

Fourth Sunday Of Easter

May 7, 2017

Vol. XXXIII, No. 19

Give Us Both Shepherd And Flock

May those who hear
the quiet voice of God calling
them
to shepherd His precious flock
hear and respond with joyous
hearts.



And may those who are called to follow,
join lovingly as fellow laborers
offering prayer, praise and willing hands.

Shepherd and flock, guided by His love,
striving together to ensure
that not one precious lamb is lost.

First Holy Communion



In preparation for this important Sacrament, a **First Communion Practice** will occur in the Church at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 13. Please arrive with your child at least 15 minutes prior to the start of practice. At least one parent is required to remain with their child at all times. Besides providing instruction to the children, parents are given directions on seating, cameras at Mass and the reception.

First Eucharist will take place at 8:30 a.m. Mass on May 14, Mother's Day. The children will also honor Mary with a **May Crowning** and placement of flowers on Mary's statue. Following the Mass, a reception will take place in the Parish Hall for first communicants, parents and their special guests. A photographer will be present for those children whose parents choose to have pictures taken.

If you regularly attend 8:30 a.m. Mass, but do not have a first communicant in your family, you may consider attending another Mass to accommodate extra seating for families who attend.

Qualities Of A Church Leader

"Church leaders must be compassionate and merciful. They must bring back those who have strayed. They must care for all who are weak, and they must not neglect widows or orphans or poor people. They must refrain from all anger, favoritism and unjust judgment. They must not be greedy or grasping. They must not quickly believe evil of anyone or jump to conclusions, for we all owe the debt of sin."
Saint Polycarp

Offertory Giving

Saint Peter plays a prominent leadership role in the first two readings, urging his listeners to be baptized and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit; and encouraging them to follow in the footsteps of Christ. We have just renewed our baptismal promises at Easter, and the Holy Spirit dwells in us in a special way. Are we good stewards of those baptismal vows?

Have we renewed our commitment to follow in Jesus' footsteps? Have we opened our hearts to discern the will of God in our lives? Take some time to reflect on the importance of our baptismal renewal and our lives as disciples of the Lord.

Weekly Budgeted Need	\$7,100.00
Last Sunday April 30	
Envelopes (Adult)	\$4,450.00
Loose	845.00
Total	\$5,295.00
Progress Report	
Cumulative Budget	\$312,400.00
Cumulative Income	311,501.68
Ahead <Behind>	<\$898.32>
Second Collection	
(Cath. Home Missions)	\$655.00

Building Fund

The parish Building Fund will be next weekend's second collection.



Pastoral Council Election Forms

The election of four new members to the Pastoral Council is scheduled for June 3-4 in time for the first meeting of the new fiscal year in July. Biography forms for candidates wishing to run for a council seat are now available at Church entrances and also in the Church Office. These completed forms are due in the Church Office before 4:00 p.m. by Monday, May 22. Candidates' biographies will be in the bulletin May 27-28. The election will be held at weekend Masses June 3-4. Voting will continue through Thursday, June 8, in the Church Office. Announcement of the results will be at the June 10-11 Masses.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

Christians in Africa—"That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice and peace."

Mass Intentions Requested

Monday, May 8

(Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, May 9

(Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30)

8:00 a.m. Jerry Templet, Sr.

Wednesday, May 10

(Acts 12:24-13:5a; Jn 12:44-50)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, May 11

(Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20)

8:00 a.m. Rose Mire

Friday, May 12

(Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6)

8:00 a.m. Robert O'Flynn

Saturday, May 13

(Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14)

5:00 p.m. Robert Jenevein, Jenny Jenevein, Althea Deckwa, Harry & Catherine Tracy, Eugene Blanchard Jr., Shirley Cavalier, Rosemary Poche, Tina Mangano, Ken & Adele Salzer, Louis Mangano Sr. & Jr., Roszczynialski Family, Lee & Yvonne Tracey, Altar Society Members, Joseph D'Antoni Jr., A. J. Sconza Jr.

Sunday, May 14 Mothers' Day

Fifth Sunday of Easter

(Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12)

7:00 a.m. Scuddy and Engelle Clements

8:30 a.m. Maurice Poche, Andrew Lambert, Mary Hudson, Marlene Ragusa, Amy Fandal, Jerry Templet Sr., Margaret Clayton, Ronnie & Betty Lambert, Gerri Madary, Earl Savoie, Richard Calkins, Shirley Lightell, Betty Breland

10:30 a.m. Parishioners



WEEKLY EVENTS

Legion of Mary—Monday 7:00 p.m. in St. Anthony Hall

Tuesday Morning Rosary—Tuesday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and the St. Jude Novena in St. Anthony Hall

RCIA Tracks I & II—Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in classrooms

Patriotic Rosary—Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Church

Saints Peter And Paul Stained Glass Window Prints Available

Fr. Bernie, the owner of the paintings of the stained glass windows behind our church altar, has authorized the sale of prints of the original paintings completed by local artist Diane Bourgeois. The original paintings were auctioned at the Summer Soiree in 2016. The first 250 of these high quality prints will be signed and numbered by Diane. The proceeds from this sale will go toward the funds needed for the Youth Washington Trip in 2018. The prints, located in the rear of the Church, are available for purchase at \$20.00 each or both for \$35.00. Those interested should contact the Church office during regular office hours at 985-863-7935, ext. 3, or Danny Bougeois at 504-376-3701.

Holy Spirit Novena

St. John of the Cross will hold its Holy Spirit Novena beginning Friday, May 26, through Saturday, June 3. St. John of the Cross Catholic Church is located at 61030 Brier Lake Drive, Lacombe. Archbishop Gregory Aymond will open the novena on May 26. Praise, worship and confessions will begin each night at 6:30 p.m. Mass will begin nightly at 7:00 p.m. A variety of guest priests and musical groups has been scheduled. For more information, please call Deacon Ricky Suprean at 504-577-6652.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp, which burns on the Altar 24 hours a day, seven days a week (except Good Friday), is dedicated to the memory of a deceased person, family or group for that week. For a donation of \$10.00, you can have someone memorialized for the week. Contact the Church Office at 985-863-7935, extension 3, for details.

Tabernacle Lamp

This week the Tabernacle lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of the **Deceased Members of the Widows Group**.



Pray For The Sick

Valdeana Bauer, Audrey Bonnet, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewin, Sonia Braud, George & Wanda Butko, May Caballero, Patricia Cuccia, Dotsy Chedville, Deacon Pat Downey, Steve Dunn, Marcelle Ernwein, Carroll Fourcade, Julia Drake, Jeanette Gomez, Deacon John Howard, Virgie Hurstell, Allen & Joan Jagneaux, Maria Kalcic, Gloriette Kiern, Elizabeth Kittel, Cheryl Martin, Shirley Matthews, Vito Montalabano, Jessie O'Dell, Cheryl Poiroux, Marlene Ragusa, Robert Reinecke, Ed Roszczynialski, Adele Salzer, Cathy Smith

Guide Book Advertising Opportunity

We have contracted Guide Book Publishing (GBP) to publish a Guide Book and Directory for our congregation that will be updated and delivered directly to your homes annually. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries and organizations plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and mailed to each member at no cost to our church. Local businesses are being solicited to advertise in the book. GBP would prefer to place advertisements from members of our congregation over your business's competitors. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the office at 958-863-7935, ext. 3, during business hours.

Update Membership Information

Does the Church database have your family membership correct? Here is your chance to update your information with any changes, additions, or deletions for our annual Guide Book and Directory.

Please let us know if you have changed your phone number, have a new address, and/or if you want your address and/or phone number published

Mother's Day Rosary Crusade For Life



The 19th Annual Mother's Day Rosary Crusade for Life will be Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. starting with Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Shrine, 2701 State Street, New Orleans. It will be followed by Eucharistic Adoration, five decades of the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. Archbishop Gregory Aymond will be the celebrant. This prayer event is sponsored by the Archdiocesan Sidewalk Counseling and Prayer Ministry. All are welcome. For information, please call Pam Richard at 504-460-9360 or 985-809-0773.

Sidewalk Counselors' Workshop

On Saturday, May 20, Pam Richard from the Archdiocesan Sidewalk Counseling and Prayer Ministry will present a Sidewalk Counselors' Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to noon. In addition, the warning signs of human trafficking will be discussed. It will be held in the Conference Center of St. Angela Merici Catholic Church, 835 Melody Drive, Metairie. Please RSVP by Monday, May 15, to Pam Richard at 504-460-9360 or 985-809-0773 or by email at rhcj504@bellsouth.net A \$15.00 donation is requested. Students are free.

Lord, Teach Me To Pray

Training Retreat In New Orleans

On Saturday, June 10, St. Pius X Catholic Church, 6666 Spanish Fort Boulevard, New Orleans, will host a Facilitator Training Retreat for the "Lord, Teach Me to Pray—Part 1 Praying Christian Virtues" prayer series. There is no charge. It will be conducted in a retreat setting and discernment atmosphere. Come and discern if God is calling you to become a facilitator. Or, if you are simply interested in finding out more about Ignatian Prayer and the "Lord, Teach Me to Pray" prayer series, you are invited. The retreat begins with 8:00 a.m. Mass and ends at 4:00 p.m. Please bring a sack lunch, drink and snacks. For information and registration, please contact Carol Weiler at 504-439-5933 or at carolweiler@cox.net You may register by calling Dianne Caverly at 504-283-9292 or by emailing her at dlcaverly@gmail.com You may also download a form at www.lordteachmetoprayer.com

Jesus, Our Close Friend

Jesus said to them, "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I come so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (*Jn 10:10*)

We all know that Jesus is good to us. . . but sometimes we do not seem to *believe* it.

We may think of God as someone who sends sufferings, trials, challenges, tests. . . God is a purifying fire, someone who does the right thing for us, but sometimes it hurts. The more we give ourselves to the Lord, it seems the more suffering we can expect.

But nowhere in the Gospel does Jesus come across as someone who comes to bring hardship, a rough road. What He does say is that these kinds of things happen in life, and He wants to be there with us when they happen.

There is a great difference between seeing God as the one who sends suffering, and seeing Jesus as a close friend who wants to walk with us through every rough spot. That is what happens when we give ourselves to God.

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"Our family serving yours"

Barbara A Williams—Manager



Fatima

In the 100th anniversary celebration of the Virgin Mary's apparition at Cova da Iria in Fatima, Portugal, there are profound lessons to be told and taught. You see two girls and a boy in the story of Fatima, youngsters who had a special union with Mary's heart that showed hope and strength in the worst of times.



Families today must value the Eucharist, especially encouraging little ones in their small and fragile lives. But most of all, our children, even though they are so young, can come to realize that God calls them to faith and gives each of them an important, graced role in the Church community.

This is a story that happened 100 years ago. Three children were out in a sunny field in Portugal with lots of sheep around them. No they were not playing; it was their job to care for the sheep and keep them safe. Lucia Santos, age 10, was the oldest and most likely in charge. With her cousins nine-year-old Francisco Marto and seven-year-old Jacinta Marto, the three young shepherds knew in their hearts that they must obey their parents and take good care of the sheep. They must also pray and learn to be like Jesus and His beautiful mother. They prayed the Rosary every day.

Then remarkable surprising events began to happen. They told their parents at the end of the day that an angel had been praying with them in the field, one whom they called "the Angel of Peace." Soon, they wanted to become closer to Jesus when they received Holy Communion. The angel was teaching them prayers. What were their parents to think? On May 13, 1917, the Virgin Mary came to them. They described her as a beautiful lady dressed in white; she appeared to float over a small oak tree. They said she was brighter than the sun, and a sparkling light circled her all around. Can you imagine that anyone believed these children? But the Virgin had told them that they would suffer teasing and abuse from other children and harsh words from adults. She promised she would always be with them, coming to them each month from May to October. In June, she promised again to always be with them! But she did have sad news. She predicted that the younger two, Francisco and Jacinta, would soon get sick and die, but joyfully would go to Heaven.

If this happened to you, would you be afraid? Would you pray even harder to be able to convince your parents, relatives and friends that it was all very real? Every day, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta prayed the Rosary together like the beautiful woman had encouraged them. Times were very hard for their families. It was the middle of World War I, and scary things were happening all around the world. Yet let us stop and think. These children truly saw a mystical and beautiful sight, the mother of Jesus herself. As the angel had taught them, they drew their hearts closer and closer to the heart of their beautiful mother Mary, a way to be with Jesus!

Another remarkable and scary thing happened in June when the Virgin came to them. For just a few moments, they

saw a vision of hell, a place where the worst sinners had gone. To save themselves and everyone they knew, Mary told them to always pray to her Immaculate Heart. She let them know a secret that there would be another terrible world war to come, with a destructive political system called communism, and that all the faithful would be persecuted. These were deeply important words given and entrusted to these children perhaps because they were children trained in faith and prayer. They were asked to teach the words to the adults. They learned one important lesson that was never forgotten if they trusted God and the Immaculate Heart of His mother: love and peace would eventually win over evil. Mary knew that Russia would be the place where evil communism would take over, and she asked that the country be dedicated to her heart also. She asked the children to make a special effort to receive Holy Communion on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months. One more secret was given to the children: The following October there would be a tremendous sign given by God so all might believe.

Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta revealed more and more words that they heard from the Virgin. Many crowds began to gather around them. On the promised October day, in 1917, thousands of people hurried to the field to see the children. All at once, Mary appeared carrying a rosary. She asked for a place to be built where people could pray. Although it was raining heavily, the sun suddenly came out. As people looked up, they saw that the sun was spinning in the sky and brilliant rays of light were shooting all around. Many people were terrified, and others dropped to their knees to pray. It was such a miracle that few ever forgot it. The lives of these three little ones were forever changed too. They were known for never questioning, never whining, but always praying and doing good things.

The prediction about Jacinta and Francisco came true. A terrible cholera influenza epidemic arose and they both died. There were tears, but every single person knew they were in Heaven with the Virgin and her Son. Lucia grew up and lived many years. She became a nun and lived quietly in a convent, and she continued to write about her childhood experience. Four more times in her life, she received messages from the Beautiful Lady.

Now, 100 years later, we celebrate this remarkable story. In Fatima, Portugal, there is a special church where thousands of people still visit and pray every single year. But this year is special ... the memories of what happened, what the Virgin predicted to the children, and the important message of prayer is still vital for all of us today. We must teach children to pray, especially to pray the rosary. Many children today have never seen a rosary. We must teach them to reach out to the heart of Mary: she is our spiritual mother who will take our prayers with love and care to her Son. Wars will happen and terrible events may touch our children's lives; but, it is the faith, prayer and trust that children can have that brings love and peace to all our lives. The Virgin's words are still vital today... pray, pray, pray. Children will show us how to link our hearts to Mary's Immaculate Heart of love.

Virginia M. Kimball, STD