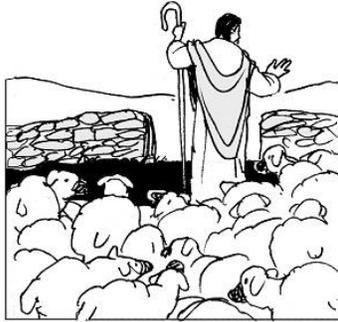


April 17, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Responding

To The Voice of The Shepherd

Jesus' sheep are those who hear his voice, recognize it, and follow him. They trustingly follow that voice, even in danger. This image implies intimate knowledge between Jesus and his followers. Jesus, our shepherd, who cares for his sheep is indeed one with the Father. All he says and does is the will of God. He gives eternal life to those who hear his voice.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by Liz & Leo Janak on the occasion of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, April 23
4:30 p.m. The Deceased of the Kalina Family
Sunday, April 24
8:00 a.m. Paul Vrazel

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27
Responsorial Psalm: 145
Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a
Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

No Bible Study Wednesday, April 20

C.C.D. Wednesday, April 20

2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment	\$7,618.00
Contributions So Far	\$ 590.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$7,028.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Henrietta & Elton Moeller
Rosemary & Arthur Klekar
Virginia & Dennis Olsovsky*

Consider at making a contribution.

Restoring Maticka Praha



To make a donation to the project contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674 or send an email to st_joe@sbcglobal.net.

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS

The Catholic custom of lighting candles is rooted in Church teaching that Christ is the Light of the World. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They are our silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord.



Remember to pray for the following requests:

*Special Need
Beverly Cones
The Lev Family
Edna & Robert Vackar
Mamie & Lupe Velasquez, Sr.
For my Daughter & Grandson
All Deceased Family Members
Successful Liver Transplant for my Son
Silva, Torres, Rojas, Aguilar & Rodriquez Families
For My Son – Praying For His Heart to Return to Jesus*

ORIENTATION

The Gospel passage we read today is part of a conversation Jesus is having with some Jews. Immediately preceding today's reading some Jews had asked Jesus, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe ... because you are not among my sheep."

When Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me," Jesus is contrasting his sheep to the people to whom he is speaking. Today's reading picks up the story at this point. As John writes his Gospel he insists on the divinity of Christ. We see this in today's reading when Jesus says, "The Father and I are one."

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Dorothy & Charlie Migl.

REFLECTION



The Sheep of the Good Shepherd Will Never Perish Because They Follow Him

Today's Gospel deals with the sheep and their relation to the shepherd. The sheep *hear* the shepherd's voice. They recognize the authority and importance of the speaker's voice, enter into communion with him by putting themselves under his guidance and *follow* him by attaching themselves to him and becoming his disciples. The shepherd in turn *knows* his sheep (his disciples) and he *gives* them the enjoyment of eternal life already in the life of discipleship, and the thrice-repeated assurance that they shall not perish, nor be snatched out of the shepherd's hands. This means that the very reason for their creation will be fulfilled through relationship with him.

To hear and to respond to Jesus' word on earth is the decisive factor that will determine acceptance by God. The Risen Christ is our Good Shepherd. He was not merely the Good Shepherd when he was on earth but *gives* life to his sheep even now. He does this as the Risen Lord in his *Word* and *Sacraments*. This answers how we come to Easter faith now, when we can no longer see the Risen Lord as the apostles saw him at the first Easter.

Do you hear his voice and follow?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



April 19 – Darlene Stryk
– Pam Vrazel
April 20 – Mallory Vrazel
April 23 – Brian Noska

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



April 19 – Elizabeth & Leo Janak
April 22 – Kathleen & Martin Svatek

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY MASS – MAY 8

To have your mother specially remembered in the Mass Intention of the day, drop the attached Mother's Day envelope in the collection or mail by May 2.

Area Picnics: Today – St. Wenceslaus Bazaar, Beasley
April 24 – St. Michael's Spring Festival, Weimar
May 1 – Holy Rosary Mayfest, Hostyn

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

HOME MISSIONS – Be Generous.

Reflection on the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* Issued by Pope Francis (*continued*)

Welcoming the Gift of Children: The Holy Father calls attention to the great gift that children are, both to their parents and to society. He emphasizes that children are to be cherished from the first moment of their conception and that they have the right to grow up with a mother and father. He encourages married couples to consider adoption and mourns the wounds that divorce and separation have on children.

Discernment: Pope Francis repeatedly calls the Church to discernment of particular situations, a central part of Jesuit spirituality. He expresses great confidence in the judgment of conscience and recognizes the importance of a proper formation of conscience. "Individual conscience needs to be better incorporated into the Church's praxis in certain situations which do not objectively embody our understanding of marriage. Naturally, every effort should be made to encourage the development of an enlightened conscience...". He also trusts in the discernment of bishops and priests when it comes to meeting a person one-on-one in a process of accompaniment that seeks to help the person determine their position before God.

Vulnerable Persons: We welcome the pope's exhortation to care more fully for the vulnerable people in our country, especially the families who need our help: the poor or homeless, migrants, victims of abuse or violence, the ill, the addicted, those with special needs, single parents and the elderly. We know that the Church can do more in the U.S. to reach out to these populations and be more missionary-focused as the pope calls us to be, including families.

Prayer: Prayer is where we meet God in our daily lives. Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of prayer for the couple together and the family as a whole. He also sees the necessity for a vital relationship between the family and the parish.

What's Next? This Apostolic Exhortation encourages renewed pastoral efforts to lift up the beauty of marriage and family life, to assist families in living out their vocation to love, and to reach out with the Lord's mercy to those who are struggling. It will serve as a support and inspiration, in continuity with the great treasury of Church teaching on marriage and family life, for the Church in the U.S. at the national level and for dioceses and parishes across the country.

World Day of Prayer For Vocations – April 17

In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated Good Shepherd Sunday as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, protects us as his flock and promises us the gift of eternal life. As followers of Jesus we are called to remain faithful to the grace of God. As we celebrate this feast, the Church invites us to honor the vocation of all Christians given at baptism.