

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

*I am the gate  
for the sheep*

JOHN 10:7



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026



## WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Served by the Mercedarian Friars USA ([www.orderofmercy.org](http://www.orderofmercy.org))



### PARISH OFFICE, 588 W. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Open .....Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 12 noon  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Main No.....614-221-4323 Fax No: 614-221-9818

Web:.....[www.holyfamilycolumbus.org](http://www.holyfamilycolumbus.org)

Email.....[office@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:office@holyfamilycolumbus.org)

Facebook.....Holy Family Catholic Church

Flocknote.....[holyfamilycolumbus@flocknote.com](mailto:holyfamilycolumbus@flocknote.com)

### PERSONNEL STAFF

Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M...Pastor

Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M.....Vocation Director

Brother Kevin Cush, O. de M.....Seminarian

Brian Krull ..... Business Manager

Secretary.....Mary Gamble

Maintenance.....Tim Kearns

Music Director / Organist.....Shawn Kenney

OCIA (RCIA) Coordinator.....Linda Hamilton

Religious Education.....Sr. Bozena Tyborowska LSIC

### PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers – *Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Director*

Confraternity of Christian Mothers – *Rita Martinez, President*

Diocesan Center for the Guard of Honor

of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – *Rebecca Rector, Zelatrix*

Eucharistic Adoration – *Sarah Hill, Coordinator*

Holy Family Young Adults – *Bear Bates, Coordinator*

Hospitality – *Kathy McKinniss & Linda Hamilton, Coordinators*

Knights of Columbus – *Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Grand Knight*

Liturgical Ministry – *Linda Hamilton, Coordinator*

Mercedarian Lay Third Order – *Fr. Michael J. Donovan, O. de M.,  
Spiritual Director*

Respect Life – *Jake & Kennedy Olinger, Coordinators*

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary – *Sr. Bozena Tyborowska, Director*

### SOUP KITCHEN – (backyard of Parish Center building)

Donations...Monday – Friday

8:00am – 12noon, preferred (back of building)

12noon – 3:00pm, optional (please call in advance)

Main No.....614-221-4323

Web.....[www.hfsk.org](http://www.hfsk.org)

Email.....Dennis Shope, Director

[soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org)

[maintenance@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:maintenance@holyfamilycolumbus.org)

### BAPTISM

Call the Parish office to schedule a Baptism. Children over the age of 6 will require some special instruction.

### MARRIAGE

Please call the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding.

Diocesan Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning classes are required and six meetings with the priest.

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Call the Parish Office during general office hours. Otherwise, call Parish Office and select "Sacramental Emergency" option.

### RECEPTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Those who desire Holy Communion at home should call the Parish Office.

### MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays: 12:15pm

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

### Convent of St. Birgitta – 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 7:00 a.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs. Friday

4:00 p.m. Wednesday

(Each day is open to the public)

### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Weekdays: 11:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE

#### Holy Family Church

Weekly: 1:00 p.m. Thursday – 12 Noon Friday

#### First Friday Adoration in Reparation to the

Sacred Heart – 8:00 p.m. – 8:45 a.m. First Saturday

Please contact Sarah Hill at 740-418-0517 or

[thehills1936@gmail.com](mailto:thehills1936@gmail.com) if you have interest in being scheduled weekly or monthly in either location

#### Convent of St. Birgitta (CSB)

40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mass Wednesday

4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. following 4pm Mass

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday

### MOST HOLY ROSARY

Weekdays: 11:30 am (Tuesday is Respect Life Rosary)

Chaplet of Divine Mercy follows Rosary

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. Marian Mass

8:15 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. First Saturday Mass

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. (before Mass)

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to be scheduled to lead before 9am Saturday or 9am; 5pm Sunday Mass.

### REGULAR DEVOTIONS



Each Tuesday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass there are Devotions to **St. Anthony of Padua**.



Each Saturday novena Prayers to **Our Lady of Mercy** following 9:00 a.m. Mass.



On First Wednesday of each month a 7:00 p.m. Mass is offered in honor of **Good Saint Joseph**.



On First Friday of each month following the 12:15 & 7:00 p.m. Masses there is **Act of Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

## MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL 26— MAY 3, 2026

- Sun Apr 26 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
 9:00 AM \* The Priests and Brothers of Holy Family  
 by Jennie Gallastegui  
 11:00 AM Cody Evaristo  
 by Jane Trumbull & Jean Herald  
 5:00 PM \* People of the Parish  
 8:00 PM Anna Marie Shea, by Jerrie Amos
- Mon Apr 27 Saint Peter Armengol, Religious and Martyr**  
 7:00 AM CSB— The Intentions of the Bridgettine Sisters  
 by A Holy Family Parishioner  
 12:15 PM Stephanie Koesters, by Kevin Koesters
- Tues Apr 28 Our Lady of Liberating Mercy**  
**Province of Quito Feast**  
**St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr**  
**St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest**  
 7:00 AM CSB— Repose of the Soul of Mary Karabinos  
 by Anna Glass  
 12:15 PM Repose of the Souls of  
 James P. and Livia A Gallicchio, by Their Family
- Wed Apr 29 St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor**  
 12:15 PM Repose of the Soul of Joseph Regan  
 by Rosi & Elisa  
 4:00 PM CSB— Repose of the Soul of Richard Lumpe  
 by Fr. Michael J. Lumpe
- Thurs Apr 30 St. Pius V, Pope**  
 7:00 AM CSB— Repose of the Soul of Dave Kellough  
 by Doug & Mary Gamble  
 12:15 PM Louis Cordek, by The Foley Family
- Fri May 1 FIRST FRIDAY SACRED HEART MASS**  
**Saint Joseph the Worker**  
 7:00 AM CSB— Betty and Raymond Conklin  
 and Living Family Members  
 by Eric & Christy Conklin  
 12:15 PM Doug Koesters, by Kevin Koesters  
 7:00 PM Personal Intention, by Kathy McKinniss
- Sat May 2 FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS MASS**  
**St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor**  
 9:00 AM Mary Allen, by Avery Hayes
- Sun May 3 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
 9:00 AM \* Danny Fout, by The Fout Family  
 11:00 AM Unborn Children and All Priests and  
 Religious, by Knights of Columbus #13428  
 5:00 PM Repose of the Soul of Mary Rojtas  
 by Greg Everett  
 8:00 PM People of the Parish

\* Incense will be used at this Mass

## HOMEBOUND AND/OR ILL IN NEED OF PRAYERS

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Melody Christ     | Theresa Piatt      |
| Sarah Conway      | Joe Pinto          |
| JoAnn Cormack     | Maura Renouf       |
| Mary Jo Fetch     | Michelle Stewart   |
| Jack Gookin       | Josh Stroud        |
| John Keller       | Genny Temple       |
| Larry Lorms       | Celeste Trautman   |
| Charles McKinniss | Bill Warren        |
| Debbie Newell     | Mary Ann Wirsching |

**Christ Child Society of Columbus** is a non-profit organization of volunteer members dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children in Central Ohio. Volunteers donate their time through outreach programs such as providing layettes for newborns, clothing for infants, meals for lunch and after-care programs, education scholarships, support for foster care children and families, enhanced learning programs for school-age children and providing hygiene bags for high school students. Please join us! For membership information contact Amy Lebron at 614-306-3823 or visit [www.ChristChildSociety.org](http://www.ChristChildSociety.org).

## LECTOR SCHEDULE



- |                 |          |                 |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| <b>April 26</b> | 9:00 am  | Mary Gamble     |
|                 | 11:00 am | Aurelio Morales |
|                 | 5:00 pm  | Brian Bishop    |
| <b>May 3</b>    | 9:00 am  | Austin Hill     |
|                 | 11:00 am | Rebecca Rector  |
|                 | 5:00 pm  | Dan Hueckel     |

## SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

*Giving for April 13— April 19, 2026*

<i>Offertory</i>	
<i>Collection</i>	\$ 5,843
<i>On-Line</i>	3,554
<i>Mail</i>	+ 1,495
<i>Total</i>	\$10,892
<i>Less: Assessment (10%)</i>	- 1,089
<i>Net</i>	\$ 9,803
<i>Soup Kitchen</i>	\$ 3,250
<i>Total Capital Campaign Donations</i>	\$701,957
<i>The Appeal Pledges</i>	\$92,690
<i>The Appeal Goal</i>	\$82,347

**God Reward your Generosity**

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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## *A Note from Fr. Michael*

*The Lord is Risen!*

*He is Risen Indeed!*

Dear Parish Family,

The following is an updated progress report as of April 22, 2026 on the activity of the maintenance campaign.

**Collected to Date: \$701,957.**

To Date we can do the following projects with the current donations:

- 1) Church Roof: Cost **\$274,000**. (Contracted, work will begin April 27)
- 2) Doors to the Sacristies and Undercroft: Cost **\$12,800**. (Completed)
- 3) Resealing and repainting the Parking Lot: **\$4,791**. (Estimated to begin in July)
- 4) Concrete work on Sidewalks, Driveway, and West Sacristy Steps: **\$15,175**. (Contracted and estimated to begin in June)
- 5) Church and Rectory Masonry and Foundation: **\$96,405**. (Submitted to diocese for approval)
- 6) Exterior painting of Church and Rectory: **\$32,525**. (Begins in August)
- 7) Parish Center re-flooring and painting: **\$32,650**. (Will begin at end of CCD this month)
- 8) Parish Center Electrical Work: **\$21,000**.
- 9) Rectory Roof Repairs including dormers: **\$12,000**. (To begin mid-June)

**Total Costs: \$501,346.**

**Current Remaining Monies from Collected to Date: \$200,611.**

I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you who have donated to the project on behalf of our buildings. Because of your generosity, our beautiful and inspiring Church will be protected from the elements, and our Parish Center and Rectory buildings will be made safe, comfortable and secure.

Looking ahead we will still need to address the following:

- 1) 2 HFAC Units for the Parish Center: Estimated Cost **\$48,000**.
- 2) Access Control & Cameras: Estimated Cost: **\$20,000**.
- 3) Fire Alarm in Parish Center, Necessary since Faith Formation is held in the building: Estimated Cost: **\$6,000**.
- 4) Remodeling of Bathrooms in Parish Center and Church building: No Estimated Cost to date.
- 5) Carpet replacement in narthex of the Church and Flooring replacement in the Undercroft hallway and the St. George room: No Estimated Cost to date.

May God continue to bless you abundantly throughout this Easter season.

Fr. Michael



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## HOLY FAMILY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #13428

We continue to collect aluminum cans for the Seminarians. All proceeds will go to these young men of Christ. Please drop the cans off at the entrance of the Church and/or Parish Center.

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday April 19, 2026**—Knights of Columbus monthly Council meeting in the Parish Center following 11:00am Mass.

**Sunday, May 31, 2026**—Pancake Breakfast, more details to come.

If you are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus, please contact **Jack Gookin at (614) 309-2519**.



## HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Our upcoming meeting is **Monday, May 4 from 7–8pm** in the Parish Center. Please join us to help promote pro-life values within our parish. Email **holyfamilyrlm@gmail.com** with any questions or to be added to our email list regarding upcoming events.

Please join us on Mother's Day for our *America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally* scheduled for **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> after the 11 am Mass** in front of the Church. See flyer on page 6 for details.

Our Rosary for Life meets **every Tuesday at 8:45—10:45 am** in front of Planned Parenthood on E. Main St. with Fr. Daniel. You can join us to pray the Rosary for Life at 11:25 am every Tuesday before Mass, as well.

### Respect for life from conception to natural death:

"Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die; they want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they inaccurately believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, 'Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?'"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Every Suicide is Tragic"  
uscbb.org/every-suicide-tragic

## HOLY FAMILY YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

**HFYA (18—35)** meets weekly, with a rotation of activities including prayer/spirituality, talk, adoration, and social nights. **Use this QR Code to connect with this group.**



## HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS EXERCISE PROGRAM

Our upcoming classes are scheduled **1:30—2:30pm on Tuesday April 28 and Wednesday April 29 in the Parish Center**. People from various Churches form our crazy, fun-loving group of men and women. Check us out! Lose weight and gain friends!



## CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & LADIES GUILD

Serving the Women of Holy Family Since 1887

### Prayer for Mothers and Children

Heavenly Father,  
We thank You for the gift of mothers,  
whose love reflects Your own tender care.  
Bless them with strength in their labors,  
peace in their hearts, and joy in their souls.  
We lift up all children into Your Hands.  
Guide their steps, protect their innocence,  
and fill their days with wisdom, kindness, and faith.  
Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
may mothers and children grow together in holiness,  
supporting one another on the path to eternal life.  
In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Spring Flower Sale** is in process. Order forms are in the vestibule, parish center and undercroft. You may also request one via **holyfamilyccm@gmail.com**. Deadline is **TODAY** April 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who can support this parish fundraiser! Just a reminder pick up is Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM. We will have our annual basket sale behind the rectory on Mothers Day May 10<sup>th</sup> after 9 and 11am Mass.

**Mother's Day Novenas and Cards** are available in the vestibule, Christian Mothers will be available at most Masses. You may also use the QR code to purchase online or contact us via **holyfamilyccm@gmail.com**. The suggested donation per person listed in the Novena is \$10.



**May Crowning and First Communion** will be **May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am Mass**. Christian Mothers will have the celebration for First Communion in the Parish Center after Mass.

**Our next meeting is May 16<sup>th</sup>** in the undercroft. Please join us in the Church for our devotion to the Sorrowful Mother at 10:00 AM. We had a great response to breakfast items in April. They are welcome at each meeting.

**Christian Mothers Mass is Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM** with St. Gerard blessings following. Please join us before the Blessed Mother Altar.


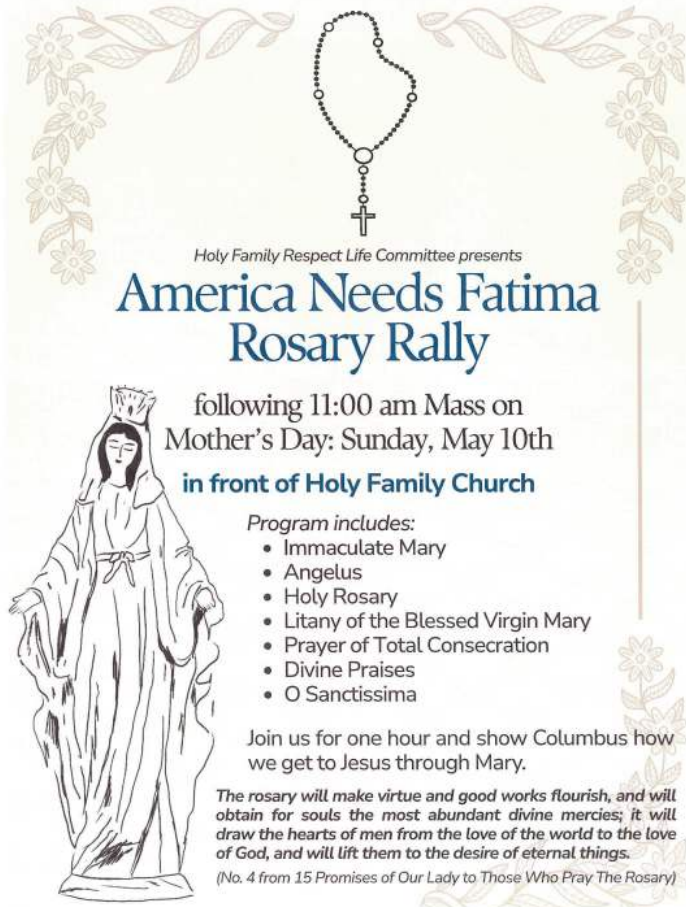
Anyone interested in joining our Confraternity, please send us information to **holyfamilyccm@yahoo.com**.

### Holy Family Confraternity of Christian Mothers Officers

Rita Martinez, President / Louise Popich, Vice President  
Anita Van Order, Treasurer / Kendy Troiano, Secretary  
Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M. Director

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Holy Family Respect Life Committee presents

## America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally

following 11:00 am Mass on Mother's Day: Sunday, May 10th in front of Holy Family Church

*Program includes:*

- Immaculate Mary
- Angelus
- Holy Rosary
- Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Prayer of Total Consecration
- Divine Praises
- O Sanctissima

Join us for one hour and show Columbus how we get to Jesus through Mary.

*The rosary will make virtue and good works flourish, and will obtain for souls the most abundant divine mercies; it will draw the hearts of men from the love of the world to the love of God, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things.*  
(No. 4 from 15 Promises of Our Lady to Those Who Pray The Rosary)



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
584 W. Broad St. Columbus



WEDNESDAY MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> at 7:00 PM

## FATIMA PROCESSION

Through Downtown Columbus



**5:30 PM** Mass at Holy Family Church in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**6 PM** Begin boarding Shuttle Buses at St. Patrick Church to Holy Family Church for those who park at St. Patrick and wish to be in the procession.

Shuttles will also take people not participating in the procession from Holy Family to St. Patrick for their Adoration. Shuttles will rotate from Church-to-Church to get everyone to their location. Parking will be available at both Holy Family and St. Patrick.



**7 PM** Fatima Procession begins at Holy Family. Each mystery of the Holy Rosary will be prayed throughout the procession. Upon arrival at St. Patrick the

faithful will enter the Church followed by Our Lady. We will conclude with Benediction at the Dominican Priory Church of St. Patrick.

At the close of Benediction, Shuttle Buses will resume from St. Patrick to Holy Family for those who parked at Holy Family.

Join the beauty of grace in how we teach faith to Downtown Columbus, with and through Our Lady.



ST. PATRICK CHURCH  
280 N. Grant Ave. Columbus

Questions, please contact: [office@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:office@holyfamilycolumbus.org) / 614-221-4323

**St. Mary Magdalene** (473 S Roys Ave) is conducting signups for baseball leagues for ages 5—14 (boys and girls). Cost to play \$60. Contact Julius Palazzo [jmpalazzo@juno.cvom](mailto:jmpalazzo@juno.cvom) or 614-946-5729 for signup form. Signups continue thru May 18.

### ST. BRENDAN'S MEN'S RETREAT

Retreat Director Friar John Bamman will lead a two-day men's retreat at the beautiful country setting at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein on Saturday and Sunday **May 30—31**. The retreat is sponsored by the St. Brendan Knights of Columbus Council 11208, **but all men are invited to attend**.

This year's theme is 'Memento Mori/Remember Your Death' with multiple talks, rosary walk, stations of the cross, confession, adoration, and other activities, both indoors and outside as weather permits.

The cost is \$140, which includes all meals and private rooms with bath. Spend time quietly in prayer, grow your spiritual connection to Jesus through fellowship with other men, relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Maria Stein Spiritual Center. For more information contact **Mike Gunnarson** at **614-403-3163** or [mikegunnarson@gmail.com](mailto:mikegunnarson@gmail.com).

**Annual Food Truck Festival—4—8pm Friday, May 15** Immaculate Conception Home and School Association is hosting their annual Food Truck Festival in the parking lot of Immaculate Conception at 414 E North Broadway in Columbus. Questions reach out to Jessica Gmerick [jlgerick@gmail.com](mailto:jlgerick@gmail.com)

### ST. AGATHA DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA WOMEN'S RETREAT—Saturday, May 30 9am—3pm

The St. Agatha Daughters of Isabella warmly invite you to join them for a day of spiritual enrichment and fellowship. Together, they will reflect on Our Lady's "Fiat" and "Magnificat," exploring how Mary's resounding "yes" inspires and strengthens our own faith and mission. We are delighted to welcome Sister Marie de Ravinel of the Apostolic Sisters of St. John to lead the day's spiritual reflections. Questions may go to **Karen Ballou, Dol Vice Regent** at [stagathaladies@gmail.com](mailto:stagathaladies@gmail.com).

**Location:** Pontifical College Josephinum Jessing Center & St. Pius X Chapel

**Time:** 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

#### Registration & Fees

**Early Bird (by May 1):** \$35 Dol Members | \$45 Non-Members

**After May 1:** \$40 Dol Members | \$50 Non-Members

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 15**

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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## CONGRATULATIONS MERCEDARIAN 3<sup>RD</sup> ORDER



**Received Scapular:** Tom Ranieri

**First Promises:** Ed Hamilton

**Renewal of Promises:** Jane Trumbull & Jean Herald

**Final Promises:** Jarrod Golden, DeAnna Gordon,  
Linda Hamilton, Kathy McKinniss, Mary Wilson &  
Mary Zacks (Renee Mascia already a member)



The Mercedarian Third Order (lay members of the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy) is centered on a charism of mercy, redemption, and liberation from modern captivities. Their spiritual focus is on bringing the redemptive love of Christ to the world through the guidance of Our Lady of Ransom.

Monthly meetings are scheduled 6:30pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at the Holy Family Parish Center.

# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” +Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

*The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit*

*The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

***“The way of Christian perfection begins with a personal summons, addressed to the individual Christian by Christ the Lord, through the Holy Spirit. This summons is a call, a ‘vocation.’ Every Christian in one way or another receives this vocation from Christ – the call to follow Him.” ~Excerpted from LIFE AND HOLINESS by Father Thomas Merton, OCSO***

### **Monday, April 27 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter**

**Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18** Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

**Meditation:** The peace and security of the Good Shepherd – Jesus Christ, who watches over us as members of his flock – is something that we can find great comfort and joy. The Old Testament often speaks of God as shepherd of his people, Israel. *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want* (Psalm 23:1). *Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!* (Psalm 80:1) *We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture* (Psalm 100:3). The Messiah is also pictured as the shepherd of God's people: *He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms* (Isaiah 40:11). In the New Testament Jesus lets us know that he is the *Good Shepherd* who will risk his life to seek out and save the stray sheep (Matthew 18:12, Luke 15:4). He is the *Shepherd and Guardian of our souls* (1 Peter 2:25).

**Prayer:** O God, perfect light of the blessed, by whose gift we celebrate the paschal mysteries on earth, bring us, we pray, to rejoice in the full measure of your grace for ages unending. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus made three promises to those who take up his two word invitation – “Follow me.” To those who follow Christ he promised them everlasting life. If they accept him and follow him, they will have the life of God in them. Jesus also promised them a life that would know no end. Death would not be the end but the beginning; they would know the glory of indestructible life. Jesus promised a life that was secure. Jesus said that nothing would snatch them out of his hand, not even sorrow and death, since he is everlasting life itself. Our lives are safe in his hands.

### **Tuesday, April 28 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter**

**Optional Memorials: Saint Peter Chanel, Priest & Martyr;  
Saint Louis Mary de Montfort, Priest**

**Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30** The feast of the Dedication was taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify to me. But you do not believe, because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out



of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

**Meditation:** Saint Cyril, a Father of the Church, comments on Jesus as our Good Shepherd: "He shows in what manner a shepherd may be proved good; and He teaches that he must be prepared to give up his life fighting in defense of his sheep, which was fulfilled in Christ. For man has departed from the love of God, and fallen into sin, and because of this was, I say, excluded from the divine abode of paradise, and when he was weakened by that disaster, he yielded to the devil tempting him to sin, and death following that sin he became the prey of fierce and ravenous wolves. But after Christ was announced as the True Shepherd of all men, He laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16), fighting for us against that pack of inhuman beasts. He bore the Cross for us, that by His own death he might destroy death. He was condemned for us, that He might deliver all of us from the sentence of punishment: the tyranny of sin being overthrown by our faith: fastening to the Cross the decree that stood against us, as it is written (Colossians 2:14). Therefore as the father of sin had as it were shut up the sheep in hell, giving them to death to feed on, as it is written in the psalms (Ps. XLviii.16), He died for us as truly Good, and truly our Shepherd, so that the dark shadow of death driven away He might join us to the company of the blessed in heaven; and in exchange for abodes that lie far in the depths of the pit, and in the hidden places of the sea, grant us mansions in His Father's House above. Because of this he says to us in another place: Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you a kingdom (Luke 12:32)."

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, celebrating the mysteries of the Lord's Resurrection, we may merit to receive the joy of our redemption. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer + Saint Peter Chanel:** O God, who for the spreading of your Church crowned Saint Peter Chanel with martyrdom, grant that, in these days of paschal joy, we may so celebrate the mysteries of Christ's Death and Resurrection as to bear worthy witness to newness of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer + Saint Louis de Montfort:** O God, who willed to direct the steps of the Priest Saint Louis along the way of salvation and of the love of Christ, in the company of the Blessed Virgin, grant us, by his example, that, meditating on the mysteries of your love, we may strive tirelessly for the building up of your Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus promises the security of peace and protection from evil and the greatest harm that could befall us – eternal destruction. The Lord does not spare us from all trouble. In this life we will experience pain, suffering, sickness, and death. But through these the Lord will lead us to ultimate victory and safety in his everlasting home. Even in the midst of our sufferings we can find a peace and security which no one can give except God alone. We can confidently follow the Lord wherever he leads, trusting that nothing can keep us from God *if* we trust in him. Which begs the question: Have you placed your life securely in God where it belongs?

### **Wednesday, April 29 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**

**Holy Gospel: John 12:44-50** Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me."

**Meditation:** God does not leave us in our ignorance and unbelief. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit he helps us to grow in faith, knowledge and understanding of his word. Saint Augustine summed up rather succinctly our need for God's help in the following prayer: "God our Father, we find it difficult to come to you, because our knowledge of you is imperfect. In our ignorance we have imagined you to be our enemy; we have wrongly thought that you take pleasure in punishing our sins; and we have foolishly conceived you to be a tyrant over human life. But since Jesus came among us, he has shown that you are loving, and that our resentment against you was groundless." Do you want to know more of God and his transforming love? Look to Jesus, the Light of God, and in his truth you will find joy, freedom, and wholeness of mind, body and soul.

**Prayer:** O God, who set Saint Catherine of Siena on fire with divine love in her contemplation of the Lord's Passion and her service to your Church, grant, through her intercession, that your people, participating in the mystery of Christ, may ever exult in the revelation of his glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** To see Jesus is to see God. To hear his words is to hear the voice of God. He is the very light of God that has power to overcome the darkness of sin, ignorance, and unbelief. God's light and truth brings healing, pardon, and transformation. This light is not only for the chosen people of Israel, but for the whole world as well. Jesus warns that if we refuse his word or take it lightly, we choose to remain in spiritual darkness. Jesus made it clear that he did not come to condemn us, but rather to bring abundant life and freedom from the oppression of sin, ignorance and evil. We condemn ourselves when we reject God's wisdom and truth. It is one thing to live in ignorance due to lack of knowledge, but another thing to disdain those who teach us true wisdom and knowledge. Jesus says that his word which we have heard will be our judge. Do you believe that God's word has power to change and transform your life?

**Thursday, April 30 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter**  
**Optional Memorial: Pope Saint Pius V**

**Holy Gospel: John 13:16-20** When Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, he said to them: "Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it. I am not speaking of all of you. I know those whom I have chosen. But so that the Scripture might be fulfilled,

*The one who ate my food has raised his heel against me.*

From now on I am telling you before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe that I AM. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

**Meditation:** Jesus loved his disciples to the end and proved his faithfulness to them even to death on the cross. Through his death and resurrection Jesus opened a new way of relationship and friendship with God. Jesus tells his disciples that if they accept him they also accept the Father who sent him. This principle extends to all who belong to Christ and who speak in his name. To accept the Lord's messenger is to accept Jesus himself. The great honor and the great responsibility any Christian has is to stand in the world for Jesus Christ. As his disciples and ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20), we are called to speak for him and to act on his behalf. Are you ready to stand for Jesus at the cross of humiliation, rejection, opposition, and suffering?

**Prayer:** O God, who restore human nature to yet greater dignity than at its beginnings, look upon the amazing mystery of your loving kindness, and in those you have chosen to make new through the wonder of rebirth may you preserve the gifts of your enduring grace and blessing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer + Pope Saint Pius V:** O God, who in your providence raised up Pope Saint Pius the Fifth in your Church that the faith might be safeguarded and more fitting worship be offered to you, grant, through his intercession, that we may participate in your mysteries with lively faith and fruitful charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Have you ever given any thought as to how you treat those who cause you grief or harm? Especially those who are close to you in some way? In his last supper discourse, Jesus addressed the issue of fidelity and disloyalty in relationships. Jesus knew beforehand that one of his own disciples would betray him. Such knowledge could have easily led Jesus to distance himself from such a person and to protect himself from harm's way. Instead, Jesus expresses his love, affection, and loyalty to those who were his own, even to the one he knew would "stab him in the back" when he got the opportunity. Jesus used a quotation from Psalm 4:9 which describes an act of treachery by one's closest friend. In the culture of Jesus' day, to eat bread with someone was a gesture of friendship and trust. Jesus extends such friendship to Judas right at the moment when Judas is conspiring to betray his master. The expression "raised his heel against me" reinforces the brute nature of this act of violent rejection.

**Friday, May 1 ~ Fourth Week in the Season of Easter**  
**Saint Joseph the Worker**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58** Jesus came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and



Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.

**Meditation:** The liturgy for this feast vindicates the right to work, and this is a message that needs to be heard and heeded in our modern society. In many of the documents issued by Pope Saint John XXIII, Pope Blessed Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council and Pope Saint John Paul II, reference is made to the Christian spirit that should permeate one's work, after the example of Saint Joseph, recognizing that all of our gifts and talents are gifts to us from God, and should be used to help build up His kingdom here on earth. In addition to this, there is a special dignity and value to the work done in caring for the human family.

**Prayer:** O God, Creator of all things, who laid down for the human race the law of work, graciously grant that by the example of Saint Joseph and under his patronage we may complete the works you set us to do and attain the rewards you promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer to Saint Joseph for Employment:** Dear Saint Joseph, you were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety with my present inability to support my family. Please help me find gainful employment very soon, so that this great burden of concern will be lifted from my heart and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help me guard against discouragement, so that I may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

**Contemplation (in relation to today's feast):** Do you find yourself in need of prayer looking for work these days? The Prayer to Saint Joseph for Employment (above) is presented today in the hope it might provide some relief and comfort to those who find themselves in this situation. Do not despair! Seek this great Saint's help in carrying the vexing and at times quite bitter cross of being out of work, remembering always that you always have great worth in the eyes of God no matter what your situation may be.

**Contemplation:** Worth contemplating on this Feast is a brief excerpt from a document of the Second Vatican Council "The Church in the Modern World" – *Gaudium et Spes* – which notes: "Throughout the course of the centuries, men have labored to better the circumstances of their lives through a monumental amount of individual and collective effort. To believers, this point is settled: considered in itself, this human activity accords with God's will. For man, created to God's image, received a mandate to subject to himself the earth and all it contains, and to govern the world with justice and holiness; a mandate to relate himself and the totality of things to Him Who was to be acknowledged as the Lord and Creator of all. Thus, by the subjection of all things to man, the name of God would be wonderful in all the earth" (No. 34).

**About today's Feast:** "May Day" has long been dedicated to labor and the working man. It falls on the first day of the month that is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Pius XII expressed the hope that this feast would accentuate the dignity of labor and would bring a spiritual dimension to labor unions. It is eminently fitting that Saint Joseph, a working man who became the foster-father of Christ and patron of the Universal Church, should be honored on this day. The texts of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours provide a catechetical synthesis of the significance of human labor seen in the light of faith. The Opening Prayer states that God, the creator and ruler of the universe, has called men and women in every age to develop and use their talents for the good of others. Then, in the second part of the Opening Prayer, we ask that we may do the work that God has asked of us and come to the rewards he has promised. In many of the documents issued by Pope Saint John XXIII, Pope Saint Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council and Pope Saint John Paul II, reference is made to the Christian spirit that should permeate one's work, after the example of Saint Joseph.

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