



To Be or Not to Be...Spiritual

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Just as we may hear the voice of our mother echoing in our head long after she has passed away, in much the same way do we who gather week after week as people of faith begin to hear the words and wisdom of the Lord Jesus. It is how he shepherds us, and how we follow him—by hearing and then living his word.

There are some who say they are not religious, but they are spiritual. Ultimately, to be spiritual is to have a core set of values by which one lives. One's core values can take many shapes. For us, who call ourselves disciples of Jesus, to be spiritual is to take on the values and wisdom of Jesus—to allow his way to take root in the core of who we are. It means living by the wisdom of his word. Being spiritual includes *honesty, gentleness, patience, joy, civility, simple living, mercy, compassion, peace, reverence and awe, obedience, justice, courage, balance in life, humility, chastity, kindness, generosity, lightheartedness, care for the common good, prayerfulness, and respect for all of creation as holy.*

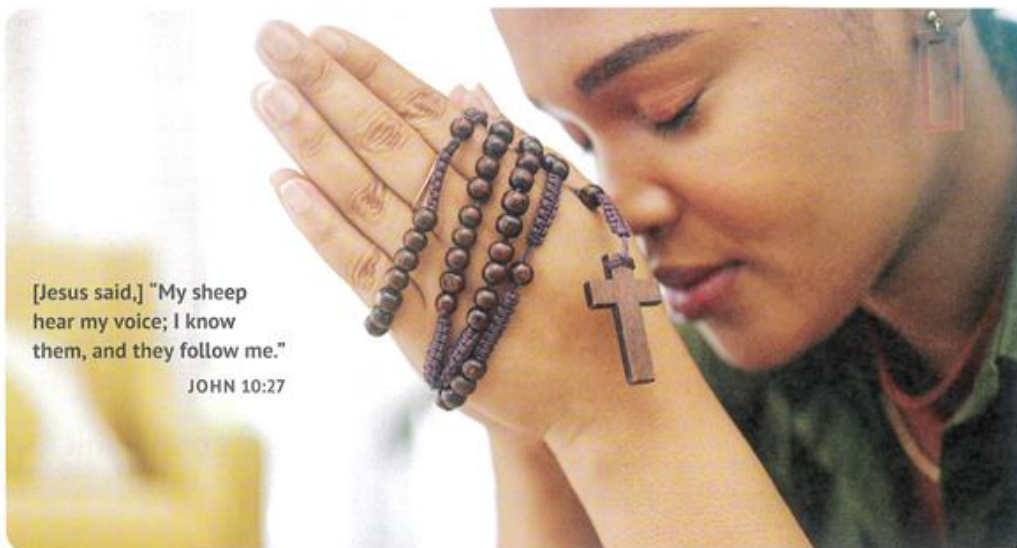
Spirituality is about absorbing the lifestyle of Jesus, about his word echoing in our lives, something that takes a lifetime. Religion, specifically our Catholic faith, is the practice of that spirituality in the company of others who are also trying to put those values into practice. Such practice, including weekly Mass and participation in the sacramental life of the Church, is necessary for the faithful followers of Jesus. ●

Reflect

**Which qualities of a spiritual person do I have?
What do I need to work on?**

[Jesus said,] "My sheep
hear my voice; I know
them, and they follow me."

JOHN 10:27



St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Fourth Sunday of Easter (C) May 11, 2025

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see [John 10:31](#) and [10:39](#)). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest.

We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep.

Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of May 12, 2025

Mon.	May	12	6:30	PM	SB	Catholic Daughters Mass
Tues.	May	13	7:00	AM	SJ	Porter Thompson
Wed.	May	14	7:00	AM	SJ	Rain
Thurs.	May	15	4:00	PM	SB	(Nursing Home) All Souls
Fri.	May	16	8:30	AM	SJ	Tiann Colwill
Sun.	May	18	8:00	AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	May	18	9:30	AM	SA	Mary Leech †
Sun.	May	18	11:00	AM	SB	Nancy Willis †



Conner Kinderknecht
May 12th

Josie Lehmkuhler May
18th

Ministry Schedule

Date: May 18th	St. Agnes	St. Boniface	St. John's
Time	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Julie B.	Rod & Janel B.	Jon & Molly W.
Lector	Mary A.	Traci K.	Kristy O.
Server		Charli P. & Wyatt B.	Kelsey A. & Avery B.
EMHC	Charles F. & Conrad P.	Steve & Kristen B.	Steve & Cindy F.
Communion to shut ins or Music		Steve B.	Music: Toby K.

<p style="text-align: center;">St. Agnes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church May 4, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1720.25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = \$2345 of \$4014 Donor Goal: 5 of 16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thrift Store Open May 23th 9AM to 4PM</p> <p>-CCD Class May 14th Last Class</p> <p>K Of C will host a late Mother's Day and Arnold Graduate celebration brunch on May 18th after mass.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Boniface</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church May 4, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$899.25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donation Goal MET!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. John's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church May 4, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$243.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donation Goal MET!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Congratulations Cayson Johnston! the recipient of the St John's CCW Scholarship</p>
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Don't Miss Dr. Ray Guarendi as he tours Nebraska this June!! A familiar name to Spirit Catholic Radio listeners is coming to Nebraska this June. Catholic speaker, host of "The Dr. Is In" radio show, author, and family therapist, Dr. Ray Guarendi, will tour the state giving different talks at four stops June 2-5 Find event details and reserve your seats at spiritcatholicradio.com/drray. **Tue Jun 3, 2025 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**
St. Patrick Catholic Church, Talk: "The Logic of Being Catholic"



*Dolores Douponcheel
Harper Johnson
Cayson Johnston
Shelby Payher
Daniel Luniga*



Dear Padre,

When is it OK to medicate for pain? If my relative is in hospice, should I permit the use of drugs that hasten his or her death?

When someone we love is dying, we do not want him or her to be in pain. It is only natural to want to ease or end all suffering. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers these guidelines: "The use of painkillers to alleviate the sufferings of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable" (CCC 2279). In other words, it is permissible to medicate for pain, but you must not use narcotics as an end or means to hasten someone's death—only to alleviate pain and minimize a person's suffering. To give medication to cause death rather than merely to relieve pain is not allowed.

It is important to have a discussion about the types of treatment a person would want when they are dying. It is also important to have a discussion with your pastor or another priest or chaplain—someone who can help you discern whether the action, the intention, and the circumstances are consistent with Church teaching. Many times, one is forced to make very difficult decisions about medical care, and it is always good to have someone we trust who can help us make the best choice. ●



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	St. Matthias, Apostle	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11:1-18	Acts 11:19-26	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26	Acts 13:13-25	Acts 13:26-33	Acts 13:44-52	Acts 14:21-27
Jn 10:1-10	Jn 10:22-30	Jn 15:9-17	Jn 13:16-20	Jn 14:1-6	Jn 14:7-14	Rv 21:1-5a
						Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



NANCY BAUER / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

What do those who follow Christ do?... They go to seek those who are lost (cf. Lk 15:4), they take an interest in those who are far away, take to heart the situation of those who suffer, know how to weep with those who weep, they reach out their hands to their neighbors, carrying them on their shoulders.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 8, 2022