

Our Lady of Hope Parish
40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
570-824-7832

Good
SHEPHERD

SUNDAY

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday April 21, 2024

10:30 AM Margaret Halchak - Son

Tuesday April 23, 2024

8:00 AM Mary Buckley - Niece, Mary Frances

5:30 PM St. Anthony of Padua Novena

Friday April 26, 2024

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving - Jim & Dyann
Wasilewski

Saturday April 27, 2024

4:00 PM Joshua Taylor - Grandma & Grandpa

Sunday April 28, 2024

10:30 AM Edith Danowski - Danowski Family

SANCTUARY VOTIVE - Love & Blessings to
Courtney (Carey) & Geoff Rittenhouse -
By Family

SUNDAY COLLECTION

\$3,761.00

LOOSE

\$344.00

CHRISTIAN WOMEN/MOTHER'S DAY

LUNCHEON - Will meet on Wednesday, April 24th @ 6:30 PM in the parish rectory. The Mother's Day Luncheon will be Sunday May 5th at the Woodlands, 1:00 PM. All women of the parish are invited to attend. For reservations, contact Sue Cosgrove @ 570.855.8766 or Mary Gluchowski @ 570.954.1793. Transportation can be provided.

ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE - The St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen is still taking donations of Canned Fruit for the month of April. A number of our parishioners have been very kind and generous. Please remember that we share love to the least, we do it for the Lord.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL - The amount pledged continues to increase, thank God. Anything that surpasses our goal is returned to the parish. So, think about a pledge if you have not made one. It's a very significant drive for the Diocese and for ourselves.

ANNIVERSARY MASS -

ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, SCRANTON - It is scheduled on June 23rd, 2024 at 2:30 PM. Anyone celebrating their 25th or 50th anniversary is invited. A reception will follow. Pre-registration is required, however. The form to register-go to the Diocesan website and search wedding anniversary. Deadline is May 26th.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA DEVOTION - This devotion is for thirteen weeks. The theme for reflection is:

"The Real Presence-The Holy Eucharist - Miracle of all Miracles." We encourage you to attend this devotion. The holy half-hour consists of prayers of invocation and gratitude to this great saint, the reflection and the blessing with the relic of St. Anthony. Hopefully we can keep these devotions alive!

PRAYER FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Loving God, we are the sheep of your hand, the people of your pasture. You know us; we are yours. You call us; we listen for your voice. Protect us from false leaders and hired hands who would seek to snatch us from safety. Keep us in the security of your fold and unite us with your people in all the earth. By your Spirit, make us one flock, one people; through the one who laid down his life for us, Jesus Christ, the good shepherd. John 10:11-18

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024

SUNDAY REFLECTION

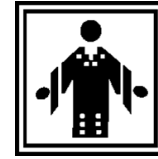
As a child, I always loved hearing about Jesus the Good Shepherd and seeing pictures of our Lord holding His staff in one hand, surrounded by a herd of fluffy sheep, and with one wayward sheep always curled around His shoulders. I was comforted by this image of Jesus, who loved all His sheep, even those who lost their way and took off in the wrong direction. This parable offers a much deeper meaning to me now as an adult. Jesus is the Good Shephard who laid down His life to help me- a sinner who is so prone to going astray. He suffered, died on the cross, and rose from the dead to lead me and all of God’s children (His sheep) on the right path to heaven. He knows me by name and restores my soul with grace from the Sacraments. He safeguards my steps from the snares of the Evil One through the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit alive in the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church. He sometimes allows me to make wrong turns, but because I know and love Him, I can trust that He is always right there, ready to bring me back into the fold. Through the living waters of Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit, Christians are called and empowered to become like Jesus and be good shepherds, too. In His image, we must forgive those who are lost and do our part to bring them back into God’s embrace. We must live our lives in joy and compassion for others - especially the poor, the downcast, and the lost - who most need God’s mercy. Trusting in the wise voice and directions of the Good Shepherd, we must never be afraid to speak God’s truth and wisdom with love and grace to correct those who are astray and having trouble finding their way. As worthy shepherds, we must pray for courage to stay loyal to Christ, the Good Shepherd, in our everyday thoughts, words, and actions, whether alone, with family, at work, at church, in politics, in science, or interacting with media. Remember that Jesus and the Church have been associated with controversy from the beginning, but He promises victory in the end. We must hold on tightly in faith, help others know and love Christ, and shepherd them into the loving gate of our Savior.

SEND US HOLY PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS

Dear Jesus, we thank You for all the priests and religious who have helped us to live our faith. Please give us the strength to live as faithful Catholics and work with them to promote Your Kingdom. We beg You to send us more holy priests and religious to bring Christ’s saving message to this and future generations. Bring to us men and women who will dedicate their entire lives to sharing our great Catholic Faith. We pray there will be priests to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, anoint us near death, administer the Sacraments to our future offspring, and bring them all to dance with us in heaven. Amen.

PRAYER TO KNOW MY VOCATION

I want to be happy in this life and spend eternity with You in the life to come. From the first moment of my existence, You knew my vocation. Please help me discover Your plan for my life. Help me to know myself. Help me to overcome my fears. Help me to want what You want. Help me to trust You completely. Send Your Holy Spirit into my mind and heart so I can see the gifts You have given me and hear Your call to serve the Church. Increase my desire to bring others to You and help them to reach heaven. Mary, Most Holy Mother of God, pray for me that I can discover my vocation and have the courage to respond in faith. Amen.



FROM THE PASTOR

This weekend we celebrate “Good Shepherd” Sunday. It is scheduled on the Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season. I am reminded of this story. Students at the parish school were learning about Jesus and His role as the Good Shepherd.. They were given a month to memorize Psalm 23, which they would have to recite at a school assembly with the pastor and all the parents attending. When the night came, the first student nervously stepped up to the microphone and began, “The Lord is my shepherd”, then his mind went blank as a wall. The parents waited while he struggled to remember the next line. Finally in desperation he said, and that’s all I need to know! At first there was silence, and then the applause began. The claps came slowly at first finally building to full thunderous ovation. The child was right, that is all we need to know. Jesus calls Himself, talks about Himself, as the Good Shepherd. He knew His vocation. His vocation, which He loved so much, was to care for sheep. It is based on love. Love is a marvelous source of strength and energy. Love makes a person brave. Where genuine love is present, no sacrifice is too great. Love conquers all difficulties. Today, on “Vocations” Sunday, as a Catholic Christian, all vocations are vocations to love. I become a priest feeling that God called me to care for and love His sheep, i.e. all of you. To celebrate a devout and meaningful Mass, to prepare a family that relates God’s message of love and salvation, and to be with you in the good and in the bad times, is a unique vocation, and one that is so badly needed today. Pray for our priests and above all, encourage those young in your families and communities to hear the call of the Good Shepherd to care and to share the message of faith, hope and love.

LOTTERY WINNERS

April 10, 2024	848	
April 11, 2024	750	Sharon Flynn
April 12, 2024	049	
April 13, 2024	896	