



SAINT LUKE CHURCH

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SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



“Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” - Jn 10:2-3

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3, 2020

- SUN 5/03** Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10
- MON 5/04** Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18
- TUE 5/05** Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30
- WED 5/06** Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50
- THR 5/07** Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20
- FRI 5/08** Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6
- SAT 5/09** Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14
- SUN 5/10** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

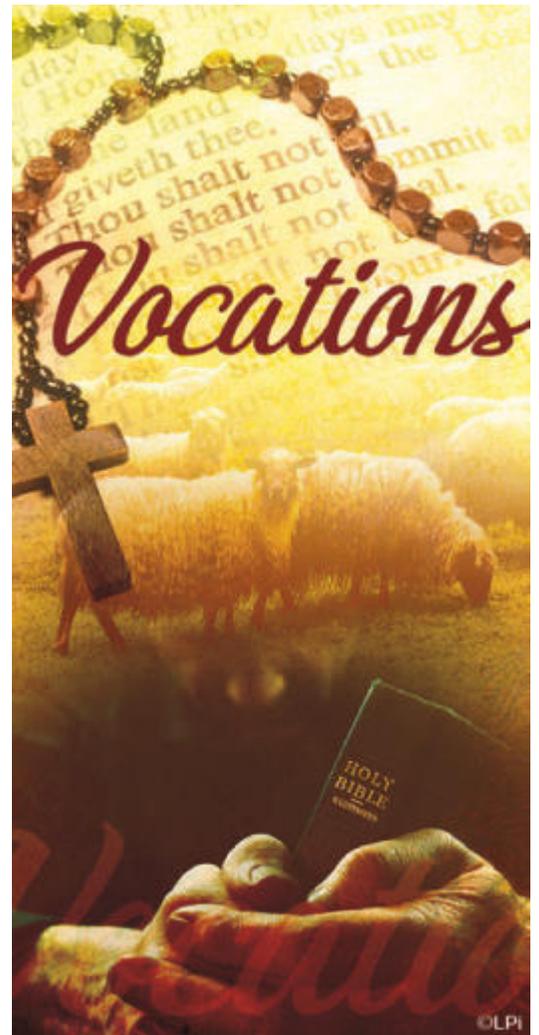
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 3, 2020

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- Tuesday:** Cinco de Mayo
- Thursday:** National Day of Prayer
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

When you wake up in the morning, whose voice is the first one you listen to? Your own? Someone else's? Or God? We all listen to someone and follow some sort of guidelines and principles. If it is a secular voice that propels us to get up in the morning and take up the task of the day's agenda, then we may find ourselves off track. The advice found in the Acts of the Apostles was as true then as it is now, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Most of what we listen to in secular voices is off the axis of truth and distorted. It may sound attractive, but it is deceptive at best. Many have gone astray like sheep and need to return to the Good Shepherd. Only Jesus can offer us the gate of life, and only Jesus as the Good Shepherd can really motivate us to take on the challenges of life. If we don't recognize his voice, we can risk facing destruction.



*"Let your
words teach
and your
actions speak"*

-ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)



PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23) or Alleluia.



SECOND READING

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Pt 2:24)



GOSPEL

"I am the gate.

Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." (Jn 10:9)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God's. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Recognizing the Voice of Jesus

When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

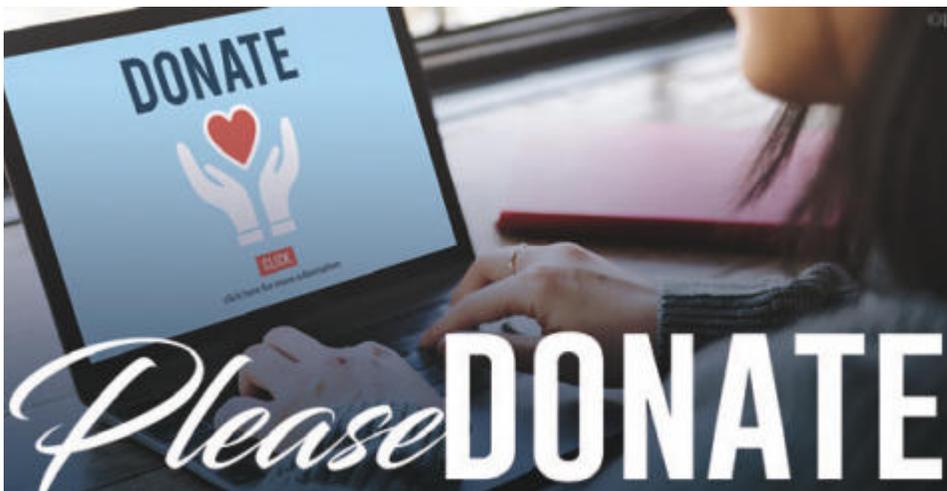
The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Daily Prayer Versus Mass?

Question:

I have a friend who says she doesn't need to attend Mass because she prays to God every day. What are your thoughts on this justification?

Answer:

If the only reason for going to church were to talk to God, your friend might be right. Prayer is not something limited to a physical place or even a holy place. If the sole purpose of the Church were prayer, it would be a narrow purpose indeed. The Church is a community of believers, formed by "one Lord, one faith, one Baptism." It is an outward sign of our faith in God instituted by Christ, and the purpose of the Church is to give us grace, that is, a share in God's life.

Coming to Mass is not really for God's sake, but for ours. If we believe that Jesus is truly present in the holy Eucharist, then we will want to be in his presence. We will want to be fed by him. Our daily prayer and good works are strengthened by our authentic encounter with our Lord. For Catholics, it is at Mass that we celebrate the source and summit of our faith. If this is true, why would we ever stay away?

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"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

— Jn 10:9-10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Luke tells us that Peter often testified: "Save yourself from this corrupt generation." How is this message still applicable today?

Second Reading

Peter asserts that the virtue of patience in one's suffering is a grace from God because Jesus modeled patient suffering. How does the exercise of this spiritual disposition help bring peace of mind?

Gospel Reading

Using the metaphor of sheep and gatekeeper, Jesus teaches his disciples the importance of remaining focused on his voice. Why do you think people are so easily distracted from other voices?



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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