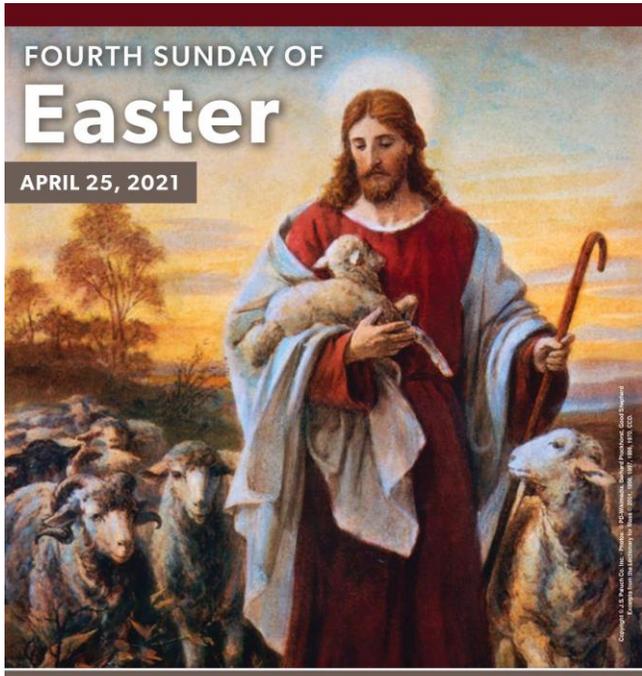


Church of the Precious Blood

72 Riverdale Avenue, Monmouth Beach, New Jersey 07750

Parish Office Tel: 732- 2224756 • Parish Office Fax: 732-759-8212 • Religious Education Office: 732-963-9982

E-Mail: office@churchofthepreciousblood.org • Website: www.churchofthepreciousblood.org



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

John 10:11

FOR MASS READINGS & FEAST DAYS:

- uscgb.org/bible/readings/
- uscgb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday, April 25, 3p

- Bilingual (English/Filipino) Mass, St. Dorothea

First Sundays beginning May 2

- **Helping Hearts** home-cooked food donations program restarts

Sunday, May 9

- Mother's Day Flower Sale at the doors of the church for the benefit of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thursday, May 13, Ascension Thursday

- Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Daily Masses available at 7:30a at Precious Blood, and 12:15p at St. Dorothea

HELPING HEARTS

CASSEROLES FOR THOSE IN NEED

Next Weekend, May 1 & 2

The pandemic stopped the monthly donation of home-cooked casseroles last year. And now, we're starting it back up! Trays are available this weekend and all week in the church lobby. Instruction sheets are also available next to the trays. The most important thing to keep in mind that whatever casserole you make, it must be clearly labeled, with date and type of casserole, and be frozen solid.

UPCOMING WEDDINGS

5/14: William DelVecchio & Angelico Blanco
6/6: Christopher Robinson & Carlie Mazzucco
6/10: Drew Whitlock & Elizabeth Cantelmo
6/19: Jim Dolan & Gabrielle Lubischer
6/19: James Kohnke & Shannon Coolahan

Saturday, April 24, 2021

5:30p Alfried Inacio req. by Wife, Mary Lou

Sunday, April 25, 2021

8:00a Janet McManus by Hinck Family

9:30p Marie Petrone

Monday, April 26, 2021

7:30a deceased members of our parish family

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

7:30a Mary Hinck by Hinck family

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

7:30a deceased members of our parish family

Thursday, April 29, 2021

9:00a Marie Petrone by Joseph Masica

Friday, April 30, 2021

7:30a Mr & Mrs Michael Jaccarino
by Mike Jaccarino

OUR LITURGY, OUR PARISH, AND THE PANDEMIC
PLEASE GET VACCINATED IF YOU ARE ABLE

In the past few weeks, I've run across some people who are "vaccination hesitant." I understand that fears can arise with new things and procedures. But, when I inquire why the hesitancy, it becomes clear that the fears are usually based on bad information.

One person told me that they're allergic to eggs. But, none of the three available vaccines contain eggs.

Another person told me they thought the vaccines were too new and untested. This is despite the fact that the current vaccines have gone through the same trials that all our childhood vaccines have gone through. The only 'shortcut' is the Emergency Use Authorization. And we're coming up on one billion (1,000,000,000) doses administered world-wide. We know the risks of the vaccines and they are way, way less risky than getting COVID and possibly suffering from severe illness, long-term side-effects from the virus, or even death.

A person vaccinated is much safer from any possible risk from the vaccine, than one who is unvaccinated who then can get infected, which has a much higher risk of serious health outcomes. **Doing nothing is riskier for one's health than getting vaccinated.**

Right before our "shelter at home" order last year, I talked at all the Masses about how our Catholic faith embraces intellectual pursuits, including science. The protocols we have in place are based on the latest scientific knowledge (which *does* get updated when we learn more about a brand-new virus... it's a continual learning process).

This is why I emphasized that we should all be getting our pandemic information from our health organizations: WHO, the CDC, our state health department and absolutely *not* from social media. Social media (Facebook, Twitter,

cable pundits, political speeches, letters to the editor, email) does not have a degree in epidemiology.

Our Pope, our bishop, and the priests of our parish have been vaccinated, and we all encourage those who are eligible, to get vaccinated. In New Jersey, 57% of those 16 years old and older have received at least their first dose. This is the reason why the number of daily COVID cases, hospitalization, and deaths are now decreasing (after spiking again just a month ago).

Of course, there are valid reasons for not getting a vaccine, especially for those with compromised immune systems (that can happen naturally, or from medicine used in treating some other disease). And children are not able to be vaccinated yet (though, it's looking good for younger children by the end of the Summer to be eligible).

We, who are eligible to be vaccinated, do so to not only protect ourselves, but everyone who isn't medically eligible to be vaccinated. For example, newborns aren't immediately vaccinated, and so, they rely on a vaccinated society to protect them from childhood diseases that could kill them, until the time comes in which they can be vaccinated.

People naturally long for things to "get back to normal." The more who are vaccinated, the faster we'll be able to get back to normal.

If you know someone "vaccine hesitant," please try to gently and charitably encourage them to be vaccinated, for their good, and the good of all God's children.

-Fr. Mike

PARTICIPATING IN THE CHURCH FROM HOME

Keep in mind that we live-stream all Masses (barring any occasional technical glitch). Go to our parish website, and from there, there is a link on the front page to our YouTube channel. Masses stream live, and then shortly afterwards, appear in the channel list of videos.