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Church of the Good Shepherd

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Religious Education Director - Lauren DeFelice • Music Director - Greg Hansley
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Some Teen Shepherds getting a load of puzzle books and other activities ready for delivery to John XXIII home residents. Our parishioners responded so generously to this drive that the Faith Life magazine staff is looking to publish the story in the next issue.

PARISHIONERS REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

CHECK: New Registration Change of Address Moving out of Parish Want envelopes

Please drop this information into the Offertory basket or mail to the Rectory.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, APRIL 12th
8:30 AM – Dolores Wayne
c/o David L. Wayne
TUESDAY, APRIL 13th
8:30 AM – Bill Richards
c/o Judy Miller &
Family

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14th
7:00 PM – Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell
c/o Estate

THURSDAY, APRIL 15th
8:30 AM – Helen David
c/o Patricia Benes

FRIDAY, APRIL 16th
8:30 AM – Genevieve Bridge
c/o Ed Robich

SATURDAY, APRIL 17th
6:00 PM – Jane Lindstedt
c/o Carol & Joe Baker

SUNDAY, APRIL 18th
9:00 AM - For Our Parishioners

11:30 AM – Poor Souls
c/o Marie Flickinger

ALTAR SERVERS

4/17 6:00 pm Blaze Knight
4/18 9:00 am Vianna Miller

11:30 am Delaney Donaldson Judy Miller

LECTOR #1

4/17 6:00 pm Anita Perman
4/18 9:00 am Mary Svirbly
11:30 am Jennifer Muir

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

4/17 6:00 pm **Volunteer**/Colleen Pickens
Mary Ellen Douth/Pam Esposito
4/1 9:00 am Craig Patrizi/Kathy Patrizi
Patrick Miller/Paula Miller
11:30 am Jim Burgoon/**Volunteer**
Volunteer/Volunteer

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: CHURCHES

1. This American city is home to the oldest active cathedral in the United States – although it wasn't always. A) New York; B) New Orleans; C) Baltimore; D) St. Augustine
2. The largest Catholic church in Canada is dedicated to which saint? A) Blessed Virgin Mary; B) St. Anne; C) St. Joseph; D) St. John the Baptist
3. This state is home to more minor basilicas than any other in the U.S. A) California; B) New York; C) Pennsylvania; D) Illinois
4. In the United States, how many minor basilicas are dedicated to St. Louis IX, King of France? A) 1; B) 2; C) 3; D) 4
5. This city is home to the largest Catholic church building in the United States. A) Los Angeles; B) Chicago; C) New York; D) Washington, D.C.



APRIL 11, 2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS Week/April 11, 2021

Sunday, April 11th
Religious Ed Class – Gr. 1-11 (In person)

Wednesday, April 14th
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm – Zoom Meeting – I Heard God Laugh

COLLECTION – 4/4/21

Number of Adult envelopes issued.....529
Adult Offertory Collection (Easter).....\$ 9,607.30
Children's Offertory.....\$ 20.00
Loose Offertory.....\$ 456.00
of Envelopes Used.....241
Attendance at Mass.....406
Good Friday Collection.....\$ 1,087.50

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND
THOSE ON OUR PRAYER CHAIN & HOSPITALIZED**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
CLASS SCHEDULE**

April 11th – Grades 1-11 Class (In Person)

April 18th – Grades 1-11 Class (In Person)

First Communion Retreat is being held on **Sunday, April 18th from 9:00 to 11:20 am.**

Last Class for 2020-2021 will be on Sunday, April 25th from 10:00 am to 11:20 am.

First Communion has been scheduled and will take place during the **11:30 am Mass on Sunday, May, 2, 2021.**

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Sister Faustina was a nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations – or messages – from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

THE PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY of the parish are extended to Julia Stanton, Frank (Jean) Petrucci, their family and friends on the death of Julia's husband, Philip. May Philip rest in peace.

WELCOME We extend a warm welcome to recently registered new parishioner: Emily Murphy of Hermitage. Please welcome her and make her feel at home in our parish.

THANK YOU to our Good Shepherd family for your prayers and kindness during the passing of our wife and mother, Anna Mae Oliver. Your compassion and thoughtfulness will always be remembered. – Norman Oliver, Lisa (Oliver) and Tom Lapikas, Lori (Oliver) and Dave Stonebraker

Answers to Test Your Knowledge: Churches are 1. B; 2. C; 3. B; 4. C; 5. D

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

FROM OUR PASTOR

"Unless I put my finger in the nail marks..." The earliest Christian community focused strongly on the wounds of the Risen Lord for two reasons: to affirm the fact that Christ raised from the dead was the same person who had lived with them; and also to make sense of the physical wounds being inflicted on them for Christ's sake.

The story of Thomas, even with its mystical details, counters a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. Jesus bears the marks of his torture and death. His glorified body, though different, is connected to how the disciples knew and loved him. They can recognize him through his wounds and his words.

Scholars tell us that the community for which John's gospel was written was experiencing great persecution. Would it be any wonder one generation after the earliest disciples that the sign of Christ's risen presence are his marks of suffering?

Our own world continues to be intrigued by manifestations of Jesus' wounds. Over recent years films like *Stigmata*, *Dogma*, *Agnes of God*, and *Daredevil* give a hysterical and cynical prominence to the stigmata. There are regular believe-it-or-not documentaries that follow suit; some pilgrims even flock to Padre Pio's monastery in the south of Italy to see if his hands really bled or see if his wounds really wept. This desire to see outward signs of inner faith is a long way short of what Jesus tells us today: *"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."* Our day-to-day lives should be the clearest manifestation of the cross and resurrection of Christ.

Words and wounds still make a claim on us today. You and I know that we don't have to seek out a stigmatic to see Christian battle wounds. We carry within us the death of the Lord. We all have our wounds. And we also know that, for many of us, it is precisely when we are wounded most deeply by life that our doubts in the presence of God can be the greatest.

The Easter story is not that we should be ashamed of this or pretend that it doesn't happen. Today's gospel reminds us that it is into this chaos that Christ comes with words of peace, with empathy from the one who was wounded for our sake, with the mission to forgive as we are forgiven. And that's what happened to Thomas. Christ took his fears, doubts and disbelief and transformed them into a powerful Christian witness that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith.

In the ongoing 50 days of Easter liturgies we are offered the same opportunity to discover that the stone rejected within us or among us is the one that God wants to freshly touch again. And I think when we see this happening, when we see God taking into the hands of God the part of us we consider the most unlovable and using it for good, then we can cry out with the psalm we use during this season, *"This is the day the Lord has made."*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY In 2000, John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina and designated the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. It is surmised that this Sunday was chosen to celebrate Christ's universal mercy because the gospel of this day deals with the mercy of Jesus. It is the famous story of Thomas, who doesn't doubt

WEST MIDDLESEX, PA

Christ as much as he doubts the word of the disciples who said they saw the risen Lord the previous week but were still barricaded and afraid behind locked doors. Not what one would call a vote of confidence.

Jesus was looking for them to do more and calling them to be sent forth, just like God had sent him. They were to do what Jesus did – teach, heal and forgive. And that's the call each of us, twenty-first century disciples are given.

When Christ appeared to Thomas and the apostles, he didn't ask for retribution toward his persecutors.

He did not call for a "just war" on his oppressors.

He did not ask them to start a new religion.

He didn't ask them to write a book of Canon Law.

He didn't ask them to build cathedrals.

And he certainly didn't ask them to go out and decide who was worthy and who wasn't. He asked them to forgive others, just like he had done. We're all called to forgive, but possibly the most important and most difficult person to forgive is ourselves. Very few of us want to go there, but that's what Jesus emphasized and taught. No matter what we have done, God loves and forgives with unending mercy. I imagine that's what he said to Sr. Faustina.

Shaking his head after 1900 years he said, "They missed the point. Let me try it one more time! Every soul who believes and trusts in my mercy will have it." So, on this Divine Mercy Sunday, we ask for and trust in God's mercy, and give it to others.

Stay safe and revel in God's mercy. Fr. Glenn

CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Child Abuse Prevention Month – Reporting known or suspected child abuse is everyone's responsibility: It is every adult's moral responsibility to report known or suspected abuse or neglect of a minor to the responsible authorities. Sexual abuse of minors is a pervasive societal problem, and only concerted and sustained efforts by all adults in every segment of society can help to protect children and youth. In the current Pennsylvania state report there were 5,202 substantiated reports of child abuse in Pennsylvania during 2019, 2,087 or 40% of the substantiated reports were for sexual abuse, 1,448 were physical abuse. *To report suspected abuse of a minor, call Childline at 1-800-932-0323 (anytime 24/7). For particular questions on reporting abuse you may call: Cindy Zemicik, Coordinator for the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth in the Diocese of Erie at 814-824-1195.*

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE In today's gospel Jesus teaches, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believe." Accepting someone as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich relationship. Real mercy begins here.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Join us for the St. Michael School Shamrock Scramble at Pine Hill Golf Course, Greenville, PA on Saturday, May 22nd at 8 am. \$65 per person entry fee on 4-man teams. Registration forms are on the school website at www.saintmichael.org. For more information call the school office at 724-588-7050.