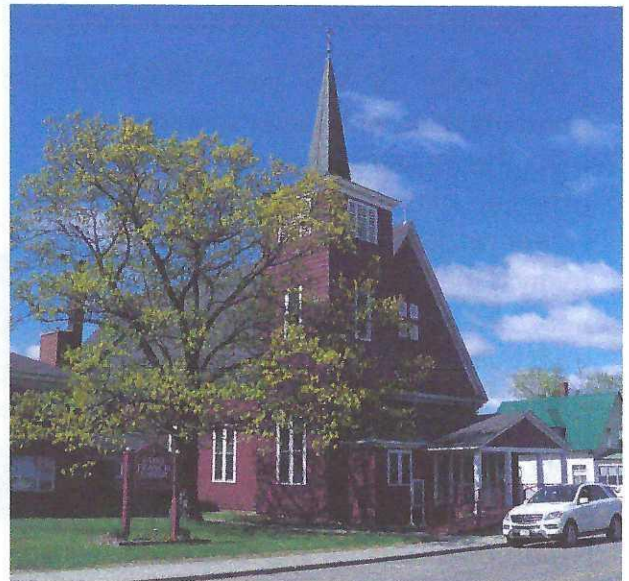


# ST MARGUERITE d' YOVILLE PARISH



## Sacred Heart

58 MAIN ST.  
NO. STRATFORD, NH 03590



## St. Francis Xavier

11 STATE ST., PO BOX 247  
GROVETON, NH 03582

### PARISH STAFF

*Pastor:*

Rev. Daniel R. Deveau

*Deacon:*

Rev. Mr. Michael Johnson

### EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

Sacred Heart	Sunday Morning	9:00 am
St. Francis	Saturday Evening	4:00 pm
	Sunday Morning	11:00 am

#### WEEKDAY

Wednesday thru Friday 9:00 AM (Check Parish Bulletin)

### PARISH OFFICE

Office Telephone: **636-1047**  
Office Secretary: Mrs. Tina Hunt

#### Office Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

### SACRAMENTS

#### BAPTISM

Call Rectory for an appointment

#### MARRIAGE

Please contact the Rectory 6 mos.  
prior to your tentative date.

#### CONFESSIONS

St. Francis Xavier Church  
Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 pm (Also by appointment)



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Francis 636-1047

Christian Formation:  
Children ages 4-15 years

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sacred Heart 9:00 am Mass  
St. Francis 11:00 am Mass

### GENERAL INFORMATION

*New Parishioners, WELCOME!* Please call our Parish Secretary as soon as possible to register.

*K of C Council*, meet the third Sunday of each month.

*Parish Website:* <https://stmargueritedygroveton.org>

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2026

The image of the good shepherd has nothing to do with sweet sentimentality. Shepherds were important figures in the Palestinian landscape. They bore total responsibility for the flock on which their people depended. They saw to it that the sheep found adequate grazing and water in a land that could be harsh and forbidding. They kept the animals safe from wild predators and human marauders, sometimes at the cost of their own lives. If the shepherds were unfaithful, the sheep could not long survive.

It is no wonder that the people of the Old Testament cast God himself in the image of the good shepherd, sustainer and protector of the flock of Israel.

The Church found the perfect fulfillment of this image in the risen Christ, who had laid down his own life to become the very source of life for his



people. He nourishes his flock with the Word and the Bread of Life. In the mixed metaphors of today's gospel, He is the gate through which they pass to the safety of the sheepfold and the Shepherd who defends them from all threats of evil.

In the First Letter of Peter, Christ the shepherd is called the "Guardian of your souls." The Greek word used is 'episkopos', more commonly translated "bishop". Although Christ is no longer visibly present to us as he was to his first hearers, he continues to nourish and to preserve his people through the Church's ministers. On Good Shepherd Sunday, then, we give thanks for the gift of all the good and faithful shepherds who lay down their lives in daily service to the Lord's flock. (St. Andrew Bible Missal)

+ \* + \* + \* +

It is as if this gentle loving Word, my "Son", were saying to you: "Look. I have made the road, opened the gate for you with *my blood*. Do not fail, then, to follow it. Do not sit down to rest out of selfish concern for yourself, foolishly saying you do not know the way. Do not presume to choose your own way of serving instead of the one I have made for you in my own person, eternal Truth, incarnate Word, the straightway hammered out *with my own blood*."



Get up, then, and follow him, for no one can come to me, the Father, except through Him. He is the Way, and the Gate through whom you must enter into Me, the sea of peace.

When the soul, then, has come to taste this light after so delightfully seeing and knowing it, she runs to the table of holy desire, in love as she is and eager with a lover's restlessness. (St. Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*, 1377-78, Paulist Press, 1980, p. 188)

## PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA



The Pilgrim Statue of our Lady of Fatima is ready to visit more homes in our parish. The explanation of the Pilgrim Statue of our Lady of Fatima, the Statue and Rosaries are found on the table behind the piano. Signup sheets are located there as well. Our Lady of Fatima is encouraging us to pray the Rosary for Peace.



# Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)  
April 26, 2026

## Saved by Love, Not by Suffering

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

I'm not sure there is any value in suffering in and of itself. Nor do I think God wants us to suffer. That would make him sadistic. Nor is it, then, Jesus' suffering and death that saves us, but rather his love even to the point of suffering and death that saves us. It is his love that reveals the greatness of God's love for us that is so unbelievable. The basis of our faith is Jesus' trust in God, who would bring about life even through death. We also hear the wisdom of St. Peter today: "If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a

grace before God" (1 Peter 2:20). Such is the shepherd's voice that teaches us and leads us.

Does anyone ever choose to suffer for doing what is good? Yes. Every day. Spouses become caregivers for husbands or wives robbed of their memories. Each day, people go to jobs that are pure drudgery, and they do so because they love their families. Some choose to live simply, to be countercultural in a consumer society. Others help their community by living in neighborhoods many avoid. Some parents willingly postpone a career in order to be present to their growing family. Teachers often go beyond expectations for students who need extra help. It is never the suffering of these people that captures and reflects the image of Jesus, but the love even to the point of suffering. †

## Sunday Readings

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

Peter [said] to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ."

**1 Peter 2:20b-25**

For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**John 10:1-10**

[Jesus said,] "The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

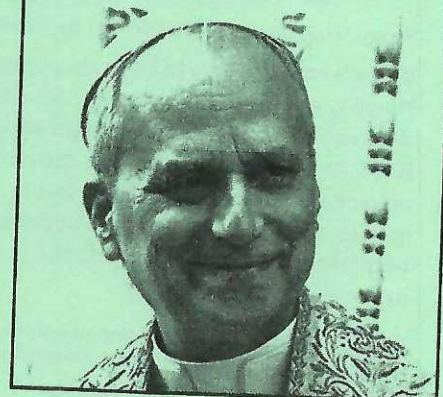


*The basis of our faith is  
Jesus' trust in God, who  
would bring about life  
even through death.*

## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did.... Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved.

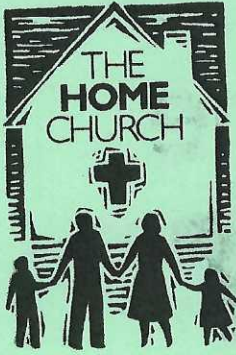
ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 24, 2025



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Is my faith stronger when I'm suffering or when life is easy?
- Who has suffered for me? Have I thanked them?



# A Disarmed and Disarming Peace

Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP

**"T**his is the peace of the risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming." With these words, charged with evangelical power, Pope Leo XIV summed up in his first *Urbi et Orbi* blessing the very core of the Christian message: the peace brought by the Lord is not imposed by force or fear, and it is not sustained by power. It is an unarmed peace because it springs from a love that gives itself without defending itself, and it is disarming because it tears down walls and neutralizes hatred.

What Pope Leo XIV has sought to say—and what he has expressed more by actions than by words—is that there is no Church without communion, no communion without conversion, and no conversion without peace. And true peace disarms us, transforms us, and reveals a kingdom not of this world—yet already dwelling within us.

Leo XIV was unequivocal in his first *Regina Caeli* on Good Shepherd Sunday, May 11, 2025, saying, "I consider it a gift from God that the first Sunday of my service as bishop of

Rome is Good Shepherd Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Easter." He continued after the *Regina Caeli*: "In today's dramatic scenario of a piecemeal third world war, as Pope Francis stated many times, I too address the world's leaders, repeating the ever-timely appeal: 'Never again war!'"

He could not have said this more clearly, nor at a more fitting moment. The following day, at his first meeting with representatives of the media, Leo XIV reinforced this message, saying, "Peace begins with each one of us—with the way we look at others, the way we listen to others, the way we speak about others. And in this sense, the way we communicate is fundamentally important: we must say 'no' to the war of words and images. We must reject the paradigm of war." †

**The peace brought by the Lord is not imposed by force or fear.**

From Pope Leo XIV: *Restless Heart, Faithful Shepherd* by Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP, Liguori Publications (829000). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Humility Is Still a Virtue" by Christopher M. Bellitto

While humility seems to be in short supply today, there's plenty of "me-ism." Humility might serve as an alternative to the disease of narcissism that's infected us. We live in a world not of "I'm right and you're wrong," but of "I'm right and you're bad." At its worst, this attitude can deny another person's or group's right to an opinion or a place at the table. This is the self-absorbed and divisive product of reckless partisanship, not a well-informed sense of partnership. Humility can be our path back to courtesy, respect, and good manners in face-to-face exchanges and especially on social media.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521, or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, when we fail to hear your word or listen to your Spirit within us, please open our minds and hearts to your voice, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

### WEEKDAY READINGS

April 27—May 2

**Monday, Easter Weekday:** Acts 11:1–18 / Jn 10:11–18

**Tuesday, Easter Weekday:** Acts 11:19–26 / Jn 10:22–30

**Wednesday, St. Catherine of Siena:** Acts 12:24—13:5a / Jn 12:44–50

**Thursday, Easter Weekday:** Acts 13:13–25 / Jn 13:16–20

**Friday, Easter Weekday:** Acts 13:26–33 / Jn 14:1–6

**Saturday, St. Athanasius:** Acts 13:44–52 / Jn 14:7–14



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**Mass Intention's**

**Sacred Heart**

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

9:00 am † **For the intention of all parishioners.**

**St Francis Xavier Church**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

**No Mass**

**Thursday, April 30, 2026**

9:00 AM † **Robert Norton** - req. by a Friend.

**Friday, May 1, 2026**

9:00 AM † **For a Special intention**

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**

4:00 PM † **Arline O'Rourke** - req. by a Friend.

† **Robert Beliveau, Aniv** -req. by his daughter, Rita & Don.

† **Ray Patry** - req. by his son James.

**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

† **Lillian Landry** - req. by Sharon Guldin.

† **Kenneth Maclean** - req. by Barbara & Family.

† **Ed Cherneski** - req. by Barbara & Family.

**Next weekend, May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, begins the annual New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA): Future of Our Faith II, Jesus, I trust in You.**

The NHCA is the Church in New Hampshire's annual campaign to support essential ministries and programs of our faith. Last year, our parish along with the other 87 parishes raised more than \$4.4M. The appeal was very successful thanks to all who donated and prayed for the appeal. This year, the appeal will take place over the next two weekends at Mass. The NHCA supports the Community Services program at Catholic Charities NH, the care for our retired and elderly priests, seminarian education and vocations, Catholic education, faith formation, evangelization through Parable magazine, and more! Every registered parishioner will receive a letter from Bishop Libasci along with appeal materials in the mail soon. Please keep the Church in New Hampshire in your prayers that we may join as one body in Christ to support these ministries that serve, comfort, and bring hope to those who need it most. For more information, fo to [www.catholicnh.org/nhca](http://www.catholicnh.org/nhca)



**Parish Financial Support**

**For the week ending: 4/19/ /2026**

<b><u>St. Francis Xavier</u></b>	<b><u>Sacred Heart</u></b>
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Offeratory: \$ 1756.00	\$ 192.00
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Fuel: \$ 319.00	\$ 108.00
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Debt: \$ 730.00

Rie Bowls: \$ 151.45

NHCA Rebate from 2025: \$ 470.19

**Thank you for your generosity, may God reward You.**

*Thank you!*

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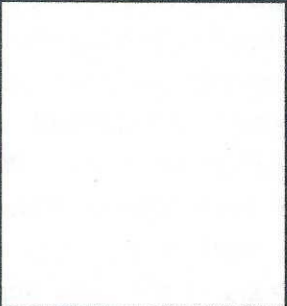
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