



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
May 2—May 8
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, MAY 2

- 4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Marlene Morris; Barbara Rush;
Captain Houston E. Walker
5:30 p.m. Theresa M. Barry; Alice Cohen; Jennifer
Johnsrud; Leona O'Dwyer; Martha C.
Schiaffino Lynn Thornton

SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
9:30 a.m. Roberta W. Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; Paul
Deverges; Mr. & Mrs. Noel duQuesnay;
Stuart B. duQuesnay; Peter W. Grisaro;
Betty Golioas; Sandra Masson; Norma
McClellan; Miriam Miller; John H. Schroder,
Jr.; Jerome J. Triche, Sr.
11:00 a.m. Miriam Abate; Alice E. deMontlozin; Jean
Dominguez; Violet H. Joiner; Barbara Rush;
Captain Houston E. Walker

- 5:30 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer

MONDAY, MAY 4

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
12:00 p.m. Elliott Harold, Sr.; Leona O'Dwyer; Patrick
O'Reilly; Bryan Wolff

TUESDAY, MAY 5

- 11:30 a.m. George Markey; Barbara Rush
12:00 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer; Patrick O'Reilly; Elisabeth
Robert

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Stephen Losee; Patrick
O'Reilly

THURSDAY, MAY 7

- 11:30 a.m. Elton T. Mackie, Sr.; Barbara Rush
12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Elisabeth Robert

FRIDAY, MAY 8

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
12:00 p.m. Stephen Losee

GREGORIAN LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday after Easter

Solemn High Mass—First Sunday of the month.

Benediction—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
AND BENEDICTION—Sunday, 3:00pm—5:00pm**

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

After the Sunday morning Masses, the Claddaugh Group hosts coffee and pastries in the Monsignor Reynolds Hall, directly behind the rectory. Everyone is invited.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

To honor a loved one by donating flowers for the altar please call Jessie at 525-4413.

SUNDAY OFFERING—April 26, 2009

First Collection \$ 6,681

Second Collection* \$ 1,972

* Catholic Home Missions

DEACON DANIEL BROUILLETTE

St. Patrick's welcomes Reverend Deacon Daniel Brouillette who will deliver the homilies at the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses this Sunday, May 3, 2009. Deacon Brouillette will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of New Orleans at the St. Louis Cathedral on June 6, 2009.

ORDER OF ST. LOUIS IX MEDALLION

Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes will present the Order of St. Louis Medallion to Mr. Frank Cook of our parish in ceremonies this Sunday, May 3, 2009 at St. Louis Cathedral.

The Order of St. Louis was established more than thirty years ago to recognize individuals who have given unselfishly of their time and talent to the work of the Church.

We wish to congratulate Frank and thank him for his many years of dedicated and devoted service to St. Patrick's Church, the pastors and parishioners.

MAY CROWNING OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The May crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary will take place Sunday, May 10, 2009 at the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Everyone is invited to bring flowers from their garden to place near the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CHURCH ORGAN INSTALLATION

As installation of the new Patrick Murphy Co. organ progresses the church will only be open from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., during the week, for the usual Monday—Friday Masses at 11:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. There is no change in the Saturday or Sunday church schedule.

The installation requires that the main entrance doors be cordoned off during the entire procedure. Parishioners will have access to the church, for all Masses and services, through the side front doors.

ACOLYTES FOR ST. PATRICK'S

The Parish has a continuing need for men of any age willing to serve as acolytes at the 11.00 Sunday Mass. Instruction and training will be provided in evening workshops. Please contact Robert Ramirez for further details: (504) 899-3048; email: bramirez@bellsouth.net

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

To schedule a baptism at St. Patrick's Church, please contact the rectory office at least six (6) weeks in advance of the desired date of baptism. Telephone: (504) 525-4413.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH LIMITED EDITION SILKSCREEN

The limited edition silkscreen from an original pastel by Marion Beauregard Bezou—1956 honoring the 175th anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick's Church, numbered and signed (with a tube for gift wrapping/ mailing) is available for a minimum donation of \$175 each. To order call the rectory at 525-4413.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Tom Alexander; Del Barry; Patricia Berrigan; Brett Bradley; Barbara Brennan; Tony Clesi; Rene Crane; Carol Daigle; Tom Darcy; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Elizabeth DeBuys; Al Duroncelet; Katherine Eagan; Melvin Ferlita, Sr.; Mimi Finley; John Fulcher; Joan Kimball; Joseph; Stephen Losee; Michael McCarthy; Mary A. McKay; Buddy McInnis; Sally Ann Main; Lucille Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Karen Paprocki; J. Van Provosty; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; Joseph M. Sonne; Stephanie Summers; Alyssa Vingan

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

JESUS, THE BEAUTIFUL AND NOBLE SHEPHERD

In the Bible and in the ancient Near East, "shepherd" was a political title that stressed the obligation of kings to provide for their subjects. The title connoted total concern for and dedication to others. Tending flocks and herds is an important part of the Palestinian economy in biblical times. In the Old Testament, God is called the Shepherd of Israel who goes before the flock (Psalm 68:7), guides it (Psalm 23:3), leads it to food and water (Psalm 23:2), protects it (Psalm 23:4), and carries its young (Isaiah 40:11). Embedded in the living piety of believers, the metaphor brings out the fact that God shelters the entire people.

In Psalm 23, the author speaks of the Lord as his shepherd. The image of shepherd as host is also found in this beloved psalm. Shepherd and host are both images set against the background of the desert, where the protector of the sheep is also the protector of the desert traveler, offering hospitality and safety from enemies. The rod is a defensive weapon against wild animals, while the staff is a supportive instrument; they symbolize concern and loyalty.

...On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday, we encounter the Good Shepherd who is really the beautiful or noble shepherd [in the Greek text] who knows his flock intimately. Jesus knew shepherds and had much sympathy for their lot and he relied on one of his favorite metaphors to assure us that we can place our confidence in him. For those who heard Jesus claim this title for himself, it meant more than tenderness and compassion; there was the dramatic and startling degree of love so great that the shepherd is willing to lay down his life for his flock.

Unlike the hired hand, who works for pay, the good shepherd's life is devoted to the sheep out of pure love. The sheep are far more than a responsibility to the good shepherd—who is also their owner. They are the object of the shepherd's love and concern. Thus, the shepherd's devotion to them is completely unselfish; the good shepherd is willing to die for the sheep rather than abandon them. To the hired hand, the sheep are merely a commodity, to be watched over only so they can provide wool and mutton.

The beauty of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, lies in the love with which he offers his life even unto death for each and every one of his sheep. In so doing, he establishes with each one a direct and personal relationship of intense love. Jesus' beauty and nobility are revealed in his letting himself be loved by us. In Jesus we discover the Father and his Son who are shepherds who care for us, know us and even love us in our stubbornness, deafness and diffidence.

...This year the Fourth Sunday of Easter is also the 46th World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The readings are very fitting for as we beg the Lord of the harvest and of the Church to send more laborers into his vast vineyards. As a model of religious leadership, Jesus shows us that love can be the only motivation for ministry, especially for pastoral ministry. He also shows us that there must be no exclusiveness on the part of the religious leader. If there are sheep outside the fold (even sheep excluded by the fold itself), the good shepherd must go fetch them. And they must be brought in, so that there will be one flock under one shepherd. The motivation for inclusion is love, not social justice, not ethical fairness, not mere tolerance, and certainly not political correctness or impressive statistics. Only love can draw the circle that includes everyone.

...One final thought on shepherding. Anthropologists tell us that between the hunting and the farming stages of cultural development shepherds stood as people who existed in both worlds and tied them together. For that reason, shepherds appear in ancient myths and sagas as a symbol for the divine unity of opposites. What the ancient pagans hinted at, Christian faith has brought into a crisp reality with Jesus Christ as the great reconciler. He is the Good Shepherd, who has come into the center of every great conflict in order to establish beauty, unity and peace.

May it be ever so for each person who strives to be a good shepherd today, in the Church and in the world. As we enter those places of conflict and tribulation in our own times, may the Lord use us as his instruments to establish beauty, nobility, unity and peace.

Father Thomas Rosica, CSB

Father Rosica, chief executive officer of the Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation and Television Network in Canada, is a consultant to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications

CARDINAL RIVERA URGES PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TO HALT SWINE FLU

The Archbishop of Mexico City, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, is encouraging the faithful to pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for an end to the swine flu epidemic that has taken the lives of more than 100 people in his country.



Holy Mary of Guadalupe: You love us with special tenderness, You watch over us with maternal intercession And you always grant us your efficacious help. We implore your protection and aid to quickly overcome this epidemic That has affected our nation/world. Shelter us under your mantle, Deliver us from this illness. Intercede for all leaders and those who must make decisions, That they may have the wisdom to establish measures and priorities For prevention, and the assistance of the entire nation/world, And especially for those who are most vulnerable. Grant us prudence and serenity in order to act responsibly And thus avoid being infected or infecting others. Come to the aid of health care workers. Watch over the recovery of the infirm and give comfort to those who are in mourning. Mother of the True God for whom we live, You who have rescued us from other plagues, Commend us to the mercy of the One who healed us by his wounds and freed us from death by his Resurrection. Teach us to unite our suffering to his in order to find its redemptive meaning and to come out of this adversity strengthened in faith, hope and love.

Amen