

April 19, 2020 . Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Father Hrudaya Raju Sunkara
Parochial Administrator
Cell #715-905-0614

Father Dennis Meulemans
Retired Priest in Residence

Mass Schedule

Currently no public Masses are being celebrated due to COVID-19. Father Raj will privately celebrate the Masses that are currently scheduled,

Masses are livestreamed via our Diocese; a list of them is found on our Diocesan website (<https://catholicdos.org>). Channel 12 TV celebrates Mass on Sundays at 6:30 am. Those who are able to access YouTube, you can find a number of Masses on there too. So, until we are able to once again join in the celebration of the Mass as parish family, join with your families in your homes to be part of the universal Church that will always hold the Mass as our highest and most valued prayer.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Adoration

Adoration will continue to be available during this time as follows: Tuesday through Saturday from Noon until 3 pm, and Sunday from 9 am until Noon. Come when you are able!

Coming to Church

Church doors remain open as usual daily until about 3:30 pm (with the exception of possibly being closed Sunday afternoons). Be reminded: less than 10 people at one time. Hand sanitizer is available. We do ask, if you have a cold or symptoms of the flu or the virus or are under quarantine, please avoid coming to protect others.

Reconciliation (Confession)

Father Raj is available Tuesday through Saturday afternoons between 1 pm and 3 pm for Confession. We ask that you go "behind the screen," rather than face-to-face at this time.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church



The mission of Good Shepherd Catholic Parish is to welcome all to spiritual growth through prayer, worship and ongoing formation. Together, formed in the image of Christ, the Good Shepherd, we will tend to the needs of the entire community.

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Liturgy and Prayer

Mass Schedule for the Week

Tues., Apr. 21

† Peter Matyka (birthday)
by Dave & Chris Wille

Wed., Apr. 22

† All Souls

Thurs., Apr. 23

† Joe Ziembo
by Phillip & Sue Marthaler

Fri., Apr. 24

† All Souls

Sat., Apr. 25

† Ervin Ulrich, Sr.
by Mom, Dad, Laura & Kids,
Brothers and Sisters

Sun., Apr. 26

People of Good Shepherd

Scripture

Readings for the Week of April 19, 2020:

Sun: Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Mon: Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8

Tues: Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15

Wed: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21

Thurs: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36

Frid: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15

Sat: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20

Next Sun: Acts 2:14, 22-33/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

Birthdays This Week (Apr 19-25)

Joe Kathrein, Jerry Koch, Connie Dums, Tracy Frombach, Jody Scheller, Brad Krause, Colton Tibbetts, Jasmine Fitzl, Lydia Rhyner, Caitlyn Fitzl, Chris Krause, Deanna Kazee

Anniversaries This Week

(Apr 19-25)

Todd & Lisa Peche, Jamie & Brenda Heiser

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THANK YOU

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Most of us remember Paul Harvey. In 1964, he printed in a newspaper column a version of "If I Were the Devil." It was very similar to his later version, which is printed below from 1996. Perhaps we should ponder on what was said and on how what we do could impact generations to come:

"If I Were the Devil."

If I were the devil; if I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness, and I would have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population—but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree—THEE! So, I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States.

I'd subvert the churches first; I'd begin a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve, "Do as you please!" To the young I would whisper that the Bible is a myth. I would convince them that man created God, instead of the other way around. I would confide that what is bad is good, and that what is good—is square. And the old I would teach to pray after me, "Our Father, which art in Washington..." And then I'd get organized.... I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear boring and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies, and vice versa.... I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could; I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction; I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil—I would soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves—until each in turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings, I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the devil—I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions; just let them run wild. And before you knew it, you'd have to have drug detectors and metal detectors at every school house door. Within a decade, I'd have prisons overflowing; I'd have judges promoting pornography. Soon, I could evict God from the court houses, then from the school houses, and then from the house of Congress. And in His own churches, I would substitute psychology for religion and defy science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money.

And if I were the devil—I would make the symbol of Easter—an egg, and the symbol of Christmas—a bottle. If I were the devil—I would take from those who have and give to those who want it—until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what'll you bet I couldn't get whole States to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes in hard work, in patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned; that swinging is more fun. That what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure.

In other words—If I were the devil—I'd just keep on doing what he's doing!

(Matthew 26:41: "Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.")

Prayer Requests

Father, give us the strength to rise above our infirmities. Be our strength...

All nursing home residents, Fr. Dennis Meulemans, Fr. Ed Oen, Connor Matyka, Duane & Sharon Jorgensen, Jerry Koch, Paul Matyka, Ken Walkowski, Darlene Mathias, Ed Zondlo, Delores Eisner, Brandi Schafer, Tracy Weinzatl Borchardt, Mark Fuchs, Samantha Shotliss, Nancy Nikkila, Karen Pocock, Karen Olson, Makayla Eisner, Kylie Orysen, Dan Sackmann, Joe Sautner, Ben Yanko, Linda Coe, Violet Yeager, George Gunderson, Marian Johnson, Duane Draeger, Barb Harmon, Joe & Malinda Kathrein, Jenna Denzine, Shane Klemm, Joshua & Benjamin Metz, Nicole Richardson, Suzie Kirby Perporo, Lindsey Dittrich, Dean Tesch, Steve Spurgeon, Donna (Mann) Lind, Laurie Meyer, Steve Eisner, Richard Weinzatl, Norman Metz, Ruth Martin, Jaxon Klimeck, Bud Brandner, for those with silent needs.

We also pray for those who suffer the illness of COVID-19, and for all the health care workers who deal with this daily.

Father Raj's 25th Jubilee

April 20, 1995 – April 20, 2020

In honor of Father Raj's 25th Jubilee, he was asked to write the story of his journey as a priest. Over the next few weeks, these stories will be shared with all of us in the bulletins. Please be watchful of them. They will move you to tears. We are truly blessed by his presence. **We ask that each family make a spiritual offering of prayers and/or sacrifices for his continued ministry.** We ask that you list your spiritual offering on a piece of paper and place it in the collection basket in the center aisle of the church (or mail it). Names are optional. Some examples of your prayer gifts could be: "Our family will pray 1 Rosary (or decade of a Rosary) every week for you..." or "I will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet once a week for you..." or "Our family will pray one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be for you every day..." or anything you'd like.

(Make your gift be a loving gesture of appreciation!)

My Journey as a Priest of 25 Years

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed...(Luke 4:18). This Gospel quotation inspired me most and I have taken it as my motto since my sacerdotal ordination 25 years ago. As I look back to the eventful 25 years of my priesthood my heart overflows with gratitude to God for His unconditional love and manifold blessings. I indeed feel that this is my call. To arrive to this day there have been many hands that nurtured and guided me especially during the initial years of my formation to priesthood. As I count the blessings of God in my life, I share my past 25 years of experience with you all.

As in Jer. 1:5 Yahweh says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." My journey to priesthood began much earlier than I even realized. I received my first call at a very young age while I was studying in the 7th grade. A priest invited me to join the formation (Those days adolescents as young as 12-13 years were invited to join "apostolic schools.") At the time I felt that I wasn't interested in priesthood, therefore my response to the call was negative. I continued my studies, yet God called me again through the same priest at 10th grade. This time I accepted the invitation and joined the Minor Seminary. Since that first "yes" I responded to God's call at every stage of the priestly formation. I completed the formation studies to priesthood in 1994.

After the long preparation to share in the ministry of Christ, I was ordained priest on 20th April 1995. Since then there has been no looking back. Filled with the youthful zeal to be a minister of Jesus Christ to proclaim the Good News in words and actions, I began my first ministry. I was given a dual responsibility as an Associate Formator in a seminary as well as Associate Pastor in a parish. I enjoyed nurturing and nourishing the vocations to priesthood in the young. As an associate pastor my ministry extended beyond the parish, which included visits to the surrounding non-Christian villages and work with the children. My first years of apostolate as a priest were interesting and satisfying.

(To be continued next week.)

The Beautiful Hands of a Priest

We need them in life's early morning;
We need them again at its close;
We feel their warm clasp of true
Friendship, we seek them when
Tasting life's woes.
At the altar each day we behold them,
And the hands of a king on his throne
Are not equal to them in their greatness;
Their dignity stands all alone.
And when we are tempted and wander
To pathways of shame and of sin,
It's the hand of a priest that absolves
us—not once, but again and again.
And when we are taking life's partner,
Other hands may prepare us a feast,
But the hand that will bless and unite us
Is the beautiful hand of a priest.
God bless them and keep them all holy
For the Host which their fingers caress;
When can a poor sinner do better
Than to ask Him to guide thee and bless?
When the hour of death comes upon us
May our courage and strength be
increased
By seeing raised over us in blessing
The beautiful hands of a priest!



An Anniversary Gift to Fr. Raj: Baker's Basket for India

The above basket was donated for our fish fry and it's simply sitting in the office. The donor wishes to now use it as a gift to Father Raj for his 25th Jubilee, by offering the basket for a special Mother's Day drawing. Basket includes stainless steel bowl, rolling pin, whisks, spatulas, mixing spoon, cooking spray, pancake mix, syrup, cookie dough mix, cupcake liners, cake mix and sprinkles.

Here's how this will work: Cost is \$1 per ticket. Place your money in a white envelope marked "Basket for India." Put your name and phone number on the outside of the envelope. Mail it to the parish office, or drop your envelope in the basket in the center aisle of the church. Tickets will be made out at the office for you. We will run this special from now **until Fri., May 8th.**

This is one way we can show our appreciation to Father Raj on his anniversary. Your donations will be given to Father Raj, who in turn will mail the money to his home diocese in India. For that reason, ticket money is not part of your "parish giving." (Note: Father Raj was not involved in this idea in any way to raise money for his home diocese, but he graciously accepts this token of generosity from us, as a parish gift, in honor of his 25th.)

Post Note: Someone handed in an envelope "Basket for India" at Easter, but forgot to put their name on the envelope. If you think it may be you, call the office and check. Thank you.

Take the Easter Quiz!

Posted on our parish website is the information for our Faith Formation students to take an Easter Quiz. (Adults—you will enjoy it too!) Faith Formation students, get your answer sheets to Hannah by April 26th, and your names will be entered in a drawing to win prizes!!

Grounds Clean Up

Watch the parish website for ground clean up date as the weather gets nicer. Or, if you are interested in helping, but not checking the website, call the office and we will let you know when the clean up date has been set!

The Write Stuff

My mother shared a story about how our family was quarantined some 75 years ago. It so happened that my mother went into labor early and my sister was born weighing two pounds. They had just brought her home from the hospital when my oldest sister came down with scarlet fever. Not only was their house quarantined, but they had to separate the youngsters into two rooms: One for the sick child and her caretaker and the other for the healthy family members and baby. It was a blessing that Grandma and Grandpa lived with them to help out. My oldest sister with scarlet fever had long, dark hair and she lost it all. But, the baby never got sick. So the practice of quarantine works.

We sometimes wonder where we get the strength to work through such difficult times. But then, as Christians, we really do know...It is from God himself. Jesus gave us the example of selfless love and trust, and through the power of the Holy Spirit we receive the strength needed to power us up once again.

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday this weekend, if we find there are days within our lives, the lives of family and friends that are challenging, or we feel quarantined from the world, remember the words, "Jesus, I trust in You." The Lord dwells among us!
—Mary Kauer

Our Gifts to God

Easter Collection—April 12, 2020

Adult Envelopes	\$	705.00
Easter Envelopes	\$	2,630.00
Loose Collection	\$	500.00
Bldg & Maintenance	\$	270.00
Holy Land	\$	190.00
World Concerns	\$	75.00
Basket for India	\$	82.00
Charity	\$	500.00
Flowers	\$	10.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$	5.00
Rice Bowl	\$	<u>31.21</u>
Total	\$	4,998.21

Non-parishioner Easter Donations:
Allen & Melissa Thums Family

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*In memory of Stanley & Vlasta Resudek,
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Your Rice Bowls can be handed in to the office or placed on the table in the center aisle of the church.

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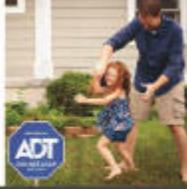
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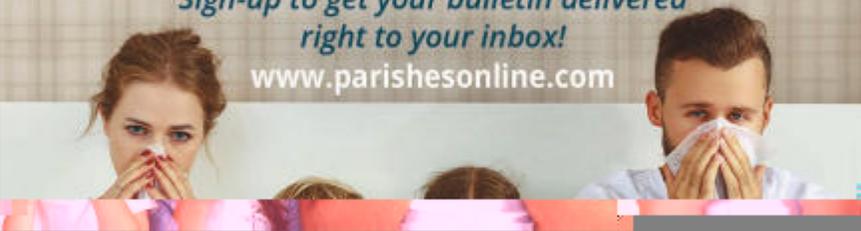
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