



**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 25, 2021**

The good shepherd

**“A good shepherd lays down
his life for the sheep.”**

— John 10

**2540 San Diego Avenue, San Diego, CA 92110
(619) 295-4141**

www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org — parish@immaculate-conception-sandiego.org

Mass Intentions

April 24 - Fourth Sunday of Easter - Vigil
†Ernest B. Sanchez

April 25 - Fourth Sunday of Easter
8:30 - †Gloria Flynn
10:00 - †William & Lucille Brown
11:30 - Mariela Whitman, SI

April 26 - Easter Weekday
Wallover Family, SI

April 27 - Easter Weekday
†LaMay Hames

April 28 - Easter Weekday
†Ursula Schneider

April 29 - St. Catherine of Siena
Tess Navidad, SI

April 30 - Easter Weekday

May 1 - Easter Weekday

If you wish to request a Mass intention for family member or friend, contact the parish office.

Daily Readings

Monday: Acts 11:1-18, Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26, Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a, Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25, Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33, Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52, Jn 14:7-14

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24, Jn 15:1-8

Pray for Our Sick

Joane Anderson, Susan Besecker, Cosmo & Joan Busalacchi, Dominic Castagnola, Reginald Custodio, Joanne Daleo, Michael Denny, Adela Diaz, Adele Dunne, Arline Fisch, Julie Fish, Ardell Haskins, Ditas Ibarra, Shirley Ilog, Donna Cruz Jones, Ricardo Hernandez, Olivia Ingram, Liam McNichol, Ardith Moore, Grace Mulvanity, Stephanie Ng, Ann Orwig, Peter Salmon, Anyssa Sanchez, Tom Sapien, Crystal Spera, Rita Tarango, Linda Thompson, Marie Whitman, Barbara Wingler.

Mass Schedule

Weekdays: Monday thru Saturday, 8:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM*, 10:00 AM (outdoors), 11:30 AM

*live-streamed & open to attendees

Holy Day Masses: To be announced.

Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:30 to 5:00 p.m., or after weekday morning Mass and by appointment.

Baptisms: By appointment only. Please contact Deacon Robert Fitzmorris to make arrangements.

Weddings: By appointment only. Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance. Please contact the parish office.

Funerals: For arrangements, please call the parish.
Parish Office: 619-295-4141

RECONCILIATION

Now that we have returned to our regular Mass schedule, confessions may be heard on Saturdays between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. in the church. One can also ask the priest for confession after the weekday morning Mass.

Deacon Robert Fitzmorris, Parish Administrator
rfitzmorris@sandiegodeacon.com
619-997-9063

Fr. Garrett Galvin, OFM, Liaison to the Parish
Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM, in residence
Fr. Vincent Mesi, OFM
Parish email:
parish@immaculate-conception-sandiego.org

**2021
Diocese of San Diego
Office for Liturgy & Spirituality Workshops
for Liturgical Ministers**

- * Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
 - * Ministers of the Word
 - * Sacristan Training

Where?

Online via Zoom or Diocesan Pastoral Center
3888 Paducah Drive
San Diego, CA 92117

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
Communion**

Part 1: Monday, May 3 7:00-9:00 pm Zoom
Workshop

Part 2: Tuesday, May 4 7:00-9:00 pm Zoom
Workshop

Ministers of the Word

Part 1: Saturday, May 8 9-11 am and 1-3 pm
Zoom Workshops

Part 2: Thursday, May 13 6:30-8:00 pm
practicum*

Sacristan Training

Part 1: Wednesday, May 12 7-8:30 pm, Zoom
workshop Part 2: Thursday, May 13
7-8:30 pm, Zoom workshop

*At the Diocese of San Diego if health guidelines
allow; Covid-19 precautions apply.

REGISTRATION

www.sdcatholic.org/workshops to register
online (registration is FREE)

**If you are a registered parishioner at
Immaculate Conception and you complete one
or more of training sessions, contact the
parish office so that we can add you to our
monthly schedule.**

**Current ministers are encouraged to
participate in the workshops to be updated on
changes.**



**2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
PARISH GOAL: \$10,000.00
Pledges Paid: \$8,810.00
as of March 15**

Your contribution, no matter how small, helps our
diocese support Catholic schools, faith formation
programs, Catholic Charities, and priestly formation.

Please make your check payable to **Diocese of San
Diego**. If you plan on using a credit card for your
donation, please visit giving.sdcatholic.org.

You may drop off your donation form and check/cash
in the collection box after Mass or visit the parish
office (Monday thru Friday).

COURTYARD BRICKS

Customized Brick and Bench tops are available by order
at the Parish Office or on the parish website. Proceeds
from this fundraiser benefit the Immaculate Conception
Building Maintenance Fund.

Volunteer Opportunity

Jewish Family Services (JFS) is the lead NGO
supporting the efforts to support the migrants
while they are in San Diego. Currently JFS has
volunteer staffing needs to support the following
(4 hour shifts all days of the week):

- 10AM-2PM to help pack and deliver lunch
- 3PM-7PM to pack and deliver dinner
- 4AM-12PM To work as airport guide support
- 6PM-10PM To work as airport guide support

These opportunities have been posted on the
Hands-on San Diego website and can found
here: [HandsOn San Diego](http://HandsOnSanDiego.org) | Volunteer
Opportunities Supporting Migrant Children and
Families at the Border.

April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

This annual observance is dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. One in four children have experienced abuse or neglect at some point in their lives. Children who experience abuse or neglect can suffer from physical, psychological, and behavioral issues. A National Institute of Justice study found that abused or neglected children are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit a violent crime. Individuals and parishes are encouraged to rededicate themselves to being supportive of families, play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect, and to promote child and family well-being. Please keep all victim/survivors of abuse in your prayers this month, especially those harmed within the church and those abused as children.



Serra Gifts...

STORE HOURS

Friday 1:30-4:30 pm
 Saturday 11 am - 5:00 pm
 Sunday 11 am - 5:00 pm

AVAILABLE NOW:

Religious Medals
 Prayer Cards
 DVD's & CD's
 Rosaries

LIVE STREAM MASS

The Church of the Immaculate Conception is providing live stream and recordings of the live streams in two ways.



1) On the [Franciscan School of Theology on the You Tube Channel called FST EDU1](#). During this Covid-19 Shelter in Place period please visit the You Tube Channel to see all opportunities for viewing.

2) On the parish website www.immaculate-conception-sandiego.org. Simply click on the photo (shown above).

The Diocesan Celebration – A Pentecost For All People

Bishop McElroy invites all faithful to come together for this special Pentecost celebration as we re-energize our mission to love and serve all of mankind in God's name.

Bishop McElroy with Auxiliary Bishops John Dolan and Ramón Bejarano and clergy will concelebrate this annual Mass with the diverse communities and cultures of the diocese, invoking the Holy Spirit to renew us by building unity, justice and mercy in the Body of Christ. Everyone is welcome to this extraordinary celebration of our universal Catholic family.

This event will be held at Good Shepherd Church on Saturday, May 22, beginning with a Call to Worship at 10 a.m. and Mass at 11. It will be an outdoor event – physical distancing and masks are required. The event will be live-streamed at www.sdatholic.org/pentecost2021.



Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to Immaculate Conception

Please pray for the repose of the soul of †Eddie Mendia, father of Bridgette-Mendia Johnson.

Please keep the Mendia and Johnson families in your prayers.

Pregnant & In Need?

Culture of Life Family Services helps uninsured and underserved women in the midst of unplanned pregnancies. To schedule a free ultrasound, call (760) 741-1224 or visit www.COLFS.org for more information on other medical services. We are also proud to offer holistic, Christ-centered primary health care to patients of all ages.

Abortion Pill Reversal: Regret taking the abortion pill? Call or text the APR Helpline at 1-877-558-0333.

Pope Francis to young people: God is thirsty for you

By Vatican News staff writer

Pope Francis has penned some words of introduction to a book written by Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, the Preacher of the Papal Household.

The new book titled "Francesco il guillare di Dio" (loosely translated as "Francis, God's jester") tells the story of Brother Pacificus, a storyteller, who was a follower of St. Francis of Assisi. The book is published by the Edizioni Francescane Italiane.

Addressed to young people

The Holy Father highlights that the book is written for young, searching people "as a gift" filled with the "esteem and trust" that he places in all young people.

Pope Francis notes that many, perhaps, have read and questioned Jesus' words in the Gospels: "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you. For whoever asks receives, and whoever seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Mt 7:7-8).

"These are powerful words, full of a great and demanding promise," the Pope affirms. "But, we might ask ourselves: are they to be taken seriously? If I ask the Lord, will He really listen to my request? If I seek him, will I find Him? If I knock, will He open the door to me? ...Doesn't experience sometimes seem to belie this promise? ...Can these words be trusted or not? ...Won't they, too, like so many others I hear around me, be a source of illusions and therefore of disappointment?"

These questions call to mind another passage of scripture which illuminate them in all their depth, the Pope said: "You will seek me and you will find me, for you will seek me with all your heart; I will let myself be found by you". (Jer 29:13-14).

Likewise, "God allows Himself be found, yes, but only by those who seek Him with all their heart," Pope Francis writes.

The Lord answers if we seek Him

Pope Francis goes on to illustrate examples of promises fulfilled when Jesus encountered people. He says that the Lord allowed Himself to be found by the insistence of the importunate widow, by Nicodemus' thirst for truth, by the faith of the centurion, by the cry of the widow of Nain, by the leper's desire for health and by Bartimaeus' longing for sight.

These people, the Pope notes, "are the ones for whom finding an answer had become an essential matter...any one of them could have rightfully uttered the words of Psalm 63: "My soul thirsts for you [Lord], my flesh longs for you, like a barren land without water".

In the same way, "the one who seeks finds if they seek with all their heart, if the Lord becomes as vital for them as water for the desert, as the earth for a seed, as the sun for a flower."

This also is respectful of our freedom, as faith is not given automatically, indifferent of our participation, but rather "it asks you to involve yourself in the first person and with your whole self. It is a gift that wants to be wanted. It is, in essence, Love that wants to be loved."

God is thirsty for us

"Perhaps you have been looking for the Lord and have not found Him. Allow me to ask you a question: How strong was your desire for Him?" The Pope inquires.

"Seek Him with all the impetus of your heart, pray, ask, invoke, cry out, and He, as He has promised, will be found," the Pope urges. Because "the Lord desires that you seek Him so that He can find you."

Recalling the words of St. Gregory of Nazianzus "Deus sitit sitiri", Pope Francis further explains that "God is thirsty for us to thirst for Him" so that by finding us willing, he might meet us.

Responding to God's call

"What if He knocks on your door today?" the Pope asks: "When the Lord calls us to Himself, He does not want compromise or hesitation on our part, but a radical response."

Illustrating the importance of responding to God's call, Pope Francis recounts the story of a renowned "King of verse" who met St. Francis one day in the monastery of Colpersito in San Severino Marche. In a similar manner as St. Paul, struck by light on his way to Damascus, this "king of verse" was struck by the holiness of St. Francis and immediately lost all his hesitation.

In that moment, "a new man was born," the Pope explains. "He was no longer William of Lisciano, the king of verse, but Brother Pacificus, a man inhabited by a new peace previously unknown. From that day, he became all for God, consecrated entirely to Him, one of Saint Francis' closest companions, a witness to the beauty of faith."

God has not stopped calling

Further inviting young people to read the book, Pope Francis reminds them that "God has not stopped calling," and he does not tire of coming to meet us "as the shepherd seeks the lost sheep, as the woman of the house seeks the lost coin, as the father seeks his children."

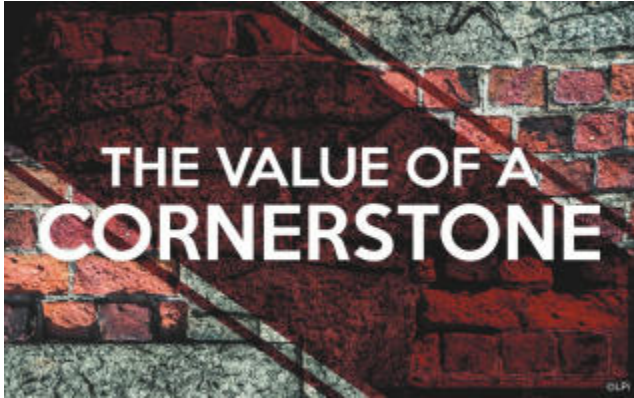
"If you only lower the volume on other things and raise the volume of your greatest desires, you will hear it loud and clear within you and around you," Pope Francis notes. God continues to call and patiently awaits from us the same response that Our Lady gave: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

"If you have the courage to leave your securities and open yourself to Him," Pope Francis concludes, "a new world will open up for you; and you, in turn, will become a light for others."

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter



Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.

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Confirmation Sponsor

Question: What are the requirements for being a confirmation sponsor?

Answer:

Although many dioceses have specific requirements for who can be a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Code of Canon Law identifies certain requirements that are true for all dioceses and parishes. First, the sponsor should be chosen by the one to be confirmed (or, in some cases, by the parents or even the pastor). Second, a sponsor must be at least sixteen years old (unless the local bishop has chosen another age, or a special exception has been made). Third, the sponsor must be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who has already received the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Beyond this, they must lead "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." Fourth, they can have no sort of canonical penalty or impediment. Finally, they cannot be either the father or mother of the one to be confirmed (See Canons 893, §1 and 874, §1).

In some cultures, it is customary for one of the confirmand's godparents to act as sponsor, although this is not required by Church law.

To learn about the requirements for your parish or diocese, you can consult your pastor or your parish or diocesan director of religious education or the diocese's office liturgy and worship.

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World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 25, 2021

The purpose of World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life.

We pray for young men and women; That God may give them the gift of understanding to discern their service in the Church, the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life; And for the gift of courage to follow His call.

2021 marks the **58th Anniversary** of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Saint of the Week



ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

1347–1380

Feast Day—April 29

Catherine was the 24th of 25 children of a Sienese dyer; her mystical experiences and raptures began at age 6. She refused to marry, and about 1367 joined the Third Order of St. Dominic. She attracted a like-minded group in Siena for prayer and good works and devoted her last five years to church unity and ending the

scandal of rival papacies. Though she experienced the pain of the stigmata, it became visible only after her death at 33. And, in an odd division of relics, her body is in a Roman church, while her head is in a Sienese church. Named a doctor of the church in 1970, Catherine is a patron saint of Europe and Italy, and the patron of fire prevention, nurses and nursing.

"Take as your example your heavenly patroness, St Catherine, a humble and fearless Dominican tertiary who gave herself unsparingly for the Church. For everyone may this great saint be not only a special protectress but a model to follow on the path of holiness." —St. John Paul II, October 10, 1999

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Image: Saint Catherine of Siena Receiving the Stigmata, Domenico Beccafumi, J Paul Getty Museum

"The Lord calls us to cooperate in the construction of history, becoming, together with Him, peacemakers and witnesses of hope in a future of salvation and resurrection."

Pope Francis
Twitter 04/09/21



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