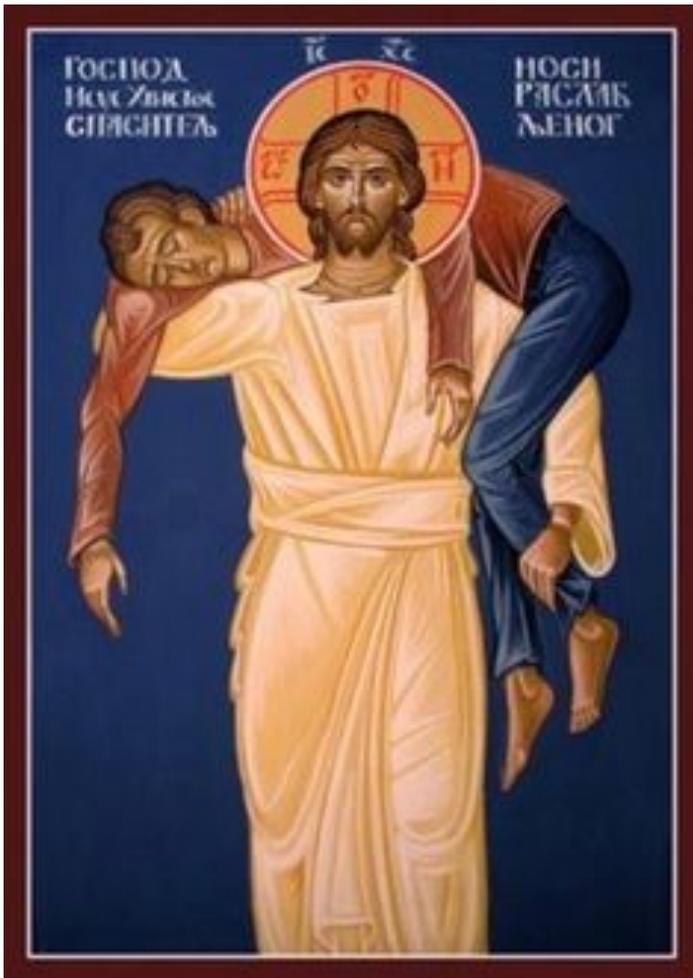


Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

May 7, 2017/FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PASTOR'S CORNER

The fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday. It's a much beloved image: the Good Shepherd leaving the ninety-nine sheep who are safe and sound in search of the one in danger of being mauled and eaten by wolves. He comes back with the sheep draped over his shoulders, the poor little lamby happily dozing and scarcely aware of the peril he had been in. I came across the below image recently, and it startled me: the image comes alive a bit more this way, doesn't it? Christ is not so much interested in the



kind of sheep that bleat and are eaten by wolves, but the kind of sheep you and I are. We are that poor wandering sheep that Christ goes out in search of: it's you, and it's me. The wonderful thing about our God and savior is not just that he has benevolent intentions toward us, but that he is powerful to fulfil them. Nothing escapes his providential care. The only way we can be lost is for us to refuse the offer of his care and the invitation to be happy in his Kingdom.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP All parishioners should participate fully in parish life (*this especially means worshipping at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation*), be registered here, and contribute to the support the parish to the extent possible. We often get requests for recommendations and permissions for parishioners to serve as godparents and sponsors. If we don't know you, we can't give that testimony on your behalf. You may have been baptized here (or gone to Catholic schools) but you need to be currently practicing and registered in your local parish (children are obviously registered with their parents; adults need to make their own arrangements). The Church requires that baptisms and marriages be celebrated in one's own parish. If one is not an active parishioner, problems could arise at those important times.

Baptisms Usually 1st and 3rd Sundays. Contact the pastor to schedule. First-time parents please also schedule a "pre-Jordan" preparation class—offered the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 7:15 p.m. in the parish center.

Weddings Active parishioners contact the parish office no later than six months prior to the desired wedding date. Marriage preparation normally includes several meetings with a priest, several meetings with a mentor couple of the parish, a weekend of conferences offered by the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, NFP training, and FOCCUS diagnostic. *If someone in your family is planning to get married*, please encourage them to speak to their pastor. The marriages of Catholics (whether or not they're marrying other Catholics) need to be conformable with Church law, and that requires that they receive suitable catechesis in preparation for marriage, and marry according to a certain rite.

Eucharistic exposition Wednesdays following the noon Mass until 7:00 p.m. Benediction. For information, and to volunteer to take hours of adoration, contact Regina Cano at (614) 582-8588.

Knights of Columbus Contact Trinidad Cano at (740) 819-8002. The K of C offer a hot breakfast every 4th Sunday following morning Masses, and lead the Rosary after the 11:00 Mass on 5th Sundays.

Choir We're always in need of more voices in the choir. Contact the parish office or the choir director Mrs. Adams. Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays, after Benediction.

Funeral luncheons Contact Mary Margaret Murphy at (740) 452-4454.

Rental information To reserve Rosary Hall or Activity Center (i.e. the school gym) contact Mary Ann Ewart at maewart@gmail.com or (740) 319-2449.

Pregnancy counseling Heartbeat Family Center/Pregnancy Distress: (740) 450-5437, www.heartbeats.org.

Prayer requests (740) 453-8397, (740) 297-7164, (740) 588-0314, or (740) 704-3136

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MASS INTENTIONS

*It is a holy and pious thought
to pray for the dead.
cf. 2 Maccabees, 12.*

Sunday, May 7

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00pm Kay E. Hamme (+)
7:00am Otto Heil (+)
9:00am Mick Norris (+)
11:00am People of the parish

Monday, May 8

Easter Weekday

8:00am Cecil Mary Soller (+)
12Noon Peter & Louise Barris (+)

Tuesday, May 9

Easter Weekday

8:00am Fred Barwick (+)
12Noon Marcia Dunkle (+)

Wednesday, May 10

St. Antoninus, O.P., Bishop

8:00am Tom Quinn (+)
12Noon Jennie Finnen (+)

Thursday, May 11

Easter Weekday

8:00am Mary Norris (+)
12Noon Ronald Bates (+)

Friday, May 12

Easter Weekday

8:00am End to abortion
12Noon Anna Morosco Labaki (+)

Saturday, May 13

Easter Weekday

9:00am Ernestine Dailey (+)

Sunday, May 14

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00pm Catherine J. Adornetto (+)
7:00am John & Anna Beardsley (+)
9:00am People of the parish
11:00am Ted Paulus

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 7

CCD following 9:00 a.m. Mass
Coffee and doughnuts after 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses

Monday, May 8

7:00 p.m. Scouts (Parish Center)

Tuesday, May 9

2:00 p.m. Bible Study with Fr. Luke
6:00 p.m. Rosary for Life (church)
7:00 p.m. RCIA (Parish Office)

Wednesday, May 10

Eucharistic exposition following noon Mass
6:00 p.m. Festival Committee (Parish Office)
7:00 p.m. Benediction
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal (church)

Thursday, May 11

6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Parish Office)

Friday, May 12

7:00 p.m. First Communion rehearsal (Church)

Saturday, May 13

11:00 a.m. First Communion Mass

Sunday, May 14

CCD following 9:00 a.m. Mass
Coffee and doughnuts after 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses

PARISH FINANCES

Weekend of April 30

Main collection total \$6,991.38*
Special collections 1,203.05]
Weekly Budget 11,538.00
This week's deficit - 4,546.62

Thank you!

** This figure includes envelope and loose amounts. It does not include automatic electronic donations.*

Upcoming special collections

This weekend St. Vincent de Paul Society
May 21 Catholic Communications Campaign
June 4 Catholic Home Missions
June 25 Peter's Pence

**PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT THOMAS
AQUINAS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL**

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A question about the Eucharist

Some while ago we tried to start a regular feature in these pages called “Ask a Dominican,” which would endeavor to be a kind of regular “Q and A” column about things Catholic. It never caught fire, to say the least. But people still ask good questions all the time, and I try to work them into the bulletin if they’re generally useful. There are two good questions people asked me recently, about the Eucharist, and both of them are about situations a lot of people have to deal with. One of them I’ll answer this week, and the other one next week.

I was at a Protestant (Episcopal) church recently for a funeral service. The minister invited everyone up to receive communion, “even Catholics,” he said, as he laughed. I felt strange so I didn’t go up to receive. Are Catholics allowed to receive communion at Protestant churches?

You were right not to receive. For there are no circumstances in which a Catholic may ever receive communion at Protestant services, even if explicitly invited. And for some very good reasons.

First of all, the sacraments are instituted by Christ himself, and given to the Church for our salvation. The greatest of all the sacraments is the Eucharist, because it is the body and blood of Jesus Christ himself. It is not a mere symbol or reminder of him, but is his body and blood: “This is my body; this is the chalice of my blood.” Yet the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century was a great repudiation of the traditional Catholic (and Orthodox) understanding of the sacraments as *efficacious signs* and *causes of grace*. With Protestantism the sacraments became psychologized. They became “mere” signs, mental and moral reminders, rather than signs which were also realities, possessing an intrinsic power to sanctify us.

Also, especially with respect to the celebration of the Eucharist, what is required is valid Holy Orders. Christ did not commission his disciples indiscriminately to preside over the Eucharist but only his apostles, and by extension those men whom his apostles would commission in Christ’s name (since Jesus gave them that authority). Any priest who presides at the Eucharistic sacrifice must have received his ordination from someone who was himself duly ordained, and the genealogy must be traceable back to the apostles themselves, and thus to Jesus Christ. The power to change bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ (and to minister any of the sacraments) doesn’t come from good will or personal faith but from God. You can’t plug a power tool into drywall and

expect it to work. You need a working outlet, otherwise no electrical power. And to think that the power to minister the sacraments originates with human beings is even more foolish yet. It comes from Jesus Christ, not from the Church. The apostles are not the head of the Church; Christ is Head of the Church. It is *through* the apostles, and the apostles’ successors, that the “electric current” of Christ’s power passes to us here and now. (This is called the principle of apostolic succession.)

Having said that, there is a bit of a complication I need to mention: some Episcopal priests are in a situation that differs from other Protestant ministers (I mention this difference because the question posed specifically mentions an Episcopal service). Some Episcopal ministers can in fact claim apostolic succession. The English Reformation was different from the Continental Reformation, and for a long time (outside of Puritan and Evangelical circles anyway) the Church of England was keen to preserve apostolic succession. So, it may just be possible that in some Episcopal Churches there are validly ordained priests celebrate a valid Eucharist. *But even so* there are at least two problems for Catholics. First, it’s difficult if not impossible to be sure who if any of the Episcopal priests in your area may be in fact validly ordained, and whether they also share a common intention in the celebration of the Eucharist (which is one of the requisites for sacramental validity: intending to do what the Church does). Secondly, even if one were somehow certain that a given Episcopal priest was validly ordained, it would still never be permissible to receive Eucharist with them, simply because the Anglican communion (Episcopal Church in America) is not *in* communion with the Catholic Church and the successor of St. Peter. “Communion” literally means “union-with” and if we are not united both *juridically* and *hierarchically*, there is no true sacrament of Communion (Eucharist) between us.

Consider this example. All of us Dominicans here at St. Thomas are validly ordained priests. But if any of us were to break off and start our own storefront Church, in defiance of the Pope and local Bishop, we would be committing a grave sin, and any Catholic who joined us and received Eucharist at our service would place himself in schism and also commit grave sin against Church unity. Our Eucharist might be valid, but it would be sinful, for us and for anyone who would take part in it, because the sacraments are not the property of individual Christians but of the universal Church. And that, writ small, is the quarrel between the Catholic Church and Protestant ecclesial communities: the latter are breakaway sects from the Mother Church. It might sound harsh and conde-



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scending to put it that way, but that's the reality as the Catholic Church sees it—and by the way there's nothing for Catholics to boast about in all this. Part of what precipitated and abetted the Reformation was scandalous behavior of Catholic Christians, both clergy and lay. Neither Protestant nor Catholic is innocent of the divisions that beset us, and neither has acquitted themselves perfectly since. Both have saints, both have sinners. But the integrity of a full sacramental system is only to be found in the Catholic Church (and the Orthodox Churches, though that's another long story).

Our desire for union with non-Catholics is a very good and holy thing, and we can't desire more than Christ himself, who prayed for it as he went to the Father: "that all may be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I in you." But it will not come about by Catholics' receiving communion at Protestant services or by offering them the Eucharist at ours. Pope Benedict XVI frequently warned against the pitfalls of what he termed "false irenicism": i.e., pretending there is peace when there is no peace. Full reunion (and thus the possibility of true Communion) among Christians can never happen at the expense of truth, without a clear-eyed acknowledgement of what things divide us. Truth stated clearly and charitably, without rancor, is a key ingredient authentic Christian unity.

Most of all, the divisions caused by man can only be overcome by God: that's why we call God our Savior. We can't resolve our own divisions any more than we can forgive our own sins, because those divisions *are* sins. We should love all our neighbors, especially other Christians who share Baptism into Christ. And we should pray daily for perfect Christian Unity.

St. Antoninus of Florence, O.P.

You'll notice in the schedule of Masses for this week that we celebrate another Dominican on Wednesday, May 10: St. Antoninus. Some of you may remember a priest here a while back, Fr. Antoninus Niemiec (a classmate of mine). He took his name after this saint.

St. Antoninus' years were 1389 to 1459, of the family Pierozzi in Florence. Florence—you may know from reading Dante Alighieri—has a colorful history, and Antoninus lived during some of its most colorful years of all. Among his contemporaries were (fellow Dominicans) Blessed John Dominic, Fra (Blessed) Angelico, Fr. Bartolommeo (the last two famous artists), the fiery preacher Girolamo Savonarola, and of course this was all during the Medici dynasty.

But St. Antoninus is known for three important things. First, he was part of the Dominican reform movement that included the friars mentioned above, especially Bd. John Dominic and Bd. Angelico. The Church is *semper reformanda*, ever in need of reform, and so are religious orders. Florence, being the epicenter of the Italian Renaissance, could beget self-importance and worldliness, especially among learned men like Dominicans. The Dominican reform movement sought to preserve poverty and regular observance, in the teeth of worldly temptations. Secondly, he was a canon lawyer who showed great psychological keenness and love for people struggling against sin. He wrote manuals for confessors with sometimes quite detailed prescriptions for how to apply distinct remedies for various kinds of sin.

Finally, he was a bishop of the Church, of the See of Florence, in fact, and although it went against his inclinations he was known to be a deeply devoted and wise pastor. May he intercede for us all!

ATTENTION, LADIES: YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The "Beauty of the Feminine" Zanesville Catholic Women's Conference will be held on October 7th this year, and we are still looking for some willing souls to help make this event a success.

- Follow-up phone calls/visits to parishes and businesses
- Phone calls to local media outlets to promote the event
- Coordinating volunteers for event breakfast
- Assisting with registration the day of the event
- Event setup and teardown

If you feel called to help with any of these tasks or as a general volunteer before or during the event, please contact Cate at 740-705-0982 or thebeautyofthefeminine@gmail.com with your interest and availability.



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Please pray for the home-bound of the parish:

Margaret Gladys Abbott, Nancy Arledge, William & Jan Barry, Mary Batteiger, Gertrude Bell, Madelyn Bronkar, Mathilda Clark, Bart & Josephine Cooper, Mary Cowden, Herman Crock, Michael Curtis, Jeanne Dittmar, Frances Feerick, Evelyn DiVincenzo, Betty Fedor, Beverly Foley, Isabel Gilchrist, Mary Ellen Grafton, Florence Herbert, Sandra Honeywell, Patricia Huck, Eileen Johnston, Mike Kline, Dorothy Loewendick, Henry Long, David Macenko, Dolores Mahon, Josephine Marshall, Patricia Perone, Alice Pitcock, Mary Polascak, Mary Postlewaite, Mary Rosta, George and Barb Ridenour, Joe and Barbara Ritchey, Regina Ritchey, Mary Lou Scott, Barbara Schumacher, Loretta Silfko, Terri Woods

A HEALING MASS and service will be celebrated **May 15th, at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad Street, Columbus.** Following the Mass, a Service of Healing will begin with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Veneration of relic of the True Cross of Christ, followed by an opportunity for each person to speak individually with a priest and receive a prayers of healing for what they seek; the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will also be available. The Service of Healing will close with Benediction. All persons who seek Christ's healing are invited – especially those who suffer with physical illness and infirmities, in addition to those in seek emotional and spiritual healing. All caregivers, family members, and members of the medical community are invited as well. Parking is available at the rear of the Cathedral accessible off East Gay Street; handicap accessible elevator is located in the courtyard (west side of the Cathedral) on East Broad Street. **Bi-monthly Healing Masses take place at the Cathedral on the third Monday. During the remainder of 2017 they are scheduled for: July 17, September 18, and November 20.** If you have any questions about this special Mass please call the Cathedral: (614) 224-1295.

Church Cleaners We have a crew of dedicated church-cleaners who work one Saturday morning per month to keep the interior of the church (and sacristy, restrooms, etc.) ship-shape and glistening. More help is needed. If you're willing and able to assist, contact Karen Lyon at karen_lyon@yahoo.com. *Service hours can be credited to students for this work.*

Festival News

This year's festival will be held June 8-10. We are currently in need of gently used stuffed animals and 2-liter soft drinks for the children's games; also Irish Raffle Basket items whose themes this year are: Ohio State Buckeyes, Crafts for Boys, Crafts for Girls, Cupcake Baking, Father's Day, Wine Lovers. Donations may be dropped off at the parish office. Next planning meeting is Wednesday, May 10, at 6:00 in the parish office. Anyone who wants to help in any capacity is welcome to attend.

Thursday Bible Study

This Thursday the Jeff Cavins Bible Study Program resumes in the parish office, at 6:30 p.m. This is part of a 24-party Bible Study designed by Jeff Cavins, and is being headed here in our parish by Mary Baker. Cost for the materials is \$34.95 + shipping. For more information, contact Mary Baker at (740) 297-5851 or marytbaker@hotmail.com.

Fr. Pius' contact information:

Before July:

Fr. Pius Pietrzyk, OP
Priory of St. Mary Immaculate of the Rosary
Main Street
Tallaght D24 W410
Republic of Ireland
Tel: [+353 01.404.8118](tel:+353014048118)

After July:

Fr. Pius Pietrzyk, OP
St. Patrick Seminary and University
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Tel: [\(650\) 325-5621](tel:6503255621)