

Forth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Date	Intentions	Requested by
4/25 11:00	Mary Long	Ellen Nolan
4/28 12:00	Teri Dolci	Beverley Neale
Latin		
4/29 12:00	Jack Lehtinen +	Bonny Dodge
4/30 9:00	Special Intention	
5/02 11:00	Bob & Keri Allen	



Our Lady of the Mountains—Offertory (Weekend of April 18, 2021)

Offertory—\$885.00 Attendance—57

Please consider making your offertory
donations on-line. Visit our website:
<https://olmhighlands.com/online-giving>
for more details.

Our Lady of the Mountains Guidelines and Precautions during the Covid-19 Pandemic

We are taking the following precautions to keep everyone safe at Mass.

1. The obligation to attend Mass is still lifted.
2. Sanitizing hands is encouraged upon entering and leaving. Hand sanitizer is available at the entrances.
3. The wearing of masks is highly encouraged. Masks are available at the entrances.
4. All physical contact between congregants is suspended such as hand-holding at the Our Father and the Sign of Peace.
5. The priest sanitizes his hand between households during the distribution of Holy Communion.
6. Distribution of the Precious Blood is suspended.

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.

Saint of the Week

You are rewarded not according to your work or time, but according to the measure of your love.

~St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

Patron of Miscarriages Feast Day May 1

Father's Column

The Life of Pope Benedict XVI

This past week, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once again made news by becoming history's oldest living Pope at the age of 94. Undoubtedly, this news will forever be overshadowed by the history-making decision he made in February of 2013, namely to resign the papacy. To put that decision in perspective, the last pope prior to Benedict to resign did so before the invention of the printing press when Pope Gregory XII did so in 1415 wishing to end the Great Western Schism.

Unlike Pope Francis, who was relatively unknown prior to his election, Benedict was a towering figure in the Church for decades. Born on Hoy Saturday in Bavaria in 1927 to devout parents, Josef Ratzinger entered seminary after World War II and was ordained a priest in 1951. His evident brilliance allowed him to pursue doctoral studies and eventually a university professorship. During Vatican II (1962-1965), he served as a theological expert and advisor to Cardinal Archbishop Frings of Cologne. This is also the period of his intellectual blossoming and increased notoriety throughout the Church.

Taking note of this rising star, Pope Paul VI advanced Ratzinger from university professor to the archbishopric of Munich and the college of cardinals in 1977. In 1981, Pope John Paul II further propelled the young cardinal to one of the highest offices in the Church: Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. For nearly a quarter century in that post, Ratzinger defended doctrinal orthodoxy against heretical attacks, headed the commission that developed the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and in general yielded a gentle yet powerful influence in the Church. Upon the passing of John Paul II, the Cardinals elected Ratzinger as the 265th successor of St. Peter.

While Ratzinger is still alive and writing, and his legacy is still developing, one can look back on his life for highlights. As a young brilliant theologian Ratzinger was considered a liberal. However, his

later critiques of conciliar changes taken too far earned him a new reputation as a conservative. One suspects his teaching on the liturgy will have the greatest long-term influence on the Church. His book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, has become a classic and strongly shaped the minds of priests across the globe.

Pope Francis's Monthly Intention for April

"We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis."

Retreat: The Heart of Mary. Spend a weekend deepening your understanding and devotion to the Blessed Mother. Find out why so many people today seek out Mary for peace, direction and hope, and how she might be able to give the same to you. From May 7-9, the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory NC is offering a weekend retreat – a perfect gift to share with your mother for Mother's Day. To dovetail with your particular Mother's Day plans, we have options for one night or two, plus some for commuter sessions and even a separate Mother's Day Sunday brunch. In addition to powerful talks, you'll be able to enjoy our beautiful setting in full springtime bloom and delicious full-course meals prepared by our own Executive Chef. Visit www.catholicconference.org/mary, email info@catholicconference.org, or call 828.327.7441 for more information.

Please pray for our parishioners and their relatives and friends:

Nancy McGowan, Carolyn Neupauer, Alsia Sutton & Family, Christine Walker, Laura Sanders, Mary Catherine Cann, Griffin Harper

Also for those in our book of prayer intentions, and those for whom there is no one to pray.

Please pray for all the men and women serving the United States in the military.

Please pray for the souls of our beloved deceased.

James Urbanski, Pat Pittari, Clara Lewicki, Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, Scott Peek, Sr., Stewart Austin, and Ron Simmons, Harry Vaughn