



SAINT
JOSEPH



Mater
Dolorosa



Saint
Wendelin

Roman Catholic Parishes of Northeastern Butler County



VICARIATE
FOUR
GROUPING
438
N. Oakland
Chicora
Carbon Center

St. Joseph Parish

Located at 864 Chicora Rd.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713

Fax: 724-607-1183

Temporary Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday, 9:30am-Noon

Mater Dolorosa Parish

Located at 409 North Main St.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-2275

Temporary Office Hours

at St. Joe Rectory:

Monday & Tuesday, 9:30am-Noon

St. Wendelin Parish

Located at 210 St. Wendelin Rd.

Butler, PA 16002

724-287-0820

www.stwendelinbutler.com

Temporary Office Hours:

Monday, 9:00am-Noon

May 3, 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

A Message from Fr. Matt ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, which is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. There are so many beautiful and powerful titles for Jesus. He is the Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, the Divine Redeemer, Messiah, King of the Universe, the Word Made Flesh, the New Adam and so many more. Today Jesus gives Himself another title that at first glance doesn't seem to fit with these others. Jesus says, "I am the gate for the sheep." Now if you are watching from somewhere near this church, you know what gates for animals look like, if not, I bet you can imagine. I don't think anyone would call them glorious! They are many times dirty and beat up. The gate is not there for show though, so that's ok. It is there to keep the cows or pigs or sheep or goats where they need to be. Gates protect the animals from going where they shouldn't and keep out what shouldn't be in. They are useful. But glorious?

Here's the thing. When Jesus said this, and still today in some places, the sheep would roam free and graze until night fall when their shepherd would lead them to an enclosure that was almost a full circle, but not quite. There was an opening so that the sheep could walk in and out. At night, the shepherd would lie down across the opening of the enclosure so that anything that tried to go out or come in, literally had to go through him! This is who Jesus says He is for us! The one who lays down in the opening to keep us safe from ourselves and from others. Actually, that is pretty glorious, in a Jesus kind of way!



Jesus also says that His sheep recognize His voice and follow Him. Hearing His voice and following Him is the way to an abundant life! So we got that going for us, which is nice! But there are so many voices out there. How do we tell which is Jesus and which Dr. Fauci or Andrew Cuomo? It's tough, right?

When I was in Ireland a long time ago, I remember seeing a herd of sheep on a road. In fact, I almost hit a few because I didn't realize what the driver coming opposite me meant by flashing his lights! It meant slow down because there are a hundred or so sheep on the road around the bend! I didn't hit any, don't worry, but I did see something really cool. Two shepherds speaking. Not yelling, not flailing their arms, just talking. One going to one side of the road, and the other shepherd going up the hill to the fields on the other side. The sheep had paint marks on them and amazingly, sheep with the same color went with one shepherd, and the other color marks went with the other. The sheep were following the voice they knew. This is what Jesus was talking about. In the midst of noise and cars and other voices, they heard their shepherd, and followed him.

Here's your challenge for this week. Each day, take some time to be quiet and listen for the voice of your Shepherd. Find maybe three or five minutes, and put down your phone, turn off the TV and the music, even put down your prayer books and rosaries and tell Jesus that for these minutes, you are here to listen to his voice. You may have to lock yourself in the bathroom or in your car! You may have to wait until the kids are in nap time. No matter what you have to do, try to do this. Three minutes of nothing but listening for His voice. If your own mind distracts you, just tell it to hush. You are listening for Jesus. We've got to do this so we can know His voice.

We have such a Good Shepherd, who lays in the opening to guard us, who leads us where we need to go. He knows you. He knows what you need. Listen

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt



Drive Thru Confessions now available on Saturdays & Wednesdays

Wednesdays, May 6 & 13

**Mater Dolorosa at Noon
St. Wendelin at 6:00pm**

Saturdays, May 9 & 16

11:00am at both

Mater Dolorosa & St. Wendelin

**Please remain in your vehicle and
follow directional signs and cones.
If there is more than one occupant,
Confessions can be heard individually.**

THINGS THAT HAVEN'T CHANGED

WE CAN HELP

If you or someone you know
needs help with errand running,
medication pick up, or shopping,
call any Parish Office.

PRAYER LISTS

Inform offices of updates for
all Prayer Lists, just as usual.



Sympathy is extended to the family of

Michael W. Smith

who passed away on April 24, 2020,
with interment at St. Wendelin Cemetery
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace.

Memorial Mass to be scheduled.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH OFFERTORY AND PARISH SHARE?

You can mail Weekly and Special Offertory and Parish Share to your Parish:

*God grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change...*

St. Joseph - 864 Chicora Road, Chicora, PA 16025
Mater Dolorosa - PO Box 243, Chicora, PA 16025
St. Wendelin - 210 St. Wendelin Rd., Butler, PA 16002

OR - SWP - this is a great time to sign up for online offertory at: <https://www.osvonlinegivin.com/4149>

OR - NEW FOR ST. JOSEPH AND MATER DOLOROSA
online offertory now available - link at <https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>

OR - ALL Parishioners (not just SW) can leave envelopes in the SW Rectory drop slot.
This is the door facing the church if you walk down the long narrow walkway next to the church.



Parish Offertories

April 26

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Offertory at Mass 4/26	\$350.00
Offertory Online	\$350.00
Total Offertory	\$700.00
Weekly Goal	\$1,000.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$50,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$30,995.50
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$15.00
PSP Online	\$45.00
Total PSP	\$60.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$6,289.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$6,695.00
Easter	\$15.00
Holy Land - Good Friday	\$15.00

MATER DOLOROSA

Offertory at Mass 4/26	\$1,140.00
Offertory Online	\$115.00
Total Offertory	\$1,255.00
Weekly Goal	\$2,500.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$150,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$98,663.50
House	\$00.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$445.00
PSP Online	\$00.00
Total Parish Share	\$445.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$20,985.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$9,000.00
Easter	\$25.00

Thank you for your generosity to Parish Ministries!

ST. WENDELIN PARISH

Offertory at Mass 4/26	\$2,832.00
Offertory Online	\$1,806.00
Total Offertory	\$4,638.00
Weekly Goal	\$5,139.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$272,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$176,497.78
Project Fund	\$30.00
Project Fund Online	\$45.00
Adopt A Child	\$25.00
Adopt A Child Online	\$30.00
Parish Share	\$1,125.00
Parish Online	\$320.00
Total Parish Share	\$1,445.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$47,710.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$10,948.00
Endowment Fund Y-T-D	\$500.00
Easter	\$110.00
Holy Land - Good Friday	\$20.00

IN NEED OF A SHEPHERD

Good Shepherd Sunday

For a while it was very fashionable to own pigs as pets. The publicity surrounding these creatures informed us that they were, contrary to their popular image, very clean animals, and also quite smart. Sad to say, sheep will most likely never enjoy this sort of domestic vogue. They are neither clean nor smart and are largely defenseless when left on their own, even in large numbers. The biblical image of us as the flock of sheep is not a particularly flattering one. Sheep without a shepherd are truly sad, because they most likely will perish either from their inability to fend for themselves or from their lack of defenses against predators. Placing ourselves in the heart of this unflattering image can reinforce our faith. Until we come to a profound realization of how much we need a shepherd, we cannot appreciate how deeply blessed we are to have been given a Shepherd, one who laid down his life for us and was raised to life eternal in the Spirit, so he might guide us and we might follow him in faith forever.



**MAY 4
THRU
MAY 10**

MONDAY:

ACTS 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4;
JN 10:11-18

TUESDAY:

ACTS 11:19-26; Ps 87:1B-7;
JN 10:22-30

WEDNESDAY:

ACTS 12:24 — 13:5A;
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; JN 12:44-50

THURSDAY:

ACTS 13:13-25;
Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; JN 13:16-20

FRIDAY:

ACTS 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11AB; JN 14:1-6

SATURDAY:

ACTS 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; JN 14:7-14

SUNDAY:

ACTS 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19;
1 PT 2:4-9; JN 14:1-12

Grouping Information

This week's St. Wendelin School

Student of the Week is:

EASTON RETTIG

Easton has attended St. Wendelin since Kindergarten and he is currently in Second Grade. His favorite subject is Art because he loves to be creative, and he is excited to learn more Math.

Easton is an athletic kid who loves football and baseball. He likes to play video games as well.

Easton enjoys eating his favorite food of tacos, with no onions or mushrooms! When he grows up, he plans to sell dirt bikes and four-wheelers.

Congratulations to this week's St. Wendelin School Student of the Week,
EASTON RETTIG!

Catholic Identity Program

This program highlights a variety of virtues and values through short lessons, prayers, Scripture references, and more.

This week's Virtue is:

Gentleness

Gentleness is one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit that makes us both humble and thankful for God's grace, and willing to resist judging, resenting or doing harm to others.



Reflection: Quotes of Catholic Gentleness

Gentle prayers are part of the Catholic tradition. These conversations with God have sustained many pilgrims, and continue to tend to the souls of many disciples. Here are some reflections on prayer from various authors, passages which might deepen our understanding and gentle love for our vocation of being a praying and worshipping community.

Prayer then means yearning for the simple presence of God, for a personal understanding of his word, for knowledge of his will and for the capacity to hear and obey him. It is thus something much more than uttering petitions for good things external to our own deepest concerns.

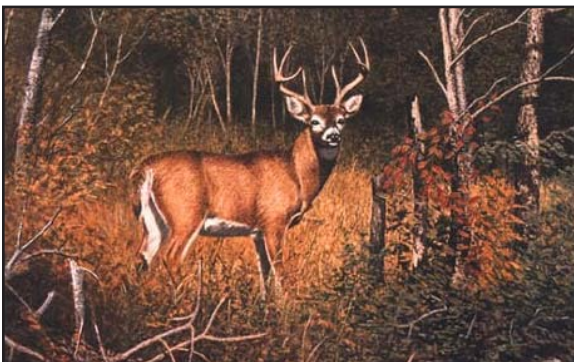
Thomas Merton, Contemplative Prayer

If our prayer is to be adequate to our vision, there must be a place in it for the Transcendent Mystery and Incarnate Life; for adoration and sacrament, awe and active love.

Evelyn Underhill, The House of the Soul

The only force I believe in is prayer, and it is a force I apply with more doggedness than attention.

Flannery O'Connor, The Habit of Being



DEER CLASSIC RESCHEDULED TO **SATURDAY, JULY 4**

Originally planned for April 25,

the PTG's Deer Classic is rescheduled for **the Fourth of July!**

IT'S THE SAME GREAT EVENT JUST A DIFFERENT DAY!

Gun Raffles, Adult Beverages, Food, Day-of Raffles, Rack Scoring Still at Happy Hunters, 676 Chicora Fenelon Rd., Noon-6:00pm

All tickets with the original April 25 date will be honored.

TICKETS WILL NOT BE REISSUED OR REDATED.

Questions to Christine at 724-504-7366.