

4th Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026



“Recognition is the sweetest grace of the New Testament.” — Bishop Daniel Flores

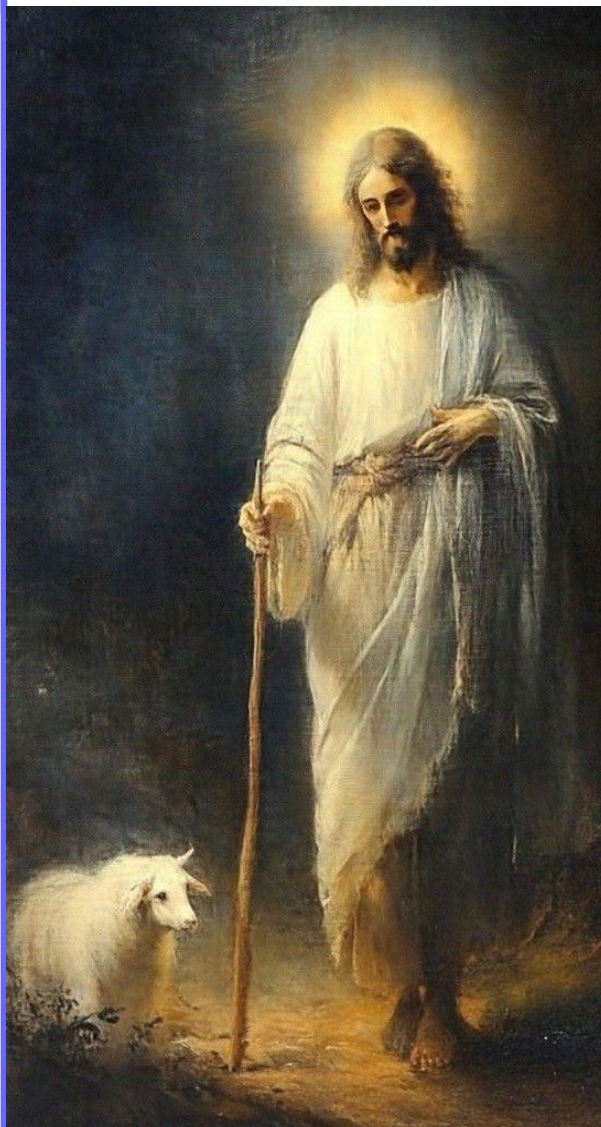
Let us spend this Easter Season recognizing Christ in one another!



You Will Be My Witnesses Capital Campaign

It won't be long now until you receive your **Capital Campaign** packet in the mail. Your **brochure** will provide you with all kinds of information on what **the money** will be spent on—both at **the Diocesan level** and at your **Church**. There will also be the amount that **your family** will be asked to pledge. This number will be shocking to you, only because it is a statement of how **generous** you have been with **the Church** in the past. It will be shocking to you, because **the Diocese** is asking us to make a **sacrifice** for the good of our **local** and **Diocesan Church**. It will be shocking to you, because this amount is the summation of a 3-year pledge. When you receive your **Capital Campaign** packet, please read through all the information and **prayerfully** consider making **Holy Mother**

Church happy by pledging the amount, which you think begins to pay back just a small amount of what God has **gifted** your family with already. Remember, God's only Begotten Son died to give you **the Sacraments** of **Eternal life** every Sunday.



From the Gusset

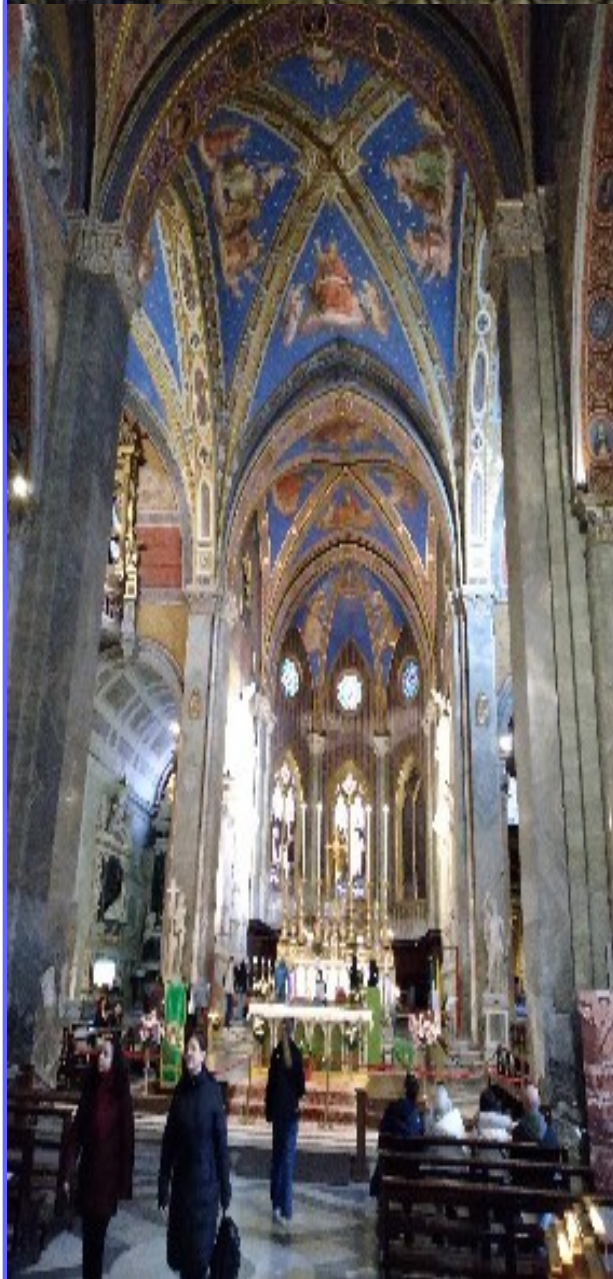
The **Good Shepherd** says, "I know my sheep by name!" It was always **exciting** to me (even though **North Central College** had a small **teacher-to-student** ratio) when **the teacher** called me by name in the classroom. To think that God is not too busy running **the Universe** to know my individual name and everything about me and that this God, who made each one of us in **the image and likeness** of His Son desires us to **love** Him! I am beside myself that I can make Jesus **happy**, and that I do make our Lord **smile** every time I show God my **love**. **Funeral Masses** are so important to God and our **Church Community**, because when someone dies we cannot replace them. Every person **loves** God in a very unique way, and in a way in which the rest of us cannot **love** God. Jesus thirsted from the Cross for the deceased's **love**, and so we celebrate **the Eucharist** and bring together these two great **lovers** – God and His beloved one. I always think it is an honor to celebrate someone's **Funeral Mass**, and you should consider it an honor to make a **Spiritual Communion** for the Deceased at their **Funeral Mass**; for what you and I are doing at **the Mass**, are allowing these two intimate **lovers** to **love** one another – we are allowing the **Good Shepherd** to call out to His favorite sheep.

Yours on the Path

Fr. Randy



St. Catherine of Siena Feast Day April 29th



There are not many **female** Saints that break into my **Dream Team** of Saints, but **St. Catherine of Siena** is one of them. With her **Feast Day** coming up, I will bless the Faithful with a 3rd class relic of **St. Catherine** that I created during my **pilgrimage** to **Rome** in 2024. **St. Catherine's** body is contained under the main altar of the Dominican Church of **Santa Maria Sopra Minerva**. I passed this Church every day for four years as walked to school at **the Angelicum**, but the high altar region was typically off limits to the visitors of the Church. For whatever reason the Dominicans now allow **pilgrims** to enter the high-sanctuary and walk to the priestly-side of the altar, and they have opened the glass-gated-doors under the altar – which allowed me to touch **a handkerchief** to the marble coffin. I have placed the cloth in a **reliquary**, which I will place on our altar in **Sublette** for **the Mass** next Wednesday. Incidentally, all you fans of **the blue-starry** ceiling of **St. Patrick's** in Amboy have the Church of **Santa Maria Sopra Minerva** to thank. **Msgr. Brodeski** was the vocation director for the Diocese of Rockford, when I was a **Seminary**, and **Msgr.** fell in **love** with **the blue-starred** vaults of this Church. When he was assigned as Pastor at **St. Patrick's**, **Msgr. Brodeski** had the Church interior repainted to mimic the Church that houses the body of **St. Catherine**.

The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci



Leonardo da Vinci was a true **Renaissance man**, who could do everything and anything that he set his mind to. He was a great artist, an author, **a scientist, an inventor**, and he held down many other professions in his life, which lasted 67 years from 1452 to 1519. **Leonardo's** inventive nature nearly lost the world of **art** and **religion**, his greatest work: **the Last Supper**. For going the tried-and-true **fresco technique** that literally guaranteed that the work would be preserved for many, many centuries – **Leonardo** invented a new **fresco technique**, which would allow him to use more vibrant colors (especially **blue**) and a more varied palette of colors. So instead of using **tempera paint** on wet plaster (the common **fresco technique**), **Leonardo** decided to seal the stone wall of **the monastery refectory** with a layer of

pitch, gesso, and mastic (a plant resin), and then paint onto the sealing layer with **tempera**. This new technique was subject to mold and flaking; and in as little as 20 years, after the painting was finished (1498), it was already starting to flake off. By 1556, **Giorgio Vasari** (an artist himself and **Leonardo's** biographer) described **the Last Supper** as already 'ruined' and so deteriorated that the figures were unrecognizable. There have been over a dozen restoration projects in the last 500+ years, and to put this in perspective: **Michelangelo's** frescoed **Sistine Chapel** ceiling (finished in 1512 with the tried-and-true **fresco technique**) has had only three major restorations! Many of the original details of **the Last Supper**, which would have otherwise been lost, were preserved in the preliminary sketches that **da Vinci** made to win **the commission** to do the painting for the monk's refectory. These sketches are now contained in the **Royal Collection at Windsor Castle** in England. We will talk more about this **treasure trove** next week.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 25th Feast of St. Mark

(+) Joseph Schauer/ Roger & Richard Fronek

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Frank Shepherd/ Betty Meznarich

Sunday, April 26th 4th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Lynne Swanson

10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Julie Kaelin/ Fr. Randy

Noon **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Monday, April 27th

(+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vaessen

Tuesday, April 28th

(+) Howard McInnis/ Jerry & Connie Northcutt

Wednesday, April 29th Feast of St. Catherine of Siena

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Thomas Berry/ Joni Walker

Thursday, April 30th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Patricia Boone/ Mr. & Mrs. John Corcoran

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Theresa Wilson &
(+) Robert Bulfer/ Carlene Schuhler

Friday, May 1st

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Sharon Funfsinn/ Marilyn Weeks

noon, **St. Katherine Hospital** Deacon Armando Regalado/ Fr. Randy

Saturday, May 2nd

Fr. Kramer/ Shelly Oltmans

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Raymond & (+) Jean Ritola/ Mary Lynn Valentin

Sunday, May 3rd 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** Brian Quest/ John Gorman

10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Noon **OLPH** (+) Richard & (+) Leila Garland/ Family



ACT OF FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that Your divine Son became man, and died for our sins and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths, which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

ACT of HOPE

O my God, relying on Your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon for my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

ACT of LOVE

O my God, I love You above all things with my whole heart and soul, because You are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon for all whom I have injured.

