



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF Easter

APRIL 25, 2021

I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

## BELONGING

There is nothing like belonging. Many of our deepest experiences in life are of the belonging we feel among family or close friends. We may experience belonging within our parish, even saying we are “at home” in our faith community. Sometimes, we say we belong to a school alumni association or social club. Our deepest belonging, however, is in the heart of God. We are God’s children, precious in God’s sight. We are so treasured that Jesus laid down his life for us. Knowing that we belong to God in Jesus Christ gives us a new, eternal perspective on life. Peter understood this when he explained that his healing of the man who had been disabled from birth had been accomplished through Christ. Jesus describes the relationship between him and those who believe in him in intimate terms—we who are in relationship with Christ know that our very lives depend upon him.

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The difference between the good shepherd and the hired hand is the difference between life and death. Unlike a hired hand who only works for pay and would run away at the first sign of difficulty, Jesus is a good shepherd who willingly lays down his life for his sheep. The good shepherd draws the sheep near to him. They belong to him—not as a possession that can be discarded, but as precious ones who are assured that they can rely on his care and protection. The sheep owe their very lives to the shepherd. Without him, they will be scattered and left on their own in what is often a dangerous world.

## BECOMING GOOD SHEEP

No sheep with any sense would wander off and leave the fold. The shepherd provides food and safety. Away from the fold, the sheep risks death in the jaws of wolves or starvation in the desert. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and invites us to be good sheep. Jesus has experienced the best and the worst of all that life has in store. He has known the simple joys and the deep disappointments of life; he has known temptation, anxiety, and fatigue. Jesus walks ahead of us, leading the way. We may be tempted to wander away, lured by temporary pleasures and tempted by the illusion of something better over the horizon. In the noise of daily life, surrounded by messages that compete with God and God’s ways, it is easy to become distracted from what is important and lasting. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, invites us to be good sheep who are so close to him that we hear and recognize his voice. As good sheep, we are called to follow the voice of the Shepherd, trusting that he will guide us to the best pasture, where we can thrive.

### *SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES*

Sun: World Day of Prayer for Vocations  
Wed: St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignion  
de Montfort  
Thurs: St. Catherine of Siena  
Fri: St. Pius V  
Sat: St. Joseph the Worker

# Immaculate Conception Parish Immaculate Conception Church & St. Joseph Church

*Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward • Deacon: Mr. Jack Mroz*

Immaculate Conception Rectory: 570-325-2791 • [iccjt@ptd.net](mailto:iccjt@ptd.net) • [www.iccjimthorpe.org](http://www.iccjimthorpe.org)  
St. Joseph Rectory: 570-325-3731 • [stjosjt@ptd.net](mailto:stjosjt@ptd.net) • [www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org](http://www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org)

*St. Joseph Church side entrance is open daily for private prayer*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Tuesdays after 8 a.m. Mass, & Wednesdays, 6:30pm @ ICC;  
Thursdays after 8 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph Church

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC [Direct](mailto:Direct) Phone: 800-791-9209; Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS Phone: 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204; If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562.

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

### **Sat. April 24**

4:30 pm (ICC) **Dolores Gillespie** (Hugh & Fran Dugan) / **Bernie Gillespie** (M/M Michael Spillman)

### **Sun. April 25**

9:00 am (SJC) **Irene Milan** (Clete Milan & Family) / **Tracy McElmoyle**, 28<sup>th</sup> Anniv. (Mom & Dad)

### **Mon. April 26**

*(private)*

**Stephen Yuhás** (Cathy & Ed Hawk) / **Anna Love**, 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniv. (Roush Family)

### **Tues. April 27**

8:00 am (ICC)

**Sisters & Brothers of Ken McArdle** (Ken & Rose McArdle) /  
**Kathleen McLean** (Cathy & Ed Hawk)

### **Wed. April 28**

*(private)*

**Bernadette McGinley** (Noreen Schafer) / **All Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased**

### **Thurs. April 29**

8:00 am (SJC)

**Stanley Zwolenik** (Delray & John McArdle) / **John Brosious** (Patricia Heaney)

### **Fri. April 30**

*(private)*

**Dennis Gallagher** (Victor & Eileen Newton) /  
**Margaret Kucan** (Martin & Martha Rupert)

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### **Sat. May 1**

9:00 am (SJC) *Rosary for Life*

4:30 pm (ICC) **Joan Wildoner** (Charlie) / **James J. Zurn** (Clete & Irene Milan)

### **Sun. May 2**

9:00 am (SJC) **Daniel Plesniarski** (Wife) / **C. Kay Bimler** (Mike & Loretta Kuzo)



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDERS HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE.**

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE burns In Loving Memory of *Tracy McElmoyle* (Requested by, Mom & Dad)

FLOWERS ON THE MAIN ALTAR are in Loving Memory of *Anna Love* (Requested by, Roush Family)

### ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In Loving Memory of *Kenneth Hoppes*, (Requested by wife, Wilma)

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP:** 4/4/21: \$ 4,276.00;  
Easter Sunday *(to date)*: \$6,898.00  
*Thank you for your continued support & generosity.*

**ST. JOSEPH ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY @ 6<sup>th</sup>**  
& North St. will be open Wed., May 5 & 19 & Sat,  
May 1 & 15. The Food Pantry will be closed  
Memorial Day weekend, Sat, May 29.





### A MOTHER'S DAY ENVELOPE

is included in your mailed packet. There is a space on the back of the envelope to write in the name of a loved one (living or deceased). These envelopes will be placed on the altar for the month of May and will be remembered at all the Masses.

### LOOKING FOR A FEW EXTRA HANDS AT ST. JOSEPH:

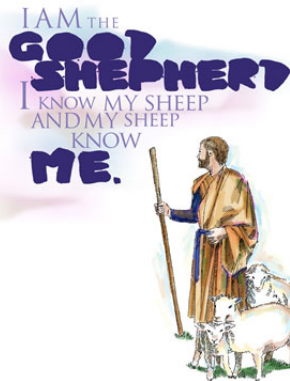
Anyone who loves gardening and would like to be involved around the church, please call the rectory office, 570-325-3731. Please leave your name and telephone number. We are looking for volunteers to plant the flower pots around church & when needed, assist with the flowers inside church.



**WE ARE GRATEFUL!!** We recently received a check from Redner's Market for the register tape program in the amount of \$199.74. Thank you to everyone who continues to save and send in their register receipts for this fundraiser!!

**RESPONDING TO THE CALL:** Do we truly know the voice of Christ? Do we truly respond to the voice of our shepherd with our own distinctive voice? How often we attempt to imitate those around us, appropriating the response of another member of the flock to Christ. Perhaps we need to balance the image of being sheep of one flock with the image from the second reading, which tells us that we are all children of God. What child has precisely the same interaction with parents as his or her siblings? Instead, they frequently do and say things to distinguish themselves in the eyes of their parents.

Whether we use the image of children or of sheep to understand our relationship with Christ, we believe that we are all known and called by name. With this great gift comes a responsibility: to respond to the call with our own distinctive voice, to take time to discern exactly what our call is, to determine precisely what the will of the Father is for each of us. © J. S. Paluch Co.



**LOST KEYS:** If anyone lost a lanyard with a car key and second key on it, can be claimed in the rectory office @ St. Joseph Church. The keys were found on the sidewalk of North Street.

### || DIOCESAN COVID-19 GUIDELINE UPDATE: ||

The Diocese has updated the guidelines we follow for providing a safe worship space during the pandemic, which follow CDC recommendations. The seating capacity and the social distance guidelines of every other pew have **not** changed. Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> we will return the hymnals to the pews, and next week our Mass schedule will change to add more in-person Masses during the week. Public Masses will be held at 8am on Mondays and Fridays at Immaculate Conception Church and on Tuesday and Thursday at St. Joseph Church. The Mass on Wednesday will be said privately. Confessions will be heard following both 8am Masses at St. Joseph Church, and on Wed. evening at 6:30pm at Immaculate Conception. Confession is also available upon request by calling the ICC Rectory to make an appointment.

**THANK YOU** for your continued cooperation with social distance, wearing a mask over nose & mouth, and for observing church distance & capacity guidelines.

Those uncomfortable with larger crowds may consider attending a daily Mass, even once a week.



### || *Because we are Catholic* || **THE DIOCESE KICKED-OFF THE 2021 BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC** ||

**ANNUAL APPEAL** (BWAC) last week. We are so grateful for your continued generosity to this important diocesan fundraising initiative. The Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal funds the annual budget that offers vital services like Catholic Charities, care for our retired and infirmed priests, education of Seminarians and Deacons, Catholic schools and support for our centers for special learning. Together we will make a difference in the lives of many people. Making a six-month pledge to the Appeal allows you to maximize the amount that you may give by making monthly payments. For example, a \$120 gift to the Appeal may be setup with six \$20 installments. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how small. To make your gift, please return the pledge form that you will receive in the mail, visit [www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org](http://www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org), or call the Appeal Office at 800-831-4443.

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE EVENTS**

- 4/27: Catholic Daughters, 6pm- Brogan Room
- 4/30: Flame of Love, 1pm- Brogan Room