



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

April 30, 2023 ▪ Fourth Sunday of Easter

How God was known as a “good shepherd” in the Old Testament



By Philip Kosloski

Starting in the book of Genesis, God has always been known as a "good shepherd."

Many Christians are familiar with the verse in the Gospels where Jesus says plainly, **“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”** (John 10:11). For this and other reasons, early Christians clung on to this image of Jesus and some of the earliest artwork we have is of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

However, this image of God is **not new**. The Old Testament is full of verses that describe God has a “good shepherd.”

When Israel (Jacob) was blessing his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, he speaks of God as a “shepherd.”

*May the God in whose presence my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, **The God who has been my shepherd from my birth to this day** (Genesis 48:15)*

This was only the beginning, as the people of Israel would frequently be referred to as a “flock,” especially when they went astray.

Continued on page 2



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

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Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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... Continued from cover

*“May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all humanity, set over the community someone who will be their leader in battle and who will lead them out and bring them in, that the Lord’s community may not be like **sheep without a shepherd**.” (Numbers 27:16-17) So Micaiah said: “I see all Israel scattered on the mountains, **like sheep without a shepherd**, And the Lord saying, These have no master! Let each of them go back home in peace.” (1 Kings 22:17)*

God even chose a shepherd, David, to lead his people as king. In this context, it’s not surprising that the book of **Psalms** (commonly attributed to David) is full of shepherd symbolism.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. (Psalm 23:1) For he is our God, we are the people he shepherds, the sheep in his hands. (Psalm 95:7)

Many of the prophets also spoke of God as a shepherd who feeds, guides and protects his flock.

*Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm; Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. **Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, Carrying them in his bosom, leading the ewes with care. (Isaiah 40:10-11)***

What this should teach us is that **God loves us tenderly**, as a shepherd looks over and watches his flock. He does not one of them to perish and will search far and wide for the one sheep that strayed from the ninety-nine.

It is a beautiful image to meditate on, one that both Jews and Christians have contemplated for thousands of years. If you have never spent time imagining Jesus as a good shepherd, take a few minutes and picture it in your mind, with you as the one sheep that he tenderly puts on his shoulders and takes to greener pastures.

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A Ministry of the Diocese of St. Petersburg



April 30, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 | 1 Pt 2:20b-25 | Jn 10:1-10

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

There is much we could ponder in today's Scriptures, but the verses that stood out for me are these: "If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called." I have a hard enough time keeping my inner child under wraps when I suffer due to my own sinfulness or incompetence, and Peter is telling me to be patient when I suffer for *doing what is good*? Well, yes – "because Christ also suffered for [us], leaving an example that [we] should follow in his footsteps." And the clarity of this truth hits me smack in the face. Doing what is good means we are loving another, in some way; we are doing good, *for good*. We are engaging in self-sacrifice, and some form of suffering is inherent to that. But here's the thing: it's an oddly joyful kind of suffering because it produces good fruit and directs our thoughts and vision to the one who is present among us as "the shepherd and guardian of [our] souls." Let us pray for the ability to see each moment of suffering for doing good as "a grace before God."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

At this point in the Easter season, we might think, "Why can't we focus more on the joy of Jesus' resurrection and less on the suffering that preceded it?" Well, we certainly can ... but we would lose a great part of the Paschal Mystery. We don't embrace the cross for the sake of suffering in itself. We come to the crucifixion to pass *through* it. We are an Easter people living in a Good Friday world. There's no avoiding suffering in our lives, but the Good News of Jesus Christ is that he has redeemed that suffering. He has given us victory over death and is – quite literally – the way to eternal life. In the Gospel Jesus says, "Whoever enters through me will be saved ... I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." He is our shepherd and we know his voice. During this Eastertide we have an extraordinary opportunity to attend to that voice in a particular way, and to think about how we might be hearing it in a new way this year.

ACT Is there a charity you have been meaning to call to volunteer your time? Is there a neighbor who might be able to use a helping hand? Is there a friend or family member who has fallen out of favor and you just know it's the right thing to do to get in touch? Act this week. Sacrifice just a bit for the sake of good.



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 29, Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena

8:00 a.m. Helen Mazur (Dec)

Saturday, April 29, Vigil for Fourth Sunday of Easter

4:00 p.m. Sr. Jeanne Barrett (Liv)

Sunday, April 30, Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. Ann Vargo (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. James Kimbis (Dec)

Monday, May 1, Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

8:00 a.m. Terry & Irv Ray (Dec)

Tuesday, May 2, Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Mary Lou Deuel (Dec)

Wednesday, May 3, Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, May 4, Easter Weekday

8:00 a.m. Jean Bird (Dec)

Friday, May 5, Easter Weekday

8:00 a.m. Kristin Boss (Dec)

Saturday, May 6, Easter Weekday

8:00 a.m. William Isaac (Liv)

Saturday, May 6, Vigil for Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:00 p.m. James Lawler & Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, May 7, Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. Gerald Hayman (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)



Journeying Through Grief

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663



Priestly Ordination
Deacon Christian Galvan
May 20, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.
Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, St. Petersburg

Bishop Parkes Invites You!

With praise and gratitude to almighty God, Bishop Gregory Parkes invites you to attend the ordination of Deacon Christian Galvan on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg. This will be a beautiful opportunity for our entire Diocese to gather and celebrate this most joyous occasion!! The ordination of a priest is one of the most beautiful liturgies in the Catholic faith. If you have never been to an ordination – this is your year! We encourage you to bring yourself and your family to this Mass. Also, please fervently pray for young men and women to answer the call to priesthood and religious life.

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 ©LPi



Congratulations to our First Communion Class of 2023!

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D'asia Dixon

Aaron Hoare

Kristos Littleton

Ruby York

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Save the Date for Mary and the Eucharist



Bishop Gregory Parkes invites you to the fifth annual Diocese of St. Petersburg Marian Congress! The theme this year is *'Mary and the Eucharist.'* The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and we encounter the risen Christ each time we receive our Lord in Holy Communion. Our Blessed Mother has a special role in leading us to her son, Jesus in the Eucharist. Save the date to participate in the Marian Congress on May 13 at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle (5815 5th Avenue N., St. Petersburg).

This day of joy, renewal and prayer will include dynamic speakers, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a multicultural Rosary and Mass with Bishop Gregory Parkes. Also, renew your consecration or be consecrated to Jesus through Mary for the first time.

To learn more, visit www.FloridaMarianCongress.org



Skip your siesta.
It's time to fiesta.

CINCO DE MAYO
May 5th, 2023
5:30-7:00

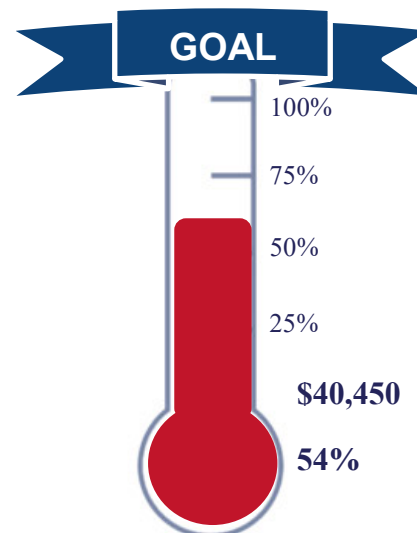
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prayerful giving!**



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with us online at
btsp.flocknote.com

PART-TIME COOK NEEDED

Missionaries of Africa Community Retirement Home (9 men) in St. Petersburg has an immediate opening for a cook, to provide meals for lunch and supper on Saturday and Sunday. If you, or someone you know may be interested in this hourly position, please send an e-mail to star30@verizon.net.

Contact Denise at 813-215-9535 with any questions you may have regarding this position.

“If you but knew the GIFT(s) of God...”

John 4:10

A man died and went to heaven. When he got there, he started looking around and came to a door with his name on it. Jesus was passing by, so he said to Jesus:

“Hey Jesus...there’s a door up here with my name on it!”

Jesus said: “That’s true but you don’t really want to go in there.”

The man replied: “But it’s my room, of course I want to go in.”

“No,” Jesus said, “You really don’t want to go in there; it’s too depressing.”

The man answered: “A room all for me up in heaven...how can that be depressing?”

So, the man opened the door and saw that the room was full of unopened boxes...boxes of all sizes and colors...loads of boxes!

“What are all these boxes doing in my room Jesus?” the man asked.

And Jesus answered: “These are all the gifts I wanted and tried to give you while you were on earth, but you never opened them!”

If you have any “unopened” boxes, Holy Spirit “gifts and charisms” you may have not yet discovered or used, you are invited to join us in finding

“New Life in the Spirit” on

- *Saturday May 20 from 9am to 3pm and*
- *Saturday May 27 from 9am to 12: noon*

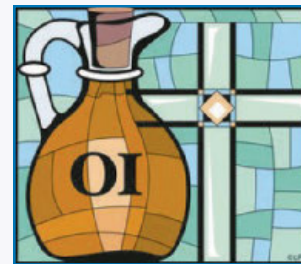
*Together with the Holy Spirit we will re-discover and reclaim
the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
received at Baptism and renewed at Confirmation.*

Presenters: *John & Nancy Arasa, Cathy Browne, Rachel Dutilly and Frank Esposito Jr., Prayer Group Leader from St Jude’s Cathedral.*

*Call the Parish Office @ 867-3663 to **SIGN IN**
or for more information.*

Arnold, Barbara
Barr, Bill
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Christ, Kathryn
Comeau, Teresa
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
Feldes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt
Irvin, John and Marsha
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew

LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Riley, Marie
Roberts, Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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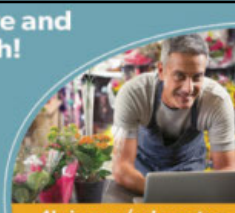
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