

Pastor's Desk

Jesus our Good Shepherd: This Fourth Sunday of Easter is known also as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is kept as "Vocation-Day" a day of prayer and reflection, to see how we may help our children to become the good shepherds as Christ wants them to be, and to remain faithful to God's call. This weekend as we celebrate the sacrament of confirmation of our young adults, this is God's call to them. Throughout the readings time and again, Jesus is our shepherd and ourselves as the sheep of his flock. Christ our Shepherd speaks to us. He does not only speak, but calls each of us our name. Our response is to hear him, to recognize his voice, and to follow where he leads. Jesus does not call us in some general, abstract, impersonal way: "Hey, you!" Rather, he knows who we are, what we need, and the person we are coming to be. What a great gift it is that he knows us by name and calls out to each of us as though we were the only sheep in all the world. Already he knows us, and invites us to know him, to know him and follow him.

Why is it so hard to listen to the Shepherd's voice? Because true listening leaves us open to be touched and changed by the truth we hear. That's risky business! So often the truth, if we hear it, overturns our prejudices, challenges our self-image, shakes up our view of the world. Most of us are at least a little uneasy about having our boat rocked. Yes, listening is hard. It takes practice. But the saving grace is the Shepherd never ceases to call us. Discipleship requires that we listen to the Shepherd who addresses us in every situation. But it does not stop there. **Our discipleship also requires that we follow where he leads us.** We do not sit down where we are. We do not wander off. We follow him because we trust him. **Fr. Albeen.**

Cajun fest needs your help!

How you can get involved?
Buy or sell raffle tickets.
Why should you help your parish?
This is St. Francis' major fundraiser.
See below PRIZES information.



Save the date
Sunday May 6, 2018
11:00 am - 4:00 pm
join us for our
Annual Cajun Fest.

Seven Night Stay in a 3BR, 3.5 Bath Home in Sandestin, Miramar Beach, Florida
Compliments of Nancy and John Price

Samsung 55" LED Curved Smart 4K Ultra HD Television
Compliments of Sharon and Johnny Maloney

TREK 820 Mountain Bicycle and Bontrager Solstice Bike Helmet
Compliments of Indian Cycle and Vana and Jim Johnson

Bulova Clock
Compliments of Albriton's Jewelers

Ladies 15 Diamond Cross Necklace
Compliments of Juniker Jewelry Company

Round of golf for four (4), cart fees included
Compliments of Tim Basel, Head Golf Pro at Reunion Golf & Country Club

Round of golf for four (4) with Head Golf Pro, Chad Darby
Compliments of Annandale Country Club

Friday or Saturday Night Stay for Two at the Hilton Garden Inn
Compliments of the Hilton Garden Inn Madison



THANK YOU!

On behalf of the newly **confirmed**, we would like to say thank you to the many people who made this special evening possible.

First, thank you to Bishop Kopacz for celebrating this mass with us and to our priests – Fr. Albeen and Fr. Jason, and the parish office staff for all their help in preparing tonight's celebration.

We'd also like to thank all the liturgical ministers who served during this liturgy.

Many thanks to Mrs. Judy Sudduth, the choir and all the music ministers for providing us with the beautiful music during tonight's mass.

We'd also like to thank our catechists who helped us prepare for this sacrament all throughout the year.

We'd also like to thank our reception team and all those who helped to prepare a lovely reception for us all.

Lastly, we'd like to thank our parents and our parish community for leading us and guiding us in our faith over the years. We are deeply grateful for your love and support.

Religious Education "Behold, children are a gift from the Lord."

All are invited to the **First Holy Communion Mass** to be celebrated on April 29 at 3:00 p.m. Practice will be held for all communicants and parents on Wednesday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to bring appetizers and sweets for our **First Communion Reception**. Please contact Melissa Smalley at Mjs0406@aol.com for details if you would like to contribute.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with *Breakfast with Jesus* for our First Communicants last Sunday!

Come aboard the *SS St. Francis* and sail to the Island of **VBS on June 18-22!** Many crew members are needed in order to offer VBS for Pre-k -4th graders for the full week: 3 more teachers, 4 more assistants, 2 music program coordinators, 2 babysitters, decorators, and kitchen workers. We must have all these volunteers by May 15 in order to have a full week of VBS. Contact Mary Catherine now at mc.george@stfrancismadison.org to volunteer.



A special **Children's Mass** will be held for all **2nd - 6th graders on May 6 at 10:30 a.m.** We will honor our First Communicants at this Mass. Children will be dismissed from the church at 10:25 a.m. to be led to St. Clare Hall for Mass, then led back into the church after Communion.

Yahweh's Youth (YY) & Faithful Followers (FF) 7th-12th Graders

WOW! this week will be from 6:30-8:00 in the FLC Lounge.

SENIORS – Save the Date for **May 20** for the Class of 2018 Senior Appreciation Mass and Reception at **5 p.m.**

All current 8th-12th-graders, this year's **Summer Retreat and Rafting Trip** is coming up on **July 7-11. The deadline is April 30th.**

Anyone entering grades 9-12th for the 2017-2018 school year is encouraged to consider joining the **Faithful Followers Leadership Council.** **The deadline is April 30th.**

M&M Bible Study Group

M&M Bible Study Group will begin on Wednesday, April 18. The sessions are held in St. Francis Family Life Center, every Wednesday from 9:15 to 11:15. All ladies of the parish and your friends are invited to participate. We hope to see you!

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Truth and Life Audio Bible: Mark

The Gospel Comes to Life!

This dramatic reading of Saint Mark's Gospel invites you deep into the extraordinary story of true discipleship and life with Christ. Be inspired anew to pick up your cross and follow Christ as you experience the Gospel in a new and vivid way.



★★★★★

"I was transported to the whole story as if I were there with Jesus and the disciples. Truly a profound experience."

—Lynn H. Windsor, CO

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St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 2018 Sacraments

Confirmation,
Sunday April 22nd
Sunday Mass 5:00 p.m.

First Holy Communion,
Sunday, April 29th
Sunday Mass 3:00 p.m.

If you are looking for Confirmation or First Holy Communion gifts (rosaries, medals, necklaces, etc.), you may find them in the Church Office.

Offertory Contributions



Budgeted Weekly Amount:	\$ 30,000.00
Children's	\$ 82.50
<u>Weekly</u>	<u>\$ 18,419.00</u>
Total	\$ 18,501.50

Our second collection next weekend Apr. 29 is for The Catholic Home Missions Appeal.



The good shepherd deeply desires that many other sheep could come to identify themselves with him. The ultimate goal is that "...there will be one flock, one shepherd", that the whole world will be united together with its God and Lord. This is the meaning of the Kingdom which is at the heart of the Gospel message.

If you know someone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith please contact Wollie Wolcott at wollie.wolcott@stfrancismadison.org or call the parish office.

Meetings are held every Wednesday evening 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the RCIA Room and we welcome new inquirers year round.



Employment Opportunities Director of Music Ministry (Part-time 20-25 hours per week)

Responsibilities: plan, and oversee the music ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church; coordinate, lead, and direct music for all weekend liturgies and special feast days; collaborate with the pastor, parish staff, and volunteers.

Qualifications: be active in the Catholic Church and in good standing with the church's teachings; have music ministry experience and a bachelor's degree in Music; be able to work well in shared, collaborative ministry.



St. Anthony Catholic School has an opening for a full-time position in the Administration Office. The school is seeking an experienced and talented Development Director to manage marketing and fundraising activities as well as oversee special events. To apply, please contact Lisa Harmon at 601.607.7054 or send your resume to Lisa at lharmon@stanthonyeagles.org.

Teach Our Faith Grant & Aid Assessment Online Platform Is Now Available.

Have you considered sending your child to St. Anthony Catholic School but decided not to do so because you could not afford it? For those St. Francis families who qualify, the Teach Our Faith initiative is here to help. St. Francis has selected FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment to conduct the financial need analysis. The application process is completed online and can be found here: <https://online.factsmgmt.com/signin/4GVBH>. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2018-2019 school year. The deadline to submit an application is June 1, 2018.

Please support Teach Our Faith. Every month, there is a second collection for Teach Our Faith. Your generosity makes it possible for the parish to provide a Catholic education to families who otherwise might not be able to afford it. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Support the St. Thea Bowman Draw Down

The Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic School Draw Down is on April 28 at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$100 and admit 2 persons. Second chance insurance is \$20. Each ticket presents a chance to win \$5000. To purchase tickets visit the Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic School website at theabowmanschool.com or contact the school at 601-352-5441.



Gudrun Winter

Mother of parishioner Kevin Fugate, passed away last Monday. May God grant her soul eternal rest. Please keep her family in your prayers.

WEEK'S READINGS

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20
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 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018



Sat., Apr. 21- **ST. ANSELM**
5:30 p.m. Mass (+) **Dolores Cristina**

Sun., Apr. 22 - **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8:00 a.m. Mass
10:30 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine
5:00 p.m. Mass **SI - Jan & Bruce Evans**

Mon., Apr. 23 - **ST. GEORGE/ST. ADALBERT**
7:00 a.m. Mass **SI - Sylvia Mills & Family**
8:30 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine (+) **Diane Dinkins**

Tue., Apr. 24 - **ST. FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN**
7:00 a.m. Mass (+) **JoAnn Dreiling**
8:30 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine **SI-Mary & Chris Manning**

Wed., Apr. 25 - **ST. MARK, EVANGELIST**
7:00 a.m. Mass (+) **Mary Jane & Frank Zito**
8:15 a.m. Mass - St. Anthony
8:30 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine **SI-Benjamin Williams**

Thurs., Apr. 26- **WEEKDAY OF EASTER**
7:00 a.m. Mass (+) **Mary & Ken Brown**
8:30 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine (+) **Deceased Doyle Family**

Fri., Apr. 27 - **WEEKDAY OF EASTER**
7:00 a.m. Mass
8:30 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine (+) **Diane Dinkins**

Sat., Apr. 28 - **ST. PETER CHANEL**
5:30 p.m. Mass (+) **Eliza Lugo**

Sun., Apr. 29 - **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
8:00 a.m. Mass **SI - Nita Thames & Family**
10:30 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Mass - St. Catherine
5:00 p.m. Mass

(+) **Rest of the Soul** **SI Special Intention**

CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ **Apr. 22 - 5:00 p.m. Mass for Confirmation.**
- ♦ **Apr. 25 - 6:30-8:00 p.m. WOW in the FLC.**
- ♦ **Apr. 26 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sharing Christ Program.**
- ♦ **Apr. 27 - 6:00-7:30 a.m. TMIY in the FLC.**
- ♦ **Apr. 29 - 3:00 p.m. First Holy Communion.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Annie Davis, John Matthew Davis, Carrie Maniscalco, Bo King, Rob Parsons, Isabella Saab, John Suedel, Ray Hansen, Judy Abdo Claudette & Willie George, Billy Martinson, Joseph Edge, Jerry Thomas, Chris Smith, Patsy Gerrets, Mary Conner, Austin Stewart, Jessie Tynes, Ellie Liebl, Sheila Boackle, Amanda Williams, Edna Brown, Regina Stinson, Melanie Beyea, Patricia Ballentine, Aleykutty Sebastian, Mary Jane Hogan, Charles Rieckie, Brandi Ham, Luella Doolittle, Patrick Jordan, Louis Pellegrine, Estelle Hearn, Dora Thomas, John Walker, Steve Latza, Peggy Zarate, Rainey Thames, Earline Ashley, Rick Mills, and Wilma Kennedy.



PRAY FOR OUR SOLDIERS
Revell Patterson, Paul Boackle,
Benjamin Williams and Daniel Machado
Thank you for protecting our country.
May the Lord keep you safe.



ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN

The power of prayer is available to all those in need through the Assisi Prayer Chain. Call (225) 205-7455 or (601) 607-7062 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.