



## Fourth Sunday of Easter — April 22, 2018

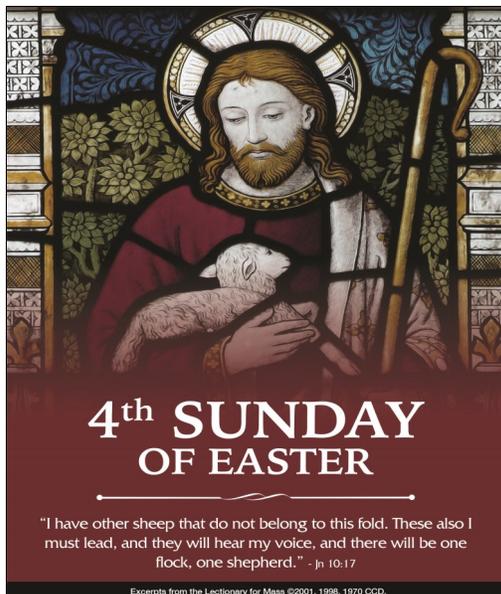
SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



***“I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.”***

Sheep are not exactly a pet, but growing up around sheep and working with them, family shepherds develop a fondness and care for each sheep. Such shepherds know their sheep very well; they can name each one and often have individual calls and whistles for them. Likewise, the sheep recognize their owners and their call. The Gospel for today speaks of the *Good Shepherd*. This Shepherd is the owner of the flock and we have grown up with this Shepherd. He knows each of us intimately and has a special name for each of us. To lose one of us would be very costly for our Shepherd. For Jesus, the Good Shepherd, protecting us was worth sacrificing His life. This is dedication. In a spirit of gratitude, let us resolve today to give our lives totally to Him. May we live holy and sinless lives here on earth so that one day in heaven, we may follow the Good shepherd wherever He goes.

### **I Can Hear the Bells**

Thank you to everyone who has been so generous to our church bells project at Saint Elizabeth's Church. Our goal is to automate two of the bells at the end of the month and then the third bell some time in the near future. These beautiful bronze bells will announce the hour, call us to pray at the three *Angelus* hours (6:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m.), call us to prayer before each Holy Mass, and toll a mournful sound as we bid farewell to a beloved parishioner. Indeed, these bells are a great gift from our ancestors in the Faith and in renewing and restoring the bells, we honor their memory and thank them for the treasured gift of the Faith that they have bequeathed to us.

It's still not too late to give to this effort; any donation, large or small, is welcome. With the bells automated, we can move onto our next great parish project . . . the statue of Fr. Gary on the church grounds. I welcome this worthy project, an enduring image of the beloved pastor, but hopefully people don't assume the statue is an image of Brad Pitt or Tom Cruise. I get mistaken for them quite often.

### **We Need Your Help**

We are still pondering a parish thrift store, or second-hand store, in the former Saint Mary's Library, with the funds utilized to help pay for the upkeep of our school building, which is not cheap. In turn, the funds would help keep our Little Saints Daycare in operation, because without our insurance and our building, there would be no daycare in town.

Before we even consider getting the thrift store off the ground, we need to get at least eight to ten volunteers in place, to man the store on three days of the week, with the hope of eventually being open five days each week. We have a business manager, Vivian Hernandez, but she cannot do it alone. We need your help. If you are willing to serve as a volunteer for our parish thrift store, please contact Fr. Gary or Vivian Hernandez. Thank you.

To get the store up and running, we also need to paint the library, to make it bright and welcoming for the customers. Without volunteers, it may cost over \$4,000 to paint the library and as a parish, we can't afford this expense. Please be generous with your time and talent as we plan for this painting project. Dates and times will be forthcoming.

May God bless our parish as we continue to ponder the inception of a parish-run thrift store. I'm sure the School Sisters of Notre Dame would be happy that their beloved school is still being utilized and cared for. Maybe in their honor, on opening day, we will have a blue light special on rulers and yardsticks.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE**

**Monday, April 23**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, April 24**

**7:30 AM SM —+Keith Herold by Richard Stagl**

**6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00 PM SE—+Paul Schiwal by Jeannie Pecht**

**Wednesday, April 25**

**7:00 PM SM– Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions**

**7:00 PM SM– +Ruben Mellmer by Ruth Fitterer**

**Thursday, April 26**

**7:30 AM SM—+Roy Mellmer by Ruth Fitterer**

**Friday, April 27**

**7:30 AM SM– +Irene Benz by Rachel & Kevin Bock**

**12-3:00 PM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Saturday, April 28**

**8:30 AM SM– +Raymond Mellmer by Ruth Fitterer**

**5:00 PM SM—+Butch Yates by Liz Yates & family**

**Sunday, April 29**

**8:30AM SE +Keith Herold by Elven & Kathy Kaufman**

**10:30AM SM-Pro Populo**

***Please Keep in Your Prayers:***

Duane Dobitz, Andy Prokop, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Shari Obritsch, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** Aggie Wandler, Ken Stagl, Charlotte Krebs, Harvey Herberholz, Archie Jalbert, Benny Benz, Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnella Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schroeder

**Our Deceased Loved Ones** +Eleanor Keck +Ardelle Kovar, +Eugenia Stagl, +Nick Lenhardt, +Mike Urlacher, +Keith Herold, +Carla Rohan +Alvin Rotering +Jeanne Kovar +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher +Paul Schiwal, + LeRoy Jacobs +Victor Roller +John Herold, + Viola Martin + Viola Neprash +Maggie Schoch, +Rose Lefor, + Mary Ficek

**On the Lighter Side**

Why did the Swede eat yeast and shoe polish for breakfast? He wanted to rise and shine that morning.

- **St Pius Verein Members will have Mass on Sunday April 29th, 10:30am at the hall in Scheffield. Father Patrick will be the celebrant.**
- **The Annual God's Share Appeal supports the work of the Catholic Church in western North Dakota. Your gift to this year's God Share Appeal in two weeks will provide for educational, pastoral & religious programs & services that help our parish & our families. This is your special opportunity to join in a unified effort in the Diocese of Bismarck to further Christ's mission & ministry in our diocese. Please take a moment to consider the many blessings that God has bestowed upon you & your family & prayerfully consider what you are able to share in support of our Diocesan Church.**

**St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments April 28 & 29, 2018**

MINISTRY	Saturday 5PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Diane Binstock	Jim Gardner
Mass Servers	Zack J./Jim K.	Mark F./John W.
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary F./Leonard G.	Kent M./Richard W.
Gifts	Martina Stagl	Kent & Angie M.
Rosary Leader	Maureen Gardner	Richard Wandler
Greeters	Nicholas D./Eileen L.	Jake Wolf
Homebound Minister	Toni Jung	Toni Jung

**Collection Report St. Mary's April 14 & 15, 2018**

Adult		Youth
\$ 1576.00	Envelopes	\$ 36.00
\$ 97.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 1709.00	Total	\$
\$ 5909.00	Month	\$ 168.49

**St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments April 29, 2018**

Lector	Arlene
Mass Servers	Elizabeth
Eucharistic Ministers	Fran & Cindy
Gifts	Marsha & Greg
Greeters	Michele & Curt
Ushers	Darrell & Dustin Kuhn

**Collection Report St. Elizabeth's April 15, 2018**

Adult		Youth
\$ 440.00	Envelopes	\$ 2.00
\$ 20.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 462.00	Total	\$
\$ 1153.00	Month	\$ 43.00

## Catholic Devotions, *Wayside Shrines*

When I was a seminarian in Rome, we seminarians were not allowed to come home to the United States for our first summer, so I spent a lot of time in the Holyland . . . that is Germany. The southern part of Germany is very Catholic, especially the state of Bavaria. There I encountered the Catholic tradition of the wayside shrine, which is a powerful way to publicly witness to one's Catholic faith.

Wayside shrines are religious images placed by a road or pathway, sometimes at crossroads, but often in the middle of an empty stretch of country or at the top of a hill or mountain. Wayside shrines are found in a variety of styles, ranging from a simple column shrine, a pole or pillar (made of wood or masonry) often capped with a roof surrounding a religious image to more elaborate chapel-shrines, built to resemble a small building, with a small niche displaying an image of the Blessed Trinity, Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, or another saint.

Some wayside shrines are erected to honor the memory of the victim of an accident, which explains their prevalence near roads and at crossroads. Others were erected to thank God for sparing the region of a particular calamity, such as a plague. Still others were convenient markers for pilgrims on their way to a pilgrimage site, such as the wayside shrines along the Camino de Santiago, pointing the way to pilgrims en route to the Shrine of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Yet, the vast majority of wayside shrines were erected by individuals and families on private property, to witness to their Catholic Faith and to give others a place of repose and prayer as they make their daily walk in the countryside.

For example, in the Catholic region of Bavaria, Catholics love to go for a daily prayer walk, a *spazierengehen*. As they take their walk in the countryside, they might first come to a wayside shrine of a Crucifix, and they offer a prayer to the Crucified Lord. Three kilometers further, they may come to an image of the Blessed Mother, and they pray the *Hail Mary*. Then three kilometers still further is another wayside shrine, this one dedicated to the local saint, such as the beloved Saint Cunegunda, and they pray to her to intercede for the people of that locality. [Side note: To our young families, hoping one day to have a baby girl, before I leave this earth, I want to baptize a child by the name of Cunegunda. Don't deny me this wish]. These wayside shrines offer a daily pilgrimage of sorts, allowing Catholics to enjoy the beauty of creation on their walks, while remembering the Creator who brought this world into being and renewed it once again through the Holy Cross of His Son.

In addition, these roadside shrines serve as a means of evangelization, a witness to the deep faith of the people of that region, a faith they desire to share in a public manner through their shrines. Even when they cannot witness in person, their wayside shrines speak of their great love for Jesus Christ, their tender devotion to our Blessed Mother, and their belief in the powerful intercession of the saints. In essence, these roadside shrines are silent witnesses to our Catholic Faith and speak in ways that mere words cannot. It is thus clear why the wayside shrines in Austria and Germany are often called *marterl*, from the Greek word *martyros*, which means "to witness". Until the sunset each day, these wayside shrines witness to the Son of God and to our great need for Him in our lives, like the saints of old.

I know it may entail some expense, but it would be a great witness to our Catholic Faith here in New England and Lefor if every Catholic household, in the country or in town, had a wayside shrine. It would mark that home as joyfully Catholic and it would sanctify the home, creating an atmosphere of holiness to which the Christian family aspires. It could also initiate a conversation with a non-believer or a member of another Christian denomination. Their obvious question, "What is that?" could begin a beautiful discourse on the spiritual treasures of our Catholic Faith. Consider a wayside shrine. If it spiritually benefits your soul and other souls as well, it is worth the effort. In our desire to bring souls to Jesus Christ, the public witness of a wayside shrine may be just the answer. Evangelization can be so simple; we are the ones who make it so complicated.

## Sorry to Disappoint You

I am sorry to relate to you this next bit of information, but I had to cancel our pilgrimage to Italy, which had been scheduled for November. We had only a handful of people sign up and we needed at least 25-30 people to make the pilgrimage viable. We could have held out, hoping for more pilgrims, but the danger is that if we don't get the full number of pilgrims, then the other pilgrims have to assume the extra cost, divided equally among them. This would make the pilgrimage cost prohibitive.

For those who so desire to go on pilgrimage to Italy, please let me know and I can try to line you up with other Italian pilgrimages planned with other parishes in our diocese. Some may ask if I might consider another pilgrimage in the future. The answer is: no. With great certitude, I have decided that I will lead no further pilgrimages to Rome or any other Catholic pilgrimage sites. The only pilgrimage I still hope to make is the final pilgrimage to the glory of heaven.

## A Point to Ponder

*If you want a good exercise for the heart, pick people up when they are down.*