



## From Fr. Christopher Ankley

Dear Friends,

Cardinal Dolan of New York once related a story from a time when he was part of a study group on tour in the Holy Land. One day while hiking, the group encountered two shepherds enjoying conversation and a smoke. And while these two shepherds had been talking their two grazing flocks had become completely mixed together. Through their guide, the group asked how the hundreds of sheep would sort themselves out and follow the correct shepherd. Eager to impress these tourists and hoping for a gratuity, the two men stood at a distance from one another, yelled something incomprehensible, and began walking in opposite directions. Immediately, the sheep fell in line behind the proper shepherd. And then the two shepherds began to show off, they exchanged clothing and once again stood apart and shouted. So familiar were the shepherds' voices to the sheep that these animals ignoring the disguised outward appearance again followed their own shepherd.

**“My sheep hear my voice,”** says Jesus in today's Gospel, **“I know them, and they follow me.”** A few verses earlier in John's Gospel, Jesus states that sheep follow the shepherd **“because they recognize his voice,”** whereas **“they do not recognize the voice of strangers.”** The focus of today's liturgy is hard to miss: in addition to the Gospel, the opening prayer, the responsorial psalm, the second reading from Revelation, and the prayer after Communion all speak to us of the Good Shepherd.

It's interesting to note that Judaism and Christianity are the only two major World religions that describe God as a Shepherd. A shepherd is one who walks closely among his sheep. He's so close he smells like his sheep. He's covered in their grime. He knows them well; he knows them individually and can tell when something is just not right. He knows when they're sick and need attention. He knows when they're tired/distressed and need rest. He knows when they're hungry and need food. He tirelessly searches for the straying and lost. He protects them from predators. And finally he knows when his sheep are just too exhausted and need to be carried. This is our Lord this is our Good Shepherd.

As Cardinal Dolan experienced, sheep are very good at knowing the voice of their shepherd and following it. Now I've had this experience myself. Today is the perfect day to talk about Buck, the “wonder lamb.” When I was a kid Grandpa Ankley gave to my brother Matt and me a newborn lamb. I remember the night he gave it to us, he brought it right into the kitchen and set it free. Matt and I, with great excitement, chased it all over the house, we chased it until it peed under the kitchen table. Mom was not smiling. Buck went to the barn. Buck was very young and needed to be bottle fed, which we did. He attached to us quickly, he knew our voices. He followed us everywhere, when we walked, when we ran, and even when we rode our bikes, Buck followed closely behind. Everywhere that Chris went that lamb was sure to follow. Now sometimes in his ovine exuberance he would race ahead of us. In those moments he'd lose sight of us and become disoriented and frightened. He'd begin to baa loudly. But all we'd have to do is call out to him, call him by name, and he'd come running with his tail wagging behind him. He knew the voice of his shepherd.

Today **Good Shepherd Sunday** is also known as **World day of Prayer for Vocations**. The Church gives us this day to remind us that the Good Shepherd is constantly calling out to us, constantly calling us each by name. the word vocation comes from the Latin word **vocare** which means to call. Each of us was created out of a unique Divine love. Our Lord loves us each in a unique one of a kind way. If he were to stop thinking of us and to stop beholding us with His Divine gaze, even if only for a nanosecond, we would cease to exist. And so with great love, at all times, our Lord sweetly calls out to us.

Now our good shepherd calls us not only to the big things of holiness and vocation, but he also calls us to follow him in the little everyday things we do. Now sometimes we listen like those sheep in the Middle East and we follow but sometimes we ignore and let the noise of the world interfere. But the good shepherd continues to pursue, and search, and call. Using that crook of grace to bring us back. Today I think,

however, it's more difficult to hear that call to hear that voice with all the noise, destructive voices and forces of our modern culture. So we need to set aside time every day for silence. We need a bit of silence every day; no TV, no radio, no phone, no whatever noise making distracting device we may own.

In that regular and repeated silence we pray, we pray in order to hear that voice of our Shepherd. In the Old Testament we read of the prophet Elijah and he heard the voice of the Lord but he only heard the voice in a tiny whispering sound. Elijah didn't hear our Lord's voice in earthquakes, or winds, or fire. He didn't and couldn't hear our Lord's voice in the noise of the world. He only heard it in the silence. This Church is the perfect place for silence, the perfect place to know, to learn, and to listen for the voice of our Shepherd.

Every Friday we have Eucharistic adoration until 5:00 pm. Spending a holy hour here in adoration, will be the second best hour of your week. After Sunday Mass it will be the second best hour of your week, I guarantee it. More need to take advantage of this time to sit at the feet of our Shepherd, learning to better recognize His voice. Our Shepherd's way is not just a way, but **The Way**, our Shepherd's truth, is not just a truth, but **The Truth**, and our Shepherd's life is not just a life, but **The Life**.

The last line of our second reading was this, **“For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd us and lead us to springs of life-giving water, and He will wipe away every tear from our eyes.”** Our Lord does not love us because we're so good, He loves us because He's so good. And He's not attracted to our gifts, virtues, and talents, but rather, He's attracted to our weakness, brokenness, and sin. And He loves us and calls us to Himself, not because we deserve it, but because we need it.

If ever we stray, may we quickly recognize His voice and come quickly back to Him.

May we become great Saints,  
Fr. Christopher J. Ankley

**Mass Schedule**

**Saturday, May 7 - Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

5:00 pm † Thomas Tobolski by Family

**Sunday, May 8 - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

8:00 am † Peg Philips by Peavy Family

10:00 am In Honor of Our Mothers Tri-Parish Pro-Life Ministry

12:00 pm † June Marshall by Joanie Marshall

2:00 pm The People of St. Joseph & St. Jerome **Burmese**

5:00 pm † Jayna Ankley by Bill & Diane Bogan **Spanish**

**Monday, May 9**

8:00 am † Josephine Elizondo by Elizondo & Stark Family

**Tuesday, May 10**

8:00 am † Evelyn Cutshall by Family

**Wednesday, May 11**

8:00 am Intentions of Ellen Tipton

**Thursday, May 12**

6:00 am High School Breakfast with Jesus Mass

8:00 am † Frank August by Normand Lemaire

5:00 pm Holy Hour for Vocations

**Friday, May 13**

8:00 am Intentions of Laura Bandlow

8:30 am Adoration

4:45 pm Benediction

**Saturday, May 14**

8:00 am † Max Stark by Trudy Stark

9:30 am Confirmation at St. Augustine

3:30 pm Holy Hour for Life

3:30 pm Confessions

**Saturday, May 14 - Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

5:00 pm † Patricia Bundy & Family by Michael Bundy & Family

**Sunday, May 15 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8:00 am † Donna Marie Kachman by Mom & Dad

10:00 am † Leo Swiat

12:00 pm † Raymond Wolney by Family

2:00 pm Elizabeth Lan by Family **Burmese**

5:00 pm The People of St. Joseph & St. Jerome **Spanish**

*Catholic Relief Services Collection takes place this weekend.*

**Readings For: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 14:21-27, Rv 21:1-5a, Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

- Monday 7:00 pm in St. Joseph Church **Spanish**
- Wednesday 9:00 am - Saturday 9:00 am in St. Philip Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel at the Seton Center
- Thursday 5:00 to 6:00 pm Holy Hour for Vocations
- Friday 8:30 am - Benediction 4:45 pm St. Joseph Church
- Saturday 3:30 - 5:00 pm Holy Hour for Life in St. Joseph Church

*St. Joseph: To sign up for a Holy hour or to be on the sub list for Friday Adoration, please call Marlene: 962-8641 and leave your name and phone number.*

*St. Philip: Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel at the St. Philip Seton Center, Wednesday 9:00 am to Saturday 9:00 am, call Betty Dillard: 962-8255 to sign up.*

**More Opportunities for Prayer**

- **Liturgy of the Hours** See page 6 for QR code.
- **Lucernarium** Friday May 20. All are invited for sung night prayer in the church at 8 pm.
- **Parish App** Find over 50 Catholic prayers, and set up prayer reminders so you don't forget!
- **Pray for those who are home-bound.**
- **Pray for those who are sick or in need.** See the box on page 5.
- **Pray for Priests & Deacons** See below for prayer intentions.
- **Rosary** After 8 am Mass weekdays, before 10 am Mass Sunday, First Friday June 3 in Parish Center Chapel.

**Priests & Deacons to pray for starting Sunday**

Fr. Pangiraj Nathan, Deacon Al Radford, Deacon Jack Pendergast, Sister Maryud Restrepo, Sister Delia Rodriquez, Fr. Matthew Illikattil, Fr. Robert Flickinger

**Pastoral Care of the Sick**

If you know someone who would like Communion brought to them at home, please contact Linda Kellogg at 269-965-2074.

**Minister Schedule**

**May 14 & 15**

	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 8:00 AM	Sunday, 10:00 AM	Sunday, 12:00 PM
Cantor	Pat Squires	Robert Valkner	Annette Kukla	Emily Par
Reader	Frank Skeltis	Cristine Jones	Eleonor Stark Cheryl Bess	Shirley Youmans
Server	Arvin Buenevida Juan Mejia-Lugo Renzo Sanchez	John Lan Helena Lan	Navaden Brown, Nick Lian Julissa Reyes Pedro Reyes	Brendan Bailey-Vega Elizabeth Htwe Faustina Thian Khim
Usher	Luise Kaufmann Stephen & Mary Nelson	Carl & Kimberly Bolles Janice & Kelly Klein	John & Ellen Hallacy Gerald Ulrich	Judith Buch, Peggy Myers Susie Labrecque Beverly Stevens

*Lover of Poverty, Pray for Us*



***Enrollment for the 2022-2023 School Year is Now Open!***



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**To enroll your child, visit [www.bcacs.org](http://www.bcacs.org) or call 963.1131. Personal tours are also available upon request.**

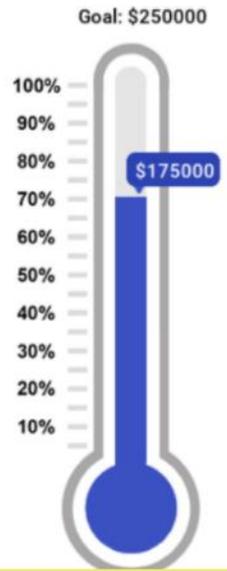


**Can you help us reach our goal for the 2022-2021 Annual Fund Drive?**

Funds provided through this campaign offset the cost of operations, making tuition as affordable as affordable as possible to as many families as possible.

**If you would like to donate, contact Abby Lumbard at 269-963-4771 or via email at [ALumbard@bcacs.org](mailto:ALumbard@bcacs.org)**

*Thank you!*



**BCACS & BCACS Foundation, 63 24th St N, Battle Creek, Michigan 49015 † 269.963.1131 † [www.bcacs.org](http://www.bcacs.org)**

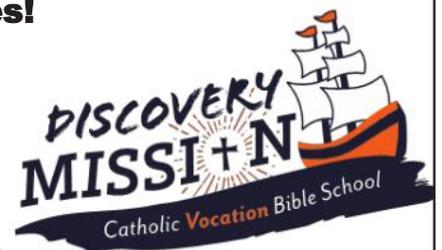
**Sister Camp is Back!!**



**At St. Joseph Church in Battle Creek**  
**JOIN us for a week of faith, fun & games!**

**DATE:** June 13 – June 17  
**TIME:** Registration begins at 8:30am  
We begin each day with Mass at 9:00 am to 12:30 pm  
**PLACE:** St. Joseph School Cafeteria

**For more information contact: [mcrean@bcacs.org](mailto:mcrean@bcacs.org)**



### Prayers for the Sick/Those in Need

*Jeannette Aleo, Chris Bradley, Chuck Brown, Eric Burtrum, Gerry Campbell, Sue Case, Jessica Clark, Carolann Craum, Linda Cumback, Melody Dulyea, Patricia Elliott, Bernadette Emmons, Margaret England, Mary Faber, Jeannette Gagnon, Bernadette Heldt, Theresa Henderson, Mary Hepler, Linda Holcomb, Donna Hoxie, Judy Jacobs, Carolyn Kewley, Pat Kukla, Joseph Larner, Robert Lindstrom, Jakob Livingston, Victor Lupina, Scott Marko, Curtis Mason, Walt Matyasic, Lori Ann McAdam, Katie Miller, Laurie Morris, Pat Murphy, Mike O'Hare, Karen Partin, Jeannette Peevers, Sandy Power, Sally Ringle, Cheryl Scales, Julie Schoder, Shirley Springer, Carole Skalka, Carol Strobe, Michael Sutton, Frank Swart, Devi Umapathi, Michael Wells, Elizabeth Wells, Allen Wiseman, Sara Wixson, Dee & David Wygant, Tiffany Yager, Christine Ybarra, Marion Zull*

### Prayers for the Deceased

*Dan Krezenski, Jennie Mallory, Claudine Ploehen*

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



### Annual St. Joseph Plant Sale.

After all Masses the weekend of May 14-15 (unless raining).

**Are you Spring cleaning?** Please set aside "stuff" for our St. Joseph Garage Sale. It will be held in the gym July 14, 15, and 16. This will be to benefit **Ukraine**. Want to help? Contact Rita Wahmhoff 269-968-3067.

**May Flower Raffle** The St. Joseph Council of Catholic Women's May Flower Raffle will take place on June 14 in the Parish Center. Members will be passing out envelopes containing five raffle tickets after each Mass on May 7 and 8, and May 14 and 15. Tickets are \$3.00. Checks may be made payable to St. Joseph C.C.W. Thank you for your support.

### Tri-Parish Youth Ministry

Breakfast with Jesus will be happening this Thursday, May 12th, at 6:00 AM for our high school students. Join us for Mass and breakfast before school!

### Rediscovering Jesus

3 day Retreat in St. Philip Parish Center

May 15 Register at 5:00 pm in Parish Center  
6:00 pm Mass celebrated by Fr. David Pinto  
7:00 pm Talk 1 at 7 pm  
May 16 6:00 pm Gather, Talk 2, Confession, Lectio Divina  
May 17 6:00 pm Gather, Talk 2, Adoration, Closing

Suggested Donation \$20

### An Act of Mercy, Visiting the Sick

This time of year can be difficult for families that have aging parents. We have been contacted by a few of those families seeking assistance in one way or another with their aging parents. Showing an Act of Mercy can look like this:

- Spend time volunteering at a nursing home – Get creative and make use of your talents (e.g. sing, read, paint, call Bingo, etc.)!
- Take time on a Saturday to stop and visit with an elderly neighbor.
- Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members on a one-time or periodic basis. Give caregivers time off from their caregiving responsibilities so they can rest, complete personal chores, or enjoy a relaxing break.

If these things are something that you can offer our families, please contact Barb at [bkincaid@bcacs.org](mailto:bkincaid@bcacs.org). She would be happy to share the information with you. God Bless You.



### Rosary Repairs

From Nancy Haack: If you are interested in getting your rosary repaired (not a rope rosary), I would be happy to fix it for you (for free). If you have a rosary that is unfixable, I will take it. Many times the beads or crucifixes can help rebuild a broken rosary.

### What you need to do if you want your rosary repaired:

1. Please place your rosary in a zip lock baggie including a piece of paper with your name & phone number and/or email address on it; Attention; Nancy Haack
2. Drop the rosary bag off at the rectory either in person or in the drop box at the rectory's front door.
3. Once the rosary is fixed, I will call you & return the rosary to the rectory where you can pick it up.

**If you have medals** that you **cannot find a home for**, please place them in a baggie & those can be dropped off at the rectory. I will find a home for them.



**American  
Red Cross**

**Blood  
Services**

With summer around the corner, the Red Cross anticipates a blood shortage. A dangerously low blood supply levels can force hospitals to defer patients from major surgery, including organ transplants.

**In an effort to assist the American Red Cross St. Joseph Church will be hosting a blood drive in the Parish Center on Monday, May 31 from 12:00 pm - 5:45 pm.**

Whether you are a seasoned donor or would like to have the opportunity to help for the first time, we need you! **Every donation is critical and you can make a lifesaving difference.** Even if you have had COVID, you can donate blood. Please sign up today at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.



**The Bishop's Annual Appeal Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Sharing God's gifts In Love & Service.** This weekend we make our pledges to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. As Christian stewards we recognize that God is the source of everything we are and everything we have. We can show our gratitude for the blessings by

prayerfully making a pledge to the Appeal this year. As a disciple of Jesus, we all share in the mission of the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. By working together we can accomplish God's work. Our Parish goal is \$150,252.00. Every gift will make a difference in our parish and our diocese

**The Diocese of Kalamazoo** has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: **844.324.3374**.

**The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.

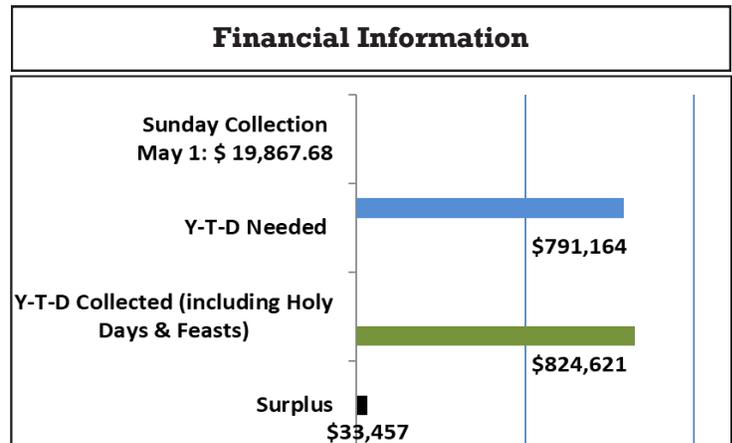
**Kalamazoo Right to Life (KRTL)** You are invited to attend the KRTL Annual FOCUS ON LIFE Benefit Dinner! Your attendance is crucial to learn about the *Michigan Reproductive Freedom For All* (RFFA) petition, which proposes changes that would endanger the lives of **unborn** as well as newly born children. Speakers will provide key information. Please come! **May 19** at Kalamazoo First Assembly of God (5550 Oakland Dr., Portage); Doors open at 5:30 pm, Dinner served at 6:30 pm. Tickets: \$10 students/disabilities, \$20 individuals. Visit <https://kazoortl.org/events> for info or call Rob at 269-599-4954.



### St. Philip HS Basketball Breakfast

**Fundraiser** On May 15 after 8 and 10 masses the St Philip High School basketball teams will be working with the Knights Of Columbus to host a fundraiser breakfast. The basketball teams are raising money for a game video camera,

basketball camps and practice jerseys. Please come and support our High School students and enjoy a good breakfast.



**Catholic Relief Services** On May 15, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Please give generously to the collection, and reveal Christ's love to those most in need.

**From the Vocations Ministry** The World Day of Prayer for Vocations falls on the 4th Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. This day reminds us of our need for shepherds. On this day, we are invited to promote vocations to the priestly, religious, and consecrated life, and to offer special prayers for those nurturing such desires. This event was started in 1963 by Pope St. Paul VI. So let's pray for our shepherds, and pray for those being called to be open and persevere in their vocations.

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### Liturgy of the Hours, eBreviary



The Liturgy of the Hours prayer for the current hour is offered using the QR code pictured, courtesy of [ebreviary.com](http://ebreviary.com). Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer, Evening Prayer & Night Prayer are available for every day.

**St. Jerome Purse Bingo** - Saturday, May 21 at 229 Collier Ave. Doors open at 5:30 pm, Bingo begins at 6:00 pm. Cost per ticket is \$15. For additional information/tickets call St. Jerome Office: (269) 968-2218 Tickets will also be sold at the door.

### 40th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast Tuesday, May 10 7:25 am, Kellogg Arena

Featuring Anthony Evans, inspirational Christian Singer, Songwriter, Worship Leader and Author. Tickets are \$15. Purchase online: [www.tinyurl.com/bcparyertickets](http://www.tinyurl.com/bcparyertickets) or at the Community Foundation, 32 W. Michigan, BC.

**Catholic Men's Fellowship** Catholic Men's Fellowship ("Men's Group") is a group of Christian brothers who meet weekly on Wednesdays from 7 pm till 8 pm and we discuss the struggles and joys of being a Christian man in today's world. An email is sent out Monday each week letting everyone know where we will meet that Wednesday. We are excited to revamp this group in 2022 and welcome any man 18 years of age or older (Catholic or not) who wishes to join us in Christian fraternity and encounter spiritual growth. Please reach out to Ryan Hoch with any questions, he can be reached by email at [ryanmatthew1970@gmail.com](mailto:ryanmatthew1970@gmail.com).



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