

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday &  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations



## The Good Shepherd

- knows his sheep by name
- sheep recognize the shepherd's voice
- loves and cares for his sheep
- seeks out the lost sheep
- not motivated by monetary reward
- ready to lay down his life for his sheep

**ST. ROSALIE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
April 25, 2021

## *The Pastor Gets It Down*

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Rosalie and St. John Bosco Parishes and School,

Today we remember the love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, for every one of us...the faithful and the not so faithful. We also celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Pope Francis tells us: "The Lord calls us because he wants to enable us like Peter to 'walk on water', in other words, to take charge of our lives and place them at the service of the Gospel, in the concrete and everyday ways that he shows us, and specifically in the different forms of lay, priestly and consecrated vocation. Yet, like Saint Peter, our desire and enthusiasm coexist with our failings and fears".

Then at the conclusion of his letter, the Holy Father writes: "...I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, to find courage to say "yes" to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us."

In Scripture, we hear the words of Jesus: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10b)

Jesus' great desire for us is to have full and abundant life. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He came to earth to show us how to live so that we may have life to the full.

We all receive the graces we need to be both holy and happy in this life and in the next.

The sad part is that even though the grace of God is present in everyone's life, many people too often resist this grace and refuse to change and repent. They listen to the ways of the world rather than the example and teaching of Jesus and of His Body, here on earth, the Church.

The wisdom of God which leads to eternal life and true human fulfilment comes with sacrifice which leads to joy. The times we prefer our ways rather than God's ways, we fall into selfishness and sin.

We can look at our world today where God is taken out of the equation. One's self and society's decrees have become the criterion of morality. Do we follow, the ways of Jesus and the teaching of the Church or do we go with the ways of the world?

Do we see the sex act as a sign of permanence, fidelity, and openness to offspring? This is what God intended sexual activity to be.

Do we see faithful attendance at Sunday Mass and reception of Holy Communion (unless impeded by health or age) to be the necessary nourishment we need to live our vocation faithfully and to respond to God' desire for us to change and repent?

When we use the gift of sexuality for our own selfish pleasure, when we fail to attend Sunday Mass when we can, do we confess these sins in the sacrament of Confession and have a firm purpose of amendment.

When we lie, perjure ourselves, steal or slander, do we not only confess these sins, but make restitution repairing the damage that was caused by these sins?

God Loves You! And how He yearns for you to love Him in return by the words and deeds of your daily life.

*F. Mark*

# 7 Ways Families Can Foster Vocations

Imagine asking your son what he wants to be when he grows up, and he answers, “I want to be a priest!” What would your reaction be? Would you be worried or elated—or somewhere in between?

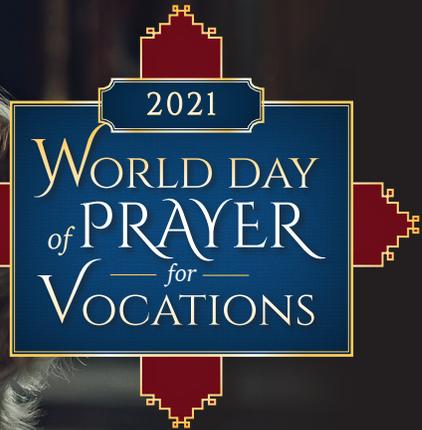
The truth is that God has a plan for each of your children; he wants them to be happy even more than you do! And their true happiness is found in discovering God’s plan for their lives—their vocation—and following it wholeheartedly.

So, if you’re truly concerned about your children’s well-being, it makes sense to help them discern their vocations, whether to marriage, priesthood, or religious life. Here are some simple ways to foster openness to God’s call.

1. Snuggle up and read a story. Sometimes the simplest ideas are best! Add some books about famous saints to your bedtime reading. There are dozens of fascinating, age-appropriate stories of saints who were priests and religious. There’s even a comic book about St. John Paul II as a child!
2. Watch a better movie. When it’s time for family movie night, take a pass on *Spy Kids 4* and check out *A Mission to Love* (the life of St. John Bosco -- loaner copies are available at the parish office. Call to check on availability) There are tons of other Catholic films that depict heroic and interesting priests and religious. The conversation afterwards is far more meaningful than which explosion was the biggest!
3. Set the record straight. Media depictions of dating and sexuality are often opposed to authentic love. So when a TV show sends the wrong message, set the record straight about what leads to real happiness. Especially around teens, defend the sacrament of marriage.
4. Play dress up! Just as children “play house” and pretend to be moms and dads, help them imagine the life of a priest, brother, or sister. A sheet or towel can serve as a sister’s habit. A Ritz cracker makes a good host for Mass. This kind of play normalizes what can otherwise seem to be an “other-worldly” vocation. Plus it’s a lot of fun!
5. Pray from the heart. In your family prayers, pray for more priests and religious. Let your kids hear you praying for their futures. “Lord, watch over Simon today and give him the grace to grow up to be a strong man of God. Keep him close to You, always in Your perfect will.”
6. Talk about vocations. Speak openly about vocations to marriage, priesthood, and religious life. From the earliest age, make it clear that happiness in life is following God’s plan. Tell kids that priests have an awesome job because they bring us the sacraments. Teach them that religious brothers and sisters make special vows to live like Jesus.
7. Befriend priests & religious. Invite a priest, sister, or brother to dinner at your home. Personal relationships are key. When kids are comfortable around Fr. John or Sister Margaret, they’re far more likely to be comfortable with the idea of a priestly or religious vocation when they grow older.

## *Joy Mixed with Reluctance*

Many Catholic parents have some reluctance about their children becoming priests or religious—at least at first. Typically, parents’ concerns fade as they witness their child’s vocation mature, and his or her happiness grow.



“YOU NEVER CEASE TO GATHER A PEOPLE TO YOURSELF.” ~EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III

## “I CAN’T SERVE GOD AND MONEY”

SILICON VALLEY BUSINESSWOMAN ENTERS CONVENT

As a Deloitte executive and founder of a successful internet startup called Jetlore, 36-year-old businesswoman Montse Medina didn’t seem like an obvious candidate for the convent. Earlier this year, though, she dropped a bomb via Twitter and LinkedIn: she was giving up everything to become a contemplative Catholic nun.

As she wrote in her epic “break up letter” with the business world, the pursuit of money and prestige had left her empty. She was finally going to pursue a call to religious life that she had felt since she was young. After carefully studying various orders online, and visiting a specific community many times, Montse finally chose the Monastery of Santa Ana in Spain.

Interestingly, her genius for online marketing may not be lost in her new vocation. The nuns support themselves by making homemade pasta, pies, and pastries—then selling them via an online store.



### HOW TO TAKE THE LEAP

For most young women in today’s culture, the very idea of religious life seems absurd. And yet... a tiny part of the heart can wonder, ‘Could God be calling me?’ A book from a sister in New York City has advice on answering that question: *Discerning Religious Life*, 200pp, available at [vianneyvocations.com](http://vianneyvocations.com)

Montse Medina is an online entrepreneur who recently became a nun.



### WHY I’M LEAVING: AN EXIT LETTER

“I used all the talents that the infinite goodness of our God had given me, but I used them for my own glory and to accumulate wealth in this world. I was seeking only my own interest. And I was deceiving myself because far from making me happy it only caused me an ever-growing emptiness....

“The restlessness of my soul has led me to seek the will of God in Catholic communities, in volunteering, I even planned to found an NGO, but I could not find peace in any of these projects. Now, following the call to offer myself to the Lord in contemplative consecrated life, I have found peace of the heart....

“I have made the most important and at the same time the simplest decision of my life. I have decided, without any regrets, to stop investing in my earthly future and start investing in my future for eternal life.”

*Read the full letter at [aciprensa.com](http://aciprensa.com)*





Photo by Amy Mortesen for the Diocese of Bridgeport

## Ordained in a Mask

Bridgeport seminarian Brendan Blawie was dismayed when he heard that Bishop Frank Caggiano, quarantined with COVID, wasn't going to be able to ordain him. But with more than a decade of higher education, including Officer's School for the Marines, Brendan knew how to soldier on. Becoming a priest would be the culmination of a long journey from his hometown of Newton, CT to Virginia Tech, Franciscan University, Quantico, and finally, seminary in Rome. After all that, the pandemic was a small hurdle. Thankfully, Bishop James Massa from Brooklyn was able to stand in on the day of ordination. "I am filled with gratitude and joy to have arrived at this point in my life," said Fr. Brendan, "To lay down all that I am, to be configured fully to Christ as His priest."



## A RETREAT IN IMAGES

What's it like to be poor on purpose? Is it embarrassing to talk to strangers about Jesus? Do you get angry when the poor are ignored? The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs) explore these questions and open a window into their life and work in an amazing new photo book with 200 super-crisp photos and six provocative essays: *A Work of God: Images of Renewal*, available at [vianneyvocations.com](http://vianneyvocations.com)

"There is no one among us who does not have a divine vocation!" ~Saint John Paul II



## FOR PARENTS

### GROW A GARDEN AT HOME

Happiness is doing the will of God! And because you desire your children's happiness, it's vital to help them discover and accept their vocations. Here's a simple "growing guide" to help your family bear fruit:

**Prepare the soil:** Call a special family meeting about your priorities. Pray, "Lord Jesus, we consecrate our family and our futures to you."

**Plant the seed:** Say, "I would be proud of you if God called you to be a priest/sister/brother and you said yes."

**Water the garden:** Infuse faith into your environment. Pray as a family; get involved in youth group; invite priests and sisters to dinner.

## Campus Conversion

Brother Ray Morris grew up on the Jersey Shore as a "cultural Catholic" whose family rarely went to Mass. By the time he entered Rutgers University, the Catholic faith was the furthest thing from his mind. To make some extra money, he took an office job answering phones, which just happened to be at the university's Catholic Center. "It was there I met the Brothers and everything changed," he said.

His job opened the door for Ray to give going to Mass another try. "Ten years later, I'm still here!" he jokes, then adds with sincerity, "After I encountered Jesus, the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, and peace—quickly began to appear in my life."

Brother Ray entered the novitiate for the Brotherhood of Hope in 2014 and made his final vows in January 2021. Now it's official: his life's work is reaching out to students not unlike himself.

"I believe that colleges are the key battleground for the hearts and minds of the young in our Church," Brother Ray said. "Our method is to start by fostering real relationships with students. So basically, I walk around campus playing sports and sharing meals with students, building relationships and (hopefully) leading them closer to God. It's a mission that is fun at times and disheartening at others, but always worthwhile. It's a genuine gift to serve God and His Church in this way!"



*Brother Ray belongs to the Brotherhood of Hope, a relatively new religious community whose main focus is evangelization on college campuses. They "go deep" with students, working one-on-one and in groups to help young people encounter Jesus, leave sin behind, and develop habits of virtue and daily prayer.*

[brotherhoodofhope.org](http://brotherhoodofhope.org)

## Announcements

### SECOND COLLECTION

The Second Collection being taken up this weekend is to benefit the Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests. Please be as generous as possible.



## RCIA

**Do you want to learn more about the Catholic Faith?  
Thinking about becoming Catholic?**

Want to make your First Holy Communion and receive the sacrament of Confirmation?

Call for more information  
or to register for the 2021-2022 RCIA Program.

**St. Rosalie 340-1962**

**St. John Bosco 340-0444**

### MOTHER'S DAY SWEET TRAYS

The Ladies' Altar Society is taking orders for Mother's Day Sweets Trays. Mother's Day is May 9th. Orders must be called in before May 3rd and must be picked up on Saturday, May 8 at the Parish Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. Contact Jackie Gerstner or Cindy Robichaux. Call the Parish Office if you need information.

### *In Our Parish*

**SANCTUARY LAMP**  
*is offered for healing for*  
**Jackie Morvant Bush**

**BLESSED MOTHER'S LAMP**  
*will burn in memory of*  
**Steve Tassin**

**ALTAR WINE**  
*is offered in memory of*  
**Yves 'Vessie' Bourgeois**

**April 22-28, please pray for all those discerning their vocations, particularly to the priesthood and religious life, as we celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations on April 25.**



**world day of prayer for vocations**  
**priest • brother • sister • married • single**

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EACH OF US. WHERE IS HE CALLING YOU?



## Mass Intentions



### SATURDAY, APRIL 24

8:00a.m. All Parishioners Living & Deceased  
4:00p.m. Charles & Carmen Austin  
Wayne Oubre  
Troy Dean Williams II  
Malcolm 'Buck' Cortez  
Vincent Baldassaro, Jr.  
Raymond LeBlanc  
Rosemary Savona Aucoin  
Geraldine Landry  
Estanislao & Maria Ana Gongora  
Juan B. & Marcela Rodriguez  
Diane Bourg  
Hilton Lirette  
Celino & Saragusa Family  
LeBoeuf & Richoux Family  
Calogero D'Amico  
Sen. J. Chris Ullo  
Dwayne Guidry  
Rachel Bella  
Alexis & Beverly Vicari

### SUNDAY, APRIL 25

8:00a.m. Will Prados  
10:30a.m. Yves 'Vessie' Bourgeois  
Carlos Savona  
Walter & Doris Treadaway  
T-Van Falgut  
Martha Martinez  
Sandy & Garin Hernandez  
Kevin Fitzhenry  
Zoe Ella Dodgen  
Annabelle & Kelly Savona, Sr.  
Kelly Savona, Jr.  
Byron S. LeJeune  
All Souls in Purgatory

### MONDAY, APRIL 26

7:00a.m. Raymond Lewis

### TUESDAY, APRIL 27

7:00a.m. Frederick Kopfler

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

7:00a.m. Frederick Kopfler  
Elizabeth Bahlinger

### THURSDAY, APRIL 29

7:00a.m. Frederick Kopfler

### FRIDAY, APRIL 30

7:00a.m. Stoner/Oblender/Reist deceased

### SATURDAY, MAY 1

8:00a.m. All Parishioners Living & Deceased  
4:00p.m. Charles & Carmen Austin  
Fr. Jon Parks, SDB  
Iris & Tibby Thibodeaux  
Rodney Wilcox  
Wayne Oubre  
Vincent Baldassaro, Jr.  
Estanislao & Maria Ana Gongora  
Juan B. & Marcela Rodriguez  
Hilton Lirette  
Ann White  
Anthony J. Celino, Sr.  
Kelvin Gauthreaux  
Amay Moorman  
Sidney Thibodeaux  
Dwayne Guidry  
Rachel Bella  
Alexis & Beverly Vicari  
Deceased Members of the  
Ladies' Altar Society



### MASS FOR HEALING:

Brady & Grayson Hernandez  
Jackie Morvant Bush, Julie Kirkland  
Yves Bourgeois II, Chloe Bourgeois

### SPECIAL MASS: For conversion of sinners.

*St. Rosalie Catholic Church*

600 Second Avenue – Harvey, LA

Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB, *Pastor*

Fr. George Hanna, SDB – Fr. Wilgintz Polynice, SDB

*Parochial Vicars*

Kevin Steel, *Deacon*

Parish Office: Phone 340-1962

St. Rosalie School Office: 341-4342 Fax 347-0271

Mrs. Caren Creppel, *Principal*

YOUTH MINISTRY

Colleen Arbour & Matthew LaGrange, *Coordinators*