

SAINT MARY'S PARISH

HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

April 18, 2021

**3rd Sunday of
Easter**

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Michael C. Lillpopp
Pastor

Sara Weichselbaumer
Administrator of Faith Formation

Judith Knight
Child Advocate

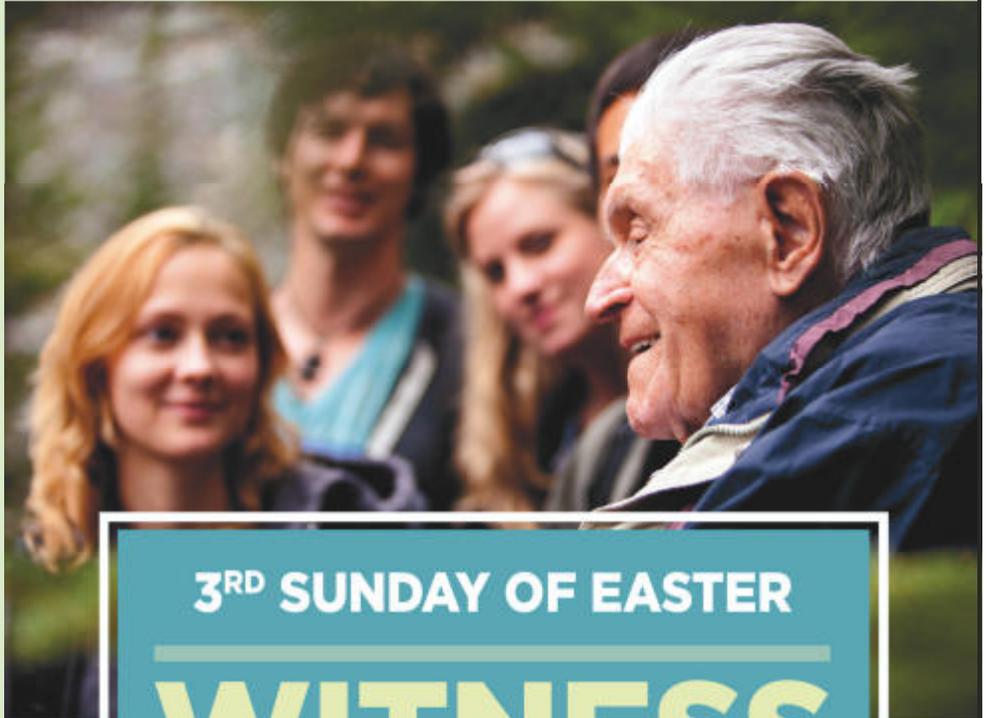
Cheryl Willis
Secretary

Joseph Gundlach
Custodian

27 Somers Road
Hampden MA 01036
413.566.8843

StMaryHampden@gmail.com

www.stmaryshampden.org



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

WITNESS

**"You are witnesses
of these things."
- Lk 24:48**

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Weekdays: 9:00 AM (Mon.-Wed., Fri.)

*Note: Limited seating due to Phase 4 Covid Protocols
Mass obligation continues to be suspended for all*

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 3:15-3:45 PM

BAPTISMS

Please call the Parish Office

MARRIAGES

Before setting a date or making a deposit on the reception venue, please call the Office for an initial meeting with the priest, at least six months prior.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please call the Parish Office

Liturgical Calendar
With Announced Intentions

- Saturday, Apr 17:** *Vigil of Third Sunday of Easter*
4:00 PM Dorothy Millot, by the family
- Sunday, Apr 18:** *Third Sunday of Easter*
8:00 AM Esther Perry, 3rd Anniv. Remembrance, by a friend
11:00 AM Laura Morton, by Don & Mary Campbell
- Monday, Apr 19:** *Easter Weekday*
9:00 AM Special Intention
- Tuesday, Apr 20:** *Easter Weekday*
9:00 AM Jeanne Garatti, 7th Anniv. Rem., by a friend
- Wednesday, Apr 21:** *St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*
9:00 AM Kellie Fitzgerald, 1st Anniv. Rem., by the Family
- Thursday, Apr 22:** *Easter Weekday*
9:00 AM Communion Service
- Friday, Apr 23:** *St George, Martyr*
9:00 AM James Downing, Birthday Remembrance, by the Miodonka Family
- Saturday, Apr 24:** *Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Easter*
4:00 PM John Tyszka, Birthday Rem., his daughters
- Next Sunday, Apr 25:** *Fourth Sunday of Easter*
8:00 AM Jane T. Maynard, by a friend
11:00 AM Laura Morton, by Lana Welker

Introducing the first Pastoral Letter of **Bishop William D. Byrne**, released April 10-11, 2021. View the letter by visiting our parish website, www.stmaryshampden.org

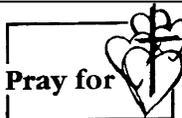
Back to Better.
OUR ROAD TO EMMAUS

PASTORAL LETTER by BISHOP WILLIAM D. BYRNE

Job Openings

Go to: diospringfield.org/employment. Positions currently open include: Chief Diocesan Finance Officer, Program & Marketing Manager, Parish Secretary, Office Manager, Cemetery Workers, Accountant, Catholic School Principal, and more.

“Now by this we may be sure that we know Him, if we obey His commandments.” Jesus makes Himself known to you through the vocation He chose for you. Do you hear a call to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr. Jon Reardon, vocations@diospringfield.com, (413) 248-7034



Donald Karlie Lisa Kane Ethel Thomas Kathy
Ranahan Alicia Michael Collins James Leon
Tom Robertson Jean Albano Stella Pyrek
Chuck Powell Patty Ehlers Thomas Accord
Max Daniel Ann Maraschino Diane Rodriguez Karen Ralph
Terry Beane Marilyn Francoeur John Haley Samantha Thans
Patrick Toomey Victoria Whalen Maia Courtois Patricia Coughlin
Carol Green Charlene Moore Elinore Canterbury Matt Briggs
Daniel Nitch All Veterans, All Nurses, Doctors, First Responders,
Nursing Home employees, Matthew Hanna, Pat Clark, Liz & baby
Max, Carol Collins, Lillian Brown, Fr. Adolf's Parishioners in
Uganda, Phil Dugan, Ann Burian, Kristina Lague, Judy Knight

Readings **Week**

Week of April 18, 2021

- Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a/Ps 31/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66/Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66/Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117/Jn 6:52-59
Next Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

CONFIRMATION **Confirmation will be held on the Vigil of Pentecost, Saturday, May 22, at 5:30 PM.** We welcome Bishop William D. Byrne as our principal celebrant for this special occasion. Please keep our Confirmation candidates in your prayers.



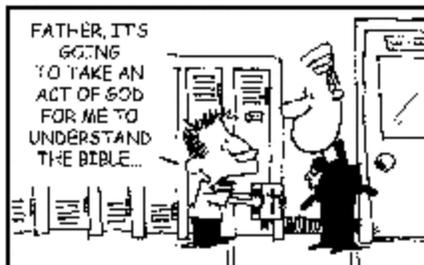
Annual Catholic Appeal Update—As of April 9, 2021, St. Mary's Parish has contributed **\$22,285.00** from 108 families (representing a 14% response rate). Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY COLLECTION REPORT
April 11, 2021

General: \$2,621.22, Easter: \$397.00
Monthly Development: \$423.00, Other: \$65.00

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER



THE FEAST OF ST. GEORGE
APRIL 23



Sowing THE Seeds

Have you taken the time to contribute to “Sowing the Seeds” the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal? No matter the size of your donation, collectively your contribution supports more than 40 ministries including: Catholic school education, feeding the hungry, protecting life from birth until death, helping families in crisis, and our vocations office. There is still time to take part by using the packet sent to your home, donating online at www.diospringfield.org/aca, by calling: 413-452-0650, or take an envelope available here at church. If you’ve already sent in your pledge or donation—Thank you for your support!

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Those of us who are parents know how much time we spend thinking and discussing about what name to give our newborn children. It is the same with the church. Recall the Scripture passage about how the animals were named in Genesis. Changing our name is also a way to mark an important moment in our lives. Think of Saul who persecuted the Christians. His name was changed to Paul when he realized that Jesus was the Son of God. And even our popes change their names and take on a new name; Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Francis.

The entrance antiphon for the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus gives us a glimpse into how important Jesus' name is:

At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The history of the Holy Name of Jesus goes back to the earliest years of Christianity. How many of you remember the symbol IHS? It is a monogram. It comes from the Greek word for Jesus. This reverence continued into the medieval devotions promoted by St. Anselm of Canterbury (*feast day this Wednesday, Apr. 21*).

It was only during the Council of Lyons in 1274 that the Church added the date to our liturgical calendar. There are some writings that call the Holy Name of Jesus a healing ointment for the soul.

So the next time you think of the name of someone, recall the long and important history of Jesus' name and why we hold, with such reverence, Jesus' holy name. ©LPi



GOSPEL MEDITATION
April 18, 2021—3rd Sunday of Easter

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their “aha” moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively, and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.



We need our “aha” moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our “aha” moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, “peace be with you,” and we feel secure. It's all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God's goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News. ©LPi



Wednesday is **Administrative Professionals Day** (formerly Secretary's Day). Stop in the parish office or call **Cheryl** to tell her how much we appreciate her as our Parish Secretary!

St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam is having its **First Annual Outdoor Craft Fair**, Saturday, **May 1, 9 am – 5 pm**, at the parish at 833 Main Street, Agawam. Rain Date My 8th. Crafters contact Andreana Perkins, (413) 786-8105, or e-mail: sje.information@gmail.com for more info and a space.



Were you married by Elvis?
Or anybody else that wasn't a Catholic Priest?
Father Michael can assist in having your non-Catholic marriage validated in the Catholic Church. Sometimes called “blessing” a marriage, it is actually the sacramental performance of your marriage vows in the proper form according to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church. Call the parish office for an appointment today!

Volunteers Needed for Our Lady's Shrine

We are in need of a group of parishioners willing to oversee the daily operation of Our Lady's Shrine. Tasks involve emptying the money box and replacing spent candles once or twice a day, dusting, and monitoring building condition and cleanliness. It does NOT involve maintaining the gardens around the shrine, as there is a separate group that does that. Please call or email the parish office if you can devote a little time to our Blessed Mother.



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