

MARCH 19, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1 Samuel 16: 16, 6-7, 10-13a

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-41

The Lord is My Shepherd; There Is Nothing I Shall Want.

Once again, as in the previous week, the psalm (23) connects to the first reading.

During Lent, all the first readings work together. They show how God prepares the human race for salvation. Preparation for salvation happens step-by-step through the generations of people that follow. The life and work of King David, who is responsible for today's psalm's motivation, is one of the steps toward the people's preparation for salvation.

Psalm 23 gives the idyllic picture of the shepherd caring for his peaceful sheep. The earthly shepherd, however, recognizes *his* shepherd. The one true great shepherd is God. In psalm 23 David, as shepherd, recognizes THE shepherd: "THE Lord is my shepherd; He guides me in right paths for His name's sake; You (God) spread the table before me; I shall dwell in the house of the Lord...."

Saint Paul says, in the second reading, "Try to learn what is pleasing to God." Sheep listen to their shepherd's voice. They know it and obey.

In the first reading, 1 Samuel, we discover a true shepherd may be different from one we might choose. Samuel must depend on God to select the proper one.

The Gospel shows how those who think themselves the people's shepherds are mistaken. They do not see clearly. Nevertheless, they protest that they do. The man born blind, however, comes to recognize Jesus as the shepherd.

Jesus dispels the notion a physical challenge such as blindness is caused merely by a person's sin, as if God punishes one in such a way. Jesus cures the man. As the elite men try to discredit Jesus the former blind man asks how it could be Jesus was against God if he were able to cure blindness. The story shows the Good that is taking place. This is an example of when Jesus goes beyond the Law when a person's dignity is involved.

The opponents continue to question the man. He responds by saying, "I told you already and you did not listen." This evokes an important matter for reflection.

Both as sheep and shepherds we must ask if we listen to God. Do we submit to the Lord thus discerning the most holy way to go in life? Sometimes we keep asking the same questions expecting a different answer. That is, we expect to hear an answer we have predetermined. Yet, the predetermined answer is not the correct one. The danger is we might submit to a false shepherd who tells us what we want to hear. The false shepherd can take advantage and manipulate us to a bad end.

Thus, be alert. Know the Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium of the Church well. Submit to God's revelation that we may recognize the true shepherd.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Ez37:12-14; Rom8:8-11; Jn11:1-45

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:	331
Tithes Collected:	\$5,123.00
Online Giving:	\$517.00
Total:	\$5,640.00
Per Capita:	\$17.04

Thank You!

The second collection next week is for Catholic Relief Services.

STEWARDSHIP

Operation Utility Bag

You folks are so good! Many of you have taken home a "Utility Bag" to save up change for the St. Vincent de Paul Society work. Thanks. Keep up the good work.

SPIRITUALITY

Second Scrutiny
R.C.I.A.

The Elect are those people who are candidates preparing for initiation into God's Church at Easter. Over time the candidates get to look at us who are already in the Church and we get to look at them.

In the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent we get to look at the candidates as they pray for a spirit of repentance, sense of sin and the true freedom of children of God. In the Scrutinies the candidates develop this spirit with our help as our future brothers and sisters in faith.

This weekend we experience the Second Scrutiny. (10:45 Liturgy) Please take time to pray for the candidate each day during Lent. Also, take a moment after the Liturgy to speak words of encouragement to him.

Scriptural Stations of the Cross
Thursdays at 7:00pm

STEWARDSHIP

-Wills-

One day a man said his children come first when it comes to the money and property he will leave behind. He said this meaning he was not planning to leave anything to the parish and Church that he admitted nurtured and served him all his life. He said this after saying how happy he has been with his home parish.

Folks, this parish is one of your children! It ought to be included in your will too. It must continue beyond any of our lives to nurture and serve all those coming next. The current pastor and many others who are members today might themselves be dead before you. Leaving some support to the parish when you die is helping ensure it is here to serve always and a testament to your own faith.

Blessed Sacrament Parish is very much helped through a Trust a former member left for it to use now. Think about it.

The parish office may be helpful in giving direction as to how to remember Blessed Sacrament Parish in your will.

COMMUNITY

Sunday April 9th
Following the 10:45am Mass

Please help our Easter Bunny...He needs small, wrapped candy to fill his plastic eggs for the yearly Parish Easter

Egg Hunt. They can be left in the Rectory or Parish Gift Shop. Thank you!

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, Arnold Lakso, 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, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Jackson 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, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 18

4:00 p.m. † Josephine Marotta by Family
Coral Ridge Towers St. Joseph
Devotees by Friends

Sunday, March 19

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Daniel Martinez by Gino Aitro

Monday, March 20

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 22

8:00 a.m. † Dn. Al Pickford by Joanie

Thursday, March 23

8:00 a.m. Steven Smith by Selma Cardona

Friday, March 24

8:00 a.m. † Azucena Mosquera by Alprecht
Family

Saturday, March 25

4:00 p.m. † Ricky Barone by Anthony &
Rose Michel
† Tina Malone by Nancy,
Marylou, & Paul

Sunday, March 26

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Manuel Coelho Rodrigue by
Fernando Rodrigues
† Ruperto Dala by Raymund Dala