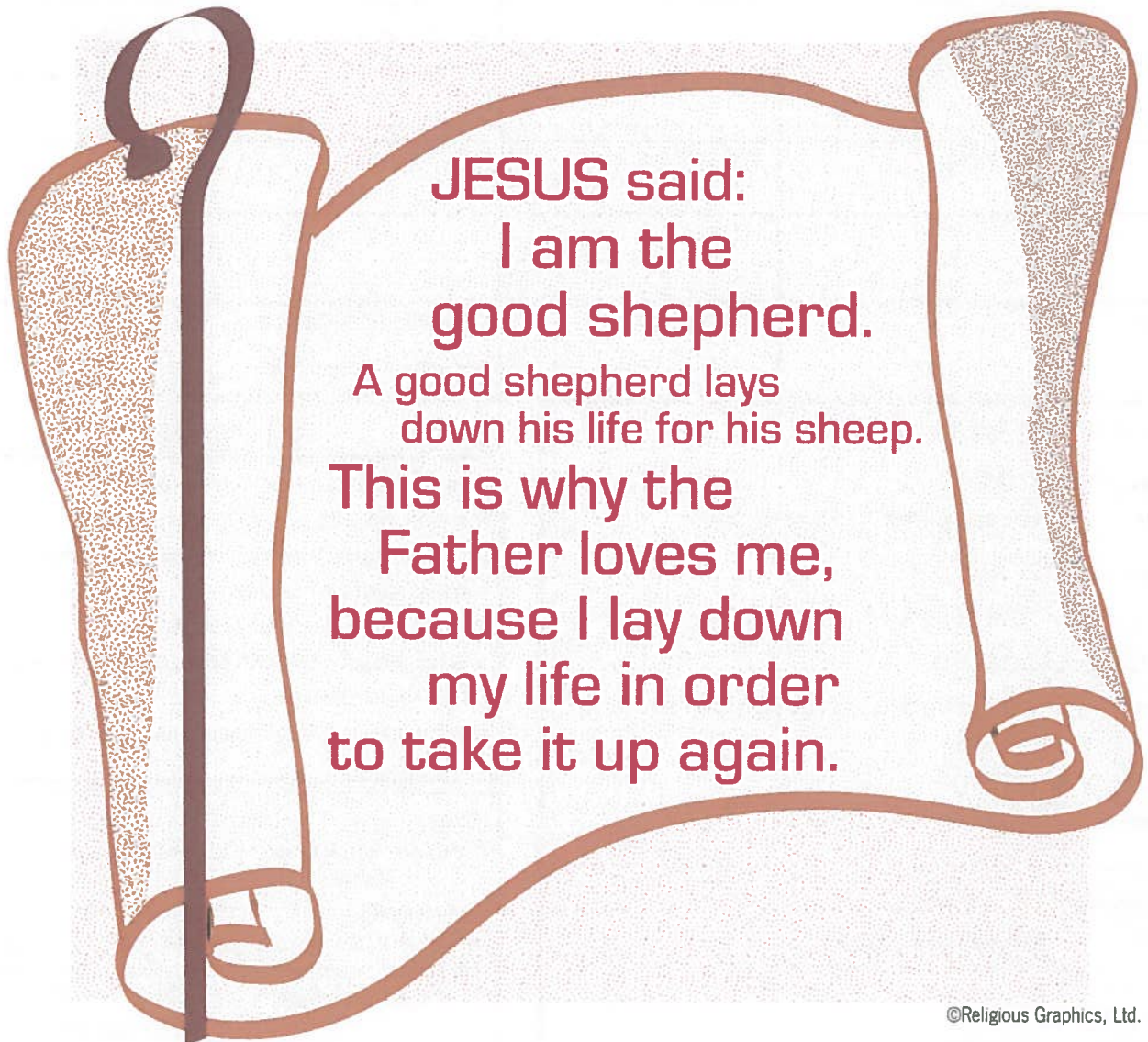


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 20-21, 2024



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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotes: " Know the difference between a good and a bad shepherd: the good shepherd cares for the welfare of his flock, but the bad shepherd cares only for his own welfare."

—Saint Thomas Aquinas

Third Sunday of Easter

April 27-28, 2024

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, April 27 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, April 28 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, April 28 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, April 28 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Dave Emling Bob Schultz Todd Hoffman	David Kirkpatrick Dennis Pankey	Dave Ladehoff Dan Forsythe Jeff Martin Bob Buente	Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Darren Lovell Garrett Smolkovich
Lector	Rob Landeck	Alicia Kirkpatrick	Kelly Buente	Diane Long
Servers				Sydney Weldon
Greeters			Greeter—Jerry Ogrentz R. Leader—Peerboltes	Stacey Powers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, April 22 (SMM)

8:00 am +Donna Ruder (Elizabeth Earl)

Tuesday, April 23 (SH)

8:00 am +Walter Pieszka (Angie Kmetz)

Wednesday, April 24 (SJ)

8:00 am +Louise Devine (Tom, Gene, Kathy O'Connor)

Friday, April 26 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, April 27 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, April 28

7:30 am (SH) +Jim Palinski (Brother and Sisters)
+Emma "Mikey" King (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)

9:00am (SJ) +Steve Legris & Michelle Legris Frost
(Darwin/Mary Peerbolte)

10:30am (SMM) +Mary Kelch (Steve/Donna Jacob)

Question of the week:

In what specific way can I lay down my life this week for someone who needs what I can give them?

A Look Ahead

Sunday, April 21—First Communion at SH

Monday, April 22—SMM CCW meeting 7 pm

Saturday, April 27—First Communion at SMM

Sunday, April 28—Confirmation 3:00 at SJ

Friday, May 3—First Friday at St. James

Sunday, May 5—SJ Youth Mass, May Crowning and last Religion Education Class

Sunday, May 5—May Crowning and last Religious Ed

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line— SMM—Pat Wagner 815-592-0773

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Collections Week of April 13-14, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,962
 St. James—\$2,129 Landscape—\$715
 Sacred Heart—\$1,120

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection Rethink—Misplaced Thoughts

I was hungry and you formed a humanities club to discuss my hunger. *Thank you.*

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel to pray for my release. *Nice.*

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance. *What good did that do?*

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health. *But I needed you.*

I was homeless ... *and you preached to me of the shelter and the love of God. I wish you'd helped me find a safe place to stay.*



Current Status for 2024 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
St. MM	\$9,400	\$6,430	\$4,761
St. James	\$8,800	\$5,055	\$5,770
Sacred Heart	\$6,000	\$6,850	\$3,560

Gospel Shorts—"Shepherding 101"

It can be very comforting to read and re-read familiar Bible passages, but the danger in doing so too often is that we fail to dig for deeper meanings in such verses. One familiar passage contains the imagery of Jesus as the Great Shepherd. Such an image has been "frozen" on countless stained-glass windows around the world; such an image is one quite visible to many; and yet, such an image may appear weak in a world that seems to admire strength and might; force and violence.

We need to explore a familiar passage such as this for the nuggets that lie therein. When we do, we discover that the image of a shepherd can be a powerful one: the shepherd provides permanence in a world of change; the shepherd also will be persistent in claiming his own. How good to know that Jesus, as the Great Shepherd, cares for us in such a wonderful way!

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ CCW meeting Monday, April 22 at 7 pm.

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of April 21st, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns for Fr. Ron as he celebrates his birthday and the St. Joseph candle burns for Kameron O'Connor as he receives his First Holy Communion

St. James—

- ◆ There will be an Open House for Rita Thiesen's 75th birthday in the Church Hall on Sunday, June 9th from 1-4 pm. Please join us.

All Parishes—

- ◆ The next Knights of Columbus meeting will be Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00PM at St James.

A Stewardship Moment Fourth Sunday of Easter Weekend of April 20/21, 2024

In today's Gospel reading we hear Jesus referring to himself as "the good shepherd." His sheep know him, trust him, listen to him and follow him; having faith that no harm will come to them as long as they stay close to him. We reaffirmed our faith in Christ when we renewed our baptismal promises at Easter. As stewards of our relationship with Jesus Christ, are we, like the sheep, willing to listen to Jesus, trust him, follow him no matter the cost to our comfort?

Congratulations to Tanhya Osenga,, the Woman of the Year chosen by St. James CCW.

1st Friday Adoration



Adoration will take place on Friday, May 3 after the 8:00 mass at St. James. Benediction will close adoration at 3:00.

"Every consecrated host is made to burn itself up with love in a human heart."

-St. John Vianney

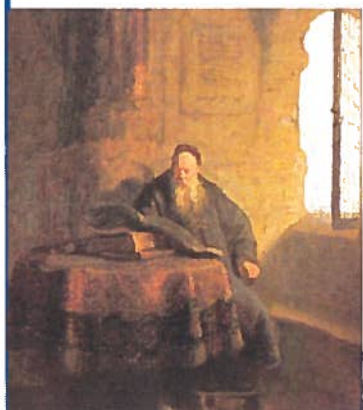




Saint of the week: St. George (April 23) Several stories have been attached to Saint George, the best known of which is the Golden Legend. In it, a dragon lived in a lake near Silena, Libya. Whole armies had gone up against this fierce creature and had gone down in painful defeat. The monster ate two sheep each day; when mutton was scarce, lots were drawn in local villages, and maidens were substituted for sheep. Into this country came Saint George. Hearing the story on a day when a princess was to be eaten, he crossed himself, rode to battle against the serpent, and killed it with a single blow with his lance. George then held forth with a magnificent sermon and converted the locals. Given a large reward by the king, George distributed it to the poor, then rode away.



Due to his chivalrous behavior (protecting women, fighting evil, dependence on faith and might of arms, largesse to the poor), devotion to Saint George became popular in the Europe after the 10th century. In the 15th century his feast day was as popular and important as Christmas. Many of his areas of patronage have to do with life as a knight on horseback. The celebrated *Knights of the Garter* are actually *Knights of the Order of Saint George*. The shrine built for his relics at Lydda, Palestine was a popular point of pilgrimage for centuries. He was one of the *Fourteen Holy Helpers*.



Obscure saint of the week: Saint Anastasius of Sinai (April 21) may have studied medicine as he seemed to have a greater knowledge of the subject than most people. He was a monk at Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai. Anastasius traveled to Damascus, Syria, and Alexandria, Egypt. He defended the faith in Chalcedon, urged Christians to keep their faith in the face of invading Muslim and ministered to those who had been driven into exile for staying Christian. Later he became the abbot of Saint Catherine's. He fought against many of the heresies of the day. In addition, Anastasius wrote on a number of theological topics; the versions that have survived suffer from much editing and additions through the years.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. A hired man is not a real shepherd. The sheep mean nothing to him. He sees a wolf come and runs for it, leaving the sheep to be ravaged and scattered by the wolf. He's only in it for the money. The sheep don't matter to him.

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I put the sheep before myself, sacrificing myself if necessary. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They'll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own free will. I have the right to lay it down; I also have the right to take it up again. I received this authority personally from my Father" (from John 10).



Old eyeglasses sitting around? This agency collects old eyeglasses, makes the necessary repairs, then sends them overseas to people in need. The Knights of Columbus will be placing collection boxes in the back of each church. Please consider helping with this project by donating your unused glasses.



Pre-



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

How long is the Easter season?

Much like Christmas, Easter is no "one-day" feast.

The Easter Octave concluded on Sunday April 7th.

But does our Easter celebration end there? Is it all over once the octave concludes?

The resounding answer is: *No!*

The season of Easter continues on for a full fifty days, up through the feast of Pentecost (which is May 19th this year). Easter is the most important feast in the liturgical calendar, and it only makes sense that the Church should celebrate not just a feast, not just an octave, but a whole *season* in honor of Our Lord's Resurrection.

Within these fifty days we celebrate some important feasts: Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast of the Ascension (in most places, the Sunday before Pentecost), and finally, Pentecost itself, the birthday of the Church!

So don't wind down your celebrations yet. We've got five weeks of joy ahead of us.

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second annual



GLAZIN' THE TRAIL

Family Fun Run/Walk 5K & 2K
Saturday, June 1st, 2024 at 9:00am
Kankakee Community College

Join Catholic Charities for the second annual Glazin' the Trail Family Fun Run/Walk. This donut-themed, family-friendly event will benefit the programs and services provided by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet in Kankakee county.

Whether you're a seasoned runner aiming for the finish line or looking for a fun family outing, join us for a delightful morning through the scenic trails around Kankakee Community College and along the beautiful Kankakee River.

Every dollar raise makes a difference in the live of those in need in the Kankakee area community.

This year, we have fun new activities for kids, including a Munchkin Run (no registration necessary for Munchkin Run) and, of course, DONUTS!

To register, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org, call 815-724-1140, or scan the QR code.

\$35 (free for kids 12 and younger



Please prayerfully consider serving in one of our ministry opportunities. There will be a form in the next week or so to sign up. We are looking for ushers, lectors, greeters, rosary leaders, and altar servers .

I am the good shepherd

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Questions Catholics Ask

Can someone change religious communities?

If you are in a particular religious order or community, can you switch to another or are you “stuck”? —Mike B.

The simple answer to your question is: Yes, a person who is a member of a religious community or order can transfer to another community or order. Here are a few other considerations that arise with this question.

First, if the person happens to still be in first (or temporary) vows or is not yet vowed, she or he can leave freely because they are not yet full members of the community. Such leaving, however, is undertaken with much discernment, prayer, and conversation. The person must also faithfully tend to any responsibilities and relationships that have been established.

Second, the decision of a full member, someone who has professed final vows, to leave her or his community and, in some cases, join another community is a serious situation. This process is not engaged in lightly and is a time of great discernment, prayer, and conversation for both the individual and the community. After all, final vows means for life, not “for as long as I feel like it” or “till something better comes along.” That being said, serious reasons do arise when a person can legitimately no longer live as a member of a particular community. These reasons are for the person and the leadership of the community to discern and are later witnessed by Rome for the valid dispensation from vows or transfer of vows.

Third, no religious community wants a person to feel “stuck” with them. On the contrary, religious communities want the very best for their members—to be free to love and serve God and God’s mission with other women or men who share the same vision. The community is built on real relationships and is not simply a structure within which one lives out one’s commitment for better or for worse. The pain of one member who feels “stuck” affects the whole of the community and must be tended to if the community and the individual are to be healthy and vibrant.



A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

JN. 10:11

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for April

Oh Blessed Lord!
Oh Risen Lord!

We look through the crosses
we have carried this past year
and give you thanks
for the awe-inspiring hope
that Easter brings.

We give you thanks
for calling us your friends
and allowing us to share
in the sacrifice of your
of your body and blood,
which is poured out for many.

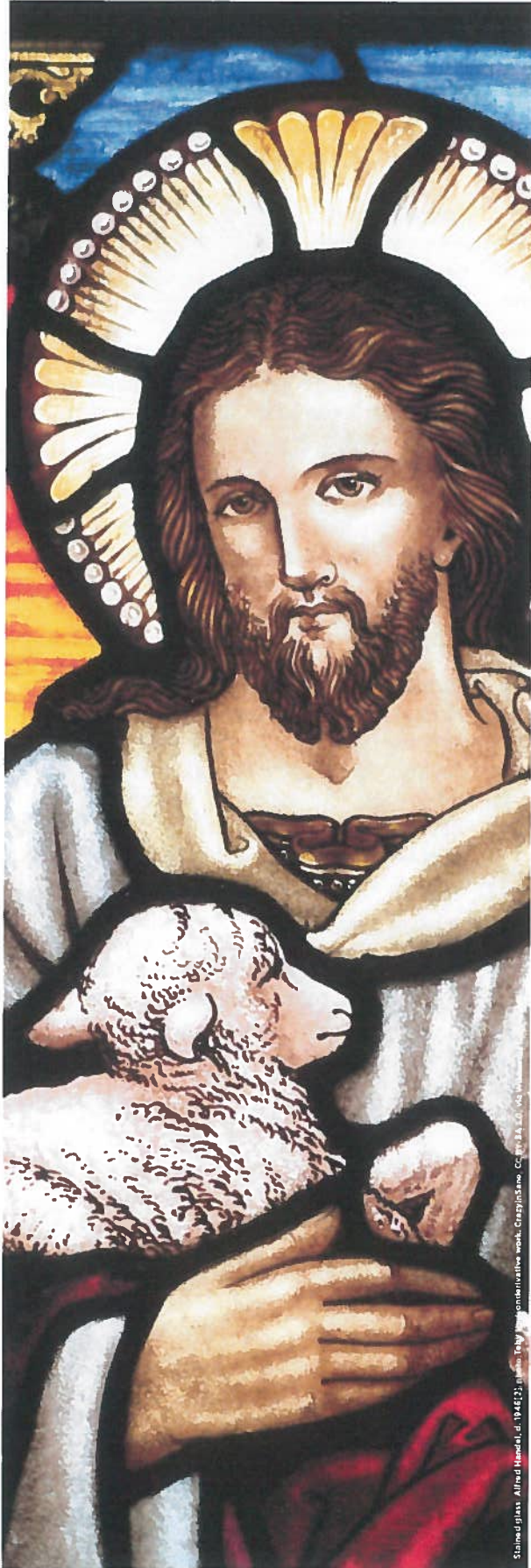
Oh merciful Lord,
redeemer and teacher,
by the power of the Holy Spirit
give us the patience and insight
to listen to you during this time
of continued uncertainty.

Give us the wisdom to
find creative ways
to put the Eucharist into action;
and give us the courage to bring
your Easter message of hope
to a world that desperately needs
your love.

To you be glory and honor
forever and ever.

Amen





April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 4:8-12 | 1 Jn 3:1-2 | Jn 10:11-18

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Several years ago I went to a shopping mall with my six-year-old son, and I could tell he was overwhelmed by the fast-moving crowds; he stuck close to my side. Not long into our trip, he turned a corner and, suddenly, his face lit up. He pointed at a young boy ahead. "That's James! I know him! He's in my class!" he exclaimed, and ran up to talk to him. Out of the sea of strangers was someone he *knew*, and who knew him. That changed the whole experience for him. Today's readings are all about that kind of knowing. In the Gospel Jesus tells us that, like a good shepherd, he knows his flock and they know him. How comforting it is to know that Jesus not only knows each one of us, but he willingly chose to lay down his life for each one of us as the ultimate sacrifice of love. But how do we get to know our Good Shepherd better? By immersing ourselves in Scripture and prayer and seeking a personal relationship with him. If we stay close to the Lord, we'll know his voice when we hear it – in the quiet of our prayer, in the everyday promptings of the Spirit in our decision-making, and even, in the midst of all the noise, as the calming and guiding voice leading us along the right path.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Being known is one of the most fundamental human and spiritual needs. When my son recognized his friend, he also instinctively recognized – without being able to articulate it – this need, in the midst of the anonymity of the mall. And his reaction was so pure: "I know him, and he knows me!" But he didn't leave it at that; he went to engage with his friend. He *encountered* his friend. This is what Christ desires for, and with us – not just to know us, to simply recognize us from afar, but for us to want to encounter him! We are meant to be in community; Jesus is always here for us: in the Church, in the sacraments, in Scriptures and in our hearts.

PRAY Spending time in prayer and reading the Scriptures are essential in order to get to know the voice of Jesus. Read the Gospels this week, even a chapter a day, and contemplate what passages stand out for you. Pray about it at Mass. The Scriptures and the sacraments are how Jesus speaks to us, like a good shepherd speaks to his flock so the sheep will know his voice and follow it.

4th Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 21
Acts 4:8-12
Ps 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29
1 Jn 3:1-2
Jn 10:11-18

Monday, April 22
Acts 11:1-18
Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday, April 23
Acts 11:19-26
Ps 87:1b-7
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday, April 24
Acts 12:24 – 13:5a
Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8
Jn 12:44-50

Thursday, April 25
St. Mark, Evangelist
1 Pt 5:5b-14
Ps 89:2-3,6-7,16-17
Mk 16:15-20

Friday, April 26
Acts 13:26-33
Ps 2:6-11b
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday, April 27
Acts 13:44-52
Ps 98:1-4
Jn 14:7-14

As a child, I always loved hearing about Jesus the Good Shepherd and seeing pictures of our Lord holding His staff in one hand, surrounded by a herd of fluffy sheep, and with one wayward sheep always curled around His shoulders. I was comforted by this image of Jesus, who loved all His sheep, even those who lost their way and took off in the wrong direction.

This parable offers a much deeper meaning to me now as an adult. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life to help me – a sinner who is so prone to going astray. He suffered, died on the cross, and rose from the dead to lead me and all of God's children (His sheep) on the right path to heaven.

He knows me by name and restores my soul with grace from the Sacraments. He safeguards my steps from the snares of the Evil One through the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit alive in the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church. He sometimes allows me to make wrong turns, but because I know and love Him, I can trust that

He is always right there, ready to bring me back into the fold.

Through the living waters of Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit, Christians are called and empowered to become like Jesus and be good shepherds, too. In His image, we must forgive those who are lost and do our part to bring them back into God's embrace. We must live our lives in joy and compassion for others – especially the poor, the downcast, and the lost – who most need God's mercy.

Trusting in the wise voice and directions of the Good Shepherd, we must never be afraid to speak God's truth and wisdom with love and grace to correct those who are astray and having trouble finding their way. As worthy shepherds, we must pray for courage to stay loyal to Christ, the Good Shepherd, in our everyday thoughts, words, and actions, whether alone, with family, at work, at church, in politics, in science, or interacting with media.

Remember that Jesus and the Church have been associated with controversy from the beginning, but He promises victory in the end. We must hold on tightly in faith, help others know and love Christ, and shepherd them into the loving gate of our Savior.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † In which areas of your life do you most need shepherding to stay on the right path to heaven?
- † How are you being a good shepherd to the poor, downcast, and lost?
- † What are some ways we can hear the voice of the Good Shepherd? How can we protect ourselves from being snatched by Satan?
- † How do we lay down our lives for others when we are a good shepherd?

