are entering May, a month devoted to Our Lady, we find that one of the best ways to honor her is by spending time with her Son, Our Lord. Pope St. John Paul II said “from Mary we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God”

We will be continuing our monthly overnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7 pm on Friday, May 4th through 10:30am Saturday, May 5th. It will be followed by the 11am 1st Saturday Mass to Mary and will conclude with the Patriotic Rosary for our nation.

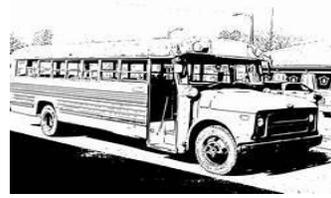
Please consider spending an hour with Our Lord as a means of strengthening your own spiritual life as well as fostering the spiritual growth of the Parish. For check-in details, please contact Jane in the Rectory.

We will also be putting a sign up sheet in the Narthex where you will be able to sign up for adoration time. Please choose whatever is convenient for you. We welcome any and all who would like to join us at any given hour. Please include your email & designate your cell phone and home numbers so we can contact you to confirm your adoration time.

Many thanks to all those who have participated in the past. We are looking forward to welcoming others as we all seek to find ways to better know and love God.



Parish pilgrimage- save the date.



"On May 19th, there will be a parish pilgrimage to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The cost is \$35 per person. Please save the date."

CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF SUSSEX COUNTY

is hosting an Open House on Sunday, April 29th at 3 PM at Pope John XXIII Regional High School – grades 8-12. The Academy is an amazing place and they invite you to see first-hand their dynamic educational offerings. For information, call Anne Kaiser, Admissions, 973-729-6126 annekaiser@popejohn.org Located at the corner of Andover Rd. and Sparta Ave., Sparta.

SPRING OPEN HOUSE MORRIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

May 6th from 2 – 4 PM
200 Morris Avenue
Denville, NJ 07834
973-627-6674



LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

Maria Invernon & John Minnett

LECTORS

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

5:30 P.M. Martha Bisaccio

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

7:30 A.M. Bill Boswell
10:00 A.M. Chris Marren
12 NOON Hatima Omolon

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

5:30 P.M. Lois Bonaceto & Peg Carolan

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

7:30 A.M. Sue Raoul
10:00 A.M. Diane Drew & Judy Moran
12 NOON Tony Mazza & Matt Kampff

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

5:30 P.M. Diana & Eric Szczecinski

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid
10:00 A.M. Scott & Steven Bracken
12 NOON Divine Crilly & Tim Kenny

