

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK...

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD...



The Second Sunday after Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, from the "Shepherd" theme common to both the Epistle and Gospel. This year, the Second Sunday after Easter falls on May 1...the Feast of Saints Philip and James...which takes precedence over Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of the most comforting and reassuring in the New Testament. Since we will not be reading the Epistle and Gospel for Good Shepherd Sunday this year...we should spend some time meditating on Jesus the Good Shepherd and his sheep.

According to author and former church pastor Gary Richmond, who has been the subject of previous sermons, sheep, lambs and shepherds, are mentioned more than 500 times in the Bible. His book **All God's Creatures** gives wonderful and humorous insight into the way sheep and other animals behave. He also gives some scary first-hand accounts of close encounters with lions and tigers and bears (Oh, my!) during the time he worked at the San Diego Zoo.

Mr. Richmond now focuses his ministry on marriage counseling...putting into practice the lessons he learned observing sheep. Sheep do OK, he writes, when they are in a controlled environment like a zoo. But out in the open, they get easily frightened and run off in different directions. They quickly succumb to mob mentality. With no one to take care of them...they are indeed sheep gone astray.

Sheep need a shepherd to keep them safe and out of harms way. A good shepherd knows and loves his sheep and he calls to them to get them to come back. And they always respond by coming back. Mr. Richmond observed the sheep at the zoo would always come to him when he called them, even after the several months he spent away from the zoo recovering from his close encounter with a leopard that almost cost him his life. Sheep know the shepherd's call and they come home to him and only to him...where they know they will be safe and secure.

Isaiah wrote that all of us are like sheep that are lost, each going his own way, and getting into trouble. Jeremiah wrote that the people are like sheep, which have gotten lost and can't find their way home. God spoke to Ezekiel and told him he himself would go looking for his sheep to

take care of them and bring them together again. God would not let his sheep stay lost; he would make sure they were home safe. God has provided shepherds to take care of his sheep all along. Jesus told Peter to take care of his lambs and sheep. Our bishops and priests follow Peter's example and are modern-day shepherds taking care of the Church.

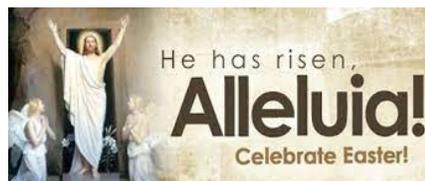
We don't think of ourselves as sheep because we are no longer an agrarian society. Jesus talked about sheep because the people he was talking to understood sheep. A man's wealth was determined by the size of his flock. They provided food, milk and wool for clothes. A good shepherd would do anything to protect his sheep from harm. A hired hand would not risk his life for a flock of sheep much less one that had wandered off. They weren't his to care about. He could just get a job at the next farm down the road, perhaps where working conditions were not quite so dangerous.



Jesus is more than a good shepherd. He is **THE** Good Shepherd, who was willing to give up his life for the sheep he loves. He is the Good Shepherd who comes looking for us when we get lost, when we wander off and get ourselves into trouble, when we sin and cut ourselves off from his love. Jesus never gives up on us. He is the one who calls us each by name to come back to the flock, where we are safe and secure from harm.

Jesus calls us and we respond to his call. And now we have been brought back to follow the Shepherd and Keeper of our souls.

Father Craig Looney +



Easter Even, April 16, 2022
5:00 pm – Blessing & Lighting of the Paschal Candle & Ante-Communion

Easter Day, April 17, 2022
9:00 AM – Parish Mass & Sermon
Followed by Coffee & Fellowship

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

12:15 PM LOW MASS & HOMILY

Salvador Dali's impressionistic painting *The Ascension of Christ*, which he completed in 1958, is perhaps the most compelling depiction of Jesus' Ascension into Heaven ever painted. Dali was raised a devout Roman Catholic. During his time at University he professed atheism. In his later years, he returned to the Roman Catholic Church of his youth, embracing a deep spirituality.



The most interesting feature of The Ascension of Christ is also profoundly Incarnational. We see the Ascension as the Apostles would have seen it...looking up at Jesus' unwashed feet. Jesus' arms are extended and his hands display intense ecstasy. God the Son is going back to his Abba, Father, in Heaven, and he's taking his humanity with him. We can't even begin to comprehend the intense emotion he must have experienced. Jesus' Ascension is the precursor of our own ascensions...in glorified and perfected bodies. We can only imagine what that will be like!



STEPHANIE/DIANNE GRATON
MAY 24, 1942 – FEBRUARY 26, 2022



Long-time parishioner Dianne Graton died on Saturday, February 27, 2022 in Tulare CA, after a courageous struggle with Parkinson's disease. She was born in Los Angeles CA, and raised in Brooklyn NY. She was a resident of San Bruno CA for many years before moving to Tulare.

Affectionately known as Stephanie/Dianne, she was a faithful member of the Saint Joseph Parish Choir. Her family described her as an only child with many "sisters and brothers". She experienced sadness and joy in her life...but chose joy to define her life. She wrote and recited poetry. She loved nature and singing. She liked cheesy jokes and silly things. She was loved...and knew how to love. Parishioners will remember her for her infectious smile and bubbly personality. She occasionally entertained the Sunday Discussion Group by reverting to a Brooklyn accent. The family has requested a tree be planted in her memory.

A Requiem Mass for Stephanie/Dianne was celebrated on Saturday, March 26. *May Stephanie/Dianne rest in peace and rise in glory.*



Pentecost (Whitsunday) Sunday, June 5, 2022

Pentecost was originally observed within Judaism fifty days after The Passover. *Pente* means *fifty* in Greek. The feast was originally known as the Feast of Weeks and celebrated the end of the wheat harvest. By Jesus' time it also commemorated God's giving the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Acts 2.1-13 records the Coming of the Holy Spirit. All of the believers were present in one room. A noise from the sky, which sounded like a strong wind blowing, filled the entire house. What looked like tongues of fire touched each person and they began to talk in other languages as the Spirit moved them.

There were still many people present in Jerusalem after the Passover and the city itself was the home to many Jews who came from other countries. Everyone was able to hear Peter and the other believers talking in their own native languages. This miracle was the Divine Reversal of the Biblical account of the division of languages recorded in Genesis 11.1-9 (Tower of Babel). It is a distinct phenomena from "speaking in tongues"...a gift of the Holy Spirit in which the believer is able to praise God in an unknown language.

Librarian's Notes for Easter



We have learned a lot about pandemics and wildfires over the last few years. Hopefully, we learned long ago that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. In fact, Jesus says He is the door of the sheep. A movie that brings all these ideas together is *Rams*, directed by Jeremy Sims. When a pandemic breaks out among their sheep, two shepherding brothers in Australia have to figure out what their reactions will be. The authorities' solution is to slaughter the healthy along with the sick. Is this what a good shepherd does?

One brother decides it isn't, and while he doesn't become his sheep's door, he does give them his bedroom and bathroom. Hijinks ensue. A big problem with sharing your breakfast, bedroom and bathroom with sheep is hiding the smell -- something to consider when we contemplate Jesus Christ leaving His throne in heaven to live among us, His sheep. *Rams* is available on Kanopy, the library video streaming service, as well as Amazon Prime Video and Hulu.

Recent acquisitions:

Scottish Liturgies of the Reign of James VI. We have learned in our Sunday classes that the American editions of the Book of Common Prayer were deeply influenced by liturgies used by Anglicans/Episcopalians in Scotland. Unfortunately, old Scottish Prayer Books are very hard to find. Alex can usually find anything through interlibrary loan and his favorite online book stores, but this reprint of 17th century liturgies was the best we could do. (This acquisition thanks to Fr. Plimpton)

Nonprofit Bookkeeping and Accounting for Dummies, by Sharon Farris. The people handling the Parish finances are not dummies. Still, this reference is there, should we need it.

The Really Useful Guide to Kings and Queens of England, by Christopher Gidlow and Sarah Kilby. I don't know if this book is more useful than the other short, illustrated collections of biographies of the kings and queens of England of the Second Millennium already in the library, but it was practically free.

Finishing Our Course With Joy: Guidance From God For Engaging With Our Aging, by J.I. Packer. The Anglican Priest and theologian J.I. Packer wrote a book a year for decades before his death in 2020. Fittingly, this is one of his last books. (This acquisition thanks to Fr. Plimpton)

Got Religion? How Churches, Mosques and Synagogues Can Bring Young People Back, by Naomi Schaefer Riley. If you've googled me, you know that I was interviewed by this veteran religion reporter for her 2005 book on how religious colleges were changing America's politics. I came across this more recent book by Providence. From the publisher: "The faith communities young people attach themselves to are not necessarily the biggest or the most flashy. They are not the wealthiest or the ones employing the latest technology. Rather, they are the ones that create stability for young people, that give them real responsibility in a community and that help them form the habits of believers that will last a lifetime."

Wishlist:

Celebrating the Graying Church, by Richard Olson

Dedication of Parish Library

On June 19, 2022, the First Sunday after Trinity, we will dedicate the Saint Joseph Parish Library in loving memory of Father John Altberg. This marks the fifth anniversary of his death. Many of the books in the Library are from Father Altberg's personal collection and were donated to the Parish by Rosemarie Altberg, who died in November 2021. The dedication will take place immediately following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass.

St. Joseph Parish Seder

5:00pm, Saturday, June 18, 2022
770 N. El Camino Real, San Mateo
(650) 347-4423

Rebekah Shapiro and Alex Gorelik have graciously asked to plan, prepare and lead a traditional Jewish Passover Seder for St. Joseph Parish.

Please let Rebekah Shapiro know if you plan to attend, and if you will drink wine or grape juice.

Because the Seder involves special foods and other preparations, we ask for a donation of \$18 per person.

Checks made payable to St. Joseph Parish.
Write "Seder" in the memo line.

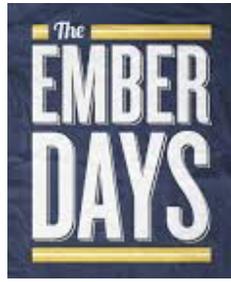


CALL Primrose has changed their distribution methods and is no longer accepting food or other donations at their Burlingame location.

Saint Joseph Parish will continue to support CALL through our Annual Thanksgiving cash donation.

The Ember Days

The Ember Days (from the Latin *quatuor tempora*...four times) are four sets of three days each (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) occurring roughly at the Four Seasons. The Ember Days are days of fasting and prayer for the increase in vocations to the ordained ministry of the Church.



The Summer Ember Days always take place on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after Pentecost (see *Book of Common Prayer, Page li*)...June 8, 10 and 11 this year. The Ember Day Lessons begin on Page 260 in the *Book of Common Prayer*.



The classic Easter Hymn, *Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia* (#85 in the *Hymnal 1940*) has its origin in a 14th Century Latin carol from Bohemia (modern Czech Republic). It owes its success to its many alterations over the centuries and is found in virtually every Christian hymnal. The hymn is full of "jubilation". The version in the *Hymnal 1940* dates to 1749. This hymn along with the other Easter hymns marks the return of the *Alleluia*, not heard since the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

Source: *The Hymnal Companion*, © 1949, 1951 by the Church Pension Fund, Third Edition 1956.

Diocesan Synod

The Diocese of the Holy Trinity will hold its Annual Synod at Saint Matthew's Church, Newport Beach, CA. Clergy will gather on Thursday, June 9. The General Session will take place on June 10.

Father Looney and Father Plimpton will be attending. Candyce Francis and Rebekah Shapiro will be representing the Parish as lay delegates. Nan Halliday will be attending as an observer.

Please let Father Looney know if you wish to attend. Registration, schedules and hotel information will be emailed to the Parish as soon as they are available.

Vestry Meeting

The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, 2020 following Coffee Hour. We will be meeting in the Library.

Regular sessions of the Vestry are open to all interested parishioners. We are blessed at Saint Joseph Parish in having a dedicated and loving Vestry.

In the English Church, vestries were for many centuries the ecclesiastical and secular government for a parish (geographical area). The term is no longer used in England and has been replaced by *parish councils*.

A parish vestry originally met in the Vestry (Vesting Room or Sacristy) and became colloquially known as the "Vestry". Anglican parishes in the United States continue to refer to their board of directors as the Vestry.



In the Beginning...the opening words to the Prologue to Saint John's Gospel. The Prologue...the first 14 verses of the Gospel...is read at the conclusion of every Sunday Mass at Saint Joseph Parish. It is commonly known as *The Last Gospel*.

On Sunday, April 24, the Discussion Group will commence an in-depth study of *The Last Gospel*. John is unique among the Gospel writers in beginning his Gospel with a concise theological statement about Jesus Christ. Also unique to John's Gospel...our Lord's "I am" statements about himself.

Please join us as we delve into the rich meaning of *The Last Gospel* and how we can apply it to our lives.

A Prayer for the Family of Nations

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, guide, we beseech thee, the Nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*.

THE NEXT ISSUE...

The next issue of *The Parish Times* will be the Early Trinity 2022 edition. The target date for publication and distribution is June 13. If you have an article or announcement you wish published, please submit it via e-mail or in writing by June 3. All submissions are subject to space limitations and editing by the Rector. All submissions must be free of partisan politics...whether Church or secular.



Find us on Facebook at: **Saint Joseph Parish – San Mateo CA**

Schedule

Sundays – 9:00 AM Parish Mass & Sermon
Coffee Hour and Discussion Group

Weekdays/Holy Days as announced

Sacrament of Penance by Appointment

The Reverend Father Craig Looney, Rector
The Reverend Father Herbert Plimpton, Assisting

THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.

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