

“I AM THE
G⊕⊕D SHEPHERD.”



JOHN 10:11



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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 APRIL 25, 2021**

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Mass of Anticipation for 4th Sunday of Easter
 5:00PM Darlene Doyle—1st Anniversary

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
 7:30 AM Vocations to the Priesthood
 9:00AM Martha Guilfoyle—Month's Mind
 10:30AM Marcia Durrell—Memorial

MONDAY, APRIL 26

Easter Weekday
 7:30AM Ellie Cole & Irene Murtha—Birthday Rmbrnce

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Easter Weekday
 7:30AM Deceased of Zaino & Mattiace Families—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Easter Weekday; St. Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr; St. Louis de Montfort, Priest
 7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church
 7:30AM Maryann Patalno—Memorial

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Easter Weekday; St. Pius V, Pope
 7:30AM Fr. David A. Piacentini—Memorial

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Easter Weekday; St. Joseph the Worker
 8:30AM Edward Cunanan—Memorial

Mass of Anticipation for 5th Sunday of Easter
 5:00PM Special Intention

SUNDAY, MAY 2

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
 7:30 AM Thomas J. Chisholm—Memorial
 9:00AM Monsignor John Lolio—9th Anniversary
 10:30AM Marian & Brian Gillcrist—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. As the Shepherds of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, I humbly ask for your prayers for Father Barrow and myself. Also, I invite you to please remember in your prayers all priests, bishops, and our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

There is a poem entitled "*The Beautiful Hands of a Priest*," which reads, in part, "*At the altar each day we behold them, and the hands of a king on his throne are not equal to them in greatness. It's the hand of a priest that will absolve us. When the hour of death comes upon us, raised over us in blessing the beautiful hands of a priest.*"

This Sunday is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to "*Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.*" While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the priesthood. Please pray for an increase of vocations in the Diocese of Providence.

Today, is a day to pray particularly for more men to hear the call to the priesthood. Saint Pope John Paul the Great, in his book *Gift and Mystery*: On the 50th Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination, stated: "*There can be no Eucharist without the priesthood, just as there can be no priesthood without the Eucharist.*"

No priest, no Eucharist. A simple yet profound statement. It echoes the language of St. John Paul II in his last encyclical,

Ecclesia de Eucharistia.

In that 2003 encyclical, the Pope wrote that "*the most holy Eucharist contains the Church's entire spiritual wealth: Christ himself, our Passover and living bread.*" He added that "*the Eucharist builds the Church and the Church makes the Eucharist.*"

The Church is also called the mystical body of Christ. We are incorporated into this mystical body at baptism. This body — indeed, each of us — needs to be nourished to maturity in the faith. That nourishment comes, in part, from the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Little wonder that the Catechism, says, "*The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.'*"

The Eucharist is the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ himself, under the appearances of simple bread and wine. We believe Christ is truly present in the Eucharist because he said so at the Last Supper.

At the Last Supper, he also instituted the priesthood, giving mere men the power to consecrate bread and wine in his name and under his authority. Every Mass is a solemn re-presentation of what Christ gave us at the Last Supper: the gift of himself in the Eucharist.

The fruit of this sacrament, worthily received, are nourishment for the soul and growth in holiness, charity, and stronger bonds of unity within the Church. The Eucharist brings us closer together and helps us think, act and love in union with one another.

The Eucharist is the source of unity and charity for Catholics. If a community wants

the Eucharist, it needs a priest.

A priest receives ordination from a bishop and assists him in ministering to the flock. The bishop is a successor to the Apostles and named by the Pope, the successor of St. Peter, whom Jesus designated as the visible head of the Church on earth. Hence we can see a link between the Eucharist and the Vicar of Christ.

And from where do priests come? They come from Catholic families, but the call to the priesthood comes from Jesus. Our Lady of Mercy has been a source of vocations to the priesthood in the recent past. Let us with, our prayers, ensure it is today and in the future .

We remember with great pride that Father Brain Morris, a graduate of OLM School, was ordained a Priest of Providence in 2017. Father Morris serves as Chaplain at Bishop Hendricken. He is also the Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Providence. Please pray for him, and for his work, in promoting vocations to the priesthood.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, pray for priests, and also more vocations to the priesthood especially in the Diocese of Providence and from Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Your prayers for vocations are vital to the work of the Church. "*Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.*"

Be well. Stay safe. Do good. God Bless.

Ask Father

Why aren't we Jewish?

This very question came up at the Council of Jerusalem in the first century of the Church. We know about this Council because St. Luke writes about it in detail in Acts chapter fifteen. The question arose as to whether Christians had to follow the lifestyle and laws of the Jews. There, we see the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the first bishops of the Church, particularly through the first pope, Peter.

First some history: Before the coming of Christ the Jewish people were under the Old Law. According to St. Paul, the Old Law was meant to be a teacher to prepare a people fit for the coming of the anointed one or the Messiah. The New Law would be a law not written on stone tablets, but written on a person's heart. The prophet Jeremiah predicts this new law when he writes: "I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts." This Law would change a person from within, enabling him to live as God originally intended. This New Law is grace, which Christ bestows on us in and through the sacraments.

As we read in the *Catechism*: "The New Law is called a *law of love* because it makes us act out of the love infused by the Holy Spirit, rather than from fear; a *law of grace*, because it confers the strength of grace to act, by means of faith and the sacraments; a *law of freedom*, because it sets us free from the ritual and juridical observances of the Old Law, inclines us to act spontaneously by the prompting of charity and, finally, lets us pass from the condition of a servant who "does not know what his master is doing" to that of a friend of Christ" (1972).

Church theologians distinguish between the juridical, ceremonial, and moral precepts. The new covenant established by Jesus Christ retained the moral precepts of the Old Law, but not the ceremonial or juridical. The ceremonial and juridical precepts were instituted by God as a gradual way to form a people of his own that would await the coming of the Messiah. Now that the Messiah is here, they are not needed, albeit they are important to know. They were instituted to keep the people from falling into idolatry and other forms of pagan worship. Hence passages such as Leviticus 19:28: "Do not... put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord," is a ceremonial precept and is therefore not necessarily binding. The Ten Commandments are moral precepts and hence are still binding.

Hence we hear in St. Paul's letter to the Galatians: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Weekly Collection

April 18, 2021

Weekly.....	\$5,415.00
EFT.....	\$5,266.00
	Total=\$10,681.00
Outreach.....	\$1,547.00

April 19, 2020 (Lockdown)

Weekly.....	\$7,933.00
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.



Please support the Catholic Charity Appeal, make your pledge today

2021 OLM Parish Goal= \$190,000

2021 Pledged (to date)=\$123,537

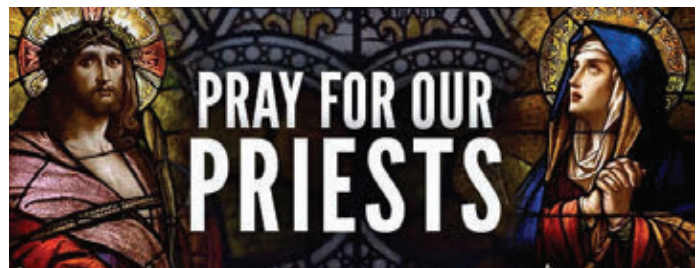
2021 Total of Pledges (to date)=277

2020 Goal= \$200,000

2020 Amount Pledged= \$131,236

Total Number Parishioners Pledges=290

Thank you for your support.





Religious Education
NEWS

Sunday, May 2: Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: "Receiving the Real Presence." Mass is for First Communion students and their families only.

Saturday, May 8: First Communion Mass & May Crowning at 12:00PM

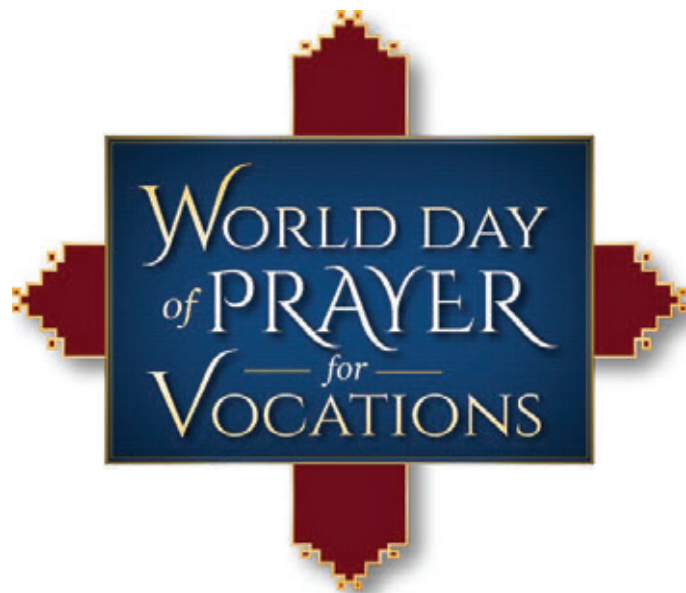


Outreach
Update

•**OLM Food Pantry** is continually in need of food and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated **non-perishable foods only and paper goods** in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House.

Thank you for your support!

•For information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

- **Monday, April 26:** Welcome back from Spring Vacation!
- **Tuesday, April 27:** 9AM School Mass with Grade 6 (*no livestream*)
- **Wednesday, April 28:** OLM School Community Zoom Meeting at 7:00pm

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4th Sunday of Easter



Chapter ten of the Gospel of John presents the image of Christ as Good Shepherd, the charismatic and powerful leader willing to lay down his life for the salvation of the flock.

Some part of this Scripture is read every year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

This Sunday gives us an excellent context in which to offer special prayers for vocations to ministry, especially to ordained ministry. The flock is still, and will always be, in need of good shepherds.



This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

Ordained Ministry: Priests

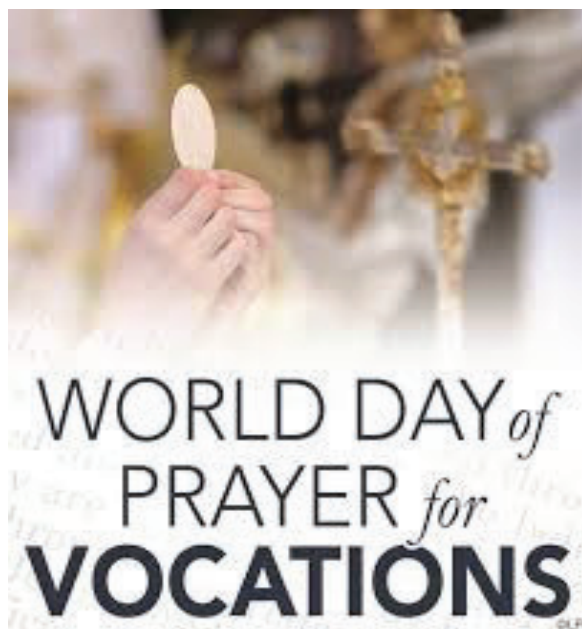


Among the ordained ministers—deacons, priests, and bishops—the most familiar to us are our priests.

In ordinary circumstances, these are the men who run our parishes and meet our everyday spiritual needs.

The essential role of the priest, however, is to preside at Eucharist. By virtue of his ordination he has been gifted with the incredible power to call upon the Holy Spirit to transform bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

In addition to this, he is the interpreter of God's word as preacher and the mediator of God's grace as minister of other sacraments except for Holy Orders.



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