

# ✠ Week of April 22, 2018

## MONDAY

Acts 11:1-18 \* Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4 \* Jn 10:1-10

**TUESDAY 8:00am Word/Communion**

Acts 11:19-26 \* Ps 87:1-7 \* Jn 10:22-30

**WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass**

1 Pt 5:5-14 \* Ps 89:2-3,6-7,16-17 \* Mk 16:15-20

**THURSDAY 8:00am Mass**

Acts 13:13-25 \* Ps 89:2-3,21-22,25,27 \* Jn 13:16-20

**FRIDAY**

Acts 13:26-33 \* Ps 2:6-11 \* Jn 14:1-6

**SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass**

Acts 13:44-52 \* Ps 98:1-4 \* Jn 14:7-14

**SUNDAY 9:30am Mass**

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Acts 9:26-31 \* Ps 22:26-28,30-32 \* 1 Jn 3:18-24 \* Jn 15:1-8



## ✠ Parish Activities

<b>Mon., Apr. 23</b>	<b>6:15pm Religious Education</b>
	<b>6:30pm Bible Timeline</b>
<b>Tues., Apr. 24</b>	<b>10:00am Scripture Study</b>
	<b>6:30pm Sacramental Prep Parents Meeting</b>
<b>Wed., Apr. 25</b>	<b>3-8pm Blood Drive at St. Gabriel</b>
<b>Sat., Apr. 28</b>	<b>9am-12 Sacramental Prep Retreat</b>

**Project:** We have been discussing the need for additional storage space for school, worship and religious education materials. Bids were recently invited. The Administration Committee made a recommendation to add a 24'x22.4'x8' addition on the north side of the church. Council approved. The project now awaits diocesan approval. *Fr. Tom*

**Staff Position Opening:** We are looking for a new Office Administrator! It's a part-time 28 hours per week position. Applicants should have excellent oral and written communication skills, a working knowledge of Microsoft Office, and the ability to multi-task and meet deadlines. Applicants should be detail oriented, organized and flexible. A full job description is available upon request. Please submit a resume and three references to Father Tom.



**Graduation Mass:** All high school and college graduates are invited to attend the Graduation Mass on Sat., June 2 at 4:30pm. A reception in your honor will immediately follow. **RSVP** to the parish office at 662-6861 or [sschacher@auburnac.org](mailto:sschacher@auburnac.org).

**Mark Your Calendar: Vacation Bible School:** July 30 – August 2 for children in grades K-5<sup>th</sup> (in fall of 2018). Registrations will be taken beginning in May. Help is needed from youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

**Mission Mass:** Bishop Cistone will preside at the annual Mission Mass, Sun., April 22 at 5:30pm, at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in Saginaw. All are welcome!

## ✠ Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$6,382.35  
Food Pantry: \$35.00

In Memory of Clarence Alvesteffer: \$305.00

**CSA:** No report this week, our bookkeeper was out on sick leave.

**Children's Good Deeds: My Good Deed was...**

...listening to my Mom and setting the table. ...help clean up.

## ✠ Education/Formation

**Family Talk Time** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

What is an example of a leader who is like a good shepherd?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** The Good Shepherd provides an example of leadership that shows compassion, care and concern. There is an intimacy in the "knowing" that this shepherd has of his sheep. How different are the attributes shown here than the image of other leaders? Do we see compassion as a strength or weakness in today's workplace, on the gym floor or in the classroom? The goals of a shepherd focus on the sheep not the wool they will produce. Shepherds must tend and care for sheep daily without fail, for the wolves do not take a day off.

► **Living the Word:** Today is Earth Day and one of our responsibilities as people of faith is to care for the earth and all of God's creation. Much like a shepherd tends his sheep so must we look after our precious resources. Invite the family to pledge to do something for the earth that shows they care. Track your progress on an earth chart throughout the week. See just how many things the family can do. Let this care be the family's prayer throughout the week.

**5 Reasons Catholics should Care for Creation:** CatholicRuralLife.org

Earth Day is Sunday, and although not everything in the secular environmental movement is consistent with a proper understanding of creation, where it comes from, and what it's for, Catholics can – and should – join and support those efforts to care for creation that are consistent with our faith. There are several good reasons to do so. Here are five:

1. **Creation takes care of us.** The earth literally feeds us.
2. **It promotes peace.** If there isn't harmony in the ecology of nature, then there probably won't be harmony in what Pope Benedict XVII called "human ecology."
3. **It's part of the preferential option for the poor.** The poor and vulnerable are those most connected and immediately dependent upon the land.
4. **Beauty matters.** There are few things in life that can lift our minds to contemplate the divine better than the splendor of nature.
5. **We love God through respecting the things He gives us.** Scripture reminds us that we are stewards of the gift of creation, not exploiters who use it and abuse it as we want. Instead, we cooperate with God as His co-creators.

## ✠ Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Thank you** to all the families who attended our Mass to celebrate Grandparents and Special Persons. We appreciate you!!

► **Volunteer Appreciation Week:** AACS and St. Gabriel Parish are blessed with giving parishioners and families. **THANK YOU!**

► **The 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders** collected baby items and delivered them to the Abortion Alternatives Center in Midland.

► **Open Enrollment:** Registration for 3 & 4 yr. old Preschool and Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. If you are interested in learning more about our school, please contact Mrs. Reder at 662-6431. She would love to give you a tour. Info also at our website [www.auburnacschool.org](http://www.auburnacschool.org).

## ✠ The Parish in the Community

► **K of C Rummage Sale** for Toni & Trish House, May 24, 9am-6pm. Donations needed and can be dropped off May 23, 9am-6pm at the hall.

► **It's Magic!** Tour the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum: May 16. Begin with lunch at Berger's Restaurant at 11pm (at your own expense). Tour begins at 1pm, includes video presentation, Sculptor's Studio & Main Exhibit Gallery, and any other exhibits currently on display. Tour will last until about 2:30pm, the parish will pay for the museum tour fee. See complete details at the Café kiosk. Sign-up sheets at the church entrances. **Register by May 9.**

## ✠ From Father Tom's Desk

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes seven famous statements beginning with the words "I am." Each of them reflects something said about God in the Hebrew Scriptures. Yet, of them all, Jesus' statement "I am the good shepherd" is the only one in which he describes himself with a human role. When Jesus spoke of himself as bread, light, resurrection, etc., those descriptions indicated what he offers human kind. When he said, "I am the good shepherd," he moved into the realm of his own costly freedom and his mutual relationships with his Father and his followers.

When Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd he is telling us a lot more than the typical picture that we might perceive of him amid the flock or with a lamb on his shoulders. First of all, in today's selection we hear Jesus repeat five times that he lays down his life for his sheep. Each time this is stated, he emphasizes the fact that it is his choice to do so. He doesn't just risk his life or even lose his life, he says he lays it down: His entire life is for them. Except for blessing the bread as his body given for his own, Jesus never explained his dedication to his flock more clearly. In this, he is not only the model shepherd, but the model human being who has discovered the purpose of his life and chooses to fulfill it without reservation.

### "I Know Mine, Mine Know Me" [McGlone, Celebration](#)

Jesus says that he has other sheep in other folds who share the same relationship with him. When he says that they will follow and all will become one flock, he is giving a subtle but pointed warning to any who would try to set the boundary lines. He tells people who pride themselves on being his own – both in his day and in ours – that *he* is the shepherd. Membership in his flock depends only on hearing and following his voice; it can't be defined by rituals or formal membership in any special group.

When Jesus said "I am the good shepherd," he used the language of his tradition to proclaim not only that he had freely chosen the course of his life, but also that he was a faithful reflection of God, the father of all. His self-description as the good shepherd summarizes Christian theology; it tells us the purpose of creation and the Incarnation was to bring all into one in God.

Where does this leave us? How are we to determine which voices speak for the shepherd? How are we to discern who is leading us toward God? That's where Jesus' description of mercenaries and wolves comes in. The hired herder's first concern is personal comfort and safety – we might see prestige and profit as additional expressions of that. Mercenaries consistently choose themselves and their own kind, seemingly unwilling or unable to accept or comprehend the concept of one flock composed of diverse folds.

The wolves, too, are recognizable by their priorities. They specialize in fear and division. They possess the powers of strength and stealth and prey on the weak. While a relationship with the good shepherd is characterized by ever-increasing knowing and being known, wolves specialize in lies and disguise (as Little Red Riding Hood would tell us) all for the purpose of eating up their victims.

Many voices claim to tell us what should be done and why. Jesus claimed the authority of being *the* Good Shepherd who gave everything to bring humanity to the goal of sharing divine life.

### The New Peter (Acts)

[Celebration](#)

The new Peter had come around to a true imitation of his Master. He no longer marveled at what he thought he himself could accomplish but admitted that what he could offer had nothing to do with his own

power. Peter, the man who tried to talk Jesus out of any idea of suffering, now stood up to the very people who put Jesus to death. He was unafraid to point out their folly and proclaim what he had come to understand about Christ. The most important thing we see in Peter now is that he has become a true disciple; he is following in Jesus' footsteps and facing the same treatment Jesus received.

From the beginning of their ministry, the early Christian disciples met the same conflict, rejection and danger that Jesus had, but filled with the Holy Spirit they no longer worried about their own status or even their fate. Peter's faith in Christ and the Resurrection trumps all the visible powers allied against him. In the tradition of the last becoming first, Peter is unafraid of all that may be implied in rejection because he has found Christ as his rock, his cornerstone.

### Like a Shepherd

[Celebration](#)

When Jesus talks about the shepherd and sheep, he's obviously going far beyond the interactions between the simple souls whose job was one of the lowliest in society and some of the dumbest animals on the ranch. (Pigs, horses and even cows score far better than sheep who are known to blindly follow one another into oncoming traffic or even off a cliff.) Jesus' imagery refers to traditions like that found in Ezekiel 34 where the prophet critiqued the leaders of Israel for being shepherds so unworthy that God had decided to come in person to replace them. From that tradition, we get the image of the good shepherd as the ideal leader.

The crux of Jesus' message is twofold: As the shepherd whose sole desire is to care for the sheep, he shares the essence of his life with them and is willing to give all on their behalf. By tying his role as shepherd to his relationship with the Father, Jesus indicated that his mission as the good shepherd was not simply to care for the sheep, but to make them like himself by bringing them into his relationship with the Father.

### Voice Recognition

Denise Simeone, [Celebration](#)

It's amazing how the human ear can recognize specific voices. Some say that babies in the womb can recognize their mother's voice whether she be speaking or singing a lullaby. Some voices we know right away from hearing the first uttered word. We recognize the voice on the phone or the one calling across a room. Children know a parent's voice especially if they are in trouble!

Jesus says "I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me...I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd." Do we recognize the voice the Jesus?

### Sacrificial Love

[GraceWorks](#), Dallas TX

Laying down his life for the sheep is exactly what Jesus would do on Calvary. He was not just speaking in allegory or parable. Jesus really would die before he would abandon his beloved ones. And in the Gospel of John, especially, we often see Jesus depicted in terms of his sacrificial love, laying down his life on behalf of his followers. Jesus the Good Shepherd became the sacrificial Lamb, taking the place of his flock on the altar of sacrifice.

Self-preservation is such a strong instinct in all living things. It can only be trumped by one thing, an even greater love than love for self. And that kind of love, sacrificial love, so great that it would willingly lay down one's own life to save the life of the beloved, cannot be hired or trained. Business owners can expect loyalty and compliance from their employees, but not sacrificial love. Parents can expect diligence and care from the babysitter, but not sacrificial love. Armies can pay foreign soldiers to help bolster the ranks of the military, but they cannot expect the same level of sacrificial love as from troops who are fighting for their own country, for their own families.