

April 25th - Fourth Sunday of Easter



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, April 24

9:00am † *Medina Ermitanio* (3)

Sunday, April 25

8:00am † *Medina Ermitanio* (4)

10:00am † *Mary Matterson*

12:00pm † *Mario Ernesto Miada Bermudez*

Monday, April 26

9:00am † *Medina Ermitanio* (5)

Tuesday, April 27

9:00am † *Medina Ermitanio* (6)

Wednesday, April 28

9:00am † *Medina Ermitanio* (7)

Thursday, April 29

9:00am † *Medina Ermitanio* (8)

Friday, April 30

9:00am *Gloria Pedro (thnks)*

Saturday, May 1

9:00am *Mother's Day Novena*

From the Desk of the Pastor

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the Gospel reading comes from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of St. John: Jesus uses the image of the Shepherd to refer to himself. For people of Jesus' time, the image of a shepherd would have been familiar, both as a part of their everyday experience of seeing shepherds and from the long history of shepherding images in Jewish Scriptures.

The Scriptures today bring to our attention the close bond that exists between a shepherd and his sheep. The shepherd would lead the way for the sheep, whether it is in dark valleys or peaceful places. There is no place that the sheep are led to, that the shepherd has not first experienced. When the shepherd sleeps, he lays at the gate of the pen so that no sheep get out, and nothing gets in to harm the sheep. Jesus proclaims that he is shepherd and sheep-gate for his followers.

By the same token, St. John the evangelist reminds us of the great privilege to be called a child of God. He urges us not to let anyone or anything deface that image. Jesus the Good shepherd not only tends his own, but he also calls those who have not yet heard his voice and leads them safely home.

The sheep come to trust the shepherd. He knows each of his sheep and cares for each of them, and so when he calls, his sheep respond.

There is something innately a part of a Christian's soul that wants to respond to Christ. We have come to trust the Shepherd and realize that He knows each of us and cares for each of us, and so when Christ calls, we respond.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunday masses are celebrated at 8am & 10am in English and 12noon en espanol

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS 2021

They will receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday **May 15, 2021 at 10am.**

Please keep all our students in your prayers as they prepare for the sacrament.

THANK YOU!

A special "**thank you**" to Simón Rivera, Mary Alfonso, Mike Bennett, Aida Grona, Rodrigo & Ana Castillo, Sonia Urquilla, Linda Catalano, and Isabel Olivares for all your hard work in video streaming the Sunday Masses for our parish.

Thank you for all the hard work, sacrifices, and adjustments you made with your schedules and planned events in your lives in order to serve our community of faith. Your gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure was a loving self-sacrificing gift you made to the Parish.

I do not want to say, this is a 'final link' because I am not sure what tomorrow will bring. With our lives being upended with the pandemic, downtime with the surge in infection rates, resurgence and what now seems to be a stable time again, we cannot know for sure what will happen within the next few weeks.

However, as we all know and encourage one another to 'Walk by Faith and not by sight alone' in the **HOPE** of a better and safer Tomorrow!

As you know we have begun welcoming and pursuing efforts towards getting more volunteers to 'sign-up' and build from the "ground-up" our Parish ministries in the Church, it is a slow patient process but I have faith in our parishioners and know that they will set up to the task at hand.

Mike please convey my heartfelt thanks to our brother Knights for their time and devotion to the Parish: Luke, Paul, Henry, Merlin, and so many of them keeping a prayerful watch in the Church in prayer. Thank you for being a brother to us.

Mary for your motherly and sisterly love and affection with which you make that delicate and sensitive call to people to minister and invite them and coordinate with them every week, thank you for all your hard work.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and invites us to be good sheep. Jesus has experienced the best and the worst of all that life has in store. He has known the simple joys and the deep disappointments of life; he has known temptation, anxiety, and fatigue. Jesus walks ahead of us, leading the way. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, invites us to be good sheep; good sheep, we are called to follow the voice of the Shepherd, trusting that he will guide us to the best pasture, where we can thrive.

The Good Shepard...The difference between the good shepherd and the hired hand is the difference between life and death. Unlike a hired hand who only works for pay and would run away at the first sign of difficulty, Jesus is a good shepherd who willingly lays down his life for his sheep. The good shepherd draws the sheep near to him. They belong to him—not as a possession that can be discarded, but as precious ones who are assured that they can rely on his care and protection. The sheep owe their very lives to the shepherd. Without him, they will be scattered and left on their own in what is often a dangerous world.



SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for **The Black and Indian Missions.** The Black and Indian Mission Collection exists to help local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs in their lives.

Thank you for your generous support.