

## Mass Intentions for the Week

**Sun. April 27**

**8:00am - Pope Francis**

**9:30am - Prayers & Intentions of Vanessa Newton by the Newton Family**

**Sun. May 4**

**8:00am - Father's Day Remembrance**

**9:30am - Mabel Davis by Alice Bragg**

### Special Intentions Prayer for Our Parish

- ◆ Our Deceased Members
- ◆ Our 1st Responders,
- ◆ Health Care Workers
- ◆ Our Military Personnel
- ◆ All those in need of our prayers especially our sick & shut-ins : Lula Bell, Robert Brown, Ikeshia Fields, Shirley Hargro, Margie Lewis, Karl Magby, Jewel Marshall, Antionette (Tonie) Newton, Vanessa Newton, Louise Nolley, Marianne Partee, Samuel Ruff, Dcn. Ronald Walker, Josephine Williams and Elise Wilson

### GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDER- STANDING OF SCRIPTURE

April 27, 2025 - Divine Mercy Sunday

John 20:19-31

It's common for Catholics to hear the question, "Why do I have to go to a priest to have my sins forgiven?" I've never liked that question because not only is it clunky (confession is the ordinary way for the pardoning of serious sins, not lesser ones). But it misses the larger context: the wonderful origins of the sacrament itself. And this context is deeply Jewish.

Ancient Jews associated forgiveness of sins with priests offering sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple. It was a solemn, public, and tangible way to access God's mercy. So when the risen Jesus breathes on the Apostles and says, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23), the upshot is remarkable: he is the new temple and his Apostles are the new priests. Jerusalem is no longer the place to find forgiveness from sin. Jesus' body, the Church, is.

So why should we go to the Sacrament of Confession? For the same reason ancient Jews went to the temple in Jerusalem: to experience the intimacy, joy, and life-giving power of God's eternal forgiveness.

— Father John Muir  
©LP

Easter is in the Air - Alleluia!

Without a doubt in my mind, Easter is happening! I was so uplifted, even amid the exhaustion of our Holiest Days, by the prayerful and deep worship of so many. Resurrection life seems to have seized hold as it now launches us into a whole season of Alleluias! Our parishes, coming together as Family, give true witness to how much we treasure our faith that, indeed, Jesus is risen from the tomb and lives among us still. I can't be thankful enough for the labors and ministry of dozens of our fellow pilgrims on the journey, walking in the footsteps of the One who bore the cross for us.... Liturgy Pillar members, Liturgy Committees, proclaimers of Word, altar servers, ministers of the Table; Towel, sacristans,thurifers, water-bearers, decorators, ushers, greeters, music-makers, cross-bearers, fire-builders, "reception"-aficionados, staff, clergy-presiders! The numbers of people who put their humble hands and hearts into celebrating the Paschal Mystery gives me much needed hope! Thank you to all who let our GREAT STORY bring Easter into them.

~ Fr. Bob

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### A Good Shepherd!

With the passing of the Shepherd of the Universal Church, maybe Pope Francis' greatest legacy is that he truly embodied his words of challenge.... that all who are shepherds in the church should Have the "smell of the sheep". His deep encouragement to really know one another with empathy, openness, understanding, love, and forgiveness makes the commands of Jesus life and ministry real in him. As we mourn Pope Francis' loss, let us pray for the repose of his soul and in thanksgiving for his life of Gospel simplicity and witness of true care for the People of God.

And, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up a successor who will be, in our challenging times, as genuine in the ways of justice, peace and love.... and as willing to lay down his life for the sheep.

### May Lectors

**8:00am Mass**

**May 4 - Stephen Williams**

**May 11 - Barbara Smith**

**May 18 - Barbara Breckenridge**

**May 25 - Patricia Howling**

**9:30am Mass**

**May 4 - Ndidi Nwabugwu**

**May 11 - Holy Name Society**

**May 18 - Lurita Boyd**

**May 25 - Sr. Roberta Fulton, SSMN**

### Readings for the Week of April 27, 2025

Sun., April 27 - Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Mon., April 28 - Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8

Tues., April 29 - Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15

Wed., April 30 - Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21

Thurs., May 1 - Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36

Fri., May 2 - Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15

Sat., May 3 - 1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14

Sun., May 4 - Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

**Parish Financial Information**  
**\*Weekly Totals Include E-Giving**

**April Collections**

	<b>Regular Collection</b>	<b>Martin's Future</b>	<b>Diocese Collection</b>
April 6	\$2,448.00	\$1,037.00	\$20.00
April 13	\$3,163.00	\$945.00	\$15.00
April 20	\$3,347.00	\$1415.00	\$80.00
April 27			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$8,958.00</b>	<b>\$3,397.00</b>	<b>\$115.00</b>

**First Communion** classes resume at 6:00 PM on April 24 at Blessed Trinity for those who have completed the first half of the program.

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Our next **Baptism class** for parents of children under 7 has been Children, parents, and other adults are invited to join us for Family Faith Formation: Can a kid be a saint? On Saturday, May 10, 1:00 PM at Blessed Trinity is St. Charles Hall (the school building behind the church.) This is our last Family Faith Formation until September.

Our new series "The **Best Kept Secrets of the Catholic Church**" begins this Monday, April 28 at 6:30 PM with Dcn. Don Weigel. Dcn. Don's topic is "The Common Good." With all the talk on the news lately, you will not want to miss this one. Dessert and coffee will be provided. Books to guide you through this series are available to the first 20 participants. Free- Will donations are greatly appreciated and help us to continue to provide quality programs.

Our next baptism class for parents of children age 7 and under is next Sunday, May 4 at 12:30 PM at Blessed Trinity. Please register by calling your parish office.

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Children, parents, and other adults are invited to join us for Family Faith Formation: Can a kid be a saint? On Saturday, May 10, 1:00 PM at Blessed Trinity is St. Charles Hall (the school building behind the church.) This is our last Family Faith Formation until September

Our first Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place at St. Martin de Porres on Sunday, May 18 during the 9:30 AM Mass. Children will hear God's Word and participate in a small project to help them understand the readings. This monthly time together will be expanded when we are able to do so.

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**Confirmation 2025:** If you are in at least the 9th grade (including adults) and would like to be Confirmed next fall, now is the time to talk to us! Those who are not attending a Catholic High School and did not participate in the recently ended Introduction to Sacred Scripture Class, please contact Pat Dyer at Blessed Trinity as soon as possible to discuss catching up.

**Family 21 Events Calendar**

**Sun., May 4** - Women's Guild celebrates-"Wear White-Women's Day" 8am & 9:30am Mass

**Wed., May 21** - Prayer Partner Pot Luck Dinner-Ss. Columba-Brigid@6pm- (Arrival time-5:30pm)

**Sat., June 7** - "Swing Into Spring" 3rd Annual Father's Day Gala

**Sun., June 22** - First Communion

**Sat & Sun. July 19 & 20**- Eastside Garden Walk @ St. Martin de Porres - 10am to 4pm

**Sun., Aug 17**-Annual Picnic (more info to follow)

**Sun., Dec. 21**- St. Martin de Porres Christmas Concert (details to follow)

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**Catholic Relief Services Update:**

In Mali, it's hard to keep girls in school, and even harder to bring them back once they drop out. Around 80% of girls in Mali don't finish high school. But things are changing. Through the DEFI Education for Girls project, funded by Global Affairs Canada, we're breaking down the barriers that have held these girls back for so long. Catholic Relief Services is providing school supplies to create safe spaces for learning. Visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) for more information! Thanks for your support! Interested in joining our local chapter? Contact Dcn. Jerry or Dcn. Don

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**Catholic Charities Update**

**Catholic Charities honors the memory of Pope Francis. Pope Francis asked us to be kind and merciful to others, especially those who are marginalized in our society. Please help us to continue his mission with your support of Catholic Charities. St. Martin de Porres has raised \$9405 dollars towards our goal of 14,470. Thirty six generous donors have made this possible. Please consider a donation today. The Appeal ends June 30th.**

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**Women's Guild**

**Ladies, please remember to wear white on Sunday, May 4th. Special envelopes will be available for our May Day collection. We will have a luncheon after the 930 am Mass at the Amherst Buffet 2309 Eggert Rd. All Ladies are Welcome. Marianne Partee and Laurie Alford.**

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The **Best Kept Secrets of the Catholic Church** series begins on April 28 with Dcn. Don Weigel. Dcn. Don's topic is "The Common Good." With all the talk on the news lately, you will not want to miss this one. Our second topic will be on May 5 with Monica Saltarelli (Mission Manager at Trocaire College) on "Living Simply, Simply Living." Life can get so complicated. Does it have to be? Does God's way lead to a less stress filled life? Come with your questions and hear just what the Church actually teaches. Blessed Trinity, 6:30 PM. Dessert and coffee served. Free-Will offerings benefit the Fr. George Reger Faith Formation Fund and help us to arrange these programs and lectures. Books available to the first 20. See flyers.

**Gerard Place has announced May 20th as the next Respite Care date. \*Pre-registration is required by calling or emailing Eric Hall at 716-897-9948 extension 117 to register your loved ones.**