

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 7TH, 2017

In Palestine during the time of Jesus, people largely depended on raising sheep and goats for their living. The image of the shepherd who leads his sheep to pasture was well known to all. Just as today, we all know the image of the driver of a coach or of a train, it was common to use the image of the shepherd to illustrate the function of one who ruled and led the people. The prophets criticized kings because they were shepherds who did not take care of their flock and did not lead them to safe pasture (Jer 2:8; 10:21; 23:1-2). Such criticism of negligent shepherds grew until the people saw themselves dragged into slavery (Ez 34:1-10; Zac 11:4-17).

The absence of leadership on the part of both wicked and incompetent leaders caused a great yearning for a good and sincere shepherd, one who would be like God in the way of leading his people. Thus the Psalmist says, "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want!" (Ps 23:1-6; Gen 48:15). The prophets longed for the time when God himself would be the shepherd who would lead his flock (Is 40:11; Ez 34:11-16). They also hoped that at such a time, the people would be able to recognize the voice of their shepherd: "Listen today to his voice!" (Ps 95:7). They anticipated that God would come as a Judge to judge the sheep of the flock (Ez 34:17). They relied on God's promise that he would send the ultimate shepherd, the Messiah, who would be the Good Shepherd for the people of God. (Jer 3:15; 23:4).

My dear friends,

How reassuring it is to know that the Lord Jesus cares for each one of us so personally. "I know my sheep, and my sheep know me" (John 10:14). Our relationship with our Good Shepherd is a challenging one, we are to not only hear his voice but also follow his command: ". . . They shall hear my voice. There shall be one flock and one shepherd" (10:15). In his role as Good Shepherd, the Lord keeps his flock from harm, from things that can lead them into danger.

As the Easter Season continues to unfold, culminating with the Solemn Feast of Pentecost, when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we ask for the grace to stay close to Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who will lead us into eternal life.

Father Ricardo

Celebrate Fatima – 100th Anniversary

On Saturday, May 13th you are invited to a Procession and Mass honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima, after the 5:00 Mass. A covered-dish supper to follow. Food can be dropped off in the Parish Hall before Mass. For additional information call Loretta Lagala at 201-240-4933.

From Father Ricardo's Desk:

THE MONTH OF OUR MOTHER

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is especially appropriate that our parish, which claims our Lady as our special patroness, under the title of "Our Lady of Fatima", (100th Anniversary of her apparitions to Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia), should honor her in a special way. During the month of May, let us pray that our Blessed Mother will intercede for all of us. We commend to her special care, all those members of our parish who are experiencing any special difficulty or worry.

REMEMBRANCE ENVELOPES FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Envelopes are available to observe Mother's Day in a special way. The names of mothers will be enrolled in Spiritual Bouquets and placed in a Book of Remembrance. The book will remain in the Church throughout May. Please enroll the intentions and the souls of these women who have given us the gifts of life and faith.

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

A Holy Day of Obligation

May 25th is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a holy day of obligation. Masses in observance of the Holy Day will be celebrated in the Church. The schedule of Masses for this holy day of obligation is: Thursday, May 25th at 8:45 am (as usual) and 7:30 PM.

It takes sacrifice to come to Mass in the middle of the week, even on a holy day of obligation; but it also provides an opportunity to be strengthened by God's Word and the Body and Blood of Christ that we receive in the Eucharist. Happy Feast Day

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Catholics have been contributing to the work of the Successor of Peter for centuries. The words and actions of our current Holy Father, Pope Francis, have been watched and applauded by people of good will throughout the world.

Essentially, Peter's Pence allows Catholics to assist the Holy Father with many humanitarian causes, very poor dioceses, and support for other work of the Apostolic See.

This gesture has not only a practical value, but also a strongly symbolic one, as a sign of communion with the Pope and attention to the needs of all of our brothers.

Thank you for your generosity in support of the Holy Father. God bless you for your goodness. The Peter's Pence collection in our parish will be taken the weekend of May 27-28, 2017. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and goodness.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

The Gifts or Bread and Wine for this week are offered in Memory of Anna Sanchez, requested by Maria Gonzalez.

SUNDAY – MAY 7

- 8:00am +Margaret & Richard Murphy and Cathy Dignan req. by Family
9:30am +Deceased OLF Rosarians
11:00am Intentions of Theresa & John Orso req. by Elizabeth Neilands
1:00pm Polish Mass

MONDAY - MAY 8

- 8:45am Special Intention req.by Cathy & Tom Kelly

TUESDAY – MAY 9

- 8:45am Intentions of Josephine Donahue req. by Donna and Tony Macerino

WEDNESDAY - MAY 10

- 8:45am Mitzi Masher req.by Paula and Brian Kloza

THURSDAY – MAY 11

- 8:45am Jeanne and Roger Grey req. by Donna and Tony Macerino

FRIDAY - MAY 12

- 8:45am +Bette Montemurro req. by Bancroft Family

SATURDAY -- MAY 13

- 8:45am +Rose Pacifico req. by John Pacifico
5:00pm +Les Caggiano 18th Anniversary req. by Family

SUNDAY – MAY 14

- 8:00am +Connie Schwartz and June Graf req. by Family
9:30am +Theresa and Damiano DeLeo req. by Antonia Caltagirone
11:00am Ted Dugas Sr. req. by Ted Dugas

PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD AND PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

This Week's Events:

- Sun BREAKFAST AFTER ALL MASSES**
9:30 am-Crowning of the Blessed Mother
11:00am - Gather the Children
- Tue** 6:30pm – Community Rosary
7:00pm – Holy Hour
- Thur** 10:00am – Legion of Mary, office
6:30pm – Legion of Mary, hall
6:30pm – Prayer Shawl Ministry

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The application for the **2017 Our Lady of Fatima Award** is now available on the parish website or at the church office. We urge all interested High School Seniors who intend to pursue higher education to apply. All applications are due no later than May 8, 2017.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH. GOD BLESS YOU.

APRIL 30, 2017

1ST COLLECTION	4214.50
MAINTENANCE	1719.00

The next Maintenance collection will be May 20-21. Thank you for your continued support.

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Aidan Alvarez, Scott Anderson, Baby Grace Andrews, John Apgar, Robert Aquino, Artie, Jude Basso, Ray Bonomini, George Botsko, Tina Brightly, Janet Brunke, Rose Bruno, Roberta Busch, Jerry Calcagno, Jerzy Chciuk, Carolina Chmarney, Louis Cimaglia, Teresa Contento, Aibhlinn Coyle, Patricia and Paul Corbutt, Doug Crum, Joan Dahl, Nathanael Davenport, Jean Marie Day, Alice DeLorenzo, Robyn DelMonte, Allie Dignan, Courtney Dignan, Eileen Donahue, Josephine Donahue, Katie Drago, Roseann Dundon, Jim Ecker, Barbara Etzel, Eva Ferlauto, Debbie Fuentes, John Gonzalez, Florence Guilfoyle, Barbara Hellwig, Tom Hibbits, Jean Jones, Julianna Klinger, Carly Kosen, Brian Linke, Henry Mancuso, Rose Martis, Fran and Larry Marsh, James McAlary, Debbie McCormack, Ginny Meyer, Kathy Nestico, Jennifer Oldham, Theresa Orso, Maura Reagan, Mary Reynolds, Shelly, Lou Pra Sisto, Kateri and Sam Sullivan, Father Matthew Twiggs, Mary VanDyke, Pat and Jim Van Gorder, Vincent Ventriglia, Mark Verrico, Russy Wright, Ron

LEGION OF MARY: Thursdays at 10:00am & 6:30pm
ROSARY SOCIETY: Tuesday after First Sunday – 7:00pm
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Second Tuesday