

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2020



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857
Parish Office: 713.738.2311; Fax: 713.738.3337
CCE Office: 713.731.2775; SVdP Food Pantry: 713.731.2716
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>
E-MAIL: stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com
Parish Office Hours: Mon - Wed 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Closed on Thursday; Fri 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCatholicChurchHouston>

MISSION STATEMENT

We, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the beliefs and traditions of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Through a passion for righteousness and consciousness of duty to God, we uphold the faithful worship of God in our mission to our church family and the Sunnyside Community.

PASTOR:

Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, SSJ

DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins

Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

ADULT FORMATION

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Curtis Jones 713.731.2716

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson

HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

PLANT MANAGER

Anthony Ray Gobert

MAINTENANCE

Violet & Harold Champ

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 6:30 p.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 4:15p.m. - 4:45p.m.

Sundays: 6:45a.m. - 7:15a.m.

9:20a.m. - 9:45a.m.

11:35a.m. - 12:00p.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Judah Choir:

Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

God's Chosen Choir:

Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Youth Choir:

Saturday-12:00pm (Harris Center)

Thursday before the 4th Sunday-7:00pm (In Church)

BIBLE STUDY/

ADULT CATHECHISM:

Tuesday: 6:30 p.m.

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Communion for the sick and shut-in is available. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the parish office for information. Preparation classes are required for parents and godparents.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to proposed date.

WELCOME VISITORS AND

NEWCOMERS

To register, call, come by the parish office or visit our website at: www.sfxhouston.com

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Save the number as a contact in your mobile phone for easy giving.

MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE SAID BY FATHER MICHAEL IN HIS DAILY PRIVATE MASS.

SAT. 05/02/2020

Willie Annie Linton (D)

Theresa G. Savoy

Monica Richardson-Rasmus (L)

Morris & Melanie Washington

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

The Burris Family (D)

Stephanie Goodwin

Jasmine N. Johnson (L) – Wanda Johnson

SUN. 05/03/2020

Gussie Charles (D) – Charles Family

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Joseph Duplechine (D)

The Duplechine Family

John L. Stewart (D) – Sisters & Brother

Margaret Cadoree (L)

KPCLA Court 138

People of the Parish

Joseph Melvin Vallery, Sr (D)

Odelia Vallery/Family

Wesley Wiltz (D) – The Wiltz Family

Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Sr.

Wanda Dixon/Family

Deacon Michael Jenkins & Family (L)

Florence & Wanda

Deacon Leonard Paul Lockett (D)

MON. 05/04/2020

Carl Davis (D) – Margaret Chaney

Jasmine Johnson & Family (L)

Florence & Wanda

TUE. 05/05/2020

Eula M. Holley (D)

Florence McChristian & J.B. Holley

Leo Prescott (L) – Florence & Wanda

WED. 05/06/2020

Lauretha Sellers (D) – Mary Richard

THUR. 05/07/2020

Irene Hutchins (D) – The Chaney Family

FRI. 05/08/2020

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends



Deacon Alfred Abram, Algy Alfred, Joseph Broussard, Margaret Cadoree, Mary Augustine Chenier, Nicole Fontenet, Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Craig Jackson, Brooke Joseph, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Patrick Martell, Ronald Martin, Sr., Shannon Martin, Willie Martin Jr., Dorothy Milstead, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsot, Cynethia Pichon, William Pierre Sr., Victoria Powell, Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Evelyn Roberts, Oliver Rose, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, Lee Roy Stagg Sr., MacKenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Pamela Thibodeaux, Ronald Walcott, Agnes Williams, Elizabeth Williams, Patricia Williams, and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

Let us Know

Please let us know when you and/or a family member are ill, in the hospital, or having a surgery, especially if the illness or surgery is serious. Call the Parish Office so that we can put the name on the sick list for prayers and/or visitation if needed. **After 30 days, please call the office to remain on the prayer list.**



Visit the Parish Website:

www.sfxhouston.com and click on the Facebook Icon at the bottom of the page.

Lord, we pray for all our current military service members and first responders who put their own lives on the line every day in order to protect our families and our country.

Army:

Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Shanta Charles, Josiah Charles, Stephen Jones, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II, David Stagnoli, Jordan T. McCorkle, Essence L. Casteel

Navy:

Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell, Christian Johnson, Hope Bethany Johnson

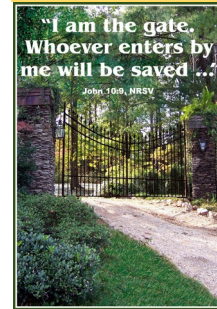
Air Force:

Roderick Jones, Joffre Lander, Bena Sellers, Terrance J Valiare, Thomas Q Valiare II

Marines

Alyssa Dugar, Reginald Ward

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The image of sheep dominates the readings today. The early church was just a fledgling flock when Peter's testimony inspired thousands to "repent and be baptized." Later, Peter commands the sheep for returning to the care of the shepherd after they had gone astray. In the Gospel, Jesus brings the story of the Good Shepherd. "The sheep hear his voice," he says, and follow him. Let us listen for his voice in today's readings.

READINGS

FOR THE WEEK

Sunday – May 3

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 36-41

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

1 Peter 2:20-25

John 10:1-10

Monday – May 4

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4

John 10:11-18

Tuesday – May 5

Acts 11:19-26

Psalm 87:1-3, 4-5, 6-7

John 10:22-30

Wednesday – May 6

Acts 12:24-13:5

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

John 12:44-50

Thursday – May 7

Acts 13:13-25

Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27

John 13:16-20

Friday – May 8

Acts 13:26-33

Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11

John 14:1-6

Saturday – May 9

Acts 13:44-52

Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 4

John 14:7-14



We regret to inform you of the death of **Deacon Leonard Paul Lockett**, former Vicar for Catholics of African Descent, on Saturday, April

25. Join us as our community gathers virtually to pay homage to Deacon Lockett at 3:00pm on **Tuesday, May 5:**

www.tsunewmancenter.com/livestream



"There's a lot of silence at this moment. May this silence, which is a bit new to what we are accustomed, teach us how to listen."

- Pope Francis



The last day for the 2019-2020 CCE Class Year is **May 9th**. All Home Study assignments must be complete and returned **No Later Than May 6th**.

CONFIRMATION POSTPONED

The Sacrament of Confirmation has been postponed and will be scheduled for a date to be determined later in the year.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults gives provision for the initiation of catechumens and candidates at a time other than the Easter Vigil “because of unusual circumstances and pastoral needs” (RCIA26). We will schedule initiation at an appropriate time before the year ends.



Life in the pandemic can be stressful. Catholic Charities has expert bilingual counselors who can help for free during the COVID-19 pandemic. Call Catholic Charities’ Mental Health Line from **9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** to request a session, and a licensed counselor will call you back within a day. Call **713-874-6590**. Food pantries are open for drive-through food distribution with hours each week at our three locations: **Guadalupe Center** in Houston; **Mamie George Community Center** in Richmond; **Beacon of Hope Center** in Galveston. For hours call the COVID Assistance Line at **713-874-6521**.

Prayer in Time of the Coronavirus

Comfort us, O Lord, for we are like your disciples on the storm-tossed seas, unsettled by what lies ahead. We turn to You, our Healer and Guide, to still our hearts in our time of need and hear our prayer: Heal those who are sick with the coronavirus and protect the elderly and most vulnerable. Give strength to all who tend to our health and wisdom to researchers who work toward a cure. Open our eyes and hearts, as you did during Hurricane Harvey, that we may look beyond our immediate needs to care for others who need help. Through the Holy Spirit, guide our leaders to make wise decisions for the welfare of all the people they serve. Grant eternal rest to those who have died from the virus. May Mary, Our Mother, who has heard our pleas in the storms of our lives, intercede to her Son, that we may find healing and a prompt end to this illness. Mary, Star of the Sea, pray for us. Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, heal us.

Amen



To everyone on the front line during these challenging times:

CLERGY: Rev. Michael Saah-Buckman, Deacon Michael Jenkins, Deacon Darryl Drenon

HEALTH CARE: Artrica Yvette Dozier, Margaret Drenon, Shaylor Goodwin, Cassandra Green, Sheila Harris, Barbara Forbes-Moses, Lois Obiozor, Annie Robertson, Dr. Chantee Vavasseur, Dr. Anna Viltz, Felecia Ward

MAIL DELIVERY: Wanda DeBose, Stephanie Jackson

BULLETIN SERVICE: Jenero Mitchell

VIDEO SERVICE: Abra Charles

PARISH STAFF/VOLUNTEERS: Unella Baber, Evelyn Briggs, Violet & Harold Champ, Orell Dargin, Michael Dozier, Shirley Foreman, Jerry Givens, JoAnne Henderson, Hope Jackson, Curtis Jones, Agnes Thompson, Edwin Vallery

ATTENTION GRADUATES



The 2020 Graduate Recognition Mass has been cancelled this year. However, we would like to acknowledge all of our Graduates in the **May 24th** Bulletin. If you or your child is a Middle School, High School, College, University, Community College, Business or Technical School graduate, please contact the Parish Secretary @ **713-410-6535 NO LATER THAN NOON** on Wednesday, **May 20th**.



SFX Scholarship Applications

are available in the Vestibule of the Church, in the Harris Center Lobby and on the Parish Website (www.sfxhouston.com). Due to the early end of the school year, the deadline to submit applications has been extended to **Friday, May 29th**.

SFX GABRIEL PROJECT
Pregnant? Need Help?
Call 713-225-5826



Stewardship Sunday

That as we struggle to live a faith-filled life, we recognize we are not alone. Jesus is there to help guide us. “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...’ Acts 2:38 The word “repent” means to turn from sin, to change our actions. Change that is permanent comes from within. It requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is also hard. We have to recognize that we are broken and need help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.



Remembering our Call to Stewardship

During this time of social distancing, St. Francis Xavier depends on online donations to continue our ministry. We prayerfully invite you to sign up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting www.faith.direct.net/TX632, or text ‘Enroll’ to **281-949-7600**. You may choose to temporarily use this online giving tool until we return to normalcy, then you can discontinue using Faith Direct and return to your original form of giving (check or cash using your church envelope). Contact the Parish Bookkeeper, Edwin Vallery at **281-825-1657**.

Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion
My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there And unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



NOTICE!!!

The Parish Office will be **Closed** until further notice.

How Do We Know Our Shepherd's Voice?

Brothers and Sisters, Happy 4th Sunday of Easter!! I hope you all are well and are coping in these uncertain times. Today, more than ever, there is need for us to listen to what God is telling us. There is a need for us to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us, to order our steps. Can you hear His voice?

In today's Gospel, Jesus illustrates his teaching by referring to shepherds and sheep. He is the Good Shepherd, as foretold by the prophets, in the Old Testament. It is about the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep. The Lord knows each one of us by name. He relates to us in a personal way and he invites us to relate to him in a personal way.

By faith we accept Jesus and our relationship is a deeply personal one. The bond of love uniting us is based on the love that unites the Father and Jesus. Our new existence is founded on God's unbreakable love and faithfulness. So, in order to enter eternal life, we must listen to Jesus and obey him. We have to tune our minds to the sound of his voice.

But, **how do we know our Shepherd's voice?**

When I was young, meaning school aged, I wondered...why does God talk to others and not me? I was brought up Baptist. I went to Baptist Church every Sunday with my best friend Herbert because his Dad was the pastor of a Baptist Church. Every Sunday, I would hear Preachers say that they heard God. They would say "and the Lord told me" to do this or that. There were also people giving testimony and they said that they had heard God.

I would also hear the Old Testament stories where God spoke to people. He conversed with Adam in the garden. He told Noah to build an ark. He spoke to Moses in a burning bush. He promised Abraham a son. Paul heard His voice on the way to Damascus.

Well, I couldn't hear Him like that, and I wondered why I couldn't? It was because, at my young age, I thought that He would speak to me in an audible voice.

Have you ever wondered why YOU couldn't hear His voice?

I would pray and speak to Him but would never hear Him speak back to me. It's funny though, I never thought to ask anyone why I couldn't hear God speak to me.

So, **how would I know my Shepherd's voice?**

Since then, through God's grace, I have come to better understand how we hear our Shepherd's voice.

He can speak to us in various ways and it doesn't necessarily have to be in an audible voice. God treats each of us as unique children and, because of that, God doesn't necessarily "speak" the same way to all of us.

Brothers and sisters, I am excited today to reflect about His voice because:

- His voice can lead us to navigate through troubled times.
- His voice can lead the worse sinner to turn his or her life around and do great things.
- His voice can stop us from committing a sin when we are about to commit one.
- His voice can lead us to say no, when the world says yes.
- His voice can lead us to Church, can lead us to confession, & can lead us to heaven.

Our Shepherd's voice can direct our lives if we give ourselves the opportunity to hear Him.

How do we know our Shepherd's voice?

Here are some ways Jesus, our Shepherd, speaks to us:

His Word - In order to actually "hear" from God, we have to know some things about God's character. We have to develop an understanding of who God is, and the way he does things. He speaks to us when we read the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is "God-breathed." His Word sometimes gives us a warning, a word of encouragement, or a lesson for life.

Have you ever had something on your heart and when you opened the bible and picked a passage, it spoke to that very thing that was on your heart? It has definitely happened to me.

Other People - Many times God will use other people to try to get through to us. God may use a friend, a teacher, a parent, or a preacher to convey His message of truth to us.

Our Circumstances - Sometimes the only way God can teach us something is to allow circumstances in our life to lead us to and *through* the very thing we need to discover or change. Sometimes circumstances can be painful.

The Inner Voice - Sometimes God uses a tiny voice inside of us to let us know when we're not on the right path. It's that inner something that is telling us to make a change. It's not an audible voice, but it's definitely there. Sometimes people say, "my mind told me something". I would say, that at times, that inner voice is not just your conscious, but it's the voice of our Shepherd.

Through Prayer and quiet time - God often speaks to us through His Spirit, through prayer. Prayer is a conversation with God. We get to know God through prayer. It should be two way. When we pray, then, we should also listen. We can listen when we have that quiet time with Him. We can pray and ask Him to speak to us. Then...we have to sit still to listen. Setting aside the quiet time to hear his voice is probably the most challenging in today's world. We always have some sort of noise going on. For some, there is always a TV or music on. Nowadays, its these cell phones that keep our attention. For some of our youth, it's video games. Sometimes it can be the noise of our own thoughts, our own negative self-speak that can block His voice. So, if we want to hear his voice, we have to make time for him by eliminating the noise. We have to pray and ask for God's grace to hear Him.

Brothers and Sisters, these are a few ways we can hear and **know our Shepherd's voice**.

Does God speak to all of us the same way? No, we are all unique. Are these the only ways God speaks today? No. Our Creator is a creative God. He speaks in so many ways, including through miracles, music, dreams, & visions. Regardless of the way Shepherd chooses to reveal Himself or "speak" to us today, let us remember one truth. He will never contradict His Word, and the message He gives will always bring glory to Him. Let us be aware today that He speaks to us and let us be ever conscious that He can use all things to communicate with us...to follow Him, the Good Shepherd. Be safe and may God's Grace and Blessings be in your path.

Deacon Darryl Drenon

DEAR MEMBERS OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

As the day passes, I wonder how long we are going to be in this dreadful situation which is profoundly affecting our entire way of life. It would be difficult to overstate how challenging these days have been for all of us, as we face the various effects of the COVID-19 crisis on our families, jobs, and communities. We have been adjusting to the coronavirus pandemic and controlling the spread of the virus by the suspension of the Holy Mass and refraining from gathering in the community.

Please know that I, your pastor, miss you, my parishioners deeply. When I offer my private Mass each day, I am praying for your Mass Intentions. Many of you have called to express appreciation and gratitude for remembering you and your family members in the Mass. I hope that you are praying a prayer of spiritual communion often, and that you are comforted by the constant presence of our Lord even when you cannot receive Him physically.

In addition to our spiritual lives, the crisis has impacted our pastoral plans significantly. We have to put everything on hold. Our inability to gather each week at Mass also means you are challenged to make your offertory gift. I cannot stress to you how vital your support is to the church and the people who work here. Parish operating budgets depend on this revenue for all the monthly expenses associated with running the church. Most parishes do not have large sums in reserve for times like this. Your continued support of our parish is crucial now.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the faithful parishioners who have been sending in their Sunday collection envelopes. Whether it is by mail, dropping it in our mailbox or by signing up with Faith Direct electronic giving, I cannot express in words how much your generosity has meant to me. I know that these are extremely trying times, and not everyone can contribute at this time, but for those who can, I ask that you continue to do so. Without the Sunday collection, we would not be able to maintain our facilities or continue our good works. If you are in urgent need of help, please contact the Archdiocese Catholic Charities.

We know this crisis is causing fear and anxiety; two things that the Lord does not want us to experience. I urge you to go to your Bible and revisit the readings proclaimed to you on Divine Mercy Sunday, especially the Gospel reading from St. John 20:19-31. Amid fear and turmoil of the followers of Jesus, He wished them peace. He revealed Himself to them. He walked with them and assured them; He is with us in Spirit.

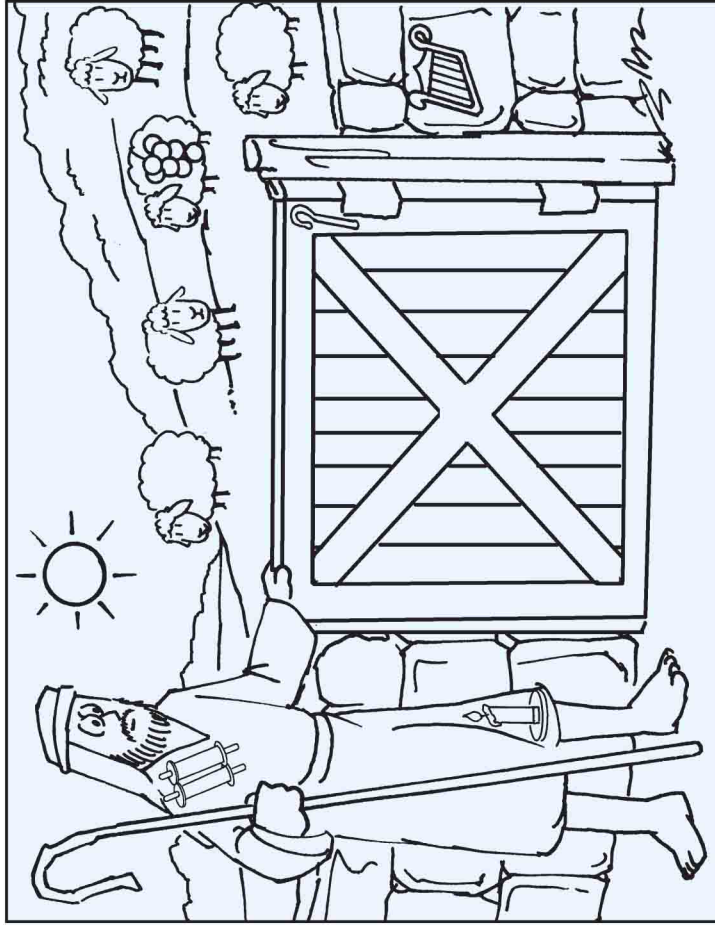
Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your faithfulness and your support. May our Risen Lord bless and keep each of you and your loved ones during this challenging and historic time.

Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, SSJ
Pastor

The Shepherd and His Flock

Jesus said, "The shepherd enters the sheep pen by the gate."

Find the hidden objects in the picture below.



Find out something about Jesus.
Use the code to fill in the missing vowels.

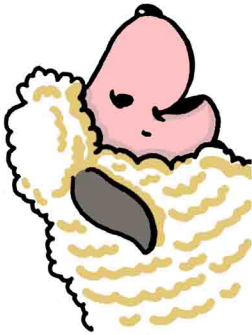


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g _ _ _ d
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sh _ _ ph _ _ rd.
? ? ? ? ? ?



What else did Jesus say?

Write the word that is opposite the one given. Then move letters to the numbered lines of the story at the bottom.

Light 2 1 6 Frown 18 3 10

Day 14 5 Down 11

Hard 5 7 15 Hello 12 4 19

Take 20 8 Go 13 11 17

High 16 9



“ 9 5 12 17 8 17 6 17 14 15 17 6 18

15 5 6 12 11 20 5 3 17 9 10 16 16 4 17

18 1 8 17 2 10 5 1 8 17 13 12 3 17

15 5 1 15 15 5 17 19 3 1 19 5 1 8 17

16 10 7 17 1 14 2 5 1 8 17 10 15

”

10 14 7 11 16 16

The Shepherd and His Flock

1 thief 4 robber

What did Jesus say to the Pharisees?

Match the number with the word given.

10 is	18 man	15 way	7 and	17 other	9 the	13 enter	19 not	30 truth	20 who
11 you	18 man	5 I	29 sheep	21 the	8 the	14 pen	22 a	16 tell	6 does
12 by	11 you	25 a	23 by	27 climbs	3 but	26 gate	28 in	2	2
15 way	5 I	25 a	23 by	27 climbs	3 but	26 gate	28 in	2	2
18 man	11 you	25 a	23 by	27 climbs	3 but	26 gate	28 in	2	2

“ 5 16 11 2 30 9

18 20 6 19 13 21

29 14 12 8 26 3

27 28 23 24 17

15 10 22 1 7 25 4

”

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