

St. Patrick, Kankakee ~ A Viatorian Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 21, 2024



Who Cares?

The image of the Good Shepherd is the image of a person who cares. He takes the time to get to know others and cares so much that he will give his life for others.

We belong to a Church populated by caring individuals who give their lives for others:
priests and nuns martyred in El Salvador;
missionaries struggling in the remotest parts of the world;
peace activists challenging the consciences of nations;
sisters caring lovingly for the sick and dying.

What would happen if *all* of us cared ... really cared ... about our brothers and sisters who are hungry, homeless, helpless, mistreated, victimized, suffering, unemployed, impoverished, threatened, rejected?

What would happen if *all* of us became good shepherds and really cared?

Would not the consequences be monumental
if everyone in the Christian community became a good shepherd?

Gerald Darring



Exciting News for Kankakee County Viatorian Parishes

Most of us are painfully aware of what has been happening to Catholic schools and parishes across the country. And the Diocese of Joliet has faced these signs of the times by undergoing a study that was followed up by a strategic plan leading Bishop Hicks and a diocesan committee to address the needs of each geographical area.



Some of the changes include closing or merging schools and parishes. We know how painful this can be. These decisions are never made lightly, nor are they ever easy. But they are made in good faith to best provide for the needs of the Catholics in the Joliet Diocese ... now and into the future.



Bishop Hicks has already made announcements about changes in the Joliet area. He and his committee will now look at other parts of the Diocese.

Any time that announcements of this type are made RUMORS FLY! I would like to put some of these rumors to rest.

St. Patrick Parish is not closing nor is Maternity BVM Parish nor is St. George Parish.

These three parishes are all served by the Clerics of St. Viator ... the Viatorians ... and will continue to be. The Viatorian Provincial, Fr. Mark Francis, CSV, has met with the priests and brothers serving this area and has developed a plan for new models of ministry. Fr. Francis has also met on more than one occasion with Bishop Hicks to discuss the possibilities. Bishop Hicks has given the plan his blessing.

Simply put, the area will continue to be served by the Viatorians. Fr. John Peeters, CSV, will continue as Administrator of St. Patrick Parish. Fr. Patrick Render, CSV, will serve as Administrator of St. George Parish. Fr. Jason Nesbit, CSV, will continue to serve as Pastor of Maternity BVM Parish. Other priests and brothers will also be part of this new model and will look at opportunities for our three Parishes to become more collaborative.

The times they are a changing says that famous Bob Dylan song. But change is not to be feared. Change can be exciting and so full of opportunities. May the Holy Spirit open all of our minds and our hearts to the possibilities.

And may God bless us all as, together, we move into the future.

Sincerely,

Rev. John N. Peeters, CSV

This **Good Shepherd Sunday** is a reminder and an invitation for every disciple of Jesus to cultivate a heart of a true shepherd ... a shepherd who is not satisfied with fulfilling the minimum requirements.

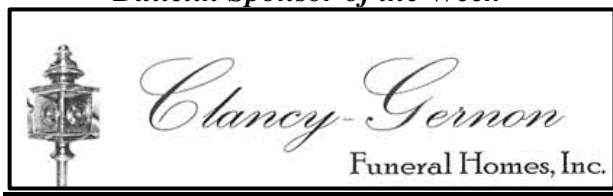
The image of a Shepherd and his sheep helps us to understand this: Jesus has given his life for us; as our risen Lord, he leads and unites us, not by force but by a personal knowledge of and love for each of us. Love knows no boundaries.

Whoever has a heart like Jesus, does not count the cost; they do not stop in the face of any obstacles, risks, or sacrifices. Let us answer the call of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to be good shepherds of his sheep.



Liturgy Alive

*Thank You to Our
Bulletin Sponsor of the Week*



Many people, right here in our community, go to bed hungry. As you do your weekly shopping, please remember them and pick up an extra item or two for the **FOOD PANTRY!**

*Please pray for our Military Personnel.
Be with them, Lord, and keep them safe!*



Will Benoit
Sean Contreras
Matthew Lanasa
Scott Riegel
Andrew Ryan
Daniel Ryan
Erik Schultz

Reflection REFLECTION

- ◆ Reflect on a time when you experienced sacrificial love, either by giving it or receiving it.
- ◆ How did this experience help you understand the depth of Jesus' sacrifice for us? ◆
- ◆ How do you listen for the voice of Jesus in your life? ◆
- ◆ In this noisy world, what helps you distinguish his voice from others?

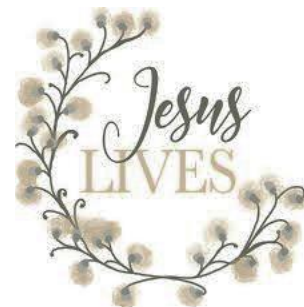
Stewardship Report Sunday, April 14, 2024

Envelopes – 83	\$7,793.00
Loose cash and checks	\$ 438.00
Online Giving – 15 families	<u>\$ 563.00</u>
Total collection	\$8,794.00
<i>Amount needed each week to have a balanced budget:</i>	\$7,270.00

Thank you for your consistent support!



***How are you celebrating these
Fifty Days of Easter?***



Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows us!

How beautiful and comforting it is
to know that Jesus knows us one by one ...
that we are not unknown to him ...
that our name is known to him!

We are unique individuals, each with his or her own story,
each one with his or her own value,
as people redeemed by Christ.

Only he knows what is in our hearts, our intentions, and our most hidden feelings.
Jesus knows our strengths and our defects, and is always ready to care for us
and to heal the wounds of our errors with the abundance of his mercy.

Therefore, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, defends, knows, and above all *loves* his sheep.
Christ's love is not selective. It embraces everyone. *He is everyone's Shepherd.*

Pope Francis

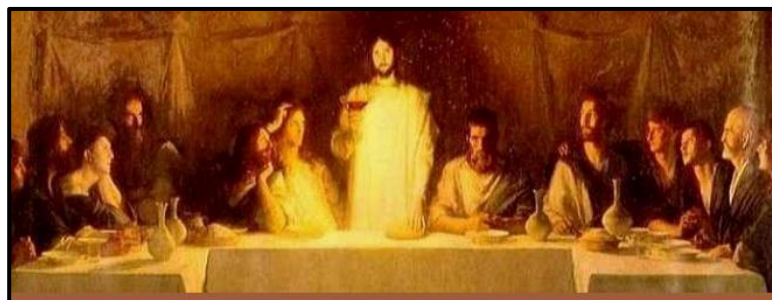


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APRIL
Month of the Holy Eucharist

The month of April is traditionally dedicated to devotion to Jesus in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The Catholic Church teaches that the Blessed Sacrament is the real and living presence of Christ – his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – received into our souls with every reception of Holy Communion.

**Our Eucharistic Lord is *the source and summit* of our Christian life,
the ultimate proof of his infinite love for us.**

Bishop Hicks' Column

April 2024

FAITH-INSPIRED MOVIES



CONTEMPORARY MOVIES are challenging to watch and often dubious to recommend. It seems so many contain agenda-laden themes, disturbing violence, immorality, and obscene language. I keep hoping to uncover that diamond in the rough that is worth watching—either in the theater or streaming live in the comfort of my home.

When I worked as the vicar general in the Archdiocese of Chicago, I had a colleague who would thoughtfully alert me to the latest Catholic, faith-inspired movie. In 2019, he recommended *Love and Mercy: Faustina*. A few days later, I invited a group of seminarians and priests to join me at a movie theater in downtown Chicago to enjoy this movie together. We were all inspired by the life of Sister Maria Faustina, an uneducated nun in Poland who allowed God to do extraordinary things through her.

Here's what was so inspiring: Helena Kowalska entered the convent in 1925 and took the name of Sister Maria Faustina. She toiled at menial tasks to fill her day in the kitchen or garden but was not always treated kindly by others. Yet throughout her humble existence and faithfulness, she experienced mystical encounters with Jesus that clearly revealed God's forgiveness, mercy, and boundless love for humanity. These experiences prompted her to pen her now-famous diary, *Divine Mercy In My Soul*.

She also was gifted with a beautiful vision of Jesus, that most of us now recognize as the Divine Mercy image (*above*). It touchingly portrays Jesus with His right hand raised in a gesture of blessing. His left hand is touching His chest, emanating rays of red and white light. These rays symbolize the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side, which signify the graces of mercy and forgiveness. Of course, the rays also represent the sacraments of Eucharist and Baptism. The bottom of the image is inscribed with the spiritual words of surrender: *Jesus, I Trust in You*.

Saint John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina in 2000—the first saint of the new millennium. He affectionately named her “the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time.”

Every year on the second Sunday of Easter we, as the Catholic Church, celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a good reminder to focus our attention on God's sacrificial love. On this particular Sunday, we especially pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a powerful prayer invoking God's mercy. Most of us would agree our world, our society, and our very souls are in such need of God's grace these days.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, we pray to turn away from division, hate, and vindictiveness, so we can refocus our gaze and actions on God's mercy, forgiveness, and love.

I love the collect prayed at the beginning of Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, which boldly proclaims:

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast, kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Recently, my “movie whisperer” colleague from the Archdiocese of Chicago emailed and encouraged me to see the movie, *Cabrini*. He informed me that it is about an Italian immigrant, Francesca Cabrini, who fights the odds to help the poor and orphans, and ultimately becomes the first American saint. I immediately told him, “Based on your recommendation, I am determined to see it soon!”

When you see a good, faith-based movie which you enthusiastically give two thumbs up, I encourage you to recommend it to your family and friends. Your endorsement may be a simple way for you to evangelize and help spread the good news of our faith.

Saints Frances Xavier Cabrini and Maria Faustina Kowalska, pray for us, and may the Divine Mercy of God bless you today and always.

DIOCESE OF JOLIET





EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR CHURCHES

**St. Patrick Church's Input Session is set for
Tuesday, April 23, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in our church.**

**Parish Council members, REP Catechists and Staff,
and all Liturgical Ministers (Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers)
are highly encouraged to attend.
All interested Parishioners are welcome to attend.**

Did You Find Your Envelope Number? Read the Bulletin each week and you may be in for a surprise! If you find yours in an article or list, call the Rectory Office at (815) 932-6716 - during regular Office hours - and you will win a nice little gift!

Invite One Back! We all know that there has been a marked decline nation-wide in Sunday Mass attendance since COVID hit. A significant portion of Catholics lost connection with their local parish during the shutdowns, and many just never came back. **It is time to invite them home.** In this Year of Eucharistic Revival, and just like the Good Shepherd, we are asked to call each of the lost sheep home as a part of the ***Invite One Back*** initiative. The goal is for everyone to reach out to someone and encourage them, gently, to come back to church. ***Whom are you called to invite home?***



Newly ordained
Deacon,
Brother Jhobany
Orduz, CSV,
assists Bishop
Chris Glancy, CSV,
at the
Ordination Mass.

For more pictures and articles, please visit Viatorians.com, or specifically:
<https://www.viatorians.com/br-jhobany-orduz-begins-new-ministry-as-deacon/p=126000>

ST. PATRICK CHURCH, 428 SOUTH INDIANA AVENUE, KANKAKEE, IL. (815) 932-6716.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule. Please arrange for a substitute if needed.

April 27 / 28	4:00 P.M.	7:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.
CANTORS	S. Wunder / Choir		E. Kregor
LECTORS	E. Capriotti	M. Spilsbury	J. Todnem
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	L. Berns J. Menard	B. Grasser	A. Purcell M. Purcell
WEEKDAY LECTOR		K. Yohnka	Envelope Number 440
SACRISTANS for April 26		C. Walker	P. Walker

*Please pray for the sick and the dying, and for all those who mourn the loss of a loved one.
Also, let us remember in prayer the homebound, those in nursing homes or hospitals,
and those who have asked for our prayers!*

Prayer Line ... call (815) 932-9423.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 22

7:15 Kay Serafini (Ann.)
(by Serafini Family)

Tuesday, April 23 **St. George**

7:15 Mildred Boris (by Linda Born)

Wednesday, April 24

7:15 Elaine Ziemer (by Ziemer Family)

Thursday, April 25 **St. Mark the Evangelist**

7:15 Timothy Rodeghero (Birth. Ann.)
(by Rodeghero Family)

Friday, April 26

7:15 Parishioners and Benefactors

Saturday, April 27

4:00 Kim and Marl Holstein (Wed. Ann.)
(by Sr. Theresa Galvan, CND) /

Don Buck (Ann.) (by Judy Buck) /

Alexine Betourne (Ann.)

(by Jackie O'Connor Family) /

Special Intentions of the Friends
of Stanley and Anita Drassler

(by Stanley and Anita Drassler)

Sunday, April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:00 Virginia Rauworth (by Harriet Schultz)

10:00 Antony Nicolais

(by Peter and Linda Nicolais) /

John Finks (3rd Ann.) (by Mary Finks)



MEMORIAL CANDLES

The Blessed Sacrament Candle
burns for the Special Intentions of
Brother Jhobany Orduz, CSV,
(by Parish Family).

The Holy Family Candle
burns for the Special Intentions of
William and Maryann Anderson
as they celebrate their
58th Wedding Anniversary
(by Anderson Family).

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you
are present in the most Blessed
Sacrament. I love you above
all things and I desire to re-
ceive you into my soul. Since I
cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at
least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and
unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to
be separated from you. Amen.



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Parish Website..... stpatrikkankakee.com

CLERICS OF ST. VIATOR

Pastor Fr. John N. Peeters, CSV
In Residence Fr. Donald R. Wehnert, CSV
Fr. Patrick W. Render, CSV

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MASS SCHEDULE

Daily..... 7:15 a.m.
Saturday..... 4:00 p.m.
Sunday..... 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Appointments..... Please call to schedule appointments
Reconciliation Please call for an appointment
Baptism..... Parent Session required
Please call for an appointment
Marriage..... Appointment should be made at least
six months prior to desired date of wedding

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