The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 23:1
St. Paul’s Parish will stream Mass for
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
available to view anytime on Sunday, May 10, 2020
Please join us online
simply follow the link at www.stpauls.sf.org

All Mass Intentions, from March 18, 2020 forward, will be rescheduled once our public mass schedule resumes.

Please pray for those in our book of the sick and especially for: Jan Spillane, Hannah Nakagome, Joyce Catania, Gene Crowell, Conrado Benitez, Sally Dollard, David Omran, Travis Griffin, Vickie Mahoric, Jack Olson, Albert Fernandez, Lloyd Pool, Sr. Jeanenne Weis, Annette Schubert, Joan Strachan, Rev. Brian Costello

For all those who have died, and especially for: Marie Doherty, Judith Heimer

LET US PRAY, FOR A SWIFT END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THAT AFFECTS OUR WORLD, THAT OUR GOD AND FATHER WILL HEAL THE SICK, STRENGTHEN THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM, AND HELP US ALL TO PERSEVERE IN FAITH.

ST. PAUL’S THANKSGIVING RESPONSE TO GOD:
Weekly Collection March 15, 2020 $ 4,113.50
On-line giving April 2020 $ 8,906.00

With so much uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 virus, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support, and to remind you that St. Paul’s Parish does offer an Online Giving option. Making use of current technology and security standards, Online Giving allows you to easily setup recurring contributions.

Online Giving Benefits
• Secure and confidential. No need to share payment information with the church office.
• Efficient. Set up direct withdrawals from your checking, savings account or a credit card.
• Simple. Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
• Convenient. No need to write a check or have cash available.
• Remote flexibility. You can give from virtually anywhere anytime.

Start giving online today!
1. Visit www.stpauls.sf.org and click on the online giving link.
2. Create an account.
3. Schedule your recurring gifts.

Whichever method you choose, Online Giving or Weekly Offering Envelopes, we are grateful for your continued support and contributions to St. Paul’s Parish.

A message from our Pastor:
I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support & generosity to St. Paul’s Parish through the years. To be sure, your gifts of time, talent, and treasure benefit our parish community, benefit our ministry as a Catholic community, and enhance our ability to respond to the call of Jesus to carry on His work. I look forward to our return as a parish community, and in this difficult time may we keep one another in our collective and personal prayers. May God bless you, keep you safe and healthy.

Father Mario
IN NEED OF A SHEPHERD

For a while it was very fashionable to own pigs as pets. The publicity surrounding these creatures informed us that they were—contrary to their popular image—very clean animals, and also quite smart. Sad to say, sheep will most likely never enjoy this sort of domestic vogue. They are neither clean nor smart and are largely defenseless when left on their own, even in large numbers. The biblical image of us as the flock of sheep is not a particularly flattering one. Sheep without a shepherd are truly sad, because they most likely will perish either from their inability to fend for themselves or from their lack of defenses against predators. Placing ourselves in the heart of this unflattering image can reinforce our faith. Until we come to a profound realization of how much we need a shepherd, we cannot appreciate how deeply blessed we are to have been given a Shepherd, one who laid down his life for us and was raised to life eternal in the Spirit, so he might guide us and we might follow him in faith forever.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All peoples called by God will receive the gift of the Spirit if they repent and are baptized (Acts 2:14a, 36-41).

Psalm — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — Once we were like straying sheep; but now we have been returned to the shepherd, our guardian (1 Peter 2:20b-25).

Gospel — The shepherd leads the sheep out into pastures of abundant life (John 10:1-10).

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50


Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Tuesday: Cinco de Mayo

Thursday: National Day of Prayer

SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

May 3

Call Philip the gospel’s “Answer Man.” “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Nathaniel asked Philip, who had proclaimed Jesus “the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets” (John 1:45). Jesus asked Philip, “Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?” (John 6:5). Greeks brought Philip their request: “We would like to see Jesus” (John 12:21). Philip’s answer to each question: bring people to Jesus! At the Last Supper, finally, Philip had a request of his own: “Show us the Father!” (John 14:8). Jesus had three last questions for Philip: “You still don’t know me? How can you ask that? Don’t you believe?” And an answer: “I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (John 14:10). Today’s James is not John’s brother, Zebedee’s son, but, tradition says, author of the New Testament Letter of James, who died praying for his murderers in Jesus’ words: “Forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Few historical details for either saint, but lessons aplenty: Bring every question we have and everybody we meet to Jesus; be, as James’ letter challenges, “doers of the word and not hearers only” (James 1:22).

—Peter Scannell, Copyright © 1996, J. S. Paluch Co.

COUNTING SHEEP

When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep.

—Anonymous

ENTRANCE

How else but through a broken heart
May the Lord Christ enter in?

—Oscar Wilde

MUCH-NEEDED LOVE

No one needs love more than someone who doesn’t deserve it.

—Anonymous

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

—1 Peter 2:24a
Fourth Sunday of Easter


Today’s readings invite us to recognize our need for one who ensures our safety, nourishes us, and leads us to peace and security, like sheep who rest in the care of a good shepherd. Such a shepherd will protect and save the sheep, even from the most deadly of predators. Today, we ponder the incredible news that Jesus accepted death on the cross in order to open the gates of eternal life with God for us. Through his resurrection, Jesus protects and saves us from the power of sin and death. We need only accept his love and live as God’s people in this life, relying on the Lord who is the door to new life for us and for all.

GOOD NEWS!
When Peter faced the crowds on Pentecost, he was emboldened by the Holy Spirit and proclaimed the truth of Jesus Christ passionately to those who gathered to hear him. There was likely part of him that was not quite sure what to expect, knowing that a few weeks prior, crowds of people had chanted "Crucify him!" as Jesus was sentenced to a cruel and unjust death. The people who heard Peter were moved by his witness, compelled to acknowledge their sinfulness and to accept the news of salvation through Jesus Christ as good news, the gospel that changes everything.

JESUS SAVES
Be honest with yourself. Have you ever gone astray? Have you ever given in to temptation or weakness? Do you sometimes feel that you need someone to help you get your life on back on track? Most people could answer yes to any of these questions. As people of faith, we know that Jesus understands the struggles we face and gave his life to save us from our human frailty. The Lord knows that we need help in order to live as God's people in the world. There are people and powers that seek to mislead us, who offer a way that may for a time be appealing, even though it does not lead to the true way of life, love, and peace. We can be readily dissuaded and distracted from the ways of holiness. We easily lose our way, lured by the trappings of material possessions, wealth, or social status. Jesus is our only real way, the door that leads to meaning and peace in this earthly time, and to life everlasting.

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A Lot of Nerve

The first reading from Acts of the Apostles takes place right after the disciples received the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Peter, the apostle who had denied knowing Jesus before he died, now comes out and accuses the crowd of killing Jesus, "using lawless men to crucify him" (Acts 2:23). Considering that he was outnumbered three thousand to one, it took a lot of nerve. So the Spirit gave him the courage to face that crowd. But he did more than just stand up to the people. He offered them forgiveness and hope. He asked them to repent, but not just profess a rejection of sin. What we call repentance, in Peter's time meant a change of heart away from sin and toward a new way of acting or believing. He offered them the same gift of the Spirit that he and the disciples had received. As Peter says in our second reading, "free from sin, [they] might live for righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24). We too can make a change of heart. We can turn away from selfishness and begin to love as Jesus did. We can relinquish anger and begin to forgive. We can put aside fear and boldly proclaim our faith. Peter also shows us another gift of the Spirit—the ability to suffer for doing good. That also takes a lot of nerve. It's hard enough to suffer for our sins; who wants to suffer for doing good? Yet that is just what Jesus did for us. It is what all disciples are called to do. Following the example of Jesus on the cross, we accept the suffering that comes to us. It may be ridiculous for expressing our faith, the pain of losing someone we love, or the eventual pain of dying ourselves. We accept pain because we love the Lord and so love others enough to bear the pain of helping them. As Jesus became flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit, so the same Spirit shows us that Jesus is present today in his disciples, in the poor, the homeless, the sick and dying. Let us ask the Spirit to help us repent from selfishness to a new life of love for God and our neighbor. Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.