

May 7, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Easter



**“ I Am The Good Shepherd ...
I Am The Gate.”**

In today’s gospel, St. John uses the image of the shepherd to remind us that Jesus is not only the shepherd who calls his own by name; he is also the gate through which the sheep can follow him in safety and in full confidence.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, May 13
4:30 p.m. Special Intention – Mothers Specially Remembered Today
Sunday, May 14
8:00 a.m. Special Intention – Mothers Specially Remembered Today

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY 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 6:1-7
Responsorial Psalm: 33
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9
Gospel: John 14:1-12

Mass Count

A Mass count will be taken up every weekend during the month of May in all parishes of the diocese. Records indicate that an average of 242 people attended Mass at St. Mary’s on the weekends of May 2016.

Church Tours

According to the Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce 1,798 people toured the Church on registered tours between January to March 2017.



2017 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2017 Assessment \$7,670.00
Contributions So Far \$ 825.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 6,845.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

*Leona Herzik
Liz & Leo Janak
Mary Ann & Emil Lev*

Do please consider making a donation.

St. Mary’s Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Matıcka Praha



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Janet & Deacon Eddie Huse, Victoria, TX - \$250

To make a tax deductible donation towards *St. Mary’s Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Matıcka Praha* contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

SPECIAL MOTHERS DAY MASS MAY 14

To have your mother specially remembered in the Mass intention of the day, drop your Mother’s Day envelope in the collection or mail by May 8.
Extra envelopes available at the main entrance of Church.

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 intentions:

- For Meredith*
- For Madelyn S.*
- For Flu to Stop*
- For Cancer Cure*
- For Family Healing & Jobs*
- For My Daughter Who Needs Help*
- In Memory of Eugene A. Patalik, Sr.*
- In Honor of Stazy Hajek (birthday)*
- For Family Units: David, Dario, Delia*
- For The Families of Vaclav Steinocher*
- For Healing Cancer in Therese Simmons*
- For Better Health For My Husband, Milt*
- For World Peace; To Heal My Sarah & Sofie*
- For The Jesse Rodriguez Family, Tomie & Ray*
- For My Family (Son, Husband, Baby on the Way & Baby Lost in December)*

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

REFLECTION

The Lord Is My Shepherd I Shall Not Want

Of all the various means of livelihood by which to understand our relationship with God and Jesus, that of the shepherd may be the least appreciated. Many of us tend to think of sheep as rather unintelligent creatures and resent being compared to them. Many of us are also unfamiliar with the self-sacrificing quality of the lifelong intimate relationship that ancient shepherds shared with their sheep. Although it is true that in some areas of our world, that relationship continues and assures the safety and survival of the shepherd, for the majority of us, the mutually shared love of shepherds and their charges remains a distant idea. Therefore, it seems appropriate that we are invited each year on this particular Sunday to be reminded of what Jesus meant when he assured his own that he was their shepherd and they his sheep.

The image of the shepherd comes from the Hebrew Scriptures. In ancient times, it was customary and perfectly intelligible to the people to call those who ruled over nations (kings, princes, queens, etc.) the shepherds of their people. The ancients pictured their shepherd-leader going before the flock, feeding and guiding them, defending them and seeing to their needs. Similarly, the people modestly pictured themselves as the ones led and protected by a higher wisdom and a higher power. No one thought this image to be degrading, as the people knew that they were in good hands. Therefore, it is only fitting that Jesus, who is God incarnate, calls himself the Good Shepherd. There are no more fitting words to express and celebrate our faith and our following of him than, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." The truth of these words and the trust they express transcends suffering and need. God is our shepherd so we lack nothing.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



May 7 – Cynthia Stryk
May 11 – Timothy Pospisil
May 12 – Sadie Noska

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



May 12 – Dolores & David Labay
– Jane & John Schneider

Picnic Raffle Prizes Being Solicited: It's time to start thinking about making donations to the Raffle. Thomas Petru has started contacting local businesses. Anyone interested in making a donation may call Thomas Petru (512-751-6191) or Liz Janak (361-596-8206). The Raffle Prize donation deadline is May 31. *Thank you.*

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Basilica is the nation's preeminent Marian shrine, and is oftentimes affectionately referred to as *America's Catholic Church*. Open 365 days a year, the Basilica is host to nearly one million visitors annually, attracting pilgrims and tourists alike from across the country and the world. Proceeds from this one-time collection will assist with the completion of the central and final dome in mosaic, The Holy Trinity. *Please be generous.*

MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY



The month of May is one of two months in the year when Catholics traditionally honor the Blessed Virgin. This month is referred to as the month of Mary. The other, October, is the month of the Most Holy Rosary.

World Day of Prayer For Vocations – May 7



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 while concentrating its attention to the *ordained ministries* (priesthood and diaconate), to the *Religious life* in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to *societies of apostolic life*, to *secular institutes* in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of *mission "ad gentes"*.

May those who are discerning their life vocation listen to the grace of God to guide them.

Prayer for Vocations

O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you.

Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

*Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*