



4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.” - Jn 10:17

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN



My dear friends,

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for us

Our first reading, Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12, continues to demonstrate the changes that took place in the first believers because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. In the text immediately preceding our passage, we learn that the religious leaders of the day, namely the priests, the temple guard and the Sadducees were angry at the Apostles Peter and John “because they were teaching the people and proclaiming the resurrection of the dead in the person of Jesus.” As a result, the two were arrested and put in jail.

The next day, Peter and John were brought before the religious leaders of Jerusalem and were interrogated: “By what power or in whose name have men of your stripe done this?” Peter and John were brought to their attention in the first place by a miracle they had been able to perform. We read that the two Apostles were going up to the temple to pray, where they were met by a man who had been crippled from birth, begging by one of the temple’s gates. Peter responded, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give you! In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, walk!” From that moment the man’s feet and ankles became strong, and he was able to walk. “He went into the temple with them—walking, jumping about, and praising God. When the people saw him moving and giving praise to God, they recognized him as the beggar who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. They were struck with astonishment—utterly stupefied at what had happened to him” (see Acts 3:1-10).

And now Peter is asked by what power or in whose name have “men of your stripe” done this? Peter addresses them boldly: “Leaders of the people! Elders! If we must answer today for a good deed done to a cripple and explain how he was restored to health, then you and all the people of Israel must realize that it was done in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead. In the power of that name this man stands before you perfectly sound. This Jesus is ‘the stone rejected by the builders which has become the cornerstone.’ There is no salvation in anyone else, for there is no other name in the whole world given to men by which we are to be saved” (Acts 4:9-12).

In the second chapter of Acts, we had already learned of the remarkable way in which the early Christians lived. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were performed by the apostles. Those who believed shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, dividing everything on the basis of each one’s need” (Acts 2:42-45). Now in chapter three the “wonders and signs” worked by the apostles begin to be spelled out. First, Peter was a changed man. Whereas before, he was too afraid of even acknowledging that he knew Jesus, he now lectures the leaders and the people. Also, the healings that Jesus performed are now being performed by the apostles. The power of the resurrection is now evident in the fledgling Christian community.

As we turn to the gospel passage, John 10:11-18, we are reminded that this Fourth Sunday of Easter has traditionally been called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” In many ancient Christian churches, statues of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, often with the straying lamb on his shoulders, have been found—early evidence of the power and the popularity of this image. Many of us grew up reciting the beautiful Twenty-third Psalm: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.”

Here in the Gospel of John Jesus states, “I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them....I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.” We can see why, especially in the first three centuries, when persecution of Christians was common, this image of Jesus would bring comfort and consolation.

Our Bishop William Byrne has placed a huge emphasis on vocations awareness in our diocese. We currently lack seminarians and the priests we have are aging. Traditionally, this Good Shepherd Sunday is a time when prayer for vocations is encouraged. For us it is critical. While all Christians are called to imitate Jesus Christ, priests are called to more closely identify with Jesus precisely in his shepherding of the flock. For me, it has been a privilege to be your priest these many years. From early on, I knew that the Lord was calling me. And now that we face a critical shortage of priests, I ask that you pray daily that, when the Lord calls, many will listen, choosing to accompany the Christians of our day in an intimate way in all the joys and sorrows of life. I cannot imagine a more rewarding and fulfilling life.

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Saturday, April 24

7:30A *Frank Galvis* 4th anniversary
by Jackie & Mark

Sunday, April 25

8:00A *Albert Beaubien*
by Paul Prunier

10:00A *Angelo Manzi*
by Anthony & Shannon Manzi

Saturday, May 1

4:00P *Mary Piurkowski*
by Michelle Turner

Sunday, May 2

8:00A *Deceased members of the Hamelin family*
by Paul Prunier

10:00A *Mike & Helen Sokolosky*
by the Eichorn family

DAILY MASS

Monday, April 26

8:00A *Larry Krejmas, Jr.*
by Dennis & Cyndee

Tuesday, April 27

8:00A *Helen Sokolosky*
by the Women's Group

Wednesday, April 28

8:00A *Catherine Berry*
by the Women's Group

Thursday, April 29

8:00A *A Special Intention*
by Louise Boucher Croll

Friday, April 30

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



Welcome!

Bishop William Byrne will visit our parish on Saturday, May 8 at the 4:00 P Mass.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

April 18, 2021

Regular collection & mail \$3,409.00

On-line \$1,094.00

Your continued support is greatly appreciated!



**Annual Mothers' Day
Baby Shower**

Once again we will be collecting items that would be typically part of a baby shower and we will distribute them to agencies who serve mothers in our area. These items may be brought to the church and left near the Our Lady of Peace statue. Deadline to contribute is Sunday, **May 9**.



Our Lady's Window

April 27 *Frank Galvis* by Jackie & Mark



ATTENTION, SENIORS!

Applications are available for Our Lady of Peace Women's Group Scholarships. We will award (2) \$1,000.00 scholarships to college bound applicants from our parish. Please email Cathy Marcum for

applications cmarcum102@comcast.net. Application deadline is **May 7**.

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|----------------|-----------------------|
| Diapers | Bonnets/hats |
| Wipes | Shampoo |
| Lotion | A & D ointment |
| Powder | Desitin |
| Formula | Baby rattles |
| Bottled food | Toys |
| Boxed food | Onsies |
| Bibs | Pacifiers |
| Blankets | Baby bottles & liners |
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