



Deacon's Corner: Jean and I got our latest round of the Covid booster yesterday – and now, the day after, I feel “less than great.” Do you ever wonder why something that is designed to keep you healthy can sometimes make you feel a bit sick? As I wrote this, my mind shifted from the point I was intending to make to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I remember when I was at Saint Nicholas we had about twenty teens who went very willingly toward the Easter sacraments... until we began talking about Reconciliation. I remember one young man in particular who did not appear to be afraid of anything, except going to Confession. I remember when “the big day” came and he was in church waiting for his turn to go into the confessional. He went in terrified and walked out smiling. This seems very similar to getting my Covid shot yesterday, feeling lousy today, but hopefully happy tomorrow. Let us always recall that God's love for us does not mean we will always be happy and never anxious. It means that following God's plan will always be a positive for us, even if it doesn't seem so immediately. We can be nervous about what's going on this moment, but God will help you smile when you finally realize what you feared was actually a positive.

What I would like you TO KNOW: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who draws us with his voice – which is quite literal. Jesus was a human being who walked around this earth and used a physical voice to share stories, heal members of his community, and laugh with his friends. This literal accounting continues when Jesus tells us, “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.” This isn't a metaphor, either. We believe we can and will share in eternal life with the Lord – in the communion of saints and that in the kingdom of heaven we will not perish.

What I would like you to THINK ABOUT: Who is YOUR shepherd? Is it material success? Professional gain? Social acclaim? How can you reorient your tendencies to follow Christ?

Shepherd AND Lamb: Jesus offers the people the safety of eternal life if they commit their lives into his hands and obey his voice. Jesus can do this because the Father has given him the flock for safekeeping and shepherding. The Triduum told us how costly Jesus's care of his flock truly was; the body of the Shepherd was ravaged in death but raised in glory to know and name his sheep and call them into a share of that glory. God's steadfast love for us endures forever and is revealed clearly in the Christ who is both compassionate Shepherd and obedient Lamb.

What does it mean to SMELL LIKE THE SHEEP? There is an intimacy that can be associated with the image of the Good Shepherd. When Pope Francis said that shepherds must smell like the sheep (I hope) he didn't mean for us to take this literally. He's telling us that we must never approach those in need from an Ivory Tower. We are to em-

brace those in need. If we are giving something to them, let us look them in the eyes, not lower them to avoid any contact. In order to know and serve others we must be close to them keenly aware of their unique and individual needs, hopes, fears, and dreams. These are not the same for each person. The Good Shepherd shows us that LOVING must be a DIRECT ACTION. The way a single parent loves his children might look different than the love a woman has for her elderly mother. And that's OK! The particulars of love can change from situation to situation, but the source and direction of authentic love is always GOD. Love should be our way of life.

June 4, 2022: As I explained last week, we learned that June 4th is the 100th Anniversary of the first mass celebrated at St. Patrick's Church – now more generally known as Saint Andrew Parish. We have invited Bishop Bambera to celebrate our anniversary mass, but he was previously committed to be at Notre Dame High School graduation and will be unable to be here. Fr. Gerald Shantillo – our Vicar General – will be here with us. Many of our former pastors will also be here with us. Remember, this will ABSOLUTELY NOT BE A FUNDRAISING EFFORT! We will have a cake and coffee reception in the lower level of our church – where our first mass was celebrated. As a parish, we have much to celebrate – not the least of which is EACH OTHER. Please mark your calendars for this celebration at our 4 PM Mass.

May we know OUR Shepherd: In the western India, many shepherds gather their various flocks together at night at one place. This allows the shepherds to share the night watches and more easily protect the sheep. At day-break, each shepherd calls his own sheep to take them to water and then move on. The call of each shepherd is different and as the sheep hear it they disentangle themselves from the large flock and follow their own shepherd. Each shepherd is so familiar with his own sheep – and they with him – that when the sheep answer his voice, the shepherd recognizes the weak as needing extra care and looks for the strays. Today, John's gospel describes Jesus as the Shepherd who gathers us into the flock of his community – aware of our weaknesses and strengths and our tendency to wander away from him. And yet, our God and Shepherd calls us by name. We can say nothing more beautiful than to compare the fidelity of husbands and wives or the steadfastness of friends. Yet all this is a faint echo of the creating word that God has whispered over the dust of each human person.

Our Confirmation Class: Please keep our Confirmation Class in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare themselves for this important sacrament. They will be confirmed by Bishop Bambera at St. Nicholas Church on Wednesday, May 11th. We thank our young people for their devotion and commend their parents for making certain they were everywhere they needed to be. We also send praise to our CCD Faculty for their “devotion to duty.” Our class this year consists of **Bailey Brenner, Hope Burke, Lizzy Papciak, and Matthew Stilp**. Your parish is proud of you all!



Mass Intentions

Saturday - May 7, 2022

4:00 P.M. - Mass - for Dorothy Podehl by her Family

Sunday - May 8, 2022

10:00 A.M. - Mass- for All Mothers Living and Deceased

Next Weekend's Mass Intentions

Saturday - May 14, 2022

4:00 P.M. - Mass - for Christine and Joseph Petyak by their Family

Sunday - May 15, 2022

10:00 A.M. - Mass- for Michael Garbush by Mom, Dad, and Family

Sanctuary Candle



Our Sanctuary Candle burns this week for Mala and Leo Decker by Nancy and Michael

Blessed Mother Candle



The Candle on Blessed Mother's Altar burns for a Special Intention.

Ministers Schedule

Saturday- May 7, 2022

4:00 P.M.- Lector- Pete Bonczewski
Altar Server- Mia Ashton

Sunday - May 8, 2022,

10:00 A.M.- Lector - Gianna Altavilla
Extraordinary Ministers- Margaret Sharksnas, Colleen Jorda

Altar Server- Elizabeth/ Chris Papiaciak

Saturday- May 14, 2022

4:00 P.M.- Lector- Kathy Hummel

Altar Server- Frank Hummel

Sunday - May 15, 2022

10:00 A.M. -Lector - Bonnie Harris

Extraordinary Ministers- Maryellen Sloat, Jean Behm

Altar Server: Gianna Altavilla

Confirmation 2022: Confirmation will take place at St. Nicholas

Church on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:00 PM. Our Confirmation Class will be honored at the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, May 15, 2022. Congratulations and blessings to our Confirmation Candidates!

CCD: There will be no CCD classes on Sunday, May 8th, Mother's Day. The final classes will be on Sunday, May 15th. There will be a get together for the children in the St. Andrew Parish hall. Classes will resume in September. Have a wonderful summer!

Fatima Devotions at Our Lady of Victory Church: Our Lady of Victory will once again be hosting Fatima Devotions every 13th of the month from May through October. Devotions begin at 7pm and include: Fatima prayers, the Rosary, and Marian hymns. Light refreshments **WILL** be served this year after the Devotions. The public is welcome to attend and celebrate Our Blessed Mother. **Our Lady of Victory is located at 16 Second Street, Harvey's Lake, PA. Our 1st Devotions this year will be: Friday, May 13th 7:00pm**

The Committee of Our Lady of Fatima Blessed Grotto, North Street, Wilkes-Barre, will hold their annual May Crowning on the Shrine Grounds, Sunday, May 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Following the May Crowning, the usual Sunday (fifteen decade) Rosary will be prayed for peace in the world and for any personal intentions. Prayers will conclude at 8 pm. All are welcome.

BRATISLAVA BOYS CHOIR to perform in Kingston and Scranton: The acclaimed Bratislava Boys Choir from Bratislava, Slovakia will perform at St. Ignatius Church, 339 N. Maple Ave., Kingston on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. and at St. Peter's Cathedral, 315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton on Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. Both concerts are free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted. The choir's repertoire features a variety of both sacred and secular music including Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, concert Masses, folk songs, and works by contemporary composers. The concerts are presented by the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA in cooperation with World Artists Experiences and the Embassy of Slovakia. For more information, contact Michael Stretanski at 570-817-3430, Raphael Micca at rdmicca@aol.com, or www.facebook.com/worldartistsNEPA.

PARISH COLLECTION

April 30-May 1, 2022

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|--------------------------------|----|------------------|
| Loose | \$ | 262.00 |
| Offering | \$ | 1525.00 |
| Dues | \$ | 395.00 |
| Parish Maintenance | \$ | 25.00 |
| Candles | \$ | 18.00 |
| Total Applied to Budget | | \$2225.00 |

Direct Transfer to the Diocese:

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| Care & Educ of Priests | \$ | 80.00 |
| Total | \$ | 80.00 |

Direct Transfer to Fr. Kearney:

| | | |
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| Mother's Day | \$ | 369.00 |
| Total | \$ | 369.00 |

Critical Church Repairs \$ 384.49

Thank you for your generosity!!

SNFCU News: HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

The Summer Schedule for Our Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Altar Servers is being prepared. If there are dates when you are unavailable, please contact the rectory to let us know. Anyone who has not been scheduled, but would like to return to any of these ministries, please contact the rectory so we can put you on the schedule. Thank you!



For your Unconditional Love
For your Acceptance
For your Guidance
For your Patience
For your Support
For You

I Love You Mom

