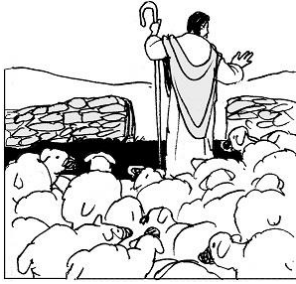


April 17, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Responding

To The Voice of The Shepherd

Jesus' sheep are those who hear his voice, recognize it, and follow him. They trustingly follow that voice, even in danger. This image implies intimate knowledge between Jesus and his followers. Jesus, our shepherd, who cares for his sheep is indeed one with the Father. All he says and does is the will of God. He gives eternal life to those who hear his voice.

Today's Bulletin is printed in memory of the Joseph & Veronica (Peter) Roznovsky Family on the occasion of their 2016 Family Reunion.

MASS INTENTIONS

Wednesday, April 20
8:00 a.m. Brent Arthur
Thursday, April 21
8:00 a.m. In thanksgiving for the Rain
Friday, April 22
8:00 a.m. The Welfare of Parishioners
Saturday, April 23
6:30 p.m. Joyce Dillman
Sunday, April 24
6:30 a.m. Carrie & Frank Zamykal
9:30 a.m. Mary, Daniel & Albert Pavlicek

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY

Next weekend is *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.
First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27
Responsorial Psalm: 145
Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a
Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35



Remember the sick in your prayers, especially Joe Nieto and Brandon Smolik.

The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Carrie & Frank Zamykal.

2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment \$17,080.00
Contributions So Far \$ 2,190.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$14,890.00

Do please consider making a donation.

ORIENTATION

The Gospel passage we read today is part of a conversation Jesus is having with some Jews. Immediately preceding today's reading some Jews had asked Jesus, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you and you do not believe ... because you are not among my sheep."

When Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me," Jesus is contrasting his sheep to the people to whom he is speaking. Today's reading picks up the story at this point. As John writes his Gospel he insists on the divinity of Christ. We see this in today's reading when Jesus says, "The Father and I are one."



Catholic Daughters Bake Sale, Friday, April 22 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the South Star Bank corner. Proceeds from the Bake Sale will go to:

- *SOAR-Support Our Aging Religious*
- *Covenant House*
- *St. Joseph's Youth Ministry Center, Moulton*
- *The Blue Bus - Houston Coalition for Life*

Members are asked to donate two items. Please have your sale items at the bank corner by 7:15 a.m. Thank you in advance for your support.

SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY MASS – MAY 8

To have your mother specially remembered in the Mass Intention of the day, drop the attached Mother's Day envelope in the collection, drop slot or mail by May 2.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY – Gold Star Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC
– Catholic Daughters Rosary & Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Family Room
TUESDAY – Quilting Group Meets, Quilting Room
WEDNESDAY – Champions Club Meets, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC
– Knights of Columbus Meeting, KC Hall
THURSDAY – Quilting Group Meets, Quilting Room
– KC Bingo, KC Hall
FRIDAY – Catholic Daughters Bake Sale, see article.
– Parish Office closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral emergency, call the Office at any time.

REFLECTION



The Sheep of the Good Shepherd Will Never Perish Because They Follow Him

Today's Gospel deals with the sheep and their relation to the shepherd. The sheep *hear* the shepherd's voice. They recognize the authority and importance of the speaker's voice, enter into communion with him by putting themselves under his guidance and *follow* him by attaching themselves to him and becoming his disciples. The shepherd in turn *knows* his sheep (his disciples) and he *gives* them the enjoyment of eternal life already in the life of discipleship, and the thrice-repeated assurance that they shall not perish, nor be snatched out of the shepherd's hands. This means that the very reason for their creation will be fulfilled through relationship with him.

To hear and to respond to Jesus' word on earth is the decisive factor that will determine acceptance by God. The Risen Christ is our Good Shepherd. He was not merely the Good Shepherd when he was on earth but *gives* life to his sheep even now. He does this as the Risen Lord in his *Word* and *Sacraments*. This answers how we come to Easter faith now, when we can no longer see the Risen Lord as the apostles saw him at the first Easter.

Do you hear his voice and follow?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Apr. 19 – Roy Drabek, Martha Gold, Kendall Kristynik,
Carolyn Whitmire
Apr. 20 – Patricia Anders, John Beran, Justin Pilat
Apr. 21 – Cynthia Beran, Nicholas Perez,
Apr. 22 – Brandee Dolezal
Apr. 23 – Samuel Fishbeck

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Apr. 19 – Patricia & James Anders
Apr. 21 – Amy & Cody Kloesel
Apr. 23 – Lisa & Duane Fojtik

Upcoming Diocese Youth Events

June 12-14 – Jr. High Camp David
June 15 – Elementary Camp David
June 15-17 – Jr. High Camp David
June 20-23 – D Week
July 3-6 – *Quo Vadis?* Vocation Camp

You may find more information on the Diocesan website
www.victoriadiocese.org.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

HOME MISSIONS

Be generous.

World Day of Prayer For Vocations – April 17

In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated Good Shepherd Sunday as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, protects us as his flock and promises us the gift of eternal life. As followers of Jesus we are called to remain faithful to the grace of God. As we celebrate this feast, the Church invites us to honor the vocation of all Christians given at baptism while concentrating its attention to the



ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), to the *Religious life* in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to *societies of apostolic life*, to *secular institutes* in their diversity of services and membership,

and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of *mission "ad gentes"*.

May those who are discerning their life vocation listen to the grace of God to guide them.

Prayer For Vocations

O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you.

Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Today – Youth Mass (9th Grade); First Confessions; C.C.D.

Apr. 18 – After School Program (K-2nd Grade)

Apr. 20 – After School Program (3rd – 6th Grade)
– 9-11 CCD.

Next Sunday – C.C.D.

C.C.D. Library

Today is the last day to check out Library Books for this C.C.D. Year. Do please make sure all books and DVDs are returned to the library.

A Look Ahead

May 1 – Last Day of C.C.D.

May 8 – First Communion; Mother's Day

May 21 – Confirmation Retreat; Bacculaureate

May 22 – Confirmation

July 10 -15 – Vacation Bible School