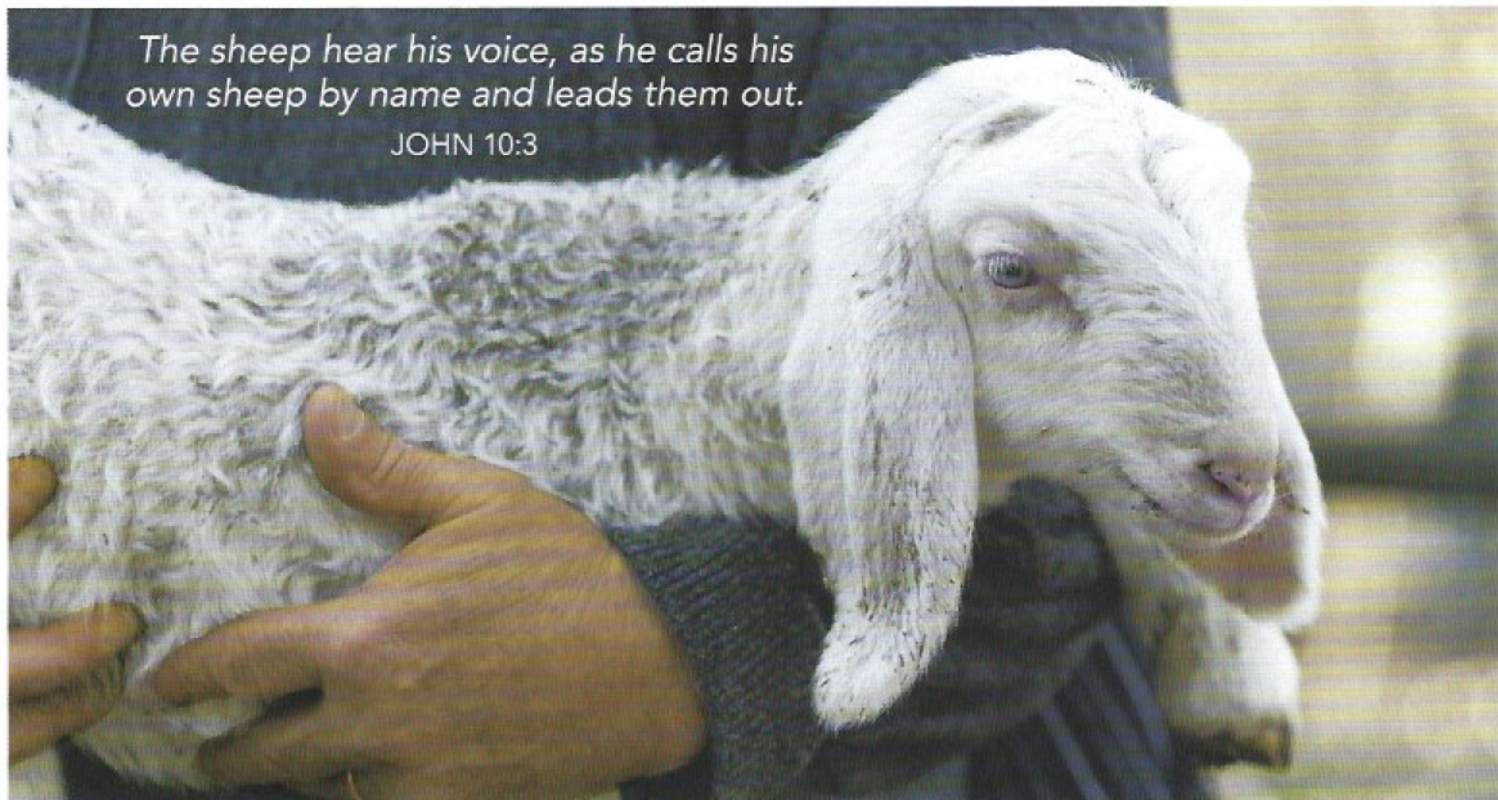




*The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

JOHN 10:3



SPETENFAS/SHUTTERSTOCK

## Matters of Life and Death

**S**heep are a lot smarter than some people think. They recognize the voice of their particular shepherd and follow that voice alone. However, that is not the point of Jesus' teaching today. Because most of us don't raise sheep or know much about them, we don't realize that the situation described in the Gospel passage is a matter of life and death.

It's similar to the relationship between a military squad leader and the troops he leads, another life-and-death matter. In both, unquestioning obedience is required, and absolute trust in the other is presumed.

That's what Jesus is describing. He's suggesting: "Listen to me. Follow my lead. Trust in me. I want only what is good for you, so I will be your sure protection."

It sounds so easy, as parables and metaphors usually do. What does it mean to follow this Shepherd? In the first reading, Peter announces the answer in one word: "Repent!" There is that challenging word—the word

we might associate with Lent, not with Easter. If we do so, we miss the point of following the Shepherd, for to follow him means to be like him. It means: "Repent! Stop taking advantage of other people. Open your minds and hearts to newcomers. Respect those who observe different religious traditions. Help those less fortunate than you." All of this is captured in the final words of the Gospel reading: do what you can so that all "might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Clearly, that's smart.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ On what path might the Shepherd be leading you?
- ★ In what area is he calling you to repent?

**Parish of the Visitation  
and St. Raymond  
St. Andrew's Church**

Fr. Garry Giroux, Pastor Office: 315-384-4242  
315-389-5401

Rev. Andrew J. Amyot, Pastor Emeritus at PVSR 315-384-2064  
Dcn. Lawrence Connelly, Retired 315-384-4879  
Dcn. John Levison at SA, PVSR 518-594-7610  
Dcn. Phil Regan at SA, PVSR 315-353-9917

**Masses:** Saturday: St. Andrew's~ 4:00pm  
Sunday: Church of the Visitation~ 10:30am  
**Confessions:** Saturday: St. Andrew's Church from 3:15pm to 3:45pm

***Private Mass Intentions offered by Fathers Giroux and Amyot this week***

**Saturday, May 2** – Sebastian "Popeye" Fiocco by John & Jai Fiocco  
**Sunday, May 3** – Sharon Gauthier by Blue Spruce Friends  
The People of the Parishes  
**Monday, May 4** – Ernest & Margaret Besaw by Nancy & Jim Besaw  
Sue Ann Cutler by The Cutler Family  
**Tuesday, May 5** – Joan McMann by Jim Peets  
Donalda LaShomb by Thomas Fiocco & Family  
**Wednesday, May 6** – Laura Lavigne by Irene K. Bidwell  
Deceased Members of the Grady Family by the Estate of Bessie Grady Delduchetto  
**Thursday, May 7** – Jane Crump by her Children  
Agatha Carson by SR ARS  
**Friday, May 8** – Richard Clark by SR ARS  
**Saturday, May 9** – Richard Boyle by Margaret Boyle  
**Sunday, May 10** – The People of the Parishes  
Pearl & William Molnar by Eric & Joanne Molnar

**SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS**

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/norfolknorwoodraymondville/>  
Website:  
<https://norfolknorwoodraymondville.org>  
Email:  
[visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com](mailto:visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com)

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary Lamp burned this week at The Church of the Visitation for Michael LaShomb by Mary Ellen LaShomb & Claudia Barber. You can memorialize the sanctuary candle for an offering of \$10.00. Please contact the parish office.

**GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING – TITHING**

*How much time have you spent this week in prayer for others and for the work of the Church?*

**Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond**

**April 25 - 26, 2020** – \$1,670.00  
Adult Env. \$1,330.00  
Maintenance \$175.00, Fuel \$80.00  
Catholic Relief Services \$50.00, Holy Land \$50.00

**St. Andrew's Church**

**April 25 - 26, 2020** - No Count Available  
(Will be included next week)

Counters are still needed weekly to do the tally each week. If you need to know who is scheduled please contact the office 315-384-4242



"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ... I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

**Office for the Parishes:** 3 Morris St., Norfolk, NY 13667, 315-384-4242  
All mail to Visitation Rectory, PO Box 637, Norfolk, NY 13667  
**Email:** [visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com](mailto:visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com) **Website:** [norfolknorwoodraymondville.org](http://norfolknorwoodraymondville.org)  
**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm, **Parish Secretary:** Terri Clemmo  
**Religious Education:** Director of Faith Formation - Carol O'Brien Gonthier



**St. Andrew's of Norwood St. Patrick's of Brasher Falls  
Parish of the Visitation-St. Raymond's of Norfolk**

May 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As I begin my 7<sup>th</sup> letter to you since our public Masses were suspended, I am profoundly aware of how each one of you must long to receive the Holy Eucharist and to enjoy the weekly gathering of our Faith family. Once our public Masses do resume, we will exercise great care in providing for the protection of the common good and to minimize the continued spread of the coronavirus. I know Bishop LaValley, in consultation with healthcare professionals and others, is working on guidelines to assist us once Masses with a congregation resume.

Parishioners have inquired how the finances are going for our parishes. So many have continued to keep up their financial support of our parishes. I am gratified by the faithful commitment of so many folks to our three parishes. Thank you!

In the Gospel reading for this coming Sunday, John 10: 1-10, Jesus twice identifies himself as 'the gate;' what is he meaning by this? What comes to mind when we think of gates? We might think of the gate in a walled city like the old city of Quebec, or in the forts that were built here in our own country. A gate's purpose was to allow for entry, but also to provide protection from danger. What about the gates we come upon when we travel by airplane or train—gates for departures and arrivals.

In calling himself, '*the gate*,' Jesus is telling each one of us—He *is our protection and our way*.

Christ recognizes, far better than we do, the dangers lurking around us that could rob us of the eternal life that he died to give us. As *the gate*, Jesus gives us the *Protection* of the Holy Spirit and the power of grace to guard us from evil.

Because of his life, death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus has become *the Way* through which we enter into a relationship with God his Father, and with our brothers and sisters in faith. We have access to an abundant life through Jesus, *the Gate*. And this is one among the many reasons the Church gathers each Sunday to pray our gratitude and praise.

You are always in my heart and in my prayer.

*Jr. Garry Giroux*

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much to all those who have donated food or money to the local food pantries and the Community Lunch Program for Kids! We sincerely appreciate your kindness and generosity! We would not be able to assist the number of people that we do without your kind assistance! Stay well and Thank You!

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### **MASS AT HOME**

Participating in Mass at home is participation in a real and valid liturgy. Even though we are not physically together for Mass, we are united in our love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We are in God's presence as we listen to God's word in the Scripture and acknowledge the Lord's presence in the Eucharist. Area Masses being offered can be found at this link <https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>

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### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

In times of crisis, when it is not possible to receive the Body of Christ, it is acceptable to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion is a deep rooted desire to receive Jesus and to remain close to Him even though we are unable to be physically present with our faith community. It also applies to situations when we are present in community but cannot receive the Eucharist.

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### **DEVELOPMENT**

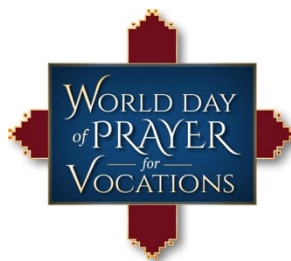
Parishes are accepting their weekly offertory gifts through the mail, personal delivery to the rectory or on-line (for those who are set up accordingly). Pastors have been extremely appreciative of those parishioners who can continue their weekly support of the parish, which is the primary source of funding the day-to-day operations of your Parish. Summer residents who feel they may not be able to make it to the North County this year with the current environment have also been sending in support to keep their parishes up and running as well. Your continued generous support is appreciated.

Also for your convenience, below are links for your It's Our Church, It's Our Future Capital Campaign & Bishop's Fund Appeal pledge payments and/or gifts.

<https://www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-capital-campaign.html> (Capital Campaign link)

<https://www.rcdony.org/giving/donate-now-bishop-s-fund.html> (Bishop's Fund Appeal link)

Please join us in praying to comfort those who mourn the loss of love ones, the loss of jobs and devastating effects of both. Protect, strengthen and sustain all of those caring for and serving the sick and the suffering and please give wisdom to our experts and leaders to guide us through these times of uncertainty.



This Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Vocations! Please set aside time to pray for an increase of vocations, especially to the priesthood and consecrated life. Here is a good prayer to use:

Lord Jesus, as once you called the first disciples to make them

fishers of men, let Your sweet invitation continue to resound: "Come, follow Me." Give men and women the grace of responding quickly to Your voice. Sustain our bishops, priests and consecrated people in their apostolic labor. Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life of totally consecrated to Your service. Mary, Mother of the Church, model of every vocation, help us to say "Yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen ~ St. John Paul II

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### **OUTREACH TO THE UNAFFILIATED**

Produced by the USCCB's Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis this video offers insight from expert evangelists and sociologists, as well as young people who don't affiliate with any religion:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znyEsvbrM8k>

Download the discussion guide right here:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/evangelization/outreach-to-the-unaffiliated.cfm>

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### **THANK YOU**

Stepping Stones is still collecting returnables and appreciate those who have continued to drop them off at the rectory garage. If you need them picked up please let us know.

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### **OUR APPRECIATION**

On Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Father Giroux's celebrated his 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination. Congratulate him as you are able. Thank you for all that you do and being there for us all!

*Congratulations*

## **SAFE ENVIRONMENT CORNER:**

### **Did you know? ...**

Did you know...the "No Hit Zone" is a national movement of multiple child-serving organizations, advocacy centers, hospitals, families and others to prevent physical abuse and other harmful behavior. A No Hit Zone sets a precedent within the community and establishes a commitment to the promotion of effective parenting techniques by instilling that: No adult shall hit a child; No child shall hit another child; No adult shall hit another adult; No child shall hit an adult. Additional resources to help give tools other than hitting or spanking can be found at <https://stopspanking.org/>

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### **SUMMER SOCIAL**

As we sit home during this time of isolation, let's all turn our thoughts to Summer, being outdoors and being around family and friends! Let's start planning for the Annual Summer Social!

This year we will have a new appreciation for being outside in the nice weather and socializing (though it may still be from a distance!). We are in the early planning stages of this event, so we are currently looking for parishioners to donate prizes for our raffle. The donation can be a cash prize, gift card or item. We do not need to have the actual donated item until mid-August. So, right now all you have to do is call the Parish Office (315.384.4242) and let Terri know what you would like to donate. You will be hearing more about the upcoming Social in future issues of the bulletin.

Let's make this our BEST Summer Social ever!

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### **PVSR PRAYER LINE – LET US PRAY**

Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer emotionally, spiritually, or physically especially for; *Leo Bond, and Azlynne Williams*. If you wish to have someone listed for one month, please contact the Parish office at 315-384-4242.

*Anyone from **Our Catholic Parishes** may request to have a person included in the bulletin for prayers. We will adhere to the practice of including a name for one month before removing it. Prayer can always be requested again at any time.*

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### **ST. ANDREW'S PRAYER LINE**

Members of our Parish who would like a member of their family or a close friend put on our Prayer Line are asked to call either Doreen Valade @ 315-212-5729 or Ann Miller @ 315-353-2950. Please be sure the person we will be praying for agrees to this before you call. Everything you share with us is kept confidential.

## **FOOD PANTRY & CLPK**

Due to the Coronavirus local food pantries and CLPK are dealing with unprecedented increases in the numbers we serve. This month the Norfolk Raymondville Food Pantry has seen its numbers double.

CLPK has added six new families in just three days. (CLPK now serves over 80 families with well over 200 children!) The Norwood Food Pantry is also seeing increases!

Here are some different ways you can assist us in helping our neighbors:

### **Norfolk Raymondville Food Pantry**

Non perishable food items can be dropped off on the Parish Office **Porch** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9:00-12:00

Checks can be made out to: **Norfolk Raymondville Food Pantry**

Checks can be mailed to:

Norfolk Raymondville Food Pantry  
9 W. Main Street  
P.O. Box 452  
Norfolk, New York. 13667

\*Note- Norfolk Raymondville Food Pantry serves families from Norwood, as well as Norfolk and Raymondville

### **Community Lunch Program for Kids**

Non-perishable Food items can be dropped off on the Parish Office **Porch** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9:00-12:00.

Checks can be made out to: **CLPK**

Checks can be mailed to:

CLPK  
42 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 225  
Norwood, New York 13668

\*Note- CLPK provides food to children in the tri-town area of Norwood, Norfolk, and Raymondville.

### **Norwood Food Pantry**

Non-perishable food can be dropped off at John & Marcia Murray's house at 50 Spring Street, Norwood.

Checks can be made out to: **Norwood Norfolk Raymondville Outreach**

with a note on memo line: Food Pantry

Checks can be sent to:

Norwood Norfolk Raymondville Outreach  
10 Maple Street  
Norfolk, New York. 13668  
Attn: Kelly Lustyk

Please note - this is a new address for Norwood Norfolk Raymondville Outreach donations.



# Dear Padre,

## How will it happen that Jesus will come again and lead us “through the gates”?

**W**e have it from the best of authorities that the date of the world’s end is hidden. Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows... but the Father alone” (Matthew 24:36). In spite of Christ’s admonition that the day of his Second Coming is known but to God, there have been countless false prophets who have confidently but incorrectly predicted a date for the end of the world. Most of these foolish forecasters based their claims on misinterpretations of the Book of Revelation.

The main purpose of the Book of Revelation is to assure us that God’s power will prevail. In the ongoing struggle between good and evil, there are times when evil seems to have the upper hand. No matter. Evil will be conquered and God’s rule will extend over all creation.

The world might end tomorrow, or next year, or in five billion years. Jesus tells us we can’t know for sure. We are sure, however, that this world will pass away. And for each one of us the world will end at the moment of death. What matters is that we should always be ready to meet Christ.

And we shall be ready if we follow Christ, our Shepherd, whom we meet in today’s Gospel. Jesus leads us safely through this life by his teaching, his example, and his grace.

—Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, CM  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



MURRAY/SHUTTERSTOCK



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*We should never forget: the Church is not a static reality, inert, an end in herself, but is on a continual journey through history, towards that ultimate and marvelous end that is the kingdom of heaven, of which the Church on earth is the seed and the beginning.*

—GENERAL AUDIENCE, NOVEMBER 26, 2014

## Calendar

### Monday

MAY 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:1–18

Jn 10:11–18

### Tuesday

MAY 5

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:19–26

Jn 10:22–30

### Wednesday

MAY 6

Easter Weekday

Acts 12:24–13:5a

Jn 12:44–50

### Thursday

MAY 7

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:13–25

Jn 13:16–20

### Friday

MAY 8

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:26–33

Jn 14:1–6

### Saturday

MAY 9

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:44–52

Jn 14:7–14

### Sunday

MAY 10

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1–7

1 Pt 2:4–9

Jn 14:1–12