



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

-- 1 John 3:1



Daily Mass

Week of April 22nd – 26th

- Monday: 8:00 Special Intentions
- Tuesday: 8:00 Della Roberts+
- Wednesday: 8:00 Helene Plotken+
- Thursday: 8:00 Cynthia C. Labadie+
- Friday: 8:00 Special Intentions



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Mike Abell, Tara Singh, Kerrie Roye, Mark Lutz, Michael Carter, Rufus Smith, Peggy Delson-Rini, Frank Rini, Pamela M., Rita Jurin, Julia and Cecilia Uyeda.

Today's Readings!

First Reading -- There is no other name under heaven by which we are to be saved than the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene (Acts 4:8-12).

Psalm -- The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone (Psalm 118).

Second Reading -- See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2).

Gospel -- I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11-18).

Responding to the Call!

Do we truly know the voice of Christ? Do we truly respond to the voice of our shepherd with our own distinctive voice? How often we attempt to imitate those around us, appropriating the response of another member of the flock to Christ. Perhaps we need to balance the image of being sheep of one flock with the image from the second reading, which tells us that we are all children of God. What child has precisely the same interaction with parents as his or her siblings? Instead, they frequently do and say things to distinguish themselves in the eyes of their parents. Whether we use the image of children or of sheep to understand our relationship with Christ, we believe that we are all known and called by name. With this great gift comes a responsibility: to respond to the call with our own distinctive voice, to take time to discern exactly what our call is, to determine precisely what the will of the Father is for each of us.

From
Father Leo



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This month, we are being asked to participate in a World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As most of you know, we are all called to minister to each other by virtue of our Baptism. We all share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. But, we also need men and women of faith to respond to the needs of the Body of Christ by serving the Faith Community as lay ecclesial ministers, religious, deacons and priests. This month, we are praying that more men and women will consider serving the People of God in one of these vocations.

During this period of crisis, let us also pray that those who exercise authority in the Church will remain attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. I have been told that in the Chinese language two characters from the word **crisis**: the first is **risk** and the other is **opportunity**. I believe that our present situation offers us the opportunity to reexamine the Church's laws concerning ordination to the priesthood.

As the number of ordained priests continues to decline and the Catholic population continues to increase, we are at risk of becoming more Protestant in our worship. What I mean is this: our Protestant brothers and sisters express their faith primarily by focusing on the Word, the Bible. We Catholics worship by Word and Sacrament. Unfortunately, there are now places in the United States where Catholics have Sunday Communion Services once or twice a month in place of Sunday Masses. Something must be done!

Let us pray...

Love, Fr. Leo

The Good Shepherd!

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday." Today, we listen to the words of the Lord as he refers to himself as the "good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep." It is sometimes so difficult for us to grasp the reality that anyone would lay down his or her own life for the sake of someone else. This is especially true in a society that places high value on power and personal advancement, often at the cost of "trampling" on other people in order to climb the ladder. Today's scriptures point to the one we are called to emulate -- the one who lays down his life for his sheep. Today's scriptures challenge us to discover ways to bring life to those around us -- to build up rather than to tear down.

Troop 6 Open House!

Interested in joining Scouts BSA? Look no further as Corpus Christi has its very own Troop that has been going strong for over 60 years. Chartered by the Corpus Christi Men's Club, Troop 6 is a scout-led, 5th grade boys and girls and older (up to 18), focused on developing leadership skills through service and adventure. Yes -- that's right -- girls are now welcome to join Troop 6! Meetings are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the School. For more information, contact Sean McKillop at: seanjmc-killop@gmail.com; or Lisa Gros at: lgros@rocketmail.com or call (510) 993-6404.

The Living Our Faith Ministry!

All parishioners are invited to attend the next meeting of the Living Our Faith Ministry. It will be held Thursday evening, May 9th, at 6:00 p.m. (instead of 7:00 p.m.) in the Gibson Center. Come join us as we nurture our own faith and seek to find ways to express that faith within the wider community. Feel free to contact Nancy Midlin at: midlin.nancy@gmail.com if you wish to learn more.

Wings (Women in God's Spirit)!

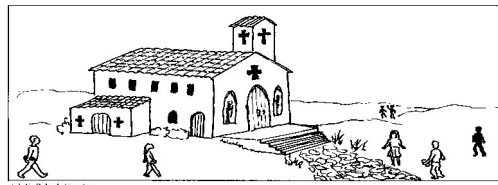
Wings continues this Spring on Wednesday mornings through May 8th. This faith enhancement group for women encourages spiritual growth through prayer, Scripture study, life sharing and community. The theme for the 2024 season is "Walking the Journey of Faith." The meetings will take place at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 30 Mandalay Road in Oakland from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. If you are new to Wings or wish to sample a meeting, feel free to attend. If you have any questions, contact Denise at: mollen@aol.com.



There are few openings for "Shepherds" in the classified ads today, but few occupations are as dear to the Christian heart. Most of us tenderly place shepherds by our Christmas cribs, name the Twenty-third Psalm as our favorite and recognize "Good Shepherd" as a title of Jesus. Bishops carry a staff, called a crozier, modeled after the shepherd's walking staff. Long before Christian artists painted Jesus on the cross, they traced on the walls of their worship places images of a strong young shepherd, shouldering a lost sheep and bringing it to safety. Springtime is the season of lambing, a time when the shepherd not only learns the faces of the new arrivals, but also when the newborn sheep become attuned to the voice of the shepherd. This is exactly what we do as a community in Easter as we shelter and guide the newly received Christians; and also put our Lenten muscled to good use: listening more attentively to God's Word and responding with springtime vigor to God's call.

Readings For The Week
April 22nd -- 27th

- Monday: First Reading Acts 11:1-18;
Psalm 42 & 43;
Gospel John 10:1-10
- Tuesday: First Reading Acts 11:19-26;
Psalm 87;
Gospel John 10:22-30
- Wednesday: First Reading Acts 12:24-13:5a;
Psalm 67;
Gospel John 12:44-50
- Thursday: First Reading 1 Peter 5:5b-14;
Psalm 89;
Gospel Mark 16:15-20
- Friday: First Reading Acts 13:26-33;
Psalm 2;
Gospel John 14:1-6
- Saturday: First Reading Acts 13:44-52;
Psalm 98;
Gospel John 14:7-14



Treasures From Our Tradition!

Many of our customs surrounding critical illness come from antiquity, and yet attitudes have certainly changed. Death was an all-too-familiar presence then, and people tended to see it as a natural and unavoidable part of life, not a personal catastrophe. People tried to review their lives, settle their affairs, say farewell to their dear ones, and welcome the deathbed vigils and prayers that assured them of God's love and forgiveness. What people most feared was sudden death. It was dreaded and never discussed.

The faithful filled the catacombs with consoling images of the good shepherd carrying the sheep to safe pasture, or the faithful in glory seated at banquet tables. The prayer texts from the time are consoling and positive, and many inspired our modern prayers. The care of the dying flowed directly from Roman pagan practice; it was home-based and family-centered. Pagans didn't especially fear death, but they were terrified by the dead. Christians, on the other hand, consoled their sick with psalms of joy and faith in the Resurrection. The goal was to assure the sick person of God's love, and that the ties that bind the dead and the living would endure.

