

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my Shepherd ; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pas-
tures; he leadeth me besides the still wa-
ters.*

*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou
art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort
me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest
my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell in
the house of the lord forever.*

We are excited to announce that we are once again pre-
paring
the annual tradition of honoring those couples in our
Archdiocese who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and
fifty years of marriage for the Catholic Faithful in the year
2023!

The anniversary liturgies will be held in the Cathedral
Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows be-
low. The 50th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by
Cardinal Joseph Tobin. The 5th & 25th Anniversary
Mass will be celebrated

by Bishop Gregory Studerus.

April 16, 2023 3:00pm 50 Years (All Counties)

May 7, 2023 3:00pm 5 Years & 25 Years (All counties)

To register Please call Denise Perry at the

Church Rectory

973-375-8568



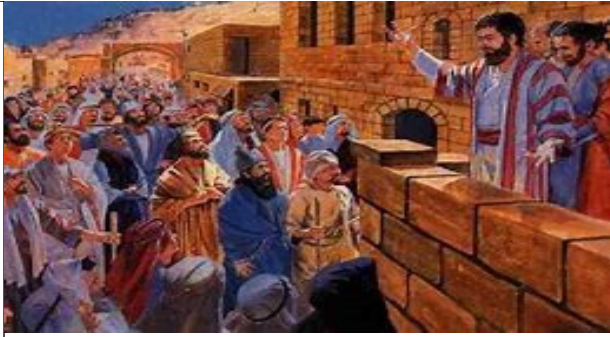
Sat	04/29/2023	05:30am
	Florence Baumgarten	
Sun	04/30/2023	09:00 am
	Corinne Beihl	
Sun	04/30/2023	11:00am
	Juan Camacho	
Mon	05/01/2023	07:00am
	H&WB Margarete Victor	
Tue	05/02/2023	07:00am
	H&WB Frederick Hamilton	
Wed	05/03/2023	07:00m
	H&WB Jean Michelin	
Thu	05/04/2023	07:00am
	H&WB Carlos Quinones	
Fri	05/05/2023	07:00am
	80th Birthday Celebration & Thanksgiving for Angela Sevilla	
Sat	05/06/2023	08:30am
	Fidel Reynaldo	
Sat	05/6/2023	5:30pm
	Wedding Anniversary of Leopaldo & Nellie C. bate	

AVAILABLE DAYS FOR MASS INTENTIONS	
May 2023	
Mon	8th, 22nd, 29th
Tue	9th, 16th
Wed	10th
Thu	11th, 25th
Fri	12th, 19th,
Sat	8:30AM 20th, 27th
Sat	5:30PM 27th
Sun	11:00AM 21st

WEEKLY COLLECTION

April 22-23, 2023 \$3,719

April 30, 2023



Reflections on the Readings

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1. Those listening to Peter's sermon were "cut to the heart." Does anything affect you this way? They asked, "Brothers, what should we do?" How do you think you would have responded to Peter's sermon?

2. Do you know what the word conversion means? Is it a once-in-a-lifetime experience or is it on-going? Explain. Who needs conversion? Name the things that it involves besides a change of behavior.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:20b-45

1. Christ's innocence and lack of vengeance show us what God's love is like. Where do you find strength to endure your suffering? How can suffering be an occasion of grace? Is the pandemic an occasion of grace for you?

2. In this reading Peter says about Jesus, "When he was insulted, he returned no insult." Can he be referring to suffering inflicted on a person who does good? Give examples in which this might have been the case. Have you had such an experience? Where do you think Gandhi and Martin Luther King got their ideas of nonviolence.

Gospel

John 10:1-10

1. When flocks were mingled together, each flock would recognize the sound of their own shepherd's voice and come to him, ignoring other shepherds' voices. Can you discern which "voice" in your life belongs to the Good Shepherd? Which of the following is your favorite comparison of Christ to the Good Shepherd: explain.

- calling by name,
- recognition of voice,
- following Christ,
- not following strangers,
- shepherd as gate.

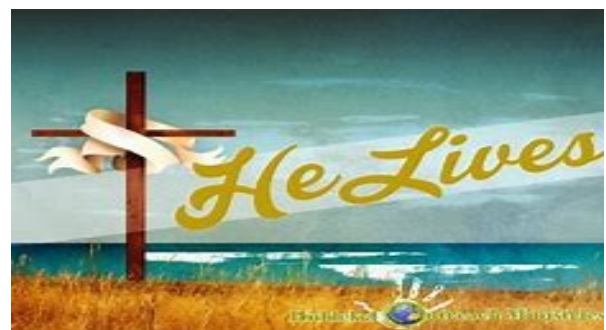
2. According to Pope Francis why would a good shepherd take risks today? Sixty priests died in Italy taking care of corona virus patients. How did they take risks?

In the Heart of the Good Shepherd, the Father's love shines forth.

There I know I am welcomed and understood as I am; there, with all my sins and limitations, I know the certainty that I am chosen and loved.

The Heart of the Good Shepherd tells us that his love is limitless. It is never exhausted and it never gives up. There we see his infinite and boundless self-giving. There we find the source of that faithful and meek love which sets free and makes others free.

Pope Francis' Guide for Priests, June 3, 2016





The True Shepherd

The risen Jesus is the true shepherd, "the one who enters through the gate, who walks in front of them, and the sheep follow him because they recognize his voice."

True Christians follow the true shepherd: they recognize his voice and they obey his commands. They hear his message about loving enemies, about seeking first the kingdom of God, about forgiving seventy times a day.

They hear him talk of concern for the poor, of selling all that one has, of being perfect as their heavenly Father is perfect. They listen to him say that they should not worry about tomorrow, that they should turn the other cheek, that they should lose their lives.

They hear and obey, following their shepherd through the gate.

There are false shepherds who speak other words, who talk of defending one's rights, of accumulating wealth, of achieving social prominence. Some Christians listen to them rather than to the true shepherd.

Both the true and the false shepherds lead one to death. The difference is that the true shepherd leads beyond death to resurrection.

In Christ and through Christ God has revealed himself fully to mankind and has definitively drawn close to it; at the same time, in Christ and through Christ man has acquired full awareness of his dignity, of the heights to which he is raised, of the surpassing worth of his own humanity, and of the meaning of his existence.

Pope John Paul II, Redemptor Hominis, 1979:11.

Gerald Darring

READINGS
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Reading I: Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm: 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Reading II: 1 Peter 2:20b-25
Gospel: John 10:1-10

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The most comforting of the Psalms begins with the line, "The Lord is my shepherd." It ends with this line: "Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

Goodness and mercy, in the person of the good shepherd, have to follow the sheep, because it is lost and the shepherd is heading out to seek it.

That sheep is leading the way, and that is why it is lost. A shepherd is the one who knows the way and ought to be leading, but this shepherd has to follow because that one sheep got out ahead of the shepherd and so got astray.

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus says that his sheep follow him. Those who belong to him know his voice and so they are willing to follow him and let him lead the way. Of course, the sheep don't know the voice of the shepherd unless they know the shepherd. The difference, then, between being one of the lost sheep who have to be followed by the shepherd and being one of the faithful sheep who are led by the shepherd is a matter of knowing the shepherd.

Now the shepherd is a person. And knowing a person is a matter of personal relationship, with all the risks and vulnerabilities that personal relationship entails. So the faithful sheep are in a personal relationship with their shepherd and love him.

That is why these sheep know the voice of the shepherd and follow him. Here is the good news, then. Whether a person is faithful or lost, he will be surrounded by the love of the good shepherd. Either the shepherd will lead him, or the shepherd will follow after him to find him when he is astray. And so St. Patrick's prayer is right: Christ before me, Christ behind me. And, either way, Christ with me.

Eleonore Stump

ORATIO IMPERATA AGAINST THE COVID-19

Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the Covid-19 virus that has disturbed and even claimed lives.

We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand, dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope, and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion.

Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease.

We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health.

Protect those who care for them.

Grant eternal rest to those who have died.

Give us the grace in these trying times to work for the good of all and to help those in need.

May our concern and compassion for each other see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Mother Mary, help of all Christians, pray for us.

REPORT ABUSE

Protecting God's Children

The Archdiocese of Newark takes very seriously any and all credible complaints, and encourages anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct by the clergy, religious and lay staff to tell us immediately, so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to sexual abuse victims. Individuals who wish to report an allegation may do so by calling the Child and Youth Protection. 201-407-3256, Fax: 973-497-4001. Or In person, 171 Clifton Avenue. Newark, NJ 07104

You can Sponsor the ALTAR BREAD, the SACRIFICIAL WINE, OR the SANCTUARY LAMP!

The Sanctuary Lamp, Altar Bread and Sacrificial Wine are nice ways to remember someone in need of healing, those who are celebrating births, anniversaries, etc. or a deceased loved one.

It reminds us the ever presence of Christ. We bring our intentions into HIS PRESENCE with our offering. If you wish to remember someone in this special way, the Sanctuary Lamp will burn for a week, and the Altar Bread OR the Sacrificial Wine of everyday Mass will be offered for your intention an entire week

(circle one) Please, consider offering the:

Sanctuary Lamp or Altar Bread or Sacrificial Wine

In Memory of:

Or for a special Occasion starting on: / /

For: _____

Requested by: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please fill out this form. Return it either to the rectory or to Fr. Frank with a check in the amount of \$25.

Ministries: If you're interested in ministries of service either as a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please fill out the form below and give it to Fr Frank. An information & a training session will be held so you'll be prepared.

Name : _____

Telephone _____

I am interested in serving as a Lector

I would like to serve as an Eucharistic Minister

We are Looking for more Altar Servers, girls and boys, third grade or older, to participate as ALTAR Servers. This ministry is a wonderful privilege for either young

Or older people. It allows you to participate actively in the weekend celebrations of the Eucharist. Please fill out the form below and return to the rectory or Fr Frank

Name: _____ Grade _____

Phone _____ School _____