



OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Monday-Wed., Friday

9:30 am-5:30 pm

Thurs. 10:00 am-2:00 pm



Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 11, 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

Good Shepherd Sunday comes at a uniquely powerful time for the Church. In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd... I know mine and mine know me... I lay down my life for the sheep." These words are not just poetic, they are personal. They remind us that Christ leads not with force or fear, but with love, sacrifice, and the promise of eternal care.

On this same day, we also celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Christ the Good Shepherd continues to call women and men to serve His people: in priesthood, religious life, marriage, and dedicated single life. Vocations don't come from far-off places. They rise from our own families, parishes, and schools, where someone hears the Shepherd's voice and has the courage to say, "Here I am, Lord." Let us pray especially for young people in our community that they may be open to the voice of God and have good examples to walk beside them with encouragement and support.

Today's reading from the Book of Revelation gives us a glorious glimpse of our destiny as followers of the Shepherd. St. John sees a countless multitude, "from every nation, race, people, and tongue," standing before the throne of God (which is usually what I see from the other side of the altar each week).

Jesus is not only the Shepherd who leads us but also the Lamb who was slain for us. He knows suffering, He walks with us through it, and He leads us beyond it. This is the heart of our faith: not that we avoid the cross, but that we follow the One who has already carried it and conquered it. What a powerful image of care and intimacy. The Good Shepherd knows us, our fears, needs, wounds, and hopes. He walks ahead of us, not driving us by force but drawing us forward in love.

As this bulletin goes to print on Wednesday, the College of Cardinals will be entering into conclave to elect a new Successor of St. Peter. By the time you read this, we may have a new Holy Father—or we may still be waiting and watching, praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In either case, the invitation is the same: Let us pray. Let us pray for our next Pope, whoever he may be, that he will have the heart of the Good Shepherd, the wisdom of the Lamb who leads, and the courage to love the Church deeply. And let us pray for the Cardinals in conclave, that the Spirit of God will guide them.

As we celebrate the Risen Lord in this Easter season, may we draw close to the One who knows us by name, who lays down His life for us, and who promises to lead us to springs of life-giving water.

God bless,

Fr. Bryan



MASS INTENTIONS

MAY 10 - MAY 18

SATURDAY MAY 10 5 PM MARY CZYSZ, MARGARET HEISER, & FAMILY MOMS
FROM LAURA CZYSZ & KEN HEISER,
CATHY & ALLIE SAVAGE

SUNDAY MAY 11 10 AM LINDA MEADE
FROM HALEY GRECZEK
12:30 PM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

TUESDAY MAY 13 12:30 PM SPECIAL INTENTION
OF DR. VIC JOSEPH
FROM ANDREA SELVARAJA

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 12:30 PM BLESSINGS FOR
JULIAN & OLIVER
FROM GRANDMA

THURSDAY MAY 15 12:30 PM MICHAEL YNAYA
FROM MANNY C. TUASON

FRIDAY MAY 16 12:30 PM SIMON BITAR
FROM KERBAJ FAMILY

SATURDAY MAY 17 5 PM BLESSINGS FOR THE
CONFIRMANDI
FROM OLC PARISHIONERS

SUNDAY MAY 18 10 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
12:30 PM SIWIK FAMILY
FROM DONNA SIMON

Sunday Scripture

May 11

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Rev. 7:9, 14b-17

John 10:27-30

May 18

Acts 14:21-27

Rev. 21:1-5a

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

DONATIONS



OVER THE WEEKEND OF
MAY 3 AND 4, 570 PEOPLE
ATTENDED MASS WITH
AN AVERAGE DONATION OF \$37.03.

ONE TIME
GIFTS AND
VISITORS



CONSISTENT
SUPPORT AND
PARISHIONERS



THANK
YOU FOR
ALL OF
YOUR
SUPPORT



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK
2025
ANNUAL APPEAL
MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY



Support the Annual Appeal online by going to
rcan.org/sharing.

Choose the cause(s) you prefer to support –
and make sure to choose “Our Lady of
Czestochowa in Jersey City” – there’s an OLC
in Harrison, too!



Easter Flower Intentions



May is the Month of Mary

The month that begins with a feast for Saint Joseph is dedicated to his holy spouse, Mary. Why May? Because Mary is associated with flowers and birth, like spring time. Early Christians also took traditions from other cultures and religions. In Ancient Rome, for example, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms.



Mary is traditionally shown in European art wearing a blue cloak and red dress. Blue represents heaven because the sky is blue. Red represents humanity, and is associated with life and heart and blood. Mary is a human, but a divine human who accepted God's plan for her, dressing her humanity with the divine in her choices and actions. There is Biblical importance to these colors, too. For example, as far back as the Book of Numbers, the Israelites are instructed to wear blue cords as reminders of their promises to God.



"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38)

Do you have a prayer corner at home?

Consider making a space at home for a picture or statue of Mary, and bringing flowers there. Every day, or at special moments when you pass by your flower corner for Mary, say a prayer to Mary for family, nature, and all the things you love.

Many churches celebrate May with crowning a statue of Mary with a crown of flowers – Our Lady of Czestochowa School students do so at school, for instance.

But families also crown their own Mary statues or place flowers and a special image of Mary somewhere in the house to remember to pray in a special way this month. Another idea is to pray the rosary as a family, or say a Hail Mary together.



May Crowning



Crowning sacred images of Mary dates back to the 700s.

Dedicating the whole month of May to Mary was championed in 1815 by a Jesuit priest.

These two traditions were combined.

Another reason why May was chosen for Mary is that the month is home to a lot of Marian feast days: Our Lady, Queen of Apostles (the Saturday following the Ascension); Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament (May 13); Our Lady of Fatima (May 13); Mary, Help of Christians (May 24); Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces (May 31); and the Visitation (May 31).

It's also the month of Mother's Day, so how better than to celebrate it with the Blessed Mother, too?

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S LITURGY DATES:
May 25th, June 8th