

The Work of the People  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
*(Sunday of the Good Shepherd)*

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. Hearing the Shepherd's voice, followers recognize and know it is their God. Safe in the knowledge that they cannot be taken from the hand of the Shepherd, those who hear his voice follow as faithful believers willing to go where God calls and sends them.

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter's good deed of healing a man who was crippled from birth is under examination by the Sanhedrin. Would that our testimony to the person and power of Jesus Christ be as forthright as his. Peter identifies Jesus as the cornerstone through whom salvation comes.

The reading from the First Letter of John expresses how much love God has for us. We are God's children – not later, but now! God is yet to reveal our future. But we have confidence that because of the gift of God's Son, who became like us in all ways but sin, we too, will be like God.

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus knows those who follow him. He would do anything, including laying down his life for his sheep. We know he did suffer and lay down his life. We also know he rose to be the one shepherd of the one flock. Jesus' leadership contrasts starkly with that of a hired man who shepherds sheep he does not know and love. Today's Gospel reminds us of how blessed we are to have Jesus as our good Shepherd guiding us through our lives.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Living Love* by Sr. Ruth Burrows who is a Carmelite nun at Quidenham Monastery in Norfolk, England.

Jesus is saying that the Father is seized with love, admiration, gratitude to him because he lays down his life fully. Why should the Father be so enamoured of this act of Jesus laying down his life, accepting to die?

In the first place because the Father can only find an outlet for his love when a human creature consents to die to his own limited, merely natural life.

The condition for being transformed into God's likeness, for entering into his own dimension is—being ready to go beyond ourselves, allowing ourselves to be taken away from self, consenting to leave the limitations of our merely natural being.

This acceptance of dying has to be done in the dark, in blind trust in the promise of the Father.

The dimension into which we are called is “God”: so “other,” so mysterious as to be beyond thought or imagination; and therefore, in a sense, meaningless to us.

We live a caterpillar existence and are completely incapable of conceiving of a butterfly existence. It is an awful thing to be told—or rather asked—to be willing to die to our caterpillarness in order to be something we have no notion of and no desire for.

We like being caterpillars—we have cabbage leaves to feed on, our world is circumscribed and manageable, it's solid. “What's all this about a new way of being . . . ? Flitting about in the air . . . ? No thanks—I'd rather be as I am!”

God's agonizing struggle is to get his human creatures to love and trust him enough to make the decision, to accept to die to their caterpillar life . . .

But Jesus accepted. This is the great triumph. He accepted, with all the adoring love of his heart, to lay down his life. This act was his supreme expression of the greatness of his love for his Father—that he, the Father, mattered alone, and that all Jesus wanted was to do his will, and to allow the Father to do in him and through him whatever he pleased.

And it is then God's good pleasure to fill his creature with blessings.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Jn. 10:1-10  
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Jn. 10:22-30  
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24; 13:5a/Jn. 12:44-50  
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Jn. 13:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Jn. 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Jn. 14:7-14  
 Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/1 Jn. 3:18-24/Jn. 15:1-8

### CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS Child Abuse Prevention Month:

**Mandated Reporters** in the Diocese of Erie are people who hold positions of trust in our schools, parishes, agencies and institutions and are mandated by Pennsylvania law and the diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children to report suspected abuse of a minor. All employees and volunteers working/serving for the Diocese of Erie, in our parishes, schools or agencies are considered mandated reporters both legally and morally obligated to report any reasonable suspected child abuse to ChildLine, the local police, or other appropriate agency.

Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to learn the specific reporting procedures required by the diocese.

“Jesus,  
 open my eyes to see you  
 and my heart to welcome you today.”

## WORSHIP

Monday, April 26  
 8:00 am + Jim Rasavage (by Parishioners)  
 Tuesday, April 27  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Wednesday, April 28  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, April 29  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Friday, April 30  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Saturday, May 1  
 4:30 pm + Jason Kolin (Susan Parkin)  
 Sunday, May 2  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Dec. Members of Genung/Hutch/Proudfoot Families  
 (Pat & Richard)  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

### REQUEST FOR PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please Print)*

Please drop the Membership Form in the offertory basket or mail to the rectory.

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, May 1  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession  
 Sunday, May 2  
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

If anyone is interested in helping to coordinate the Vacation Bible School for July, 2021, please call the rectory, 814 398-4234, and we will connect you with the other people on the team.

### CAMP NOTRE DAME

Camp Notre Dame will open for both day and overnight camping in 2021 with limited enrollment. Registrations are now being accepted for 4 - 12 year old day camps that begin on June 28. Overnight camping this year will be reduced, but there will be seven weeks of 7 - 14 year old camping, as well as special offerings for 15, 16 and 17 year olds. Access registration forms and a complete calendar at [www.campnotredame.com](http://www.campnotredame.com). The June 5th open house is a ticketed event this year. To learn more or to schedule a visit, call the office at 814474-5001 or email [office@campnotredame.com](mailto:office@campnotredame.com)

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel is a job description for Christian parents. For most people, the most influential shepherd in their lives is a parent. Every parent is called to be a "good shepherd" to "freely lay down their life" for their children, to "love" and "know" their children and to "lead" them so "they know your voice."

### MERCY CENTER OF THE ARTS

After 50 years at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Mercy Center of the Arts, a preschool focused on art, music and the sciences, has moved to Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, 1531 E. Grandview Blvd. Erie. Registration for the fall is now open. For more information, call 814 824-2519.

*"Father,  
 help me recognize my gifts  
 and use them for your glory."*

<b>ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP</b>	
Offertory	\$405.00
Candles	12.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$417.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$6,190    Paid: \$5,415	

<b>ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP</b>	
Offertory	\$1,575.00
Maintenance	361.00
Candles	36.00
Easter	10.00
Holy Land	10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,992.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$22,305    Paid: \$13,859	

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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