



Saturday April 21
5:30 pm Michael Wallin and Victoria and Charles Merckling

Sunday April 22 *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
7:30 am Blanca Taylor, Roy Cardona and Intention of John Walentowicz
9:30 am Mary Ann Valente, Sergio and Noemi Wong and Our Parishioners
11:30 am Diane Gironda, Kevin Cunniff, and John Nardone

Monday April 23
6:45 am Domenica and Frank Lori

Tuesday April 24
6:45 am Victoria and Charles Merckling and Colleen McLaughlin Butchko

Wednesday April 25 *St Mark, Evangelist*
6:45 am Joseph Selvaratnam and Melissa Beiermeister

Thursday April 26
6:45 am Rosemarie Totaro

Friday April 27
6:45 am Claire Pfeiffer and Carlo Ciampi

Saturday April 28
8:00 am Intention of John Walentowicz
5:30 pm Anita Shaw and Philip Clark

Sunday April 29 *Fifth Sunday of Easter*
7:30 am Margriet Carrico, our Parishioners, and Intention of John Walentowicz
9:30 am Pershottam Mathur, John Gibbons and Edward Cassinis
11:30 am Diane Gironda, Kevin Cunniff, James Hart, Jr; and Philip Clark

April 28/29 CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

5:30 pm Fr. Jared Brogan
7:30 am Fr. Jim Termyna
9:30 am Fr. Edward Seton Fittin, OSB
11:30 am Fr. Jared Brogan

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill, especially Arline and Francis Forte, Sr. Bernadette Weller, Karen Lang, Mary Ann Armstrong, Michele Buck, Christa Fairclough, Pat Flannery, Pat and John Pongracz, Gus Mitchell, Jennie Iwasiuk, Ann Gerhardt, Sr. Joan Phillips, Gerald Esposito, Gavin King, Pat Oliver, and Rob Leavy.

STEWARDSHIP

April 15, 2018 collection
Envelopes/Cash \$ 9,501
ParishPay 3,802
Total \$ 13,303
MASS ATTENDANCE 751
Weekly operating expense \$ 12,885

Scripture Readings

April 29, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Paul the Apostle came to Jerusalem, where the other disciples were afraid of him. Then they learned that the Lord had spoken to Paul and he had preached openly in Damascus. When they learned that someone wanted to kill him, they protected him because they fully believed he had converted.

Second Reading: I John 3:18-24

John clearly states that we must love one another. All people who believe in Jesus Christ can show their faith only through their actions. If people believe in Jesus and love one another as he commanded us, they prove that they are true believers in Christ.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Jesus compares himself to a vine, and compares his father to the vine-grower. He explains how God prunes the barren branches so that the rest might yield more fruit. He reminds them that apart from himself, his followers could not bear fruit.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Monday, April 23
Scripture Study 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Tuesday, April 24
Moms and Tots 9:30 – 11:00 am
Thursday, April 26
Choir Practice 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Mother's Day Mass cards

are available in the vestibule. Please return your intention and offering by Friday, May 11.

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Last year, St. Catherine's was given a goal of **\$59,950**. This has been the same goal we have been given for the past three years. We pledged **\$98,632** to this Appeal. That is incredible! To date, the Diocese has received **\$84,278** from us. This is a record for our parish. I am incredibly grateful to your generosity to the Diocese for this important cause. I am continually grateful for your generosity to the parish each week. Our weekly collections have been increasing. The parish, like the Diocese, has many expenses as is reported to you each autumn. Our weekly collections do not quite cover our weekly expenses, but we are close. We continue to close that gap. I appreciate your assistance with that. At the end of the year, we are safely "in the black" due to Christmas, Easter, and other sources of income. Your kind support makes all of this possible both for the parish and the Diocese. Since we have gone over our goal for the Appeal, to date we will receive **\$24,328** as a rebate. These monies are being earmarked for special projects. One particular special project will be announced in the near future. Thank you again for your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure that enable us to do the work of Christ.



From the Desk of Fr. Jared

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This Sunday is commonly referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday" because of the shepherd imagery which is found in the Gospel on this Sunday each year. This year we read from John 10: 11-18. The image of the Good Shepherd is one of the more popular images of Jesus and is personally my favorite. My childhood and family parish for over seventy-five years is called Good Shepherd. I always found and continue to find great comfort in this image

On this Sunday the Church invites us to pray that the Good Shepherd will send others to pastor and watch over his flock. And so today is a day of prayer for vocations: vocations to the priesthood and vocations to religious life. On this day, the Church invites us to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will call young men and women to dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel as priests and religious. Each week we pray for vocations. The Church would not exist without vocations to the priesthood, religious life, marriage, and single life. All four of these specific vocations allow the Church to flourish. In each vocation, men and women are invited to seek holiness; whether as a priest, religious, married person, or single person. Each vocation is good. Each vocation is rewarding. Each vocation is challenging. The Church needs them all because each carries out unique roles that the others cannot. What are the unique roles that we are called to in our vocation?

On May 28, I will be a priest for seven years. While there have been moments of trial and doubt as there are in every life, I have never regretted my decision to serve the Church as a priest. One of the greatest privileges of being a priest is the opportunity to share in the most important moments of people's lives. I have accompanied people in their sorrows as well as their joys, their failures as well as their successes. The vocation crisis that we often hear about affects each vocation: Priesthood, religious life, marriage, and single life. Less priests are ordained today than in the past, although there has been an upswing recently. In my generation we refer to that as the St. John Paul II and Benedict XVI effect. Many of us and our vocations were influenced by these holy men. Religious communities of men and women are shrinking, although some are growing. Marriage is experiencing a crisis for sure. Close to fifty percent of marriages end. The things and lifestyles that people initially think would help a relationship (cohabitation to name one) is in reality hurting marriage. What is seen as the norm to our young people, is hurting marriage and is preventing them from entering into marriage. Living a holy single

life is a challenge because of all the temptation that is out there pulling us away from committed holiness. Such temptation is a challenge to every vocation. The main challenge to each vocation is commitment. We are commitment limited. We want to do what we want, and if we do not get it, we move on. Commitment does not fit into that schema. It affects each of us. As people of faith we have to encourage and pray for this commitment.

Do you know a young man who might be a good priest? If so, invite him to consider exploring the possibility of becoming a priest. Do you know a young woman who wants to dedicate herself entirely to God? If so, invite her to consider exploring the possibility of entering religious life. Do you know a young couple who can sanctify each other and world through the Sacrament of Marriage? Encourage them to do so in the Church. It is not that young people are uninterested in dedicating their lives to God. I have met many who are. But they have never been invited to consider the possibility of doing so. But what if you reached out to them and suggested the possibility?

Regarding priesthood and religious life...if you are a young person, ask yourself what you want to do with the precious gift of life that God has given you. How do you want to live the rest of your life? What is really and truly important to you? Do you have a deep love for Christ and the Church? Do you have a passion to proclaim the good news of the gospel to others? Are you interested in a life of serving others for the sake of the gospel? If so, being a priest or a religious sister may be your vocation. We all want new, young, smart, energetic, well-spoken priests and religious. They do not fall from the sky! They fall from your families. It is not everyone else's responsibility. It is OUR responsibility.

On the Good Shepherd Sunday, let us continue to pray for an increase in and encouragement of all vocations.

Peace,
Fr. Jared

ST. CATHERINE'S TRIPS TO YANKEE STADIUM

This year we will be having two trips to Yankee Stadium. **On Tuesday, May 29** we have tickets to the New York Yankees v. Houston Astros, the reigning World Series Champions. **On Sunday, July 22** will be attending the New York Yankees v. New York Mets Subway Series. Both games are in the evening. Tickets are \$85 per game and includes bus and **field level seats**. For tickets and more information, please contact Whitney DuBose at 973-586-2777 or queendubose@aol.com.



NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Upcoming Dates:

April 23 – 26 – Last week of Religious Ed classes
May 5 – First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion Practice:

9:30 First Communion – Practice Tuesday, May 1 and Wednesday, May 2 from 4:00pm – 5:00pm

12:30 First Communion – Practice Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4 from 4:00pm – 5:00pm.



Once again, we invite all of our parishioners to pray for our students who will celebrate their First Holy Communion on May 5. After each Mass this weekend prayer cards will be available with the name of a child. Please pray for them and their families at this special time.

Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School Camp

Shipwrecked VBS camp where kids learn that Jesus rescues!

June 25– June 29 9:00am-12:00pm

Registration can be found on our website or picked-up in the Religious Education office.

To volunteer contact Lisa at (973) 334-5257 or DRE@stcatherine-ml.org



Come meet Moe the sloth. It's no secret that sloths are pretty pokey when they move around in trees...and even slower on land. But you probably didn't know that sloths are super swimmers! Yep! They move three time faster in water than they do on land. Now you're in the know! Come to VBS to know more interesting facts.

DONATIONS NEEDED TO HELP US AT SHIPWRECKED VBS:

Brown bags -any size, carpet tubes, green card stock and green construction paper, grass skirts, old luggage, old chest, old towels, sea glass, beach balls, gold coins and costume jewelry, vanilla wafer cookies, graham crackers, multi-color goldfish, Ziploc snack bags, Ziploc gallon size bags, Skittles, fun colored straws, pretzel sticks, Fruit by the Foot (fruit roll-up).

ALL ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISHIONERS are invited to

THE SECOND ANNUAL ABBOT'S TABLE DINNER Wed, May 16, 6-9 pm at the Hanover Marriott

to benefit the monks of St. Mary's Abbey at Delbarton, the home of our weekend priest, Fr. Edward Seton Fittin.

Please come out and support Fr. Edward.

Tickets and tribute journal ad opportunities available at saintmarysabbey.org/abbots-table

WOMEN OF THE PARISH: SAVE THE DATES!

Our women's ANNUAL DINNER will be held **Tuesday, May 15** at St. Francis. Details to follow.

Our weather-cancelled WOMEN'S RETREAT has been rescheduled for **August 3-5** at St. Mary's Abbey at Delbarton. Retreat master will be Fr. James Platania, a priest of the Diocese of Paterson and Professor of Biblical Studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University.

CYO BASKETBALL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The parish is extremely grateful to Mark Langlois who has served as the CYO Athletic Director (AD) for the past five years and has been involved in the program for even more years. Mark has decided that it is time to step down from this position. Therefore, we are looking for a replacement. Mark has graciously offered to assist the new AD in the transition. Any man or woman, college age or older, is invited to consider this volunteer position. Responsibilities of the AD include coordinating with coaches, the Parish office, CYO staff, and organizing registration. Currently we have seven teams from the 4th to 8th grades. Interested individuals should contact Mark Langlois at aspe26@optonline.net.

DAME MARIE, HAITI SPONSORSHIP

Last year our sponsorship program for St. Catherine School in Dame Marie, Haiti was a huge success. Your support is the reason behind the wonderful progress and growth of the school. If you would like to participate this year, the cost to sponsor a child for a year is \$300. Checks should be made payable to *St. Catherine of Siena* and put in an envelope marked "*Haiti Sponsorship*" and dropped in any weekend collection basket. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

FLOCKNOTE: An Efficient Way To Communicate

As part of opening up the lines of communication in the parish, you are invited to subscribe to a service called *FLOCKNOTE*...like sending "notes" to the "flock." It is totally free for you to use and it is going to make it easy for you to stay plugged in to the activities of the parish via text message. It is something that people of all ages can use as long as you have a cell phone with texting abilities. Please know that your information is completely safe and secure.

FLOCKNOTE is very simple. Text the letters **SienaML** to the 5-digit phone number **84576**. Make sure your autocorrect on your phone does not mistakenly change the text. Once you send that in, *FLOCKNOTE* will send you back a confirmation message and a verification code with a link to enter the code. That's it! You can also subscribe online by visiting flocknote.com/SienaML. Follow the instructions to register.

Thank you for participating.