

APRIL 21, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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Office Hours: Mon - Wed & Fri. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (**Thursday - CLOSED**)

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PPC Chair: Guy Giroux 780.940.2751
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Liturgy: Connie Schumacher 780-458-6487

PPC Chair: Barbara Abel 780-985-3655
Finance Chair: Cheryl Hancar 780-980-3046
Liturgy: Barbara Abel 780-985-3655

Please Pray for our young parishioners *Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation*

Alianna	Brody	Bruce	Cadence	Claire	David	Elliot
Eva	Hayden	Jared	Jeremy	Kashton	Kayden	Liliana
Mason	Nathan	Reid	Rhett	Thomas	Tolson	Wyatt

Please Pray for our young parishioners *Preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion*

Clair	Gavin	Marcus
Mireya	Myles	Rylin
Sophia	Timothy	Xander

Cemetery Contacts:

Our Lady of Victory - Thorsby: Mark Bendoritis - 780.985.3779
St Francis: Ed Naprawa - 780.789.2195 and/or George Cygan 780 918 3412
St Charles: Clem Coffey - 780.696.2221 and/or Barry Gidish 780 910 1003
Holy Trinity - Nisku: Ron Chamulka 780.955.8031
St. Margaret Mary - Calmar: Barb Abel 780-985-3655 and/or Cheryl Hancar 780-980-3046

4th Sunday of Easter – April 21, 2024

1st Reading: Acts 4, 7-12

2nd Reading: 1 John 3, 1-2

Gospel: John 10, 11-18

Instruments of the Good Shepherd

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep." John 10:11-13

Today, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. It is a day when we reflect upon the tender image of Jesus as the Shepherd of us all. It is also a day set aside to pray for more shepherds within our Church who will shepherd God's flock with the Heart of Christ.

Our Gospel today is Jesus' commentary upon the actions of the Pharisees in contrast to His own. The Pharisees, as religious leaders, were not shepherds. They were "thieves and robbers" who came to "steal and slaughter and destroy." Jesus, however, came so that those who listened to His voice "might have life and have it more abundantly."

The Gospel passage quoted above explains why the Pharisees were not true shepherds. It was because they "work for pay" and have "no concern for the sheep." Think about that statement as it applies to the Pharisees and their treatment of this man who was blind from birth. First of all, the "pay" that these Pharisees worked for was their own self-importance. They saw themselves as the true teachers and interpreters of the Law and saw anyone who did not follow them as a threat. The Pharisees clearly perceived Jesus as such a threat to them. For that reason, they took their envy out on this humble and simple blind man. They were not shepherds to him. They did not encourage him, support him, point him to God or act in any way as an instrument of God's grace. Instead, they condemned this innocent and holy man out of their pride.

Though God shepherds us today through His sacred pastors, we are all called to participate in this shepherding of the Good Shepherd in our own unique way. We are called to lead those within our families, at work, at school, within our neighborhoods, social circles and in every other societal context. But too often we imitate these Pharisees by allowing our own selfishness and desire for self-importance to interfere with our ability to put others first and love them with the Shepherd's heart.

In order to imitate this love in the Heart of Christ, we must love without seeking love in return. Laying our lives down is an act of sacrificial love that enables us to look only at the needs of those around us. Pride and selfishness must disappear, and the good of the other must become our only goal. Reflect upon how well you do this, and pray that the Good Shepherd will use you to shepherd those in your life who need it the most.

Divine Shepherd, You came to lay down Your life for us all so that we might have life and have it to the fullest. Like the blind man You cured, I profess my belief in You and worship You. Help me to receive and imitate Your love so that I will lay my life down for others, leading them to You, their holy Shepherd. Jesus, my Good Shepherd, I trust in You. (mycatholiclife.com)



Adult Ticket
\$50

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**Harvest Fest Dinner,
Dance & Auction**
Sponsored by
St Maria Goretti Church
Saturday, Sept 7, 2024
Devon Community Centre
Cocktails: 5:30pm Dinner: 6:30pm

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For more information please contact:
Nicole@ 780 619-5649
Steve @ 780 982-5421



Knights of Columbus - Devon

Pancake Brunch next Sunday April 28

Please join us after Mass!!