

The Basilica of Saint Mary of the Assumption

PARISH OFFICE: 506 Fourth Street, Marietta OH 45750 PHONE: 740-373-3643
WEBSITE: www.stmarysmarietta.org www.facebook.com/stmarysmarietta EMAIL: info@stmarysmarietta.org



April 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat	5:30 PM - Jim Archer, 6 th Anniversary
Sun	8:00 AM - Justin Carney
	10:00 AM - Mark Bradley
	12:00 PM - People of the Parish
Mon	7:45 AM - Tim Strahler
	12:05 PM - Mary (Huck) Zwick
Tue	7:45 AM - Janet Offenberger
	12:05 PM - No Mass
Wed	7:45 AM - Billy Matheny
	12:05 PM - Henry Albrecht
	6:00 PM - Liv/dec'd Members of Our Catholic Woman's Club
Thu	7:45 AM - Phyllis Meseroll
	12:05 PM - Mary Zwick
Fri	7:45 AM - Terry Arnold
	12:05 PM - Leo & Alice Strahler
Sat	9:00 AM - Lucille Henry
	5:30 PM - Lee Bryant
Sun	8:00 AM - People of the Parish
	10:00 AM - J. Archer
	12:00 PM - Helen Steil, 4 th Anniversary of Death
	2:00 PM - First Communion

SUNDAY MASSES - Saturday 5:30 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM

CONFESSIONS - Saturday 3:30-5:00 PM (or anytime by appointment)

BAPTISMS - Contact Parish Office

WEDDINGS - Contact Parish Office *six months* in advance

Rector - Rev. Msgr. John Michael Campbell (fatherjmike@gmail.com)

Parochial Vicar - Rev. Edward Maxfield Jr. (emaxfield@diosteub.org)

Permanent Deacon - Rev. Mr. Lee Weisend

Music Director - Mr. John Ontko (740-350-4224, ontkob@suddenlink.net)

St. Mary School - 320 Marion St, 740-374-8181 (www.stmaryscatholic.org)

School Principal - Elizabeth Tokodi (elizabethtokodi@stmaryscatholic.org)

DRE - Mrs. Deborah Coty - (dmcoty22@gmail.com)

K of C Grand Knight - Mr. Pete Saliba (304-494-6170)

Parish Council President - Luke Strahler - 614-309-8876

CWC President - Jenn Tinkler

Hibernians - Mr. William Rathbone (740) 374-5492

Prayer Line - & Eucharistic Adoration, Mrs. Shelly Medley (740-525-6360)

Health Ministry - Mrs. Janet Jaeger (740-374-6768)

Daily Bread Kitchen - Mrs. Carol Henshaw (740-885-1181)

St. Vincent De Paul - Help Line (740-376-1334)

Welcoming Committee - Jim Naylor (740) 350-5510

Divine Mercy Gift Shop - Barb Ritchie (740) 538-4733

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12.

REST IN PEACE:

We extend our condolences to Connie Dyar on the death of her sister. Opal M. Mendenhall passed away April 20th at Marietta Memorial Hospital. We will remember Opal in prayer and ask God to grant her eternal peace and happiness.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bulletin announcements must be in by Wednesday morning in order to be included in the following weekend's bulletin. Announcements must be in writing. We do not accept them by phone.

5TH SUNDAY ROSARY:

Knights of Columbus will be praying the rosary before all Masses this Sunday. (7:30 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM.) All parishioners are invited to join us.

VISITORS WELCOME! We welcome any visitors who are joining us for Mass this weekend. We hope your stay in Marietta is enjoyable. Any new parishioners at the Basilica are asked to please register with the parish office.

PARISH OFFICES are open from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM on Mondays and from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM Tuesday through Friday, with a lunch break from Noon until 1:00 PM each day.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

MON	6:00 PM	-	RCIA in the Basilica Social Hall.
	6:15 PM	-	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions. See announcement.
	7:00 PM	-	St. Vincent DePaul Society Meeting in the Conference Room.
TUE	9:30 AM	-	Daily Bread Kitchen Committee Meeting in the Basilica Social Hall.
WED	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	6:00 PM	-	CWC Mass, May Crowning and Parish Dinner. See reservation form.
THU	6:00 PM	-	First Communion Practice.
FRI	8:20 AM	-	7:00 PM – Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of the English Martyrs.
	9:00 AM	-	To 3:15 PM – Second Grade Retreat.

The Lord Will Never Be Outdone In Generosity!

Total collection last weekend: \$ 12,196.00

Amount needed each weekend for
the Basilica budget: \$14,225.00

God bless those who support our Basilica Parish!

SECOND COLLECTION

The first weekend of each month there is a second collection for the maintenance of our Basilica. This collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend, May 6th and 7th. Envelopes were provided with your packet.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available at the Basilica. For more information, please visit this website: <http://www.stmarysmarietta.org> and go to the left side of the web page. Click on the GIVE ONLINE button to see more information or to sign up.

BASILICA FOUNDATION:

A fund has been established by the Marietta Community Foundation for the maintenance and repairs of our Basilica. This fund is separate from the monthly maintenance collection. Our goal is to have One Million Dollars in the fund before using it.

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

Please pray for all of the men and women who are serving our Country in the military. We especially remember those from our own parish and friends of our parishioners. May God watch over them and keep them safe.

SAINT MARY SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to our April Students of the Month who were recognized for the Christian Citizenship theme of “show cooperation”. Congratulations to Jonathan Hendricks, Liam Long, Kathryn Nguyen, Piper Yates and Paisley Eschbaugh.

Spring into reading Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the Parish Center May 8th – May 11th from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. This will be a perfect time to stock up on summer reading materials!

A special night of Bingo is being held on Thursday, May 11th as a fundraiser for the New Gym/stage area. We invite you to join in this night of door prizes and fun held in the Parish Center! Doors open at 4:30 PM and Bingo begins at 6:00 PM.

The St. Mary Catholic School Spring Art & Music Show is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th. Doors open at 5:30 PM for the Art exhibits and 6:30 PM for the music portion in the New Gym.

CATHECIST DAY OF FORMATION

Saturday, May 20th, Ironton
Saturday, May 27th, Carrollton

A day of formation, fellowship and prayer. Diocese of Steubenville, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. The event is designed to encourage and equip catechists so that they can better hand on the faith to your learners. The day will include the celebration of Mass, lunch and discussion groups and keynote speaker, Bill Keiming, Assistant Director of Catechetical Institute.

RSVP: BHUZOVIC@DIOSTEUB.ORG

CEMETERY COMMITTEE THANK YOU

The Cemetery Committee thanks Al Lang/Greenleaf plus K of C Members and parish volunteers for all their help in the recent clean-up at the St. Mary Cemetery.

DONUT SUNDAY

Beginning this May, the first Sunday of every month will be Donut Sunday. Please join us in the Social Hall after the 8:00 AM or 10:00 AM Mass to enjoy fellowship and donuts/coffee! These Sundays will be a great opportunity to spend time with fellow parishioners. Our first date will be Sunday, May 7th. Hope to see you there!

DIVINE MERCY GIFT SHOP

First Holy Communion is a special occasion for girls and boys as they receive Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. If you are looking for a special gift to cherish the moment, Divine Mercy Gift Shop will have that perfect gift for you. Stop in and check out the new line of items.

Do not forget Mom. Mothers' Day will soon be here. There are also many special gifts for Baptism, Weddings, Memorial, and for any loved one. The gift shop is open in the social hall after all weekend Masses.

If you prefer to shop during the week, please call Barb at 740-538-4733 to arrange a time.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Please check with the parish office before scheduling a meeting in the Basilica Social Hall, Conference Room or using the Basilica Kitchen.

If you change the time or date of a previously scheduled meeting, please be sure the new time is available. All meetings and events must be put in the master book in the parish office.

LIVING JOY

Through a donation, the book Living Joy by Chris Stefanick will be available for checkout in the parish library. Due to the content that asks for reflection, the book will be discussed at the June meeting of the Basilica Book Club. There are plenty of copies and this will give everyone time to have the book read and have "food for thought"

2023 DIOCESAN/PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN

This year our parish goal is \$115,639.21. This is an increase of \$4,381.21 over last year. So far, the Diocese has received \$64,022 from our parish. This means that our parish has only met 55% of our goal.

If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so. Pledge cards are available at the parish office. We have always met and surpassed our goal. Please help us do so again this year. We are so grateful to all of those parishioners who have contributed thus far. God bless you for your generosity to our parish and our diocese.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Our welcoming committee would like to begin contacting new parishioners again. All organizations are invited to put information into the welcoming packet. Most organizations have a letter in the existing packet but most likely it needs to be updated. Please type a letter to be put in the welcoming packet and send it to the parish office as soon as possible. Packets will be given to new parishioners.

MAY CROWNING AND PARISH DINNER

Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM.

You are invited to join us for a very special evening, giving honor to Mary, Mother of Our Lord.

We will begin with Mass and crowning the statue of Our Blessed Mother at 6:00 PM. If you wish, bring a flower to lie at her feet.

Following May Crowning, a complimentary light dinner will be served in the Basilica Social Hall. Everyone is invited.

Return the reservation form in the collection basket, or sign up at the entrances of the Basilica.

Contact Janet at 740-350-0019. Deadline is April 30th.

May Crowning Reservation

Name ----- Number in party -----

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF May 6 & 7

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lectors

Altar Servers

Sat: Evelyn Potter (CAPT)
5:30 Irene Cain (HOST)
 Jennifer Schenkel (HOST)
 Tony Huffman (CHALICE) (swap req.)
 Karen Schramm (CHALICE)

Dave Cech

Parker Crum
 Matthew Grueneberg
 Mary Tokodi Ruth

Sun: Theresa Huck CAPT)
8:00 Patti Finkel (HOST)
 Becki Arnold (HOST)(swap req)
 Cheyenne Greenwood (CHALICE)
 Nancy Funk (CHALICE)

Shelly Medley

Jerry Huck
 Mike Iaderosa
 Joyce Iaderosa
 Greg Dickson

10:00 Ken Schilling (CAPT)
 Deacon Lee (HOST)
 Debbie Karas (HOST)
 Cheyenne Greenwood (CHALICE)
 Kaelly Erb (CHALICE)

Khadine Ritter

Henry Corcoran
 Jonah Corcoran
 Nico Marasco

12:00 Joyce Huck (CAPT)
 Jeanette Flowers (HOST)
 Sandy Bickert HOST)
 Joe Schmidt (CHALICE)
 Lisa Taylor (CHALICE)

Sherry Hill

Anthony Discini
 Karter Lankford
 Ben Pfeiffer (swap req.)
 Dominic Spencer

Week of May 1

Not Filled

Saturday, May 6, 9:00 AM – Not
 Filled

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 30, 2023



Jesus told the Pharisees: Listen! The thief doesn't enter the sheep pen through the gate. He climbs in another way. But the shepherd of the flock enters through the gate. The guard will open the gate for the shepherd. Then, the shepherd will call his own sheep, each by name. They will hear his voice and follow him out. After the shepherd gathers all his sheep outside the pen, he leads them. His sheep follow him because they know the sound of his voice. The sheep won't follow a stranger. No, they will run away because they don't know the sound of the stranger's voice.

Then, Jesus told them in a different way: "I am the gate the flock enters! Everyone else is a robber. I am the gate! Anyone who enters God's Kingdom through me will find God's life! They will go back and forth freely. And they will find pasture. The thief only comes to destroy my flock. But I came to give life to my flock. God's life!

Jesus used two images to describe his relationship with us: the shepherd and the gate. In a relationship with Him, He leads us. But He puts conditions on that relationship, the responsibilities of discipleship.

These passages comprise a small portion of a debate Jesus had with the Pharisees. John placed these verses immediately after Jesus healed the man born blind in Jerusalem.

Unlike the Pharisees, Jesus presented himself as the "Good Shepherd," the messenger who could bring all God's people together in hope. The message of Jesus was universal. Yahweh was the God of all, and the God for all - Jew or Gentile: Slave or free: Saint or sinner. Trust in Jesus, the messenger led one to the Yahweh.

Originally, the word for Church ("ecclesia" in Greek) meant (a group of) "those called out." The Church teaches that from the beginning of time God chose to call people together and share himself with them. Through Abraham, he called a people to be his own. Through Moses, he liberated that people and welded them into a nation. Through David, he planted the seeds of divine leadership for that people. Through Jesus, he gave his people an intimate presence. Throughout history, God has invited a people closer to himself and provided the means for that intimacy.

God gathered his people over time. Finally, with the incarnation, God would sweep aside any obstacle, whether sin or pride, to an intimate life with all people. He now offers us the same gift: eternity with him. All He asks in return is trust. Trust in himself and trust in His Son, the messenger.

The Church is the community of those who trust. Christ centers the Church in himself. He is its source. His very Spirit is its means. Without Christ, the Church fails to exist. With Christ, the faithful touch God's Kingdom, for He is the presence of the Kingdom to all.

Special Events & Scheduled Pilgrimages at the Basilica:

May - 7, - 2:00 pm. First Communion Mass ·
May. - 21, - 2:00 pm. Confirmation Mass
May. - 23, - 6:00 pm. St. Mary School Graduation
Oct. - 27, - 8:45 am. Diocesan Teacher in Service Day
Oct. - 29, - 12:00 pm. Women Religious celebration
Dec. - 12, - 11:00 am. Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration



Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in our Basilica's Chapel of the English Martyrs. this week on Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 am. until 7:00 pm. Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh and love us.



Perpetual Help Devotions This Monday

Perpetual Help Devotions will be celebrated on Monday evening at 6:15 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this devotion celebrated in our Basilica on Monday evening. We ask Our Lady to guide and protect our Basilica, all visitors, and each one of us.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, May 1,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass
6:00 pm. - RCIA (Pot luck)
6:15 pm. - Perpetual Help Devotions

Friday, May 5,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, May 2,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass

Saturday, May, 6,

9:00 am. - Mass
3:30 pm. - Confessions
5:30 pm. - Mass

Wednesday, May 3,

7:45 am. - Mass
8:20 am. - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
12:05 pm. - Mass
7:00 pm. - Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday, May 7,

8:00 am. - Mass
9:30 am. - Mass – St. Henry
10:00 am. - Mass
12:00 pm. - Mass

Thursday, May 4,

7:45 am. - Mass
12:05 pm. - Mass



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY

4TH STREET • MARIETTA OH 45750 • 740-373-3643

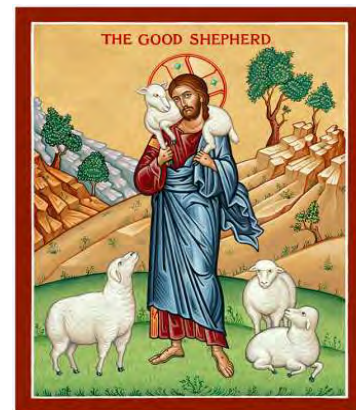


April 30, 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The readings for the 4th Sunday of Easter Year A invites us to reflect on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who cares for his flock. This image reminds us that Jesus is intimately involved in our lives, and that he knows us and loves us individually. It also reminds us that we are called to follow him, and to trust in his guidance and protection.

As we reflect on this image of the Good Shepherd, we are invited to consider the quality of our own relationship with Jesus. Do we recognize his voice and follow him? Do we trust in his care and protection, even in the face of difficulty or uncertainty? Are we willing to let him guide us on the path he has set for us?



The Good Shepherd offers us protection from those who would lead us astray. He guides us to the gates of heaven. But we must hear his voice and follow. This involves repentance and a commitment to do what he asks. And we will probably encounter some suffering along the way.

We are invited to reflect on the promise of eternal life, which is a key aspect of this Sunday's readings. As believers, we have the hope of sharing in the resurrection of Christ, and of being united with him forever. This hope gives us strength and courage to face the challenges of life, knowing that we are not alone and that our ultimate destination is with Christ in heaven.

At the same time, we are reminded that we are not alone in our journey. We are part of a larger community of believers, the Church, which is led and guided by Christ himself. As members of this community, we are called to support and care for one another, just as the Good Shepherd cares for his sheep.

We are strengthened for this task through baptism and by the Holy Spirit. Our Christian community also supports us. And we can find comfort in our Good Shepherd who suffered for us. Let us remember as we reflect on the readings for the 4th Sunday of Easter Year A.

In His Sacred Passion,

Msgr. John M. Campbell
(Rector)

THE CAT & MOUSE



A cat and a mouse died on the same day and went to heaven. While strolling down the golden street, they met God, and He asked them, "How do you like it so far?"

The mouse replied, "It's great, but can I have a pair of in-line skates?" God said, "Sure", and He gave the mouse the skates

The next day, God saw the cat and asked him, "How do you like it up here so far?"

The cat said, "Great, I didn't know you had meals on Wheels."

THE DEATH OF A MULE

A priest approached the deacon and said, "a mule died and is laying in the front yard of the church." The deacon replied, "it's the job of the priest to look after the dead. Why tell me?" The priest replied, "You're right; it is my job. But we always notify the next of kin!"



The bishop's visit

One day, the pastor told his new, young associate that the bishop was coming to the parish to stay overnight. The associate was in a panic because the bishop made him very nervous.

"Your job," father, "will be to take his morning coffee up to the guest room."

"What shall I say? He asked. "Just remember to say, "It's the associate, my Lord, its time to get up." He rehearsed his lines, and repeated them over and over. Finally, the day came for the visit. At the appointed time, the associate took the tray to the guest room, knocked at the door, and became so excited that he got his lines mixed up, so when he finally spoke he said, "It's the Lord, my boy, and your time is up."

CHRISTMAS & EASTER

A pastor was greeting his parishioners at the door of the church. A man and his wife entered the church, and the pastor said, "BY the way, you need to join the army of the Lord." "I'm already in the army of the Lord, Father." "Then why do I see you only at Christmas and Easter?" The man whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

"LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHED AS CHHRIST HAS LOVED US!"

Kansas and Arizona governor's veto bills **to protect babies born alive after botched Abortions**

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly on Friday vetoed a "born-alive" bill protecting babies who survive botched abortions. This comes the week after Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs vetoed a similar bill mandating doctors' care for abortion survivors.

In Kansas, where abortion is legal until the 22nd week of pregnancy, the governor called the born-alive bill "misleading" and "unnecessary." As passed by the Kansas Legislature, the bill would have mandated that any baby born after a failed abortion should be afforded "the same degree of professional skill, care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of the child as a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care provider would render to any other child born alive."

The bill would have also mandated that the surviving child be transported to a hospital for emergency care and that medical personnel who fail to render care or continue attempts to kill the born baby would be guilty of a felony.

DECEASED PRIESTS OF OUR DIOCESE

On Wednesday, we remember the 31st anniversary of the death of Fr. Joseph Saraceno. On Thursday, we remember the 50th anniversary of the death of Fr. Rudolph Wargo. On Saturday, we remember the 10th anniversary of the death of Msgr. Paul Metzger. These three priests served our Diocese to the best of their ability. May they rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.



Diocesan Catholic Woman's Convention

The 78th Anniversary DCCW Convention will take place on June 7, 2023 at Holy Family Church in Steubenville. The theme of the convention is "Wherever You Go, I Will Follow." All women of the Diocese are invited to the convention. There will be a Basket Raffle for the benefit of our seminarians.

Washington bishop: Priests would rather go to jail than break seal of confession

As Washington state lawmakers debate legislation that would end legal protections for the seal of confession, Spokane Bishop Thomas A. Daly has assured his diocese that priests would opt for a jail sentence before they would break the seal. "I want to assure you that your shepherds, bishop and priests, are committed to keeping the seal of confession — even to the point of going to jail," Daly wrote in a letter to Catholics in the Diocese of Spokane, which covers eastern Washington. "The sacrament of penance is sacred and will remain that way in the Diocese of Spokane," he said. "It is absolutely wrong for a confessor in any way to betray the penitent, for any reason whatsoever, whether by word or in any other fashion," the canon declares.

Vatican: 23 New Recruits Will Take Solemn Oath in Pope's Swiss Guard in Early May 2023



The solemn oath taking of 23 new recruits of the Pontifical Swiss Guard will take place on Saturday, May 6, in the afternoon. Every year the new guards take the oath on the anniversary of the sacking of Rome, in which 189 Swiss Guards defended Pope Clement VII against the army of Charles V. The oath is taken on the flag of the Pontifical Swiss Guard Corps and in the presence of the Holy Father's

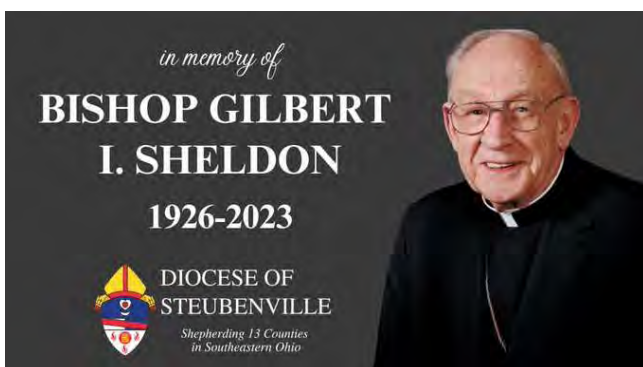
representative, His Excellency Monsignor Edgar Peña Parra, Substitute for General Affairs of the State Secretariat. The Guards swear to protect and defend the Titular Pope and all his legitimate Successors, even to the point of risking their own life, as their courageous and faithful ancestors did in the past. The majority of the Corps members are from the Fribourg Canton (14), followed by the Lucerne Cantons (14) and Saint Gallen (13).

This is the formula of the oath (read by the Chaplain): "I swear to serve faithfully, loyally and honorably the reigning Pontiff and his legitimate Successors, to dedicate myself to them with all my strength, including sacrificing my life in their defense if it were necessary.

I assume the same duties for the College of Cardinals during the vacancy of the Apostolic See. I also promise the Commander and other Superiors respect, loyalty and obedience. I so swear. May God and our Patron Saints assist me."

The ceremony is celebrated in a festive atmosphere. The guards dress for the "Big Event" in their gala uniform including armor, which is used for the Papal Blessing "*Urbi et Orbi*" at Christmas and Easter.

The Pontifical Swiss Guard Corps is the oldest army in the world, founded by Pope Julius II on January 22, 1506, is in charge of the Pope's protection and that of his residence. Directed by Colonel Christoph Graf (LU), its mission is to control access to the Vatican and to the Apostolic Palace, to guarantee order and representation during papal ceremonies and State receptions, and to protect the College of Cardinals during the *sede vacante*. The Corps is made up of guards coming from all linguistic regions of Switzerland.



in the peace of the Risen Lord.

The death of Bishop Gilbert Sheldon

On Monday evening, Bishop Gilbert Sheldon our 95-year-old retired Bishop died. His funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday morning at 11:00 am. In Holy Rosary Church in Steubenville. He will be waked on Monday at Holy Rosary Church. He was the third bishop of Steubenville, and had formerly been an auxiliary bishop of Cleveland. May he rest

Coptic Patriarch to offer Orthodox Divine Liturgy in St. John Lateran Basilica



Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II, head of the Coptic Church is scheduled to offer the Orthodox Divine Liturgy in the Catholic Archbasilica of St. John Lateran in Rome on May 14. This liturgy will take place in the context of an official visit of Coptic Pope Tawadros II of Alexandria to the Vatican and “has been arranged following appropriate consultation.”

The Catholic Church recognizes the Orthodox Church’s sacraments as valid, even if still in schism, while the Church does not recognize Anglican orders as valid, which means they cannot validly celebrate Mass. Pope Tawadros will celebrate at a specially constructed altar and not the main altar of the basilica, noting that the Anglican service also did not take place at the main altar. The liturgy will be for the Coptic faithful in Italy, which again gives it a different character to one involving solely pilgrim clergy.

Pope Tawadros II, who has led the Coptic Church since 2012, will visit Rome from May 9–14 and will appear beside Pope Francis at the general audience on Wednesday, May 10, where he will speak. The context of his visit is very particular — the 50th anniversary of the first meeting of the heads of the Churches of Rome and Alexandria after a millennium and a half of estrangement.” The Coptic Orthodox Church based in Egypt is an Oriental Orthodox Church, meaning it rejected the 451 Council of Chalcedon, and its followers were historically considered monophysites — those who believe Christ has only one nature — by Catholics and the Eastern Orthodox.

In 1973, Pope Paul VI made history when he invited Coptic Patriarch Shenouda to Rome and the two signed a joint declaration acknowledging their shared faith in Jesus Christ, “perfect God with respect to his divinity, perfect man with respect to his humanity.” Pope Francis’ meeting with Tawadros II in 2013 marked the first visit of a Coptic Orthodox patriarch to Rome in 40 years. Francis also met with Tawadros II during a visit to Cairo in 2017. “The visit of their patriarch is a very important event for Coptic Christians in Italy and very many of the faithful are expected to come to the liturgy,” Browne told the Register.

“Up to 3,000 are expected to come, which is far more than could be accommodated in Pope Tawadros’ own church in Rome.

Nicaragua regime's harassment of Catholics demands a response, US bishops say

Ongoing religious persecution of Nicaraguan Catholics, including major incidents during Holy Week, show the need for the U.S. government and the international community to act, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said Thursday. "As we continue to celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection during this Easter season, I reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the bishops, priests, faithful, and all men and women of goodwill in Nicaragua, who are suffering an intensification of the Nicaraguan government's religious persecution," Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, said April 20.

"In addition to a ban on traditional Holy Week outdoor celebrations and processions, the faithful have endured consistent police harassment in churches throughout Nicaragua, confiscation of property, as well as the expulsion from the country of two women religious and a priest," Malloy said.

Tensions between the Daniel Ortega government and the bishops have worsened since the citizen protests of April 2018 in which the bishops tried to serve as mediators. The dictatorship strongly repressed the protests.

During Holy Week, the police arrested at least 15 Nicaraguans who were mostly faithful Catholics and critics of the regime. Those arrested include journalist Víctor Ticay, who was taken into custody by the police on Holy Thursday after he livestreamed a Holy Week event on social media the day before.

The U.S. bishops lamented the situation of Bishop Rolando Álvarez of Matagalpa, who was "unjustly sentenced" and "languishes in prison." In February the Nicaraguan bishop refused to be deported to the U.S. and decided to stay with 37 political prisoners. He was declared guilty of treason, sentenced to a 26-year prison sentence, and stripped of his citizenship. "Despite these extreme hardships, the Nicaraguan faithful, in union with their bishops and priests, have resiliently borne witness to the power of Christ's resurrection, as they attended Easter celebrations in record numbers," the U.S. bishops said.

"I call on the United States government and the entire international community to continue to work for the release of Bishop Álvarez and for a restoration of peace and the rule of law in Nicaragua," said Malloy, speaking on behalf of the U.S. bishops' conference. "May Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States and Nicaragua, embrace her children during this difficult time and illumine them with the light of the risen Christ."

On April 15, Ortega again attacked the Catholic Church during a meeting with Luo Zhaohui, president of the China International Development Cooperation Agency. During the meeting, Ortega claimed that Bishop Álvarez was "dedicated to boycotting and sabotaging economic and production activities in Matagalpa." Ortega also attacked the country's bishops and claimed they had given an "ultimatum" for the state to dismantle all branches of the government. Ortega has detained, imprisoned, and likely tortured numerous Catholic leaders. In addition, the Ortega regime has repressed Catholic radio and television stations and driven Catholic religious orders, including the Missionaries of Charity, from the country.