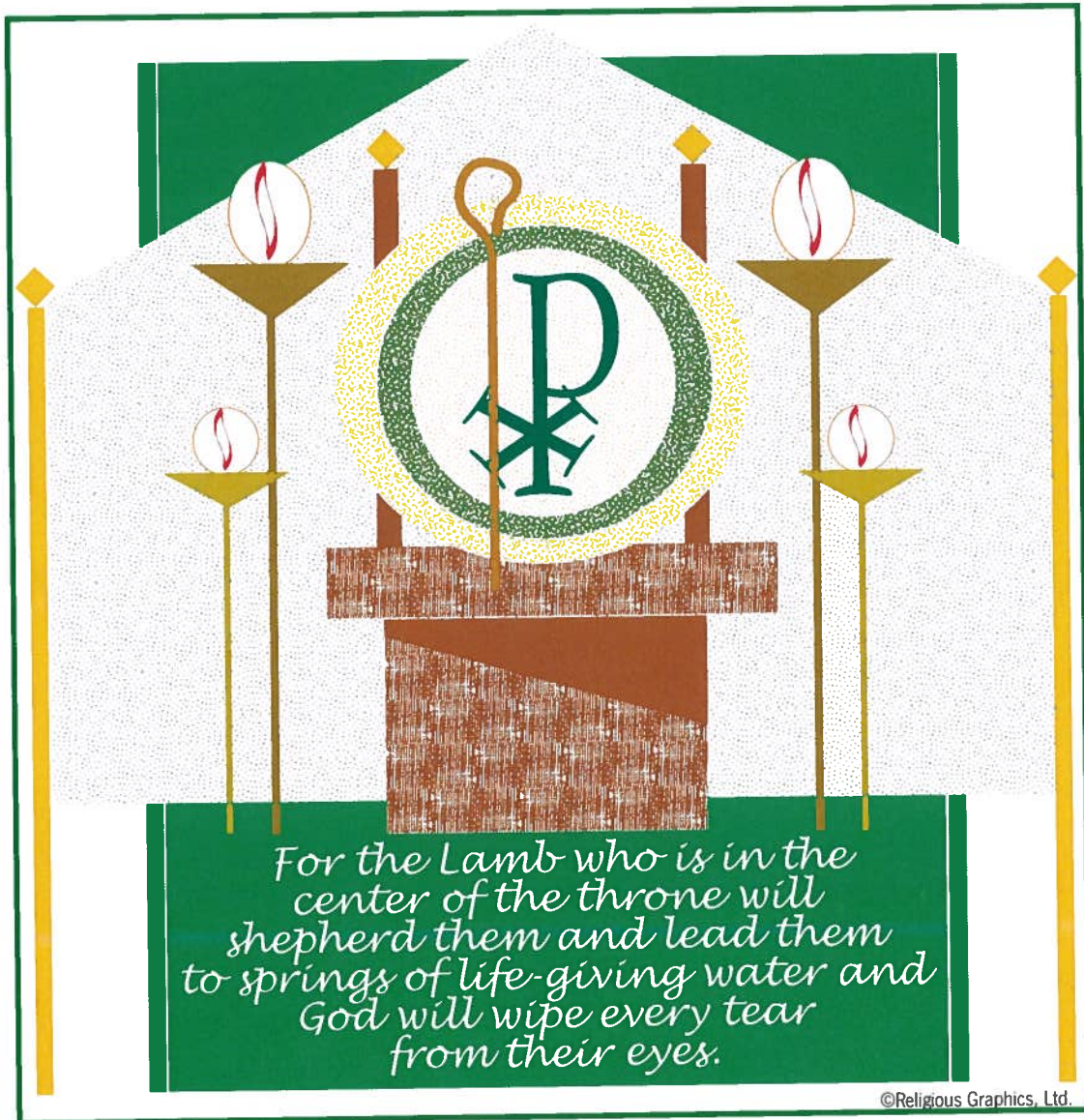


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 10-11, 2025



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

Quotable: "A shepherd who is not meek is not a good shepherd. He has something hidden, because meekness shows him as he is ... furthermore, the shepherd is tender ... knows the sheep one by one by name and takes care of each one as if it were the only one."
—Pope Francis, March 5, 2020 homily

5th Sunday of Easter

May 17-18, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, May 17 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, May 18 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, May 18 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, May 18 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Allam	Fr. Allam Deacon Ron	Fr. Allam	Fr. Allam
Ushers	Dave Emling Bob Schultz Dan Hoffman Gery Wright	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	Vic Carlile Jeff Steinke Jerry Ogrentz Dennis O'Connor	Wayne Bisailon Seam Riordan Kim Smicker Brent Fulton
Lector	Hillary Webb	Terri Weakley	Mary Peerbolte	Diane Long
Eucharistic Minister			Joe Benoit	Susan Feller
Servers				Caroline Fulton
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Kathy Dumas	Wayne Bisailon

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, May 12 (SMM)

8:00 am +Madona Hoffman (Roger/Judith Hooper)

Tuesday, May 13 (SH)

8:00 am +Sara Feller (Don/Marie Feller)

Wednesday, May 14 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) No Mass

Friday, May 16 (SMM)

8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, May 17 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

Sunday, May 18

7:30 am (SH) Past and Present Priests of Sacred Heart
(Parishioners)

9:00am (SJ) +George Grosso (Theresa Grosso)
+Vickie Peerbolte (Paul/Sherry Mersch)

10:30 am (SMM) +Mary Kelch (Marlene Papineau)
+Rudy Splear (Julie/Wayne Bisailon)

A Look Ahead

Monday, May 12—SH CCW meeting 6:30

May 17/18— Fr. Allam's Mission Appeal

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

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

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Question of the Week

How has my mother (or mother figure) been a good shepherd for me? Make sure to thank her today.

Collections Weekend of May 3-4, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,078

St. James—\$ 3,201

Sacred Heart—\$917

Thank you for your generosity!

Mary and Mother's Day

The springtime month of May is popularly devoted to Mary, the Blessed Mother. Statues dedicated to her are showered with bouquets and crowns of flowers. The second Sunday of May, Mother's Day, often takes on Marian nuances. The tradition began through the efforts of Anna Jarvis (1864–1948) with church services in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in honor of Anna Jarvis' own mother. In 1910, the governor of Oklahoma issued the first Mother's Day proclamation. The following year all the states did so. Congress and the Executive Office cooperated in 1913 in a national resolution establishing the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. Show your great love, deep respect and gratitude to your mother! Do not forget her on Mother's Day nor any other day!



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Mary McDonald

mother of Kim (Carl) Smicker and Sharon Selby

May Mary and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to all Mary's family and friends.

All ladies interested in attending the Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute on Wed., June 5 should sign up in the entrance of their church. The cost will be split between the attendee and their CCW. Individual cost will be \$11 with checks being made out to your parish. The deadline to sign up is May 11.

Gospel Shorts He Knows Our Voice, Our Walk, Our Lot

This fourth Sunday of Easter offers us the image of the Good Shepherd. John's gospel puts a particular twist to the image. The usual images of the shepherd show the caregiver going out and seeking what was lost, or even going out in protection of the sheep. Today we are told that the sheep know the voice of the shepherd — that there is a very deep and personal relationship between the two. The sheep hear and know the voice of the One who cares for them.

This Gospel presents us with the challenge and the question: How well do we know that voice? Do we give ourselves the opportunity to listen to it? Have we taken our relationship for granted? God who has fashioned us and knows us, also wants us to be in relationship with him. How much do we give to make the relationship work? Perhaps the challenge for us is to give ourselves time to listen, to be quiet, and to hear Jesus' voice call to us once again.

Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James

⇒ All are invited to Donut Sunday following mass on May 18th. If you'd like to bring a pastry/breakfast item to share please sign up on the bulletin board in the hall.

Sacred Heart-

⇒ The week of May 11th, the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in prayer for all mothers and the St. Joseph candle burns in memory of all mothers who have gone before us

⇒ CCW meeting will be held Monday, May 12 at 6:30pm. Hostesses are Kate Cloonen and Terri Weakley.

All Parishes—

⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

⇒ The Kankakee Deanery Council of Catholic Women Spring Institute will be held at Maternity BVM on Wednesday, June 5, 2025. Registration will begin at 5:00 pm followed by mass and dinner. For more information or to sign up for this event, please contact your CCW President.

H A P P Y
Mother's Day

Reflection Till Death Do Us Part

Because I am the only person I will have a relationship with all of my life, I choose:

- To love myself the way I am now.
- To love, honor and cherish myself.
- To be my own best friend.
- To be the person I would like to spend the rest of my life with.
- To always take care of myself so that I can take care of others.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

+Sheila Koerner

May Sheila and all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

Our sincere sympathy to all Sheila's family and friends.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Anthimus of Rome (May 11) was a parish priest in Rome, noted for his conversions, including that of a Roman prefect. The official's change of faith brought Anthimus to the attention of Roman officials who condemned him to drown in the Tiber River for his religion. Thrown in, he was rescued by an angel. Continuing his work, Anthimus was later recaptured and martyred.

Other obscure saint of the week: St. Estelle of Saintes (May 11) was a descendant of a powerful family of Druids, and the daughter of a imperial Roman official. A convert to Christianity, she was baptized by Saint Eutropius of Saintes. When Saint Eutropius was martyred, Estelle saw to his burial. Her father ordered Estelle to renounce her new faith; she refused and was condemned to death.



The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Jesus said: "My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him. I and the Father are one heart and mind" (from John 10).

Questions Catholics Ask

What does it mean to have faith?

When we put our faith in other people, it means we trust them to do as they say and to follow through on their promises. It doesn't mean we believe that they exist. Yet this minimalist definition of faith seems to be what's most often applied in the realm of religion. Faith in God, in this sorry little sense, merely implies giving intellectual assent to an eternal Being out there somewhere. Faith can further imply our adherence to a certain list of beliefs taught by a group that purports to represent God: church, synagogue, mosque, or meeting hall.



Believing in a set of ideas about God is quite different from putting our confidence in a vital relationship with the God who saves: the God who rescues us, personally, and whose promises are true. Settling for the former notion is probably the most short-changing proposition we can make in our spiritual lives. Contrast that with what happens if we extend the same faith to God we offer to people. As Jesuit theologian Michael Cook describes it, we only surrender our trust to those with whom we have a shared history that recommends such confidence. Committing our faith to another person is a "self-transcending" hour that involves risk. We become vulnerable to betrayal, deceit, or disappointment. Who would take such a risk unless the one to whom we give our faith has proven credible and worthy of it? This is precisely the kind of faith Abraham surrenders to the God who invites him to leave home and extended family, and to embark on a future that's unseen and unknown. God promises land and descendants. If Abraham hadn't believed God was good for it, he would never have left his father's tents.

What reason might you and I have to commit our destinies to God? The Bible reveals a shared history between God and humanity in which people are frequently deceitful and disappointing. Yet God is steadfast. We can also meditate on creation itself, in which God's commitment to life, beauty, and prosperity are clearly seen. Ultimately, it's only in taking the plunge into trusting God, and accepting the invitation to journey with God as Abraham did, that we learn for ourselves that God's promises are true. As Karl Rahner says, we can settle for the mind grasping divine mysteries. Or we can permit ourselves to be grasped.

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-7; Matthew 17:14-20; Luke 11:9-13; Romans 4:1-3, 13-25; 5:1-5; 10:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:12-13; 2 Corinthians 5:7; James 2:14-18; 1 John 1:1-4



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Meet the influential cardinals voting in the Conclave.

A Conclave is not quite a democratic process.

If you've been on social media recently, or even tuned into traditional news sites and media, you'll see plenty of people sharing infographics claiming to know who the "leading papal candidates" are. It's essential that as Catholics we understand there are no *candidates* for the papacy in the usual sense; rather, we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide the voting cardinals to the next pope.

So while we can't share with you a list of "likely candidates" for the papacy, we can share with you some of the leading cardinals who will be voting in the upcoming conclave so that you can pray for them by name!

Cardinal Matteo Zuppi (Italy)

The Archbishop of Bologna and President of the Italian Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Zuppi is a significant voice in the European church.

Cardinal Peter Erdő (Hungary)

A seasoned theologian and canon lawyer, Cardinal Erdő serves as the Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest. With extensive experience in synods and a strong academic background, his presence at the conclave underscores the Church's intellectual and canonical traditions.

Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo (Democratic Republic of Congo)

As Archbishop of Kinshasa, Cardinal Ambongo brings the perspective of the growing African Church.

Cardinal Robert Sarah (Guinea)

The former Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Cardinal Sarah is deeply respected for his spirituality, eloquence, and advocacy of silence, contemplation, and the reverence of the liturgy.

Cardinal Raymond Burke (United States)

Though no longer holding a curial post, Cardinal Burke remains one of the most well-known figures associated with a strong emphasis on doctrinal clarity and liturgical tradition. As Prefect Emeritus of the Apostolic Signatura, he has long been a defender of canon law.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle (Philippines)

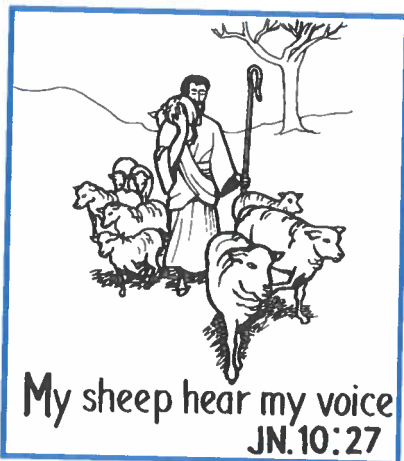
Currently serving as Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Cardinal Tagle bridges the local and the global.

As these and over a hundred other cardinal electors gather in Rome, let us remember to pray for them.

Let's send our prayers to Rome! Although the length of the conclave is unknown—it could last a day or stretch over twelve months! But we do know the power of a faithful prayer. **Will you join us in asking for the Holy Spirit's powerful intercession for the College of Cardinals?**

Sign up for our daily emails with prayers to the Holy Spirit [here](#). When you sign up, we'll send you a daily email with prayers to the Holy Spirit.

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MOM:

STAYED UP ALL NIGHT WITH YOU WHEN YOU WERE SICK. PRAYED FOR YOU. KISSED YOUR BOO-BOOS. MADE YOUR DINNERS. BECAME YOUR PERSONAL VALET AND TAXI DRIVER. WENT TO YOUR PERFORMANCES AND PHOTOGRAPHED YOUR EVERY MOVE. CHEERED YOU. CHAMPIONED YOU.

AND ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS THANK HER EVERY SO OFTEN.



PRETTY GOOD TRADE



God bless Viola Parsons who received her First Communion Sunday, May 4th at Sacred Heart.



Congratulations and blessings to Jude Adams, Lennon Kostelicz, Adeline Scanlon, Holden Wakey, Parker Wise and Bode Hoffman, who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion Saturday, May 3 at St. James.



ALL ARE WELCOME!
Click button below or scan QR code to register

REGISTER NOW



¡TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!
Haga clic en el botón de abajo o escanee código QR para registrarse

REGISTER AHORA

You are cordially invited to the Diocese of Joliet

Jubilee Mass for Persons with disabilities
June 1, 2025
12:30 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N. Raynor Ave.
Joliet, Illinois

The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ronald Hicks; refreshments and fellowship to follow. Those with disabilities, and their caregivers, will receive a special blessing.

Están cordialmente invitados a la Diócesis de Joliet

Misa Jubilar para Las Personas con discapacidades
1 de Junio de 2025
12:30 p.m.

Catedral de San Raimundo
604 N. Raynor Ave.
Joliet, Illinois

La misa será celebrada por el obispo Ronald Hicks; refrescos y compañerismo a seguir. Aquellos con discapacidades, y sus cuidadores, recibirán una bendición especial.

Questions? ¿Preguntas?
Martha Torres
(815) 221-6128

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage



St. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC PARISH

Sunday, May 18, 2025

6:30 p.m. Arrival of the Pilgrims with the Blessed Sacrament

6:30 p.m. Eucharistic Procession from the Settles Center to the Church

6:45 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Adoration with Evening Prayer and Benediction

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Monday, 7:00 a.m. Adoration

Monday, May 19, 2025

7:00 a.m. Benediction

7:30 a.m. Mass

956 S. 10th. Ave. Kankakee IL. 60901 | 815.933.7683 | jp2kankakee.org



May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Acts 13:14, 43-52 | Rev 7:9, 14b-17 | Jn 10:27-30

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

"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

The spiritual riches contained in this line alone are enough to sustain us for a lifetime. First, we rejoice that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls us his own. We belong to him who, like the shepherds of bygone days, protects his sheep – capable of little in the way of self-defense – even at the cost of his own life. Also, among the distinctive marks of Jesus' sheep are that they hear his voice and follow him. Thus, to be part of Christ's flock involves not only being known by him, but knowing him and heeding his call. A sheep who has not attuned its ears to the voice of its shepherd is a lost sheep! Although the world's fertile meadows may look inviting, *not* to attune our ears to the voice of Christ means exposing ourselves to the dangers of a life apart from God. On the other hand, if we make our pilgrimage of life with him, we abide within the protective confines of his love until the day we follow him into the pastures of eternal life.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Frequently, our free will (something we do not share with sheep) gets in the way of our ability to heed the Shepherd's voice. For us, his voice is expressed in concrete ways: in his commandments, in the teachings and tradition of his Church, in the Scriptures, in our legitimate superiors, and in prayer. These are the means he uses to mark out the path he wishes us to follow. But this path always involves the cross, and our sheep-ish (pun intended) nature recoils at the sight of suffering. In today's second reading, however, St. John's vision offers the key to overcoming our resistance: "For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them." In other words, Jesus, our Divine Shepherd, is also a lamb who has tread the difficult way of the cross. He is *the* Lamb of God who offered himself in a sacrifice of perfect obedience to his Father's will. Thus, we do not embark along the way of obedience and suffering alone; Jesus walks before us to sustain and protect us along the way.

OBSERVE

Find an image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd online and spend 15 minutes praying about what you see. What is the Shepherd's attitude toward his sheep, and the sheep's attitude toward their Shepherd? What do we learn from this about *our* relationship with Christ?

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SPIRITUALITY

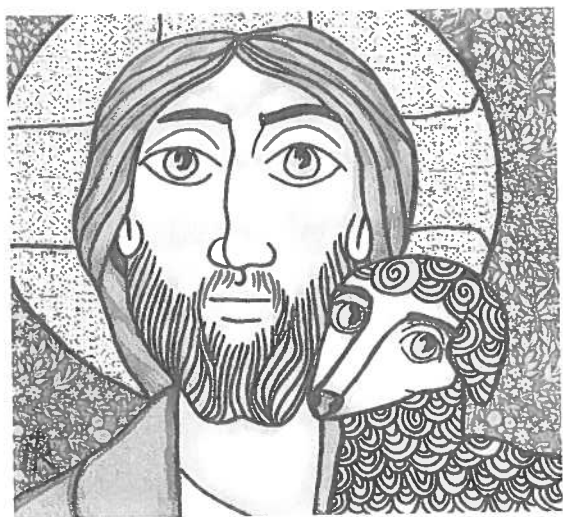
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 10:14

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel

John 10:27-30; L51C

Jesus said:

"My sheep hear my voice;

I know them, and they follow me.

**I give them eternal life, and they shall
never perish.**

**No one can take them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me,
is greater than all,**

**and no one can take them out of the
Father's hand.**

The Father and I are one."

Reflecting on the Gospel

There are all kinds of detergents that claim to be able to remove the most stubborn of stains. When those fail, home remedies abound. Everyone knows that once a stain is set, it is all the more difficult to get out. One of the hardest stains to remove is blood.

Today's reading from the book of Revelation offers the startling image of blood as a cleaning agent. The seer recounts a vision of the end time, when a huge multitude, "from every nation, race, people, and tongue," stands together before the throne of the victorious Lamb, bedecked in brilliant white robes. The seer is told that these are "the ones who have survived the time of great distress" and that their robes have been washed "in the blood of the Lamb." The paradox of whiteness resulting from being washed in blood invites us to reflect more deeply on these powerful symbols.

At first we may think of the blood as Christ's atoning, sacrificial blood, which removes the stain of our sin. But in Johannine literature, there are very few traces of atonement theology. The Lamb in the Gospel of John is the Pass-over lamb, whose bones are not broken (Exod 12:46; John 19:36), whose blood, as in the exodus, protects his people from the destroyer and whose flesh fortifies his own for their journey to freedom. This is the one whose blood came forth from his pierced side, along with waters of rebirth (19:34), cleansing, renewing, and opening the way to new life for all. Paradoxically, the Lamb is also—as we see in today's gospel reading—the shepherd, whose sheep respond to the sound of his voice and from whose hands no one can snatch his sheep. In the book of Revelation, the Lamb is now enthroned in glory, clothing everyone in the resplendent robe of his life and love.

The robes are brilliant white, the color of purity, victory, and innocence. As Sir Isaac Newton showed, the color white combines all the visible colors of light in equal proportions. So, too, in the vision of the end times in Revelation, people of every color and race are gathered together into one, not to have their own distinctiveness erased but for all to be formed into one body, with equal dignity and purity. The blood that washes over each is the life force unleashed by the crucified Jesus and infused into his followers by the Spirit. It does not white-wash the shedding of blood from racism and other forms of sin but empowers all who are bloodied in the earthly struggles to emerge cleansed in his loving life force.

The seer envisions this life force enduring for all eternity. Those who "remain faithful to the grace of God" (Acts 13:43) are sheltered by the Lamb sitting on the throne. They no longer suffer hunger or thirst, either for physical food, or for justice and peace. The scorching heat of the struggle is past, and overflowing tears are replaced with life-giving springs of water. Even the most stubborn of stains can be overcome when placed in the hands of the victorious Lamb who shepherds us.