



# May 2 - 3, 2009 Fourth Sunday of Easter

*"I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**4:00 PM**      **Dominic Dantini (Anniversary)**  
Requested by his wife Mary & family

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**8:00 AM**      **Anthony Marotta**  
Requested by his family

**10:30 AM**      **Nicola & Giuseppina Volpe**  
Requested by their family

**Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 AM**      **Domenico Mercadante**  
Requested by his family

**Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 AM**      **Ann & Sam Pino**  
Requested by John & Gina Fanelli

**7:00 PM**      **St. Anthony Novena Week 4**  
**Preacher: Fr. Fred Fraini**

**Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 PM**      **James DiNardo**  
Requested by his family

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 AM**      **Vincent & Virginia Anderson**  
Requested by the Dwyer family

**Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 AM**      **Jennie (Jane) Davis**  
Requested by her husband Hubert

**10:00 AM**      **Venerini Day Mass**

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**4:00 PM**      **Michael DiNardo**  
Requested by his family

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**8:00 AM**      **Ginger Fortunato**  
Requested by her family

**10:30 AM**      **Frank & Clara LaFray**  
Requested by their family

This week's St. Anthony Devotional Candle:  
Maria Costa, for good health.

### READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:

First Reading: Acts 9:26 - 31

Second Reading: 1 John 3:18 - 24

Gospel: John 15:1 - 8

### PREVIOUS WEEK OFFERINGS

<b>Needed to Meet Budget</b>	<b>\$4,889.00</b>
<b>Sunday Offering</b>	<b>\$3,791.00</b>
<b>Children's Collection (\$19.00)</b>	<b>\$19.00</b>
<b>DEFICIT this week</b>	<b>\$1,079.00</b>
<b>SURPLUS Year to Date</b>	<b>\$505.00</b>

**Partners in Charity Update** - Fifty-six additional donations were received for a total of \$7,610. Notice that there are 11 more donors than last week. Thank you to those individuals who have responded positively to our annual campaign. Please don't let the few of the parish pull the weight for all of us! Your donation in any amount is much appreciated. If you took your envelope home to consider your pledge/donation please return it promptly! A \$50 - \$100 a year donation is very attainable for most. If money is tight please consider a pledge over 10 months. Remember we have more than 450 active families. To date 101 families have contributed. Our diocesan goal is \$38,000. Grand Total to date is \$16,775. Please help us to reach our goal in the next few weeks!

**ST. ANTHONY NOVENA** continues this **TUESDAY, May 5<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 PM.** Our schedule of speakers remaining includes (in order): Fr. Fred Fraini, Our Lady Immaculate, Athol; Sister Clare Fitzgerald, SSND; Fr. Miguel Pagan, St. Peter, Worcester; Seminarian Jonathan Slavinskas; Deacon Salvatore Tantillo and the last date, June 9<sup>th</sup> to be announced at a later date. **This year's theme is Evangelization.**

**Annual Venerini Day Celebration:** All seniors, homebound parishioners and their caregivers are cordially invited to come join us at our annual Venerini Day celebration and luncheon to be celebrated on the **Feast of St. Rosa Venerini, Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.** **Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 AM followed by a luncheon in the church hall at 11:30 AM** including a short program led by students of St. Anthony School. Seating in the hall is limited so respond quickly. In order to prepare meals for those attending we ask that you please call Jo Belli (978) 537-4802 or Betty Pagnotta (978) 343-7789 **BEFORE Monday, May 4th.**

**SAVE THE DATE: Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00 PM**  
**Church Hall**

The annual combined meeting of the Parish Council and the Parish Finance Committee. All parishioners are urged to attend. We will be discussing, among other things:

1. Latest update on parish configuration in Fitchburg
2. Plans for school expansion
3. Physical plant improvements for church and rectory
4. Revision of Mass schedule

The decisions once made will effect everyone. Be a part of the decision making process.

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday, because of the reading of the Gospel in which Jesus gives Himself that title. Every shepherd needs his sheep dogs. The shepherd calls, but the sheep dogs do the herding. I remember in Seminary being taught by Father Randazzo that too many priests see themselves as the shepherd, allowing their egos to get in the way of their ministry, calling people to Jesus *through themselves* and their agendas. That's not the sheep dog's task. His job is to do all the running around in circles, sometimes getting muddy, sometimes wondering if all of his effort will produce any result.

When you look around for candidates for the priesthood, don't focus on the brilliant, the witty, the exceptionally talented. Rather, look at the kind-hearted, the patient, the guys who aren't afraid to work behind the scenes. Pray daily for vocations. Don't be timid about asking young men if they have considered the priesthood. Don't look for the "show horses"; look for the "work horses". They will be the best sheep dogs to serve the Good Shepherd and His Church.

Pace e Bene,

**The Serra Club** invites you to pray for the following priests and deacons during the week of: May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>: Rev. Laurie Leger, MS; Deacon James Couture; Rev. Thomas Egan; Rev. Thien Nguyen; Deacon John Aleskevicz; Rev. James Callahan; Rev. Edward Michalski.

#### **St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Items**

Please don't forget about the pantry! Items needed are: canned vegetables, canned soups, Spaghetti O's, jam or jelly, Hamburger Helper, Ramen noodles, pasta sides, mustard, relish, ketchup, mayonnaise. Many people rely on this weekly service that St. Francis provides. Continue to do what you can. Thank you!

**Item of the Month** – The Youth Group is accepting donations for Our Father's House and the Veterans' Homestead. **This month's item is toothpaste & toothbrushes.** Items can be placed in the marked boxes at the entrances of the church. Thank you for your support.

**ANNUAL "TEA FOR TWO"** – Mark your calendars! Today's Women in Faith cordially invite all women of the parish to come to their **Annual "Tea for Two" to be held on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the church hall.** The speakers will be two Sisters from the "Vacations That Give" organization. Please come and enjoy each other's company along with great inspirational speakers. Remember to bring your tea cup and a friend!

**PRO-LIFE ROSE DRIVE** will take place **next weekend, May 9-10<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day.** We will have silk roses available at the entrance to the church after all Masses. A donation of \$1.00 is requested. All proceeds will directly benefit Pro-Life efforts of Massachusetts Citizens for Life. Show your love of life by supporting the Rose for Life Drive!

**"A Joyful Noise"** – Please join Father Pat (Rev. Andre Patenaude), the "singing priest" from LaSalette when he visits St. Joseph Church, Fitchburg, on **Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** He will present a short concert followed by a Healing Mass. All are welcome. A free will offering will be taken.

**Boy Scout Troop 41, Fitchburg,** will be hosting a **Yard Sale on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and a Plant Sale on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.** Both sales will be held from 8:00 – 2:00 PM in the parking lot between the Lipton Center and Rollstone Congregational Church at 199 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

The **Easter Vigil** is a special call to joy. This year, we celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation for several parishioners.

#### **BAPTISM:**

Alison Kelsey Doyle  
Caelan Thomas Doyle  
Cody Michael Terho  
Benjamin Nathaniel Terho  
Brandon Tyler Terho  
Cameron Jake Terho  
Emma Victoria Terho  
Janelle Lee Wilson

#### **RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH:**

Joshua Reynolds

#### **FIRST EUCHARIST:**

Matthew DiBara	Brandon Terho
Alison Doyle	Cameron Terho
Joshua Reynolds	Cody Terho
Benjamin Terho	Janelle Wilson

#### **CONFIRMATION:**

Jung Ja (Monica) Hewitt  
Janelle (Mary Magdalen Philomena) Wilson

On **Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>,** Bishop George Rueger confirmed the following young men and women of our parish, together with young men and women of St. Francis Parish, at St. Francis of Assisi Church:

Joseph (Louis) Balboni	Benjamin (Achilles) Less
Lindsey (Theresa) Berube	Christian (Maurice) Nott
Anthony (John) Caravella	David (Silvio) Petrucci
Nolan (Charles) Connor	Joshua (James) Reynolds
Michael (Francesco) Descoteaux	Anthony (Martin) Ricks
Matthew (Pasquale) DiBara	Samantha (Elizabeth) Seidl
Ashley (Marie) Dignard	Molly (Eileen) Shattuck
Ashley (Rose) Forgues	Jillian (Katelin) Smith
Chelsea (Marie) Leppert	Peter (Scott) Wallmann

May God continue to bestow His blessings on all of them.

#### **Sean Michael Flannery & Annabelle Rose Kimball**

were welcomed into our Christian community through baptism. May they along with their parents grow in faith, love and service to Jesus Christ.