

## SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



## Fourth Sunday of Easter

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Jn. 10:11.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The name derives from the Gospel for the day, taken from the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of St. John. The word *good* in *good shepherd* is the translation of the Greek word *kalos*. (Remember- the New Testament was written in Greek.) The Greek word *kalos* was used for anything outstanding in beauty and goodness. According to the context, the word *kalos* is equivalent to *beautiful, handsome, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable.* Jesus, our good shepherd, is all these things. *Kalos* was considered an outward sign of the inward goodness of someone *who inspires* others to embrace what is beautiful and praiseworthy. When Jesus says he is the good shepherd we can rightly think of him as a beautiful and noble shepherd having great purity of heart. He is also a brave shepherd who will lay down his life for the sheep.

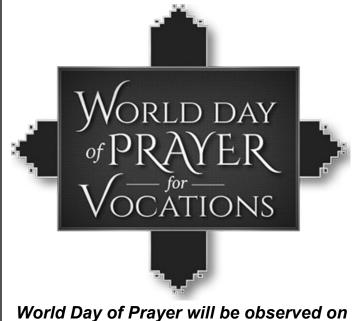
The Good Shepherd is perhaps the most endearing image of Our Lord. It is the most common of the symbolic representations of Christ\_found in early Christian art in the Catacombs of Rome. Images of the Good Shepherd often include a sheep on his shoulders, as in St. Luke's version of the Parable of the Lost Sheep, Lk. 15:3-7, a parable about a shepherd who leaves his flock of ninety-nine sheep to find the one which is lost. When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd," he is identifying himself with the image of God revealed as a shepherd searching for stray sheep in Ezekiel 34:12. *As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.* 

Psalm 23, **The Lord is My Shepherd**, is one of the most consoling and reassuring of biblical passages. It easily comes to mind when we think of Our Lord as the Good Shepherd. *The Lord is my shepherd*, *I shall not be in want. He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. I encourage you to take up this psalm and imagine Christ the Good Shepherd ministering to you, looking after your needs, guarding you from danger, seeking you when you have gone astray. At all times, we should think of Jesus as looking at us with loving attentiveness. No mother or father looks after their child like Our Lord looks after us. He is truly, the good, beautiful, and brave shepherd who has laid down his life for us so that we may have life and have it to the full. He would lay down his life a thousand times for us.* 

Nowadays, with all our technological know-how, some, especially the young, may find it hard to think about Christ as the Good Shepherd and relate to him as such. But I think it would be a great loss if we push this image aside as outdated and of no use to us. Let us think of this brave and beautiful shepherd who is so good that he will never leave us alone. We know his voice because we are His. He is the same One who said, "Learn from me, for I am humble and gentle of heart." Represent the Lord as close to you and see how lovingly and humbly He is teaching you. He will never fail you. He will help you in all your trials; you will find Him everywhere. Do not think it is a small matter to have a good shepherd like this at your side. Look at Him. We can look at very ugly things. Can we not look at the most beautiful thing imaginable, the Good Shepherd, so beautiful and brave?

## ~Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.

Hoy en día, con todos nuestros conocimientos tecnológicos, algunos, especialmente los jóvenes, pueden tener dificultades para pensar en Cristo como el Buen Pastor y relacionarse con él como tal. Pero creo que sería una gran pérdida si dejamos a lado esta imagen por anticuada y de ninguna utilidad para nosotros. Pensemos en este pastor valiente y hermoso que es tan bueno que nunca nos dejará solos. Conocemos su voz porque somos suyos. Él es el mismo que dijo: "Aprende de mí, que soy humilde y amable de corazón". Representen al Señor muy cerca de ustedes y vean cuán amorosa y humildemente les está enseñando. Él nunca te fallará. Él te ayudará en todas tus pruebas; lo encontrarás en todas partes. No creas que es poca cosa tener un buen pastor como este a tu lado. Míralo. Podemos mirar cosas muy feas. ¿No podemos mirar lo más hermoso que se puedan imaginar, el Buen Pastor, tan hermoso y valiente? ~ Padre Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.



World Day of Prayer will be observed on Sunday, April 25, 2021 also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found on the USCCB website.

Sylvia Martinez, the facilitator who led the Divine Mercy workshop last year at Santa Cruz, sent me a link to her podcast on Divine Mercy. You'll find it on YouTube. Search for oración formación y acción católica - Sylvia Mayer

> Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish 1220 South Sixth Avenue Tucson, Arizona 85713 Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742 ~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~ ~ Email hreyes@diocesetucson.org ~ Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm Closed for lunch 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor: In Residence: In Residence: Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D. Rev. Jose Luis Ferroni, O.C.D. Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

ass Intention

Special Int./Gastelum Family Manuel Herrera, II/R.I.P.

Santa Cruz Parishioners Special Int./Gastelum Family Special Int./Brian Weber Juan R. Lopez/R.I.P. Special Int./Lynn Weber

Holy Souls in Purgatory, most in need of our Prayers/R.I.P. Carlos A. Lopez/R.I.P.

Holy Souls in Purgatory, most in need of our Prayers/R.I.P. Ana Bertha Felix/R.I.P.

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Holy Souls in Purgatory, most in need of our Prayers/R.I.P. Lily Contreras/R.I.P.

Holy Souls in Purgatory, most in need of our Prayers/R.I.P.

Special Int./Gastelum Family

Parish Collection April 18th, 2021 Collection: \$ 3,380.63

Thank you and God bless your generosity! ¡Gracias y que Dios bendiga su generosidad!

Thanking You for Your Service to Our Parish

New Parishioners: Always welcome! Please register by using our forms available in the church. Please note COVID protocols: masks required; distancing in pews Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon, 5 pm school field (Bilingual) & 6 pm Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil) Confession: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Baptisms: Call the parish office for more information / Llame a la oficina parroquial Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance. Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación. Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833 Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

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