

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 book 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

### ANNUAL GOOD SHEPHERD COLLECTION

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Over the course of my lifetime, I have met many priests who have given their lives to the service of our Lord and His people. By their ministry, they have made a positive impression on me and inspired me in my vocation as a priest and now as your Bishop. I imagine that, like me, many of you have feelings of gratitude for the ministry of the priests who have served you so well over the years in the Dioceses of Erie.

On the weekend of April 20-21, the annual Good Shepherd Collection for retired diocesan priests will be taken in our parishes. This is your opportunity to express your gratitude with your financial gift to help these priests who spent their lives in service to the Church. We look to you, the members of our Diocese to help us with the care of our priests who are retired now and those who will retire in future years.

I know first-hand how generous our people are in responding to the needs of the Church in the Diocese of Erie. I thank you in advance for your generosity also to the Good Shepherd Collection to support our retired diocesan priests.

Finally, I ask you to remember all our priests in your prayers. Pray for those who are currently serving you and those who have retired and those who have died. Pray for vocations to the priesthood, that others may follow in the footsteps of those who have given their lives as good shepherds leading you, the People of God, through their ministry.

I wish you and your families a blessed Easter Season.

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

**WORSHIP**

Monday, April 15  
 8:00 am + Ron Rusavage (Diane Polensky)  
 Tuesday, April 16  
 8:00 am + Dec. of Graczyk & Miller Families  
 (Jeanne Miller)  
 Wednesday, April 17 - AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 8:00 am + John Weagraff  
 (Mike & Rosemary Prenatt)  
 Thursday, April 18  
 8:00 am + James Rasavage (Carol Rasavage)  
 Friday, April 19  
 8:00 am + James Samson (Jeanne Miller)  
 Saturday, April 20  
 4:30 pm + Liv. & Dec. Members of  
 St. Anthony of Padua & St. Bernadette Mission  
 Sunday, April 21  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Stephen Sada (St. Bernadette Altar Rosary Soc.)  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Sophia Yurcak (Mike & Rita Yurcak)

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Monday, April 15  
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO  
 Tuesday, April 16  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, April 20  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession  
 Sunday, April 21  
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Before Mass - Confession  
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 After Mass - Confession  
 10:30 am - Faith Formation Classes

**CALENDAR LOTTERY FUNDRAISER**

Tickets have been mailed to all parishioners for St. Anthony of Padua Calendar Lottery Fundraiser for June, 2024. On the back of Fr. Mark's letter are the monetary prizes listed for each day. Please return all unsold tickets to the parish office or in the collection basket by May 13. Additional tickets will be available after all week-end masses.

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,131.00
Maintenance	95.00
Easter	55.00
Good Shepherd	60.00
Candles	35.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,376.00</b>

**ST. BERNADETTE FEAST DAY**

We will celebrate the feast of St. Bernadette on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at St. Bernadette Mission Church with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer, Benediction and a gathering beginning at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to celebrate the patron of our mission church.

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME  
 AN INVITATION FOR CATHOLICS WHO HAVE  
 BEEN AWAY  
 2024 SPRING SCHEDULE**

April 17 - The Church Today: Changes since Vatican II  
 Explanation of Major Changes  
 (Mass in English, Involvement, Bible Study)  
 April 24 - Walk through of the Mass  
 (along with explanation and historical overview)  
 May 1 - Tips on Sinning -  
 Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 May 8 - The Creed: What Catholics Believe

The sessions will be held at 6:30 pm at St. Brigid's, Meadville. Please check the bulletin boards at both entrances of the church for further information.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Kaycee and Olivia Hyde at the Baptism of their first child Jameson Russell. May God continue to bless you.

**NINTH ANNUAL  
 CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

The conference will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm and the women from our diocese will gather to pray, reflect, and be inspired in three different ways:

1. Live in-person at St. Jude Church in Erie
2. Live-streamed to hosting parishes are listed on the website at [www.138women.com](http://www.138women.com)
3. Live-streamed in your home

If you attend at St. Jude's you will enjoy two of our life-saving Sacraments: Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. The cost is \$25 at the door. For more information or to register, visit [www.1:38women.com](http://www.1:38women.com) or call 814 455-7364.

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,631.00
Maintenance	470.00
Rice Bowl	65.00
Donation for Roof Repair	100.00
Baptism	70.00
Easter	160.00
CSA	875.00
Good Shepherd	95.00
Candles	48.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,514.00</b>

Catholic Service Appeal  
 Pledged: \$32,625.00 Paid: \$19,116.00

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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