

**April 25, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12*

*Ps. 118*

*1John 3:1-2*

*John 10:11-18*

The Good Shepherd

Scholars tell us the word "good" used to describe the shepherd may also be translated "ideal" or "authentic". Discerning who is an authentic, ideal, or good shepherd is important. The flock must be kept from harm and on the right track. As a Roman Catholic priest and pastor I ask the Lord for guidance and inspiration that I may be such a shepherd.

In the first reading, Acts 4: 8-12, Saint Peter who was designated by Jesus our first supreme pastor or shepherd, points to Jesus as the true shepherd. Peter refers to Jesus as the cornerstone. Further, Peter makes clear the then leaders of the people had rejected Jesus. They did not discern well the shepherd. Peter however seemed to know well who Jesus was and is. Peter knows Jesus to be authentic and ideal.

In the second reading taken from the First Letter of John, John says, "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God." When John says "see" he means to say, "Really, take a good look". Yes, take a really good look. The Lord truly loves you and somewhere along your life God has shown you love. Take a really good look. List the moments.

Finally, in the Gospel passage Jesus himself gives the attributes of the good, ideal, authentic shepherd. He begins by making the distinction he is not merely a hired hand. One who is hired may not have the best interest of the sheep in mind. At some point when the job becomes too difficult or dangerous the hired hand quits. He finds a better job. But one who truly loves the sheep would never run away from them even when danger approaches. There is more.

The shepherd truly gets to know the sheep well. And the sheep get to know the shepherd just by the sound of his voice. In the passage Jesus refers to the sheep as "mine". Most of all, and this is the ultimate attribute of the shepherd, the Good, Ideal, Authentic Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. This is exactly what the Father expected Jesus his Son to do. Jesus actually lays down his life for his brothers and sisters. He does so willingly. By this act we are all the sons and daughters of God the Father. The Father's love pours out for us. We may follow Jesus our shepherd to the Father's love.

I feel the seriousness of God's call to shepherd his people. You. The needs of so many of you are great.

You long to be loved. Your longing tugs at my heart. I am saddened when you go astray. I am happy when you come along the way. Your response to the Father is personal to me.

I do not get paid lots of money to do this shepherding "job". Our Church does not pay its clergy as other denominations might. And for good reason. I just cannot say, "the next parish pays better. Heck, I am leaving here and going there." Likewise, you may not simply fire me and say, "let us get that other priest in here. We understand he does not preach as hard a line as this one." We are one with each other. The bishop installs me pastor and we are made one flock. I am your shepherd. The Father has put us together. We must walk this walk.

I pray to the Father to give me the stamina and wisdom Jesus had from the Father. In love I must stand firm with you. In love I must cry with you. In love I must rejoice with you.

<u>Stewardship</u>	
Attendance last week:	
Tithes Collected:	\$
Online Giving:	\$
Total:	\$
Thank you!	

**This weeks' second collection is for Catholic Home Missions**

**[fatherdennisreflections.com](http://fatherdennisreflections.com)**  
**This is Father Dennis's**  
**New Webpage!**

Take a look at the page. It contains reflections by Fr. Dennis. You have come to know him. For the better part of a year, he has graced the pulpit of Blessed Sacrament Parish with fine, courageous preaching. Perhaps you would like to read his challenging columns.

**LITURGY FOR APRIL 18, 2021**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (B)**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, John LaNeve, Judith Kolo, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 17

- 4:00 p.m. † Tina Bishara by Family  
† Jack Symonette by Theresa, Mom

Sunday, April 18

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish  
10:45 a.m. † Robert D. Joyce by John Joyce & Judy Dempsey  
† Solange Jeanneau by Catherine

Monday, April 19

- 8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, April 20

- 8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz

Wednesday, April 21

- 8:00 a.m. † Bernard & Eileen Flood by Flood Family

Thursday, April 22

- 8:00 a.m. † Ted Moser by Jean-Pierre Kolodziejcki

Friday, April 23

- 8:00 a.m. † Rey Lizcano by Friends

Saturday, April 24

- 4:00 p.m. Mary & Tom Hardy (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by Parish  
† Wilson Oliviera by Jose Gonzalez & Bill Caruso

Sunday, April 25

- 9:00 a.m. † Eileen & Leroy H. Dittmer by Joyce  
10:45 a.m. Paulette Kinne by Anita

### Men Are Like Waffles, Women Are Like Spaghetti

The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. Every married couple could use a shot in the arm to boost their relationship. Here is that shot. This two-hour long seminar for married couples is based on the book "Men Are Like Waffles, Women Are Like Spaghetti" by Bill & Pam Farrel. It helps husbands and wives to begin to understand what makes each other tick. It is a topic similar to the familiar book "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus," but explains the topic with a whole new light. If you are wondering how men are like waffles and women are like spaghetti, come to this fun and enlightening enrichment experience for married couples presented by Peter & Amber Badal. The enrichment will take place **Virtualy** on Saturday evening, **May 1st, 2021**. The virtual doors will open at 7:15 pm. The presentation will be given from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

This virtual event is being sponsored by World Wide Marriage Encounter of Southeast Florida. We will provide the Zoom Meeting invite to those who RSVP directly back to Steve and Kathy Franzone at [steve.kathy.franzone@wwme.org](mailto:steve.kathy.franzone@wwme.org)  
**Call with questions: 754-204-5996**

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience, VIRTUAL WEEKEND, June 11-13, 2021

If you are spending time together, but feel the distance between you...THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND A WEEKEND IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNICATION IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME. This VIRTUAL Weekend gives couples the chance to sleep in their own beds and check-in on kids or animals during meal times. The weekend starts **Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm and ends **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>** at about 3:00 pm. You need a good internet connection and computer/laptop/tablet with a camera and microphone. Sign up here: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) (Used Fort Lauderdale for the location).

Contact Information: For more information contact- Frank & Fran Kulzer, 954-961-5078 or Steve & Kathy Franzone, 754-204-5996





Message from the Archdiocese of Miami  
Development Corporation

1. Your kindness is someone's Hope.  
Make a gift of Hope today.  
[www.isupportabcd.org](http://www.isupportabcd.org)
2. Are you trying to determine the best way to split your estate between your family, and your parish? For assistance with customizing a plan that is beneficial to both your family and the Church, please contact the Office of Planned Giving (305) 762-1112.
3. *"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them." – John 10:11–15*

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, "leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf."