



# CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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## SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Committed to living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition, we are blessed to have as our patron saint someone who continues to call us to reach out to others in charity and compassion.

### **Church of**

### **St Francis of Assisi**

1114 Third Street SE

Rochester, MN 55904

507.288.7313

<http://stfrancis-church.org>

### **Parish Center Hours**

Mon-Fri: 8AM - 4PM

### **Weekday Mass:**

Tuesday - Friday 7AM

### **School Mass:**

Tuesday 9:30AM

### **Weekend Mass:**

Saturday 4:30PM

Sunday 8AM, 10AM

### **In Spanish:**

Thursday 7PM

Sunday 12PM

### **Misa En Español:**

Jueves 7PM

Domingo 12PM

### **Pastor**

Rev. Jim Berning

### **Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Luis Vargas



Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life,  
and they shall never perish."

- John 10:27-28a

## A MESSAGE FROM FR JIM BERNING



**THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND MAY CROWNING OF THE BLESSED MOTHER.** The Easter Mysteries continue for all of us! This is a big weekend for all of us at St. Francis of Assisi Parish and we are excited to have First Holy Communion at the Masses for our children and youth. We thank their catechists, parents and guardians for preparing them to receive our Lord Jesus for the very time in their lives. God Bless them all and congratulations! There will also be a May Crowning by our First Communion children and youth. Mary, the Mother of God, pray for us!

**MOTHER'S DAY.** Happy Mother's Day to our mothers, both living and deceased. We will have a special blessing for all our Mothers at the Masses today. In honor of God's precious gift of life and in appreciation of all mothers, roses (donation of \$2.50/rose) will be available after Masses. The proceeds raised benefit the Olmsted County chapter of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life with special gratitude to the family of Sandy Dose.

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY.** On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we have the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, vowed consecrated life, marriage and single state of life. "God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES: 2ND COLLECTION.** On May 7/8, there will be a second collection for the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

**KC PANCAKE BREAKFAST: MAY 15.** The St. Francis Knights of Columbus will host their Deluxe Pancake Breakfast in McCarthy Hall on Sunday, May 15. Thanks to our Brother Knights for hosting this event for all of us. Proceeds will benefit St. Francis of Assisi School.

**CMA UPDATE.** We are so VERY grateful to the 119 parish families that have pledged and/or given \$52,695 towards our 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal goal of \$49,661.

A Blessed Easter Season to all!

*Fr. Jim C. Berning*



## WELCOME

Welcome to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Our church has helped to bring Jesus Christ to the city of Rochester since 1937. We seek to foster the spiritual growth of our parishioners through the celebration of the Sacraments, catechesis, community life, and personal prayer. Like our patron saint, we strive to rebuild the Church and to console the heart of Jesus by serving our neighbors in need.

## PARISH CONTACTS

### Parish Center Office

(507) 288-7313

### Pastor (x 202)

Rev. Jim Berning

### Parochial Vicar (x 203)

Rev. Luis Vargas

### Parish Administrator (x 204)

Sarah Kinsman

### Office Manager (x 201)

Michelle Ibarra

### Financial Secretary (x 205)

Paula Oates

### Director of Music/Liturgy (x 301)

Hope Giesen

### Faith Formation (x 207)

Mark Nuehring

### St. Francis of Assisi School

(507) 288-4816

### Principal

Andrew Poterucha

### Trustees

Bruce Anderson

Rosemary Bengal

### Knights of Columbus

Bruce Anderson

### Calvary Cemetery

Steve Flynn, Director

(507) 273-0140

### Catholic Charities

(507) 287-2047



**FELICITACIONES A TODAS LAS MADRES EN SU DIA.** Aunque este Domingo se celebra el Día de las Madres no podemos olvidar que honrar a nuestras madres es una tarea de todos los días. Feliz día queridas mamitas, Que María Santísima, la Madre del Amor Hermoso, la Madre purísima, las acompañe siempre en esta santa misión de ser madres y les alcance del fruto de sus entrañas, de su Hijo amadísimo Jesús, la gracia de seguir siendo, hasta el día de su muerte portadoras de amor y de vida.

**FELICITACIONES EN SU PRIMERA COMUNION.** Estamos muy felices por todos nuestros niños y niñas que este fin de semana han recibido el Sacramento de la Eucaristía por primera vez. Felicidades a sus padres y catequistas que han puesto todo su esfuerzo en la preparación de ellos para este gran momento de fe. Recordemos que la Primera Comunión es la celebración de la Iglesia Católica donde el niño o la niña participan por primera vez en el Sacramento de la Eucaristía, recibiendo la Sagrada Comunión. La Sagrada Comunión es la presencia de Jesucristo en la Eucaristía, donde le recibimos sacramentado bajo las especies del pan y del vino. Es el mismo Jesucristo vivo, con su cuerpo, sangre, alma y divinidad. Es un encuentro con El personalmente, quedándose de esta manera, entre nosotros por amor y haciéndonos partícipes de su Pascua. "Yo soy el pan vivo, bajado del cielo. Si uno come de este pan, vivirá para siempre, y el pan que yo le voy a dar es mi carne por la vida del mundo". (Jn 6, 51).

**ORACION DE LIBERACION.** El ministerio de Liberación o UNBOUND de la Diócesis de Winona Rochester, está ofreciendo nuevamente oración de liberación para quienes sientan la necesidad de una verdadera liberación. El próximo sábado 21 de Mayo, en la parroquia St Ann's. 313 W 2nd St, de Janesville MN (cerca de Mankato MN) de 9 am – 3 pm, habrá una conferencia llamada "Estás hecho para la libertad" por el Diacono John y Nancy, quienes presentarán las cinco claves de la liberación, habrá traducción al Español, proporcionada por Francisco Magaña. Después del almuerzo, los equipos de oración ofrecerán oración con los asistentes. Pueden asistir por \$10 (que cubre el almuerzo) o puedes traer tu propio almuerzo y asistir gratis. Pero por favor, inscríbese lo antes posible.

Pueden entrar al siguiente link para que se registren.  
<https://forms.gle/vJ1b9wfvZCLYPH2N7>

Esperamos muchos hermanos y hermanas puedan asistir a esta importante jornada de Liberación.

## MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of May 9 2022

MON May 9		<b>NO MASS</b>
TUES May 10	7:00 AM	Don & Jerry Preuschl †
	* 9:30 AM	Neyssi Ibarra (Birthday)
WED May 11	7:00 AM	Clarice Fernholz †
THU May 12	7:00 AM	Virginia Smith †
	7:00 PM	Valencia Family
FRI May 13	7:00 AM	Germaine Little †
SAT May 14	4:30PM	Holy Souls in Purgatory
SUN May 15	8:00 AM	Duane Melvin †
	10:00 AM	Callum Hubka
	** 12:00 PM	For the Parish

\* School Mass \*\* Spanish Mass

### MASS INTENTIONS

If you have a desire to remember someone who has passed away or simply in need of some extra prayers, Mass Intentions are available every day for our weekday Masses and on the weekends. You are welcome to stop by the Parish Office and schedule a Mass intention during normal office hours.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 8, 2022

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 [3c]/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30  
 Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10  
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30  
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50  
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17  
 Next Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

### LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 8 DE MAYO DE 2022

Domingo: Hch 13, 14. 43-52/Sal 99, 1-2. 3. 5 [3]/Ap 7, 9. 14-17/Jn 10, 27-30  
 Lunes: Hch 11, 1-18/Sal 41, 2-3; 43, 3. 4/Jn 10, 1-10  
 Martes: Hch 11, 19-26/Sal 86, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7/Jn 10, 22-30  
 Miércoles: Hch 12, 24—13, 5/Sal 66, 2-3. 5. 6 y 8/Jn 12, 44-50  
 Jueves: Hch 13, 13-25/Sal 88, 2-3. 21-22. 25 y 27/Jn 13, 16-20  
 Viernes: Hch 13, 26-33/Sal 2, 6-7. 8-9. 10-11/Jn 14, 1-6  
 Sábado: Hch 1, 15-17. 20-26/Sal 112, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8/Jn 15, 9-17  
 Domingo siguiente: Hch 14, 21-27/Sal 144, 8-9. 10-11. 12-13/Ap 21, 1-5/Jn 13, 31-33. 34-35

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION



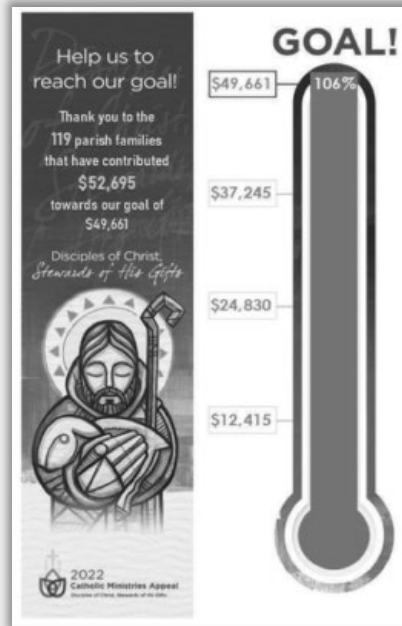
**PRESCHOOL OFFERED AT ALL FIVE RCS LOCATIONS THIS FALL: APPLY TODAY!** New for the 2022-2023 school year: The Nest Preschool at Rochester Catholic Schools is growing and will feature expanded offerings including programs at all five of our convenient RCS locations for the fall of 2022! In addition to exciting new offerings among the three current RCS locations, The Nest will also launch programs at the two other campuses, Lourdes High School and the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Middle School. Lourdes High School will offer an innovative nature-based program for Pre-Kindergarten (Ages 4-5). The Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Middle School will provide all-day options for Preschool (Age 3) & Pre-Kindergarten (Ages 4-5). New offerings at the current Nest locations will include an Early Preschool program (Age 2) at Holy Spirit Catholic School. Our classrooms are filling fast. Register today: <https://www.rcsmn.org/admissions/newfamilies>

**ROCHESTER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES SEEKS NEW LAY TRUSTEE MEMBER.** Do you have a calling to bring your professional background to serve Rochester Catholic Schools? The Rochester Catholic Schools Board of Trustees is seeking applications for a new lay trustee member. The Board of Trustees articulates the vision, mission, and overall policy for the five schools that make up the RCS system. A description of the responsibilities of a trustee and application materials are available on the RCS website in the "Board of Trustees" section at: [rcsmn.org/boardapplication](https://www.rcsmn.org/boardapplication)

The trustees invite members of the Rochester Catholic community to share the opportunity with qualified applicants in your networks. Rochester Catholic Parishioners who have an affiliation with Rochester Catholic Schools are encouraged to apply, including alumni or parents/grandparents of current and former students. Applications are due Tuesday, May 31.

**PARISHIONERS.** Please, after Mass, would you make sure the blue book is up with the gold cross showing, and placed on the left and the maroon book down on the right. The reason the maroon book is down - there are two books in it and it saves on the binder. We have had to throw quite a few of the binders way. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

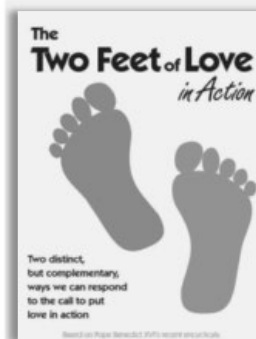
## 2022 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL.** As Catholics, we are blessed to be strengthened and united by Christ in the Eucharist and sent forth to bring the peace and joy of our Triune God to all those we encounter. As individual members of the Body of Christ, we all possess different gifts and talents for furthering the ministry of Christ and His Church. During this year, may we all strive to be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts throughout

the Catholic community, using our personal gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Please support the 2022 CMA so that we may be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts. Every gift makes a difference! To give: [www.catholicfsmn.org](http://www.catholicfsmn.org)



### THE TWO FEET OF LOVE IN ACTION.

The document "The Two Feet of Love in Action" was developed by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. This tool describes two distinct, but complementary, ways that we can put the Gospel into action. The first is through charitable works which is described as short-term emergency assistance for individ-

uals. Saint Francis of Assisi parish is very generous in providing charitable works for our neighbors in need. The second is through social justice which is described as addressing systemic, root causes of problems that affect many people. Some ways that you can be more active in social justice is to sign up for emails from the Minnesota Catholic Conference. These emails tell you about Minnesota Legislative bills that affect the disadvantaged in our state. It explains the bills and informs you on how you can let your legislators know how you wish them to vote. The Minnesota Catholic Conference emails can be attained by registering at [www.mncatholic.org/join](http://www.mncatholic.org/join). Another local option is to sign up to receive the Diocese's Social Concerns Newsletter by contacting Isaac Landsteiner, Director of Parish Social Ministry, at [ilandsteiner@ccsomn.org](mailto:ilandsteiner@ccsomn.org). The full document can be found at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org)

**FIRST COMMUNION WEEKEND.** This weekend, we are celebrating First Communion with 45 families. It is always such a wonderful blessing to see the excitement then joy when these students receive Jesus for the first time. Please take a minute, after Mass, to congratulate a student or their parents on this wonderful blessing.

**PLANNING FOR SUMMER.** Summer vacation is only a month away. Do you have your children signed up for one of the programs provided by Saint Francis?

**HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP: JUNE 19-25.** 22 students and 5 adults are signed up for this Mission Trip. There is still room to register if your high school student would like to join us.

**TOTUS TUUS: JULY 10-15.** The day program is for elementary students and the evening program is for middle and high school students. You can register on our website under the YOUTH tab.

**STEBENVILLE NORTH CONFERENCE: JULY 15-17.** Every summer over 1,500 Catholic high school students attend this event right here in Rochester. We have 6 students currently registered, but are hoping to reach 10.

**CAMP SUMMIT: AUGUST 1-4.** This Catholic camp for middle school youth is organized by the Diocese of Winona and is held at Eagle Bluff in Lanesboro. We currently have 5 students registered, but are hoping for 5 more.

Scholarships are available to help your children participate in any of these wonderful opportunities. Please call Mark at the Church office if you have a child interested in attending any of these events.

- Mark ([youthminister@stfrancis-church.org](mailto:youthminister@stfrancis-church.org))



The Church of St. Francis of Assisi rejoices with those who are receiving the Sacred Body & Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the first time.

May the Holy Eucharist always be a source of spiritual nourishment and grace. May the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord Jesus strengthen you and draw you ever close to the joy of His Wondrous love.

# TO SING IS TO PRAY TWICE

*St. Augustine*

**SHARE YOUR GIFT OF SINGING!** St. Augustine said that when we sing, we pray twice. If you are interested in sharing your gift by singing at St. Francis, please join our choir for the 10am Mass once a month.

"I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him; I will rejoice in the Lord... Bless the Lord, my soul! Hallelujah!" - Psalm 104

"Music is among the many and great gifts of nature with which God, in Whom is the harmony of the most perfect concord and the most perfect order, has enriched men, whom He has created in His image and likeness. Together with the other liberal arts, music contributes to spiritual joy and the delight of the soul.

On this subject St. Augustine has accurately written: 'Music, that is the science or the sense of proper modulation, is likewise given by God's generosity to mortals having rational souls in order to lead them to higher things.'"— Pope Pius XII

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE for May 14/15:**

	4:30PM SATURDAY	8AM SUNDAY	10AM SUNDAY
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Jack Bowron [open]	Piper Macken Olivia Scaccio	William Cleveland Justo Moron
<b>Reader</b>	Robin Erickson	Paula Wick	Rick Fishbune
<b>Hospitality Minister</b>	Natalie Norris David Klinkhammer	Pat Stern [open]	Lori Paukert Mark Paukert
<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Beth Lamsam	Joe Wick	Ruth Wentz

- Hope ([liffranc@stfrancis-church.org](mailto:liffranc@stfrancis-church.org))





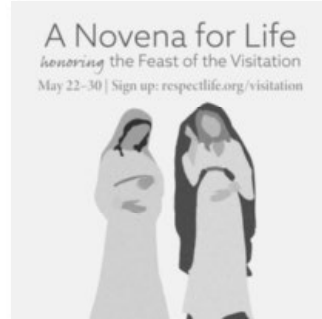


**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST RETURNS!** St. Francis' Knights of Columbus will again host their Deluxe Pancake Breakfast in McCarthy Hall on **SUNDAY, MAY 15** - the first KC Pancake breakfast to be held since the beginning of the pandemic. Proceeds will benefit St. Francis of Assisi School.



**COUNCIL MEETING.** The St Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council 14170 meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7- 8PM in the St Clare Room in the basement of the church. We invite all men of the parish to join us to find out more about the KC's

and about the men who belong to Council 14170. Questions? Please contact Bruce Anderson at 507-358-5478 or [branderson781983@gmail.com](mailto:branderson781983@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!



**A NOVENA FOR LIFE.** On May 31st, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast commemorates the Blessed Mother's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and the encounter of Jesus and St. John the Baptist while in the wombs of their mothers. Join

us in praying "A Novena for Life" from May 22-30. For more information, visit: <https://www.respectlife.org/visitation>

**HOLY LAND TRIP WITH FR. LUIS.** Join us for a Bilingual Holy Land Trip with Fr. Luis Vargas from August 22 to August 31, 2022. There are still a few spots available! Enrollment is due by May 15th. Interested? Contact Cristina Hennessey at 507-250-5394 for information!

**BECKLEY'S "SHRED" EVENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL NON-PROFITS.** Beckley's Office Products is holding a special "SHREDDING" Event on Wednesday, May 18 and Thursday, May 19 from 8AM to 4PM. Bring your boxes of documents and Beckley's will shred them for \$12/box - and \$6 per box will be donated to our parish. Cash and check only! Beckley's Office Products is located at 125 Woodlake Drive SE, Rochester, MN. Call 507-282-8659 with questions.

**THE PRAYING FAMILY.** The Praying Family is a new initiative by the Diocese of Winona-Rochester. We provide prayer packages that fit the liturgical season, which include prayer activities that fit a family's schedule, and walk you through setting up a prayer space and creating intentional time to pray together. Our current prayer packs are May Crowning and Divine Mercy bags. More information on ordering or utilizing some of our FREE resources can be found at: [theprayingfamily.weebly.com](http://theprayingfamily.weebly.com)

**DIOCESAN RETREAT.** Join us August 5-7, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, for The Witness of the Eucharist: A retreat for those seeking renewal in the Eucharist to "go be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). Co-leaders will be Fr. Jonathan Fasnacht and Dr. Susan Windley-Daoust. This diocesan retreat is open to all Catholic adults and is one of the ways we are inaugurating the diocesan year of the Eucharistic Revival. Registration opens May 15. Questions? Contact Susan at [swindley@dowr.org](mailto:swindley@dowr.org)

**WORLD YOUTH DAY.** World Youth Day will be held in Portugal in the summer of 2023. If you are interested in attending, please contact Aaron Lofy at 507-858-1258 or [alofy@dowr.org](mailto:alofy@dowr.org)



**UKRAINE SOLIDARITY FUND.** Join us today in supporting Ukraine Solidarity Fund!

The international K of C community includes more than 1,800 members in Ukraine who, like their fellow citizens, are facing an urgent need for temporary shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing and pastoral support. Inspired by our Order's first principle, Charity,

please join us in praying for peace and consider a donation to our Ukraine Solidarity Fund.

Your gift today will provide temporary shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing, communications and religious supplies. These items will all be immediately distributed, and 100% of your gift will go directly to these displaced people.



Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute to this effort. Your gift of any amount will go a long way in helping our brothers and sisters. Together, we can bring Christ's healing love to a wounded world.

<https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/donate/ukraine.html>



**FAMILY CONNECTION.**

Not only can we recognize family members' voices, we can also read the tone of their voices and know something about how they are feeling. In our relationship with Jesus, we know Jesus' voice and are called to follow. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact

with God the Father, removing all distance between us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. Knowing Jesus means knowing the Father. Read with your family today's Gospel, John 10:27-30. Ask your family members to talk about some ways that Jesus brings them closer to God and closer to one another. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope and Love.

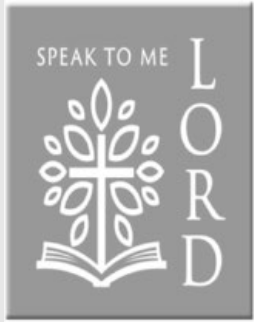
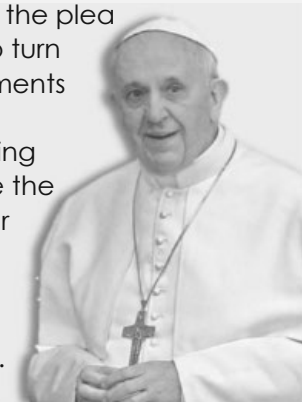
**ACT OF FAITH:** O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic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

**ACT OF HOPE:** O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

**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 the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured. Amen.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

**INVOCATION OF PEACE.** God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. . . Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that. . . our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this chal-

lenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31 and 10:39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest.

We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep.

Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>


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