

April 25, 2021



A PENNSYLVANIA CHARITABLE TRUST

“I WILL LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.” —JN 10:15

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, April 24 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Ronald Valdiserri by Catherine Calve

Sunday, April 25 — 4th Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM † Sheri & George Turner by Mom, Betty Nash

10:30 AM † Frank A. Galilei by Cheryl & Family

Monday, April 26

8:00 AM † Teresa Trozzi by Maryann Jossay and Shirley & Dom Vaccaro & Family

Wednesday, April 28

No Mass

Thursday, April 29

8:00 AM † Sam Dalfonso by Ida & Family

Saturday, May 1 — Vigil

4:00 PM † Jessie Balogh by John Zawicki

Sunday, May 2 — 5th Sunday of Easter

8:30 AM † Edward & Son Edwin Filipowski by wife & mother, Stella Filipowski

10:30 AM † Arthur & Lena Marino by Joe & Suzanne

Parish Office:

44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD
MONESSEN, PA 15062

Parish Office: 724-684-7661 • Fax: 724-684-8981

Church Hall: 724-684-5512

Religious Education: 724-929-9300

www.eolparish.com

youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch

Facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. – 12; 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ministry Schedule — May 1 & 2

Time	Lector	Eucharistic Minister
4:00 p.m.	D. Harkins	J. Dudas
8:30 a.m.	G. Pesì	J. Elias
10:30 a.m.	B. DuBreucq	A. Punturiero

Money Counters

Monday, April 26—Team #4 — J. Petritis

Daily Readings

Readings for the week of April 25

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

We are all the Good Shepherd



Traditionally this Sunday has come to be known as “Good Shepherd” Sunday.

The gospel for today portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd who was willing to lay down his life for his sheep. The notion of sheep and shepherd has profound meaning for the people of Israel

and throughout the Hebrew and Christian scriptures they have taken on a very spiritual and profound meaning. The leaders of the church were often referred to as shepherds of the people.

This concept was readily understood by the nomadic and agricultural tribes of the Hebrews. For those of us who are not associated with the raising and the importance of sheep, we lose some of the deep personal connections to such images.

If we look at all of the readings for today’s liturgy, we are immediately struck with the conviction that the people had in their beliefs. There was no doubting the love that God has for all people. Sometimes this can be a difficult concept to grasp because we often lose what it means to really be loved. The entire Easter mystery is directed toward bringing home to us how much we are loved, how faithful God is in that love, and how far God goes to show us that love – even to the Son’s laying down his life. This Sunday’s gospel of the good Shepherd is an incredibly reassuring one in which we hear in the metaphor of the good shepherd Jesus’ pledge to continue to care for us and love us just as he loves God and God loves him.

For many people love is a hard emotion to deal with. There are so many people living among us who feel that they just do not deserve to be loved. It is hard to imagine living one’s life without ever knowing what love can mean. Love can transform our lives to a new level, one in which we feel confident and secure. It is that confidence that we hear coming from the disciples as they defend their beliefs.

If we absolutely believed how much we are loved in spite of who we are and what we might be doing in life, it could make all the difference with the choices we make. The twist of the gospel is that Jesus’ being our good Shepherd doesn’t save us from the hard work of the gospel call – to lay down our lives for the good of others. Today’s gospel is a reassuring one but it also challenges each of us to be good shepherds for each other. When we like Jesus lay down our life, then we, like Jesus, come to new life. The way of the shepherd is the way of the sheep.

The gospel also spells out for us how, as disciples of the risen Christ, we are to lay down our life; by leading, protecting, guiding, knowing, loving. Our Christian living, then, is about relating to others as the Father and Good Shepherd have related to us. This is how we are all “one flock.” This is how we share in bringing salvation to others: by knowing others with the same intimacy and self-giving as God and Jesus know us.



With Deepest Sympathy — Condolences are extended to the family of ANGELINA SCIROTTA-EPPLEY. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort to her family. We commend her soul to rest in the peace of Christ.

Volunteers still needed!

As we continue to stream Masses through the summer more volunteers would be appreciated. This is a relatively new ministry, but is one nevertheless. If you have any interest in learning how to use the cameras, give us a call. If you can operate your cell phone, you can definitely handle this.

Stewardship

DLA

There really hasn't been much of an increase since I reported last week, people responding to the DLA for this year represents only 25% of our parishioners. We have reached our Diocesan goal which means that everything that is given from this point on will stay 100% in our parish.

It would be nice if we get enough from DLA to complete the renovation plans for our Church. If the other 75% of our parish would respond to this year's campaign we would certainly have no problem doing just that.

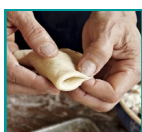
If you have any questions about the campaign or anything else in the parish, please feel free to contact me.

Weekly Collection April 19

Votive Candles:	150
Utility & Energy:	54
Accent:	6
Ascension:	7
Easter:	205
Donation:	100
Children & Adult Collection:	5,436
Online Collection:	845
Total Collection:	\$6,803

Pierogi Making

People love our pierogis — And we have fun making them.



Beginning in May we will start making them for the festival. We will be meeting on Monday mornings beginning at 7 a.m. Come when you can! May dates are **May 3, 10, 17 and 24.**

Festival News

Summer is Coming!



With the warmer weather comes outdoor activities and gatherings. This year, because we are still dealing with restrictions, we will not be having a parish picnic at Cedar Creek. We will, however, be having our Festival

later in the summer! There will be a few tweaks to keep in line with COVID guidelines, but we are working to make it as 'normal' as possible. There will be bands, food, and outdoor Mass. After missing last year's festival we're all excited about this year's! As we get closer to the festival dates of July 31 and August 1, we will have more details.

Craft / Vendor Show

St. Sebastian Parish in Belle Vernon will be having a craft and vendor show Saturday, May 8 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the social hall. There will be a wide variety of vendors and homemade crafts. There also will be prepackaged food available for purchase. Social distancing measures will be in effect.

Car Show

Cars, Motorcycles and Trucks!



We will be holding a car show on Saturday, **May 22** from 10 a.m.— 4 p.m. Dash plates to the first 100 vehicles. Participants pick Top 3 Trophy Winner. Personalized photos of your vehicle and a commemorative

gift. \$10 per vehicle. Raffles—Dj—Food —Door Prizes — Basket Auction. **Call 724-314-3117 to register or for more information.**

Faith

Attendance at Church

With the vaccine given to so many, people are feeling better about coming back to Church. This is a real blessing and believe me I am grateful! However, we still need to be careful and watch what it is we are doing. Although the state has raised the number of people that can gather inside, **we are still directed to adhere to the distancing of 6 ft. between people.**

This is what limits the number of people who can be in the Church. Families can sit together without the spacing which permits more people in church. Once we reach our capacity, there is seating downstairs where the Mass is livestreamed and communion will be brought to you.

As restrictions lift we will be able to have more people in the church, but until that happens we will be limited.

Good Shepherd Sunday

This Fourth Sunday of Easter the Church encourages us to pray for other shepherds pastor and watch over His flock. Today is the 58th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.



Exploring God's Call

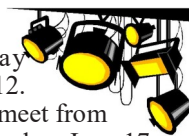
Vocation discernment for **boys in grades 9-12**, will be offered **May 16** from 6:30-8 p.m. at Greensburg Central Catholic High School. For information or to register, visit bgbvocations.org.

Thank you!

Last weekend, we were short cantors. A huge **Thank You** to **Milana Sacco** for volunteering to step in and making sure that there was a cantor for Masses where we had our First Communicants. Cantors play a vital role in the Mass, leading the congregation in the psalm and songs. If you have any interest in this ministry, know that you are most welcome.

Bible Drama Camp

For something a little different — **St. Agnes Church, North Huntingdon** is offering a 4 day Bible Drama Camp for students in grades 1—12. The Not Quite Ready for Heaven Players will meet from 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Monday, June 14— Thursday, June 17. Campers will participate in music, dance, acting, prop and scenery making, games and prayer. To register visit www.stagnesschurch.info. **Registration deadline is Friday, May 14.** All COVID guidelines set forth by the CDC and the Diocese of Greensburg will be in place.



NCYC

The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) invites young people in grades 9-12 to encounter Christ, experience church and be empowered for discipleship. NCYC 2021, with the theme **"Ablaze," will take place in Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 17-20.** The diocesan contingent will depart Nov. 17. To register, contact **Scott Martin**.



Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.