

The Work of the People
Third Sunday of Easter

The Solemnity of Easter and its season can be incredibly sweet, literally and figuratively. Lily's grace the sanctuary, jellybeans and other candies have been given and received, and symbols like the egg and the bunny remind us of fertility a new birth. In many regions of the world, the land is greening, and spring has either commenced or is around the corner.

Throughout the Easter Season the first readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles, the second chapter of Luke's Gospel. This gives us a good sense of the development of the faith life in the early church. Today Peter addresses the Israelites after he has cured a man who was crippled from birth. His words are accusatory, letting the people know they rejected the Holy and Righteous One and put him to death. Peter's words are also affirmative. In them, Peter testifies that the God of their ancestors is the same God who raised Jesus, the Holy and Righteous One. Jesus' suffering fulfilled the message of the prophets; his Resurrection is God's ultimate act of fidelity, fulfilling the promise of life to God's people.

In the reading from the first Letter of John, one might think that we are still in Lent. Sin is the topic of this passage. We hope to remain faithful and love to God's commandments. We hope to avoid sin, but the author of the letter is realistic. God's children will sin. Yet all is not lost. Jesus Christ will advocate for us with God.

In the Gospel of Luke, we hear of another post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus. Jesus offers peace once again to the disciples, as we heard him offer last Sunday. The disciples do not believe it is Jesus. Jesus recognizes that they are troubled and invites them to see his hands and feet for themselves. Easter joy fills the disciples. Jesus eats with them and breaks open the Scriptures for them. Their growth in faith continues.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *The Substance of Faith and Other Cotton Patch Sermons* by Clarence Jordan (1912-1969) who was a farmer and New Testament Greek scholar. He was instrumental in founding Habitat for Humanity.

The resurrection places Jesus on this side of the grave—here and now—in the midst of this life. He is not standing on the shore of eternity beckoning us to join him there. He is standing beside us, strengthening us in this life. The good news

of the resurrection of Jesus is not that we shall die and go home with him, but that he has risen and comes home with us, bringing all his hungry, naked, thirsty, sick, prisoner brothers with him.

And we say, "Jesus, we'd be glad to have you, but all these motley brothers of yours, you had better send them home. . . ."

The resurrection is simply God's way of saying, "You might reject me if you will, but I'm going to have the last word. I'm going to put my son right down there in the midst of you and he's going to dwell among you from here on out."

On the morning of the resurrection, God put life in the present tense, not in the future. He gave us not a promise but a presence. Not a hope for the future but power for the present. Not so much the assurance that we shall live someday but that he is risen today. Jesus' resurrection is not to convince the incredulous nor to reassure the fearful, but to enkindle the believers. The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb, but the full hearts of his transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave, but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled-away stone, but a carried-away church.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Jn. 6:22-29
 Tuesday: Acts 7:51;8:1a/Jn. 6:30-35
 Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Jn. 6:35-40
 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Jn. 6:44-51
 Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Jn. 6:52-59
 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Jn. 6:60-69
 Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/1 Jn. 3:1-2/Jn. 10:11-18

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

If anyone is interested in helping to coordinate the Vacation Bible School for July, 2021, please call the rectory and we will connect you with the other people on the team.

CAMP NOTRE DAME

Camp Notre Dame will open for both day and overnight camping in 2021 with limited enrollment. Registrations are now being accepted for 4 - 12 year old day camps that begin on June 28. Overnight camping this year will be limited, but there will be seven weeks of 7 - 14 year old camping, as well as special offerings for 15, 16 and 17 year olds. Access registration forms and a complete calendar at www.campnotredame.com. Remember that the June 5 open house is a ticketed event this year. To learn more or to schedule a visit, call the office at 814 474-5001 or email office@campnotredame.com.

WORSHIP

Monday, April 19
8:00 am + John E. Auer

Tuesday, April 20
8:00 am + Dec. Members of St. Anthony Choir
(Bonnie Flynn)

Wednesday, April 21
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Richard Baker (Shirley Knierman)

Thursday, April 22
8:00 am + Marilyn Cervik (Martha & Gerard Adamczyk)

Friday, April 23
8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (James & Karen Mott)

Saturday, April 24
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, April 25
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
John & Melia Pangere (Frances Giewont)

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Eugene & Eleanor Szymkiewicz
(M/M Joseph Murphy)

12:30 pm + LATIN MASS
Wm. Lyons, Sr. & Dec. Members of Brown Family
(Joyce Lyons)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 20
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Friday, April 23
3 pm - 4 pm - Confessions at St. Anthony of Padua

Saturday, April 24
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, April 25
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

DRIVE THRU SPAGHETTI DINNER

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #6191 in cooperation with the Friends of B.S.A. Benefiting the Scouts of Troop 176, Edinboro, Pa. At Our Lady of the Lake Social Hall in Edinboro on Friday, April 23, 2021. Serving 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Donation of \$10, cash or credit. Spaghetti & 2 meatballs, salad w/ 1 ranch & 1 italian dressing, breadstick, parmesan cheese packet, butter & cookie. No substitutions please!
Please enter via Sunset Drive Entrance & follow signs.
- DRIVE THRU ONLY -

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$415.00
Maintenance	30.00
Easter	100.00
Good Friday	30.00
Good Shepherd	50.00
Candles	28.00
TOTAL	\$653.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$6,190 Paid: \$5,415

GOOD SHEPHERD COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 2007, the Diocese of Erie established the *Good Shepherd Collection* so that parishioners can show their appreciation and love for their priests - those already retired and those who will follow them in the years to come.

In our parishes countless lives have changed because of these good and holy priests. They were with us every step of the way, celebrating baptisms, witnessing marriage vows and presiding at the funerals of loved ones. Now it is our turn to help those priests who have ministered to our spiritual needs. As the number of retired priests increases, so does the challenge and responsibility to care for them. Although they may be "retired," many remain active, providing sacramental ministry in parishes.

The response to the annual Good Shepherd Collection has been one of overwhelming generosity by you, the people of the Diocese! It tells me that you love these priests who have devoted their entire priesthood to God and to you. The Good Shepherd Collection provides for them in their retirement years. The income generated from this annual collection assists with needed funds toward their care and health related expenses and revenue for the Retirement Pension Plan for them and the priests who serve you now.

Contributions for the "*Good Shepherd Collection*" can be made the weekend of April 24-25 at your parish, or online anytime at: www.ErieRCD.org. Every contribution is greatly appreciated and will make a difference in the lives of our priests. This collection should not be confused with the Retirement Fund for Religious, which is taken in December for sisters, brothers and priests belonging to religious orders. That collection does not benefit our diocesan priests.

Please pray for all the priests of our Diocese on Good Shepherd Sunday. May we be blessed with more seminarians willing to respond to the call of the Lord to priesthood. Our priests join me in thanking you for your kindness and generosity, especially toward our retired priests through this annual *Good Shepherd Collection*.

May the joy of the Risen Christ fill your hearts and homes this Easter Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

*"Lord, I believe!
Help me to understand your 'hard' sayings."*

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$909.00
Maintenance	405.00
Candles	50.00
Rice Bowl	81.00
Good Shepherd	30.00
Holy Land	10.00
Easter	40.00
TOTAL	\$1,525.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$21,305 Paid: \$12,489

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
