



Coffee and Donuts

Sunday, April 26th

After the 10:00 am and 11:30 Masses

This Sunday is the 4th Sunday of the month, so you know what that means: it's **Coffee and Donuts** time! Join us after Mass in St. Joseph's Hall for some sweet and savory treats, coffee and conversation. Hope you can make it. And be sure to let Mrs. McDonald know if your child would like to help at our 10:00 Family Mass.



Only 2 CCD Classes Left!

Monday

April 27th - Lesson 19

May 4th - Lesson 20

Tuesday

April 28th - Lesson 19

May 5th - Lesson 20



Essential Question

Lesson 19: What Helps Us to Pray?

Lesson 19 asks the Essential Question: *What helps us to pray?* This lesson aims to help students know that all members of the Body of Christ, both living and dead, are united in prayer at Mass. When we pray during the Church's liturgy, we pray with the Church. We make the Church's prayer a part of ourselves. Liturgy is the prayer of the Church, and it is always prayed in communion with the Blessed Trinity. For most of us, the first place we meet Jesus is in our

families. Our homes are meant to be communities of prayer—where we learn Christian virtues and how to love one another—and communities of grace, where God is present. We pray together at home in many ways. The lesson communicates that as people of faith, we can know with certainty that God is always there when we pray, no matter what.



Gospel Reflection Sticker

Each week, all of our in-person CCD students receive a sticker with an image relating to our Sunday Gospel reflection when they first enter the church. This week's sticker featured the image of a bottlenose dolphin. **Each week, a great dinnertime follow-up question after CCD is: "Why did Mrs. Noll give you a sticker with X on it?"** Bottlenose dolphins are among the animals most able to identify others of their kind. They identify one another by "signature whistles" and can recognize another bottlenose dolphin that they've met 20 years before! Sunday's Gospel was about Jesus encountering friends after his Resurrection who didn't recognize him until after he broke bread with them. How often do we go without recognizing Jesus' presence in our own lives?



Homeschooling Connection Week of April 26th

This week our homeschoolers will be focusing upon Lesson 27: Pentecost. **It is the final week for our homeschooling students.** This year, Pentecost is Sunday, May 24th.

8th grade homeschoolers are encouraged to attend in-person class on either April 27th or April 28th to meet OLS's Youth Minister, Chris Kaiser and learn more about the high school Youth Group and Confirmation preparation. Just let Mrs. McDonald or Jen Noll know if your child can attend.



Catholic Relief Services Lenten Collection

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Lenten collection for Catholic Relief Services. I am very happy to report that after two weeks of collecting our Rice Bowl boxes, **we have already raised \$363.62** to benefit those in need around the world and close to home.



Attention 8th Grade Families

April 27th and April 28th

Chris Kaiser, OLS' Youth Minister, will be coming in to speak to our 8th grade students about high school Youth Group on April 27th and April 28th. He will be running activities and answering questions about Youth Group and Confirmation. **Please make every effort for your child to attend that day** so that he or she has a better understanding of the next stop on their journey of faith.



Friendly Rehearsal First Eucharist Reminder

This year the members of our Sacramental Preparation Program will celebrate **First Eucharist on Saturday, May 2nd**. There are two Masses: 10:30 am and 2:30 pm. The rehearsal times for each Mass are as follows:

10:30 am Mass

Wednesday, April 29th Rehearsal

5:30 - 7:00 pm

2:30 Mass

Thursday, April 30th Rehearsal

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Please note, your child must attend the rehearsal corresponding to the specific Mass your child has signed up for. The practices will be held in the upper church. We will run through the entire Mass and students will have an opportunity to practice any readings they elect to have as well as the receipt of Holy Communion. Children should be accompanied to

the rehearsal by a parent or an adult who will also be present on the day of First Eucharist.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1577-1622)

Priest and Martyr

Patron of: Lawyers

Feast Day: April 24th

If a poor man needed some clothing, Fidelis would often give the man the clothes right off his back. Complete generosity to others characterized this saint's life.

Born in 1577, Mark Rey became a lawyer who constantly upheld the causes of the poor and oppressed people. Nicknamed "the poor man's lawyer," Rey soon grew disgusted with the corruption and injustice he saw among his colleagues. He left his law career to become a priest, joining his brother George as a member of the Capuchin Order. Fidelis was his religious name. His wealth was divided between needy seminarians and the poor.

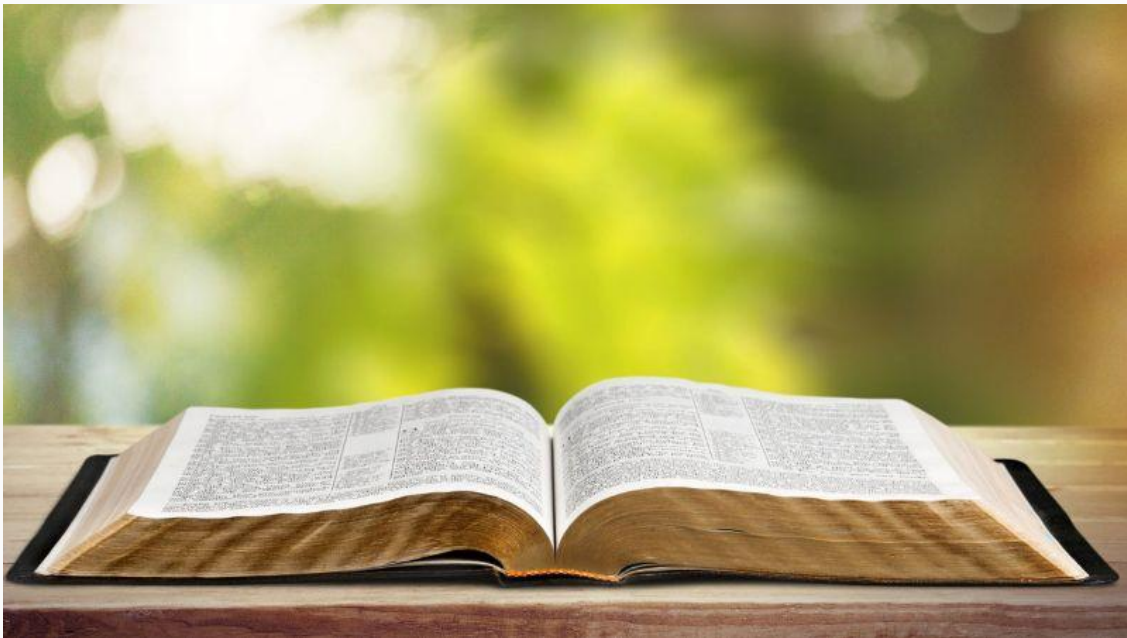
As a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi, Fidelis continued his devotion to the weak and needy. During a severe epidemic in a city where he was guardian of a friary, Fidelis cared for and cured many sick soldiers.

Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen was appointed head of a group of Capuchins sent to preach against the Calvinists and Zwinglians in Switzerland. Almost certain violence

threatened. Those who observed the mission felt that success was more attributable to the prayer of Fidelis during the night than to his sermons and instructions.

He was accused of opposing the peasants' national aspirations for independence from Austria. While he was preaching at Seewis, to which he had gone against the advice of his friends, a gun was fired at him, but he escaped unharmed. A Protestant offered to shelter Fidelis, but he declined, saying his life was in God's hands. On the road back, he was set upon by a group of armed men and killed.

Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen was canonized in 1746. Fifteen years later he was recognized as a martyr.



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass is then a bit like looking over the menu before you get to a restaurant: you have a better idea of what you can expect so that you can enter into the experience more fully prepared. And like a good discussion during a meal, discussing the readings and how they can be applied to your family's daily life helps your family to truly go out and proclaim the gospel after leaving the church.

**Here are a few resources to help your family delve deeper into the
Liturgy of the Word:**

[USCCB: Fourth Sunday of Easter](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

[MaryKnoll Brothers Reflection: *I am the Good...Wait. What?*](#)

[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)



Archdiocese of Newark

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 16, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ!

One of my greatest responsibilities is to ensure that the faithful of the Archdiocese are served by good and holy priests. However, promoting vocations to ordained ministry is never the work of one person alone. The whole Church shares the responsibility to pray for vocations and encourage young men whom God may be calling.

Because of that responsibility, our Archdiocese will launch a special campaign, *Called by Name*, on “Good Shepherd Sunday,” April 25-26, 2026. That weekend I ask you to identify young men who show faith, generosity, leadership, and who might be open to prayerfully consider the possibility of serving God and the Church as an ordained priest.

Called by Name continues our long-standing responsibility to cultivate vocations to ordained ministry. In this sense, it is part of our effort, alongside *We Are His Witnesses*, to reimagine mission and ministry to meet the needs of a changing world.


The young men you consider need not have expressed a desire for the priesthood. Rather, by nominating a young man, you are honoring his dedication to the faith, while “planting a seed” that may help him better understand God’s plan for him.

I intend to personally congratulate the young men who are nominated, and the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese will follow up with support, resources, and invitations to prayer and fellowship. In no way do we intend to pressure candidates towards the priesthood. Rather, we want to invite young men in the Archdiocese to prayerfully consider God’s plan for them. Your nomination may be the spark that helps a young man open his heart more fully to God’s call!

Next weekend, you will receive more detailed instructions on how to submit names during Mass. But if you are ready to make a nomination today, please visit newarkpriest.com and use the online submission form. For honorees under eighteen, please include their parents’ names as well.

This effort is dear to my heart. With your thoughtful participation, I am confident the Lord will raise up many new shepherds for his people. May this campaign bear lasting fruit for our Archdiocese and for the salvation of souls!

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,


Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Newark

Archdiocesan Center

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2-Minute Called by Name Video Featuring Fr. Patrick (& OLS)

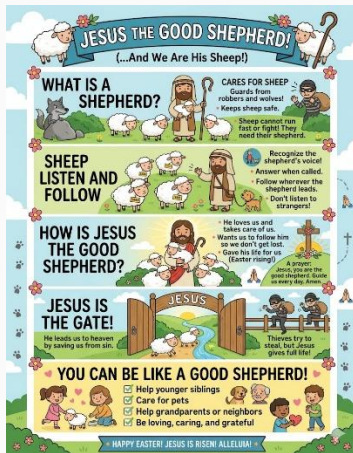


Mark 10 Mission - Little Liturgy Videos

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday. That's because we hear a Gospel reading from John, Chapter 10. That's the passage where Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd. People absolutely love the parable of the Good Shepherd because children, especially the youngest, respond so well to it. There's something about the quiet guiding love of the Shepherd, the one who knows our name and is always close, that really resonates with little ones (and all of us, really). Put simply, they easily understand the love of God through the person of the Good Shepherd.

[Jesus Calls You by Name \(For Children Aged 8+\)](#)

[Listen to the Good Shepherd \(For Children Under 8\)](#)



Good Shepherd Sunday for Kids

Good Shepherd Sunday is a beautiful reminder that Jesus cares for each of us personally—and that He gives us leaders, like our priests, to help guide us in faith.

It's also the Church's *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*, when we pray in a special way for people to listen to God's call—especially to become priests, deacons, and religious sisters and brothers.

How to Make It Meaningful (and Fun!) for Kids

To bring this to life for children, keep it simple, hands-on, and personal:

- **Start with the image:** Ask kids what a shepherd does. Then connect it to Jesus—He knows us, looks out for us, and never abandons us. You can even play a quick game where one child is the “shepherd” guiding “sheep” (blindfolded or eyes closed) using only their voice.
- **Connect to real life:** Explain that our parish priests are like shepherds too—they help teach us, celebrate Mass, and care for our parish family.
- **Say thank you:** Invite the kids to think about ways their priest has helped them and make a point of thanking him after Mass.
- **Pray together:** Offer a simple prayer like, “Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for our

priests. Help them guide us with love, and help more people say yes to serving you.”

- **Make a card:** Have the children create thank-you cards for our parish priests. Be sure to include a short message like, “Thank you for taking care of our parish!”

This approach helps kids see that *Good Shepherd Sunday* isn’t just a story—it’s about how Jesus cares for them right now, and how they can show love and gratitude in return.

April Catechist Magazine Calendar

Living Faith Kids Pause + Pray + Play with Scripture Every Day

KIDSCALENDAR

APRIL 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Word of the month: Passion Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross.						
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Q Where did Jesus say his disciples would see him? <small>(SEE APRIL 7)</small> ♦ Matthew 28:1-10 5	MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER 6	TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER A In Galilee 7	WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK 1	HOLY THURSDAY 2	GOOD FRIDAY 3	HOLY SATURDAY 4
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY Q What words did Thomas say to Jesus? <small>(SEE APRIL 16)</small> ♦ John 20:19-31 12	SAINT MARTIN L. POPE AND MARTYR 13	14	WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER 8	A "My Lord, and My God!" 16	17	18
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Q The two disciples were walking towards which village? <small>(SEE APRIL 24)</small> ♦ Luke 24:13-35 19	20	ST. ANSELM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 21	22	ST. GEORGE, MARTYR ST. ADALBERT, BISHOP AND MARTYR 23	A Emmaus 24	ST. MARK, EVANGELIST 25
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Q Who is the gate for the sheep? <small>(SEE APRIL 27)</small> ♦ John 10:1-10 26	A Jesus 27	ST. PETER CHANEL, PRIEST AND MARTYR ST. LOUIS GRIGNON DE MONFORT, PRIEST 28	ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH 29	ST. PIUS X, POPE 30		

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[Download the April 2026 Calendar Here](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: As of late 2024-2025, how many priests in active ministry (including religious orders and retired priests) are there in the Archdiocese of Newark?

- A) 381
- B) 519
- C) 706
- D) 1,037

Answer: A There are only 381 active priests in a diocese of 1.3 million Catholics. 66% (254) of those priests are over the age of 50.



Joke of the Week



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