

May 8, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts of the Apostles 13: 14, 43-52
Ps. 100
Revelation 7: 9, 14b-17
John 10:27-30

We Are His People, the Sheep of His Flock.

In the Fourth Sunday of Easter the fever continues. The message, *i.e.*, Jesus's whole life of ministry, the passion, death and resurrection, and the ultimate message of life everlasting was so powerful. The general public and especially people most oppressed responded greatly. People who listened and heeded the Good News had Hope. They could see there is a future!

For generations our brothers and sisters in the faith kept the message of the one true God much to themselves. With the advent of Jesus, the Messiah, and especially in the nascent Church, that changed. The message went out to all who would listen. Now Gentiles were welcomed.

As is described in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles the Gentiles were delighted, they were now included! They jumped at the opportunity to join in the Journey of Faith. They "glorified the word of the Lord...and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region."

The second reading from the Book of Revelation presents to us a beautiful vision of salvation. People of every nation, race, and tongue gather before the throne of the Lamb. The scene is one of celebration. Faithful people endured all distress. They were washed to whiteness by the red blood of the Lamb. They found protection in the shelter of the throne of God. People experienced less anxiety and had greater hope. Beautiful images of life-giving water abounded. It becomes known God wants the best for us!

Now the question for our reflection rises up. Are we listening to God?

Today, the Church presents a short passage from the Gospel of John. It provides simple advice to participate in all God has to offer. "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Let us understand this in the context of the image presented by John. Sheep know the master's voice because they are listening to the voice all day long. They associate the voice with the good food they are led to. They trust that when they hear the voice they will always be cared for and have what they need. At the end of the day they are led to safe shelter. So, they follow the voice.

Jesus likens himself to the shepherd that does all of this good for his sheep. We are the sheep. If we want all the

good Jesus offers by the Father, we are to listen to him. As we listen over time we come to well know his voice. We begin to sense God's influence around us. With time it becomes easier to recognize the voice, the guidance God is giving. When we are most familiar with the voice of God we especially find great value in knowing it. When we are most distressed we need not seek much. We quickly understand the way God is calling us.

To best learn God's voice we follow what the Lord has given us. It is his Church founded on Peter. Within the community of faith we join forces with the many people who also already know the voice.

In our own parish we celebrate together on the Lord's Day. We learn how to speak with God, that is pray. Furthermore, we read the Sacred Scriptures and even participate in Scripture Sharing as offered here in the parish. Families make good use of the In-Home Faith Formation offered to them by the parish. And we socialize together even outside official functions of the parish. We maintain community beyond the four walls of the church building.

In all, we the people who listen to God's voice and remain together in faith find ourselves to be God's people. We are the sheep of his flock. We are guided by God's goodness, and we find relative Peace in the Lord's care.

Next Week's Readings
 5th Sunday of Easter
 Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

STEWARDSHIP
Time, Talent, Tithing

It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself.
It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.

Attendance last week:	279
Tithes Collected:	\$6,655.50
Online Giving:	\$564.00
Total:	\$7,219.50
Per Capita:	\$25.88

Thank You!

SPIRITUALTY
Scripture Sharing

Come on and join with people of faith and break open the Sacred Scriptures for next Sunday. Come to Scripture Sharing. In just one hour you will not only read the Sunday passages from the Bible but be guided in doing so. You will learn how to read the scriptures for each Sunday and you will approach the Sunday Liturgy with a greater appreciation. That is, you will celebrate better on Sunday than you did before.

Join us for Scripture Sharing Thursday evening at 7PM to 8PM.

Some prayer and song will be in the mix too.

LITURGY

**Return to the Sunday Celebration
The dispensation to stay at home on Sunday is now lifted.**

Take note, everyone is being called back to the Sunday celebration of the Liturgy. The word "Liturgy" means the "work of the people". Literally, it means we **must** come together to experience the fulness of God's love and grace for us in the Sacraments. Coming together to worship and celebrate is "our work". Therefore, whereas when we were under the great threat of disease at the height of the Pandemic, we considered it acceptable to stay home and merely "stream" the Mass on T.V. Now we are all called back to the Liturgy. That is, **we are expected** to gather again as a visible community to celebrate the Lord in His Word and Eucharist. ... **Please spread the word to all you know to return to Mass every Sunday and keep holy the Lord's Day.** The dispensation to remain home on Sunday is now over.

A BLESSED MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL

A woman by the name of Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia began Mother's Day. She honored her mother who organized women's groups to promote friendship and health. It began on May 12, 1907, as a memorial service for Anna's late mother. In five years it went nationwide, and President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday. However, it became very commercialized. Anna did not like that and spent her last years trying to abolish the holiday.

It is a tradition in our Archdiocese to ordain our new priests on Mother's Day weekend. The two vocations of priesthood and motherhood express the care of God's children.

In our parish on Mother's Day (as well as Father's Day) we give notice and respect for the gift of life God has given us. As human beings God gives us the power to cocreate life with him. How awesome that is.

Cardinal Bernadine taught respect for life must always be viewed as a seamless garment, such as the one Jesus wore. The human being that is conceived must be brought into this world and then provided for all the way to natural death. All people have a right to birth, food, a roof overhead, health care and a secure old age.

St. Pope John Paul II once pointed out that if the U.S. wanted to see an end to abortion it must focus on the total needs of the human being. We must address the reasons a woman and man might seek an abortion. The whole of life must be honored and cared for.

If you find yourself pregnant as the mother or father know that you are not alone. It is a momentous time. It may be a time of joy or of trepidation. Either way you might want someone to "hold your hand". You might find it very helpful to have a person of experience to guide you. There are many options for the care of you and the child other than abortion. Call 954-981-2922 or pregnancyhelpsfl.org.

If you suffer from abortion, man or woman, contact enteringcanaan17@gmail.com or Project Rachel 888-456-4673. Therein you will find people of experience who can help you heal. You may also speak to Fr. Bob on a confidential basis to begin the healing process.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, 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, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, 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, Jackson Ripple, Paul 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 Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, May 7	
4:00 p.m.	Mother's Day Novena Mother's Day Novena
Sunday, May 8	
9:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
10:45 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
Monday, May 9	
8:00 a.m.	NO MASS
Tuesday, May 10	
8:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
Wednesday, May 11	
8:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
Thursday, May 12	
8:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
Friday, May 13	
8:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
Saturday, May 14	
4:00 p.m.	Mother's Day Novena
Sunday, May 15	
9:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
10:45 a.m.	† Valentino Papaleo by Lorraine Zocchi Edwin Marmorstone by Dan Murphy & Dil Hatchett