1229 VERMONT ST, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044 | MAY 3, 2020



OF EASTER 4° DOMINGO DE PASCUA

"I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." - Jn 10:9

"Yo soy la puerta; quien entre por mí se salvará, podrá entrar y salir y encontrará pastos". - Jn 10, 9

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Leccionario I © 1976 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

> All weekend, weekday Masses, Adoration are CANCELLED until further notice. Office hours: CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, please call 785-843-0109. Website: <u>www.sjevangelist.com</u> Reconciliation: Wednesday 11:00 am-12:00 pm, 7:00-8:00 pm; Saturday 3:00-4:00 pm

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN

St. John the Evangelist, a Catholic Capuchin Franciscan Parish, welcomes all who are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaims His Gospel through prayer, worship, His Word, and the sacraments. Members, inspired by the Holy Spirit through faith formation and spiritual renewal, witness to the Gospel in lives of justice and charity, build up families and children through education, hospitality and fellowship, and serve those in need with compassion.



"WHILE THE WORLD CHANGES, THE *CROSS* STANDS FIRM." ~St. Bruno

PARISH STAFF

Pastor Associate Pastor Principal, St. John School Director of Liturgy & Music Religious Education Director Catecísmo en español High School Youth Director Middle School Youth Director RCIA Business Manager Stewardship Director Assistant Administrator Parish Coordinator Database Multimedia Communication Coordinator Technology	Fr. Barnabas Eichor Mr. Chris Reffett Lisa Roush Dois Mersmann María Mota Abby Wagner Michael Podrebarac Cris Denning Samantha Romero Meg Milburn Ellen Sickinger Patty Guadian orJacinta Hoyt
Technology Maintenance	

- St. John Catholic School...... Mr. Chris Reffett, Principal 1208 Kentucky St. 785-843-9511 www.sjevangelist.com/school
- Catholic CharitiesAbigail Chikanda 1525 W. 6th, Suite A 785-856-2694 achikanda@catholiccharitiesks.org
- Rummage HouseLinda Brey13th & KentuckyIbrey525@gmail.comShopping Hours:CLOSED until further noticeWednesday 11:00 am-3:00 pm; Thursday (first and last of
month only) 1:00 pm-4:00 pm; Saturday 8:30 am-12:30 pmCentro HispanoLydia Diebolt
204 W. 13th St.204 W. 13th St.785-843-2039
centrohispano.lydia@gmail.com

Simon Parish Center

	Vermont St., Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone	785-843-0109
	CLOSED TO PUBLIC, please call

Monday—Friday	8:30 am—4:00 pm
Weekend Masses	CANCELLED until further notice
Saturday	4:30 pm
Sunday	am, 11:00 am, 2:00 pm (Spanish), 5:00 pm

Weekday Masses	CANCELLED until further notice
Monday-Friday	7:30 am
Saturday	8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

.....in the Padre Pio Chapel

Bulletin Deadline

Submit info by **noon on Thursday** to <u>bulletin@saint-johns.net</u> ten (10) days prior to the bulletin you wish info to appear. Please submit text electronically (via computer/email) as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

Advertise in the Bulletin

Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information call Doug Wolfe:

800-950-9952 x5833

dwolfe@4LPI.com

Pastoral Council

parishcouncil@sjevangelist.com

Connie Ehrlich-Chair, Christine Wenger-Vice Chair, Susan Tabor-Secretary, Brent Crandon, George Diepenbrock, Luis Gonzalez, Larry Koster, Lisa Leroux-Smith, Jason Tanking **Finance Council** Brian Green, David Ehrlich, Meredith Lang, Brent Crandon, Jeannette Mercier, Terry Gunselman Michael Burrichter

School Council Mr. Chris Reffett, Mike McDonald–President Caroline Bennett–Vice President Jim McDonald–Secretary Hanon Misko, Emily Malin Lisa Leroux-Smith

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

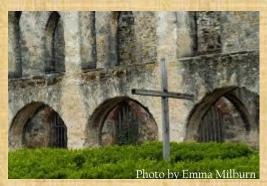
Mass Opportunities

While our sanctuaries are closed in an effort to contain the spread of the virus, there are several opportunities to "virtually" attend Mass on a daily and weekly basis.

St. John will live stream Mass on Sunday. May 3. Mass will be at 10:00 am (English) and 2:00 pm (Spanish) and will be found by clicking the link on the St. John web page: <u>sjevangelist.com</u>

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Archbishop Joseph Naumann is broadcasting daily Mass at 8:30 am each day on his Facebook page at: <u>facebook.com/archbishopnaumann</u>

The Capuchins Franciscan of Denver will live stream Mass every Sunday from the



St. Francis of Assisi Friary Chapel. Mass will begin at 8:55 am. Capuchin Franciscans: <u>capuchins.org/mass</u>

Father Mitchell Zimmerman and the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center at the University of Kansas are offering several online opportunities throughout the week. Holy Mass, Adoration and Holy Hour. St. Lawrence will stream private Masses on its KU Catholic Facebook Page according to the following schedule. <u>facebook.com/kucatholic</u> MONDAY - THURSDAY: 5:15 pm FRIDAY - SATURDAY: 12:10 pm SUNDAY: 11:00 am

Other Resources

Sites for prayer and reflection:

Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas: archkck.org

The Vatican: http://www.vatican.va/content/ vatican/en.html

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: http://www.usccb.org/

MAY FLOWERS

April showers, they say, bring May flowers. Our hope is that the hardship and suffering of this April bring respite and relief in May, though in truth we don't know how long it may take.

We extend our love and care to all whose lives were touched by the pandemic; we are overwhelmed by gratitude for all who strove to save lives, at the risk of their own; we are deeply moved by all who stood by their posts and provided the things we needed; we stand with those who lost their jobs; we bear witness to those brave leaders who made difficult, but correct decisions.



TITHING WHILE WE ARE AWAY ...

Thank you for your continued support of St. John Parish. Your support helps us to continue our mission during this time of change.

If you would prefer to give your weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly tithe via a check or cash you can drop your tithe in the secure lock box inside the back porch of the parish office on the SOUTH side of the church office. You can also mail your check to 1229 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

If electronic giving is your preferred method you can give via our electronic giving method **PushPay**. This can be a one time or recurring gift. Simply visit our website: **www.sjevangelist.com** and click on the Online Giving Link on the home page. Or text "**stjohncc**" to **77977** to give via your mobile device.

Thank you for your continued generosity to St. John Parish!



SAINT JOHN SCHOOL



TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

technology or are needing to borrow a Chromebook please email Ms. Dixon at: <u>dixon@saint-johns.net</u>. If you are unable to continue to have internet service due to loss of income, please contact Chris Reffett at: <u>reffett@saint-johns.net</u> for more information. Midco has created a program that will help.

If you are continuing to have problems with

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET OUTSIDE

Several of our garden areas and preschool playground areas are in need of some cleaning up. Because we are not in school, our green team has not been able to keep some of our garden areas from over growing. We also have a preschool play area that tends to get overgrown when school is not in session. If you would like to volunteer your time to get outside and help us out, please email me at: reffett@saint-johns.net to schedule a time.



St. John School Garden

COVID-19 UPDATE FOR ENROLLMENT IN ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

If you are a new family who is enrolling for the first time or a returning St. John family...

- Simply complete the enrollment form and submit online
- Paying Enrollment Fee? You can mail a check or pay using our **Pushpay online giving** platform

We care about you and your family! Families undergoing financial stress due to the Coronavirus are able to delay their enrollment fees or pay in installments until August 1, 2020. Please complete the enrollment form and we will work with you on how to proceed with your enrollment fee. Please contact Cris Denning at **785-843-0109** to discuss your particular situation.

STUDENT RESOURCES WITH SCHOOL CLOSED

Because of the ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, St. John School is closed until further notice. Teachers and staff have placed resources on student Google Classroom pages so that students may stay current with their studies. Additional staff links are posted below for other subject areas. Our plan is to provide educational resources as a way to keep the learning going. We don't want to overwhelm everyone, but wanted to make sure we stay connected to our students. Teachers are available by email, so feel free to ask questions if needed.

Karen Dixon is going to be coordinating technology needs. Here is a note from her: "In order to provide educational activities for your student(s) during the school closure, the St. John staff is posting suggested activities on their websites. Many of these activities require devices with internet access. If you need a laptop for your child(ren), and have internet at home, please contact Ms. Dixon kdixon@sjeagles.com or Chris Reffett reffett@saint-johns.net. We will arrange a pickup time at school. By signing out a laptop, you will be accepting financial responsibility for any damages. Please only check one out if you absolutely need it, but we want to make sure it is accessible if needed. All teacher websites are located here: https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/facultyinfo." Paper packets of materials can be made available if needed.

Jessica Dunn, Art: https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Jessica+Dunn&Salutation= Chelsea Solomon, Music: https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Chelsea+Solomon&Salutation= Michael Kennedy, Physical Education: https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Michael+Kennedy&Salutation= Karen Dixon, Technology: https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Karen+Dixon&Salutation= Karen Rinke, Library: https://saint-johns.eduk12.net/webpages?Teacher=Karen+Rinke&Salutation=

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

PARISH PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Center to request someone for the "Prayer List."

Thank you on behalf of the families of those individuals for whom we pray.

Nicole Allensworth Andrew Bouchard, son of Steve & Patti Fisher Susan Guenther Brown, friend of Craig Fincham Curtis Burns, friend of Joe & Bev Mater Roger Caldwell, brother of Leila Soper Hank Desch **Paula Doughtery Garrett Dreiling** Linda Erp, mother of Joanne Feist, friend of Ginny Short Colette Fisher Linda Flyer, friend of Le Marie Gilbert Janet Fox, family of Norb & Jeanette Otter **Rudy Fritz** Ed Garza **Bonnie Griggs** Tony Guadian Buddy Hadl, brother of Shirley Steffen Michael Hamer Lonna Hamm, daughter of Larry & Martha Hamm Mary Hane Peggy Harders, niece of Norb &

Jeanette Otter Newt Hasson Dustin Harper-Head, great-nephew of Mary Head Lori Haynes, friend of Fleda Úmscheid Luke Henry, nephew of Galen & Beth Uhrich Kathy Higley Bob Holek Tina Jinkens Michele Johnson Allen Kehde **Diana Matthews** Leo Mauler, son of Al & Marcy Mauler Russ McDonald Jim McMurray Ed Medrano Zackary Messerly, nephew of Debra Bradley Linden Morgan Lisa Morrow-Welsh, daughter of Linda Brey Augustus Nelson Danny Nguyen Diane Nichols, sister of Phyllis Stone **Theophilus Obiefule** Mike Öwens **Josephine Ramirez**

Eva Ricketts, mother of Ingrid Hartman Joel Rivera Virginia Romero Jon Rossillon **James Sandy** Alexander Ramirez Salazar Jerry Scherer Greg Schurer, brother of Mick Schurer Mary Kay Seidl, sister of Mick Schurer Mary Kay Seidl, sister of Loretta Seidl Pete Sethatut, father of Paula Higbie Christine Shipley Gerald Simon Brett Smith Linda Snyder, aunt of Dan Taylor Joseph Soza Cameron Stupansky, friend of Kathy Colson Jack Taylor, brother of Daniel Taylor Deloris Tharp Amelia Tinio Enriqueta Valverde Mary Vannicola Cindy Vasquez, sister of Gina Hodges Trenť Wallace Jeanette Walker Ted Walker Susan Williams Nancy Wright Jon Yarnell



"The Leaven" is on Audio Reader

Did you know "The Leaven", the Archdiocesan newspaper, is available through Audio-Reader here in Lawrence. All you need is to be able to have someone certify that you have an impairment that impairs your ability to hold or to read printed material. To receive the service, please call Audio-Reader at **785-864-4600**.

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 Information below reflects donations received July 1, 2019 through April 26, 2020.

Budgeted weekly collection amount	\$29,807.69
Average weekly collection amount	
Budgeted collection fiscal YTD	
Actual collection fiscal YTD	\$1,238,379.06
Net Shortage	\$43,351.61

Visit: <u>www.sjevangelist.com/giving</u> for more information or to set up and manage your account today! Contact Cris Denning at: cdenning@saint-johns.net or by phone at 785-843-0109 if you have any questions.

Photo by: Jay Soldner/The Leaven

Until weekend Masses resume and the parish office reopens, parishioners may send their tithe in the mail. Or you may sign up for <u>PushPay</u> for auto bank withdraws at: <u>sjevangelist.com</u>

AVISOS EN ESPAÑOL

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGÉLIO – ALENTAR UN **ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA**

3 de mayo de 2020 4º Domingo de Pascua

La Pascua es obra de Dios; todo lo que viene de ella es solo el gran amor y misericordia para la humanidad. Es el Domingo del Buen Pastor, el que da la vida por sus ovejas. Sin duda alguna, es el Pastor que guía y protege hasta el extremo. El Evangelio menciona hermosas palabras que llenan el alma de esperanza, de cambio, de conversión constante: La Puerta, el Pastor, y la Voz. Estas palabras se refieren a Jesús que nos invita a entrar por esa puerta única de salvación; a distinguir al Pastor que cuida amorosamente de la oveja perdida. Y la voz, esa voz de Dios que siempre resuena en nuestra conciencia para distinguir el bien del mal.

Dios llama a cada persona por su nombre; conoce y anima a seguirle como auténtico Pastor. No debe haber confusión entre las miles de voces que escuchamos a diario. Aprendamos a escuchar su voz, a distinguir su amor verdadero; esto implica poner de nuestra parte. El Salmo 22 nos ayuda a profundizar en lo que es confiar la vida al Buen Pastor: "Tu bondad y tu misericordia me acompañarán todos los días de mi vida; y viviré en la casa del Señor por años sin término." El Papa Francisco nos habla de distinguir y escuchar a ese Pastor con el siguiente mensaje: "No olvidemos que Jesús es el único Pastor que nos habla, nos conoce, nos da la vida eterna y nos protege. Nosotros somos el único rebaño y solamente tenemos que esforzarnos por escuchar su voz, mientras con amor, Él escruta la sinceridad de nuestros corazones."

©LP



"El que entra por la puerta, ése es el pastor de las ovejas. A ése le abre el que cuida la puerta, y las ovejas reconocen su voz; él llama a cada una por su nombre y las conduce afuera. Y cuando ha sacado a todas sus ovejas, camina delante de ellas, y ellas lo

> siguen, porque conocen su voz". _ 1n 10. 2.4 Leccionario I () 1976 Caminión Episcopal de Partaral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Plesicano.

MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

;Te gusta cantar?; Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al 785-304-5509.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir pos nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR

Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parróquia, por un mundo mas limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota, Gracias.

LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR

Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

Preparación al matrimonio por la Iglesia Catolica, solo para parejas que viven juntos y tienen niños.

Adultos que necesitan los sacramentos de confirmación y primera comunión.

CATECISMO EN ESPANOL

Las Inscripciones son en agosto. Por favor para mas información llamar a Maria Mota.

CONFESIONES

De 1:00 pm a 1:45 pm Habrá confesiones en español para quien lo necesite, y pueda recibir este sacramento.

LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 3 DE MAYO

Domingo: Hch 2, 14. 36-41/Sal 23, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6 [1]/1 Pe 2, 20-25/Jn 10, 1-10

Lunes: Hch 11, 1-18/Sal 42, 2-3; 43, 3.4 [cfr. 3]/Jn 10, 11-18 Martes: Hch 11, 19-26/Sal 87, 1-3. 4-5. 6-7 [Sal 117, 1]/Jn 10, 22-30

Miércoles: Hch 12, 24—13, 5/Sal 67, 2-3. 5. 6 y 8 [4]/Jn 12, 44-50 Jueves: Hch 13, 13-25/Sal 89, 2-3. 21-22. 25 y 27 [2]/Jn 13, 16-20 Viernes: Hch 13, 26-33/Sal 2, 6-7. 8-9. 10-11 [7]/Jn 14, 1-6 Sábado: Hch 13, 44-52/Sal 98, 1. 2-3. 3-4 [3]/Jn 14, 7-14 Domingo siguiente: Hch 6, 1-7/Sal 33, 1-2. 4-5. 18-19 [22]/1 Pe 2, 4-9/Jn 14, 1-12

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor Social Concerns for Peace and Justice Committee

As promised, I'm giving you a ministry update this week.

Family Promise of Lawrence: Family Promise has been leading a coalition of community agencies that serve homeless families: Willow Domestic Violence Shelter, the Lawrence Homeless Shelter, and Family Promise. Thus, Family Promise's case loads of families have grown exponentially. Over the last several weeks, their staff and others have moved families into temporary housing that they have in many cases had donated. As part of this service, they are in need of supplies to provide basic household set-up supplies for families. "

We have facilitated the moving of many families into housing this past six weeks and at the same time we had to suspend our furniture ministry for physical / social distancing precautions. If you can help us with some basic housing needs, we'd be grateful. Right now we are focusing ONLY on essentials to provide for families starting back up into a home:

New blow up mattresses – twin and double/queen Blankets and sheet sets Bath towels Dish and drinking glasses sets Basic pots and pans Silverware sets

If you can help, you can have these shipped, or delivered to our Day Center:

Family Promise of Lawrence 905 Tennessee Street Lawrence, KS 66044 Thank you for your support of the mission: Getting and keeping families housed." Thank you for anything that you can do, singly or in groups of families, to help support this initiative! This is being featured alone in our update this month because of the critical need and because of the vulnerability of these families in our local community. Anything you can do to move them toward a more stable future will be deeply appreciated!

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

ivine Mercy Sunday's message contained the theme "Jesus I Trust in You." This is an important message as we all navigate the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is especially important to expectant mothers as they are bringing life into a world gripped by anxiety, and many have heightened fears due to being isolated from sources of support. Unfortunately, we know that Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry are using these fears to prey on vulnerable women, telling them the responsible thing to do is to abort their children instead of bringing them into the world at this time. Sadly, this message must be resonating as we have seen reports of increased abortions around the country. The Walking With Moms in Need initiative is incredibly important right now! Our Gabriel Project Ministry is

ready to help any woman in need. Please promote this ministry through your digital media and communications. Gabriel Project Ministry https://www.gabrielprojectkc.com/ 24/7 Free,

Confidential assistance: **913-602-0306.** Please also know that all of the pregnancy centers within the Archdiocese are still working to help women in need. Some are keeping their clinics open, limiting staff and hours and implementing CDC recommendations,



while others are answering calls and doing phone counseling. Many centers report that they are receiving increased calls. Please keep these pregnancy centers in your prayers and encourage your parishioners to continue their financial and material (diapers/formula) support. It is most needed at this time! Finally, with COVID-19, chemical abortions are also increasing. For women who regret their decision, it is important to know that it may be possible to reverse the effects and

save a pregnancy. Please help us share this important resource: Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline - <u>AbortionPillReversal.com</u> / **877-558-0333**.

Thank you for your continued prayers for all life.

Marriage License Update

Please see the linked <u>article</u> regarding obtaining marriage licenses in various Kansas jurisdictions: Check also



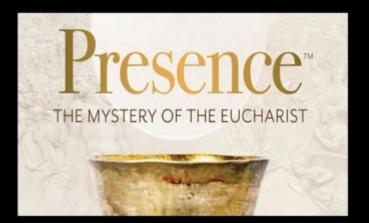
directly with your local jurisdiction. Rev. John Riley, Chancellor. Information can be found on the Kansas Judicial Branch web site: <u>http://www.kscourts.org</u>

UPDATE: ARCHDIOCESAN 50TH WEDDING Anniversary Celebration

Due to the current health emergency, the Annual 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Archbishop Naumann, that was scheduled for June 8 at Nativity Parish, has been **rescheduled to August 23 at Nativity Parish at 2:00 pm.** Please continue to send in the names of couples from your parish to receive an invitation to the Mass via fax, mail, or email. Email to: <u>flifesec@archkck.org</u>

FAITH FORMATION

Join us for Presence Online Study Dates: April 22, 29, and May 6 Time: 7-830pm Where: In your living room via Zoom *All content provided free from Formed.org



Please RSVP or for more details contact Samantha Romero at sromero@saint-johns.net or 785.843.0109

FORMED

Discover the impact 1–2 minutes can have on your faith life with FORMED Daily

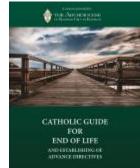
Improve your day with clips from the most dynamic and trusted figures in the Church today, sent right to your inbox!

Sign up at formed.org/daily



End-Of-Life Planning Resources

We are excited to share a new resource with you. The Ethics Council that serves Archbishop Naumann has produced a beautiful new booklet titled "Catholic Guide For-End-Of Life and Establishing Of Advance Directives". In order to make wise



decisions about complex treatments in grave illness or as life's end approaches, and to discern what kind of advance medical directives to prepare, it is important that Catholics be familiar with what our faith reveals about human life; about its meaning and its destiny. (Catholic Guide for End of Life, pg. 2)

This guide is a comprehensive resource for End of Life Planning in accordance with our Catholic Faith. It also includes two Appendices with a Durable Power of Attorney and an Advance Directive tear-out form.

A digital copy is available on the Pro-Life website at: <u>https://www.archkck.org/prolife-</u> end-of-life-care that can be downloaded for free or printed off for extra copies.





Take a virtual trip and visit East Coast Shrines in the United States, follow this link at Formed.org: https://watch.formed.org/ the-faithful-traveler-inthe-united-states-eastcoast-shrines

KIDS SHARING THE GOSPEL

SHARING THE GOSPEL

You are one of God's sheep. Jesus calls you by name. You recognize his voice. Close your eyes. Listen to the voices of your family and friends. You can tell who is talking by the sound of their voices. You choose to follow Jesus on his path. You love God above everything. You love your neighbor as yourself. You share your toys,

money and food with your family and the poor.

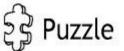
PRAYER

Jesus, help me hear the right voices, and not follow the wrona voices.

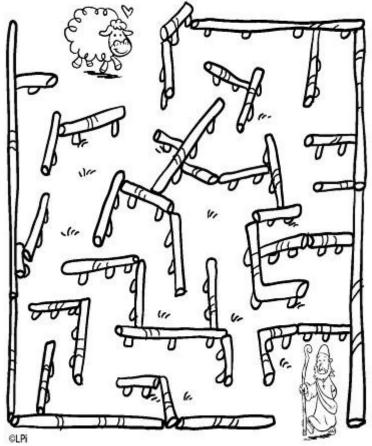
MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will listen and follow directions of my parents and teachers right away.





Help the sheep find the shepherd.



HE SUNDAY OF EASTER



Sunday: Monday: Tuesday: Wednesday: Thursday: Friday: Saturday:

DAILY READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10 Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18 Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30 Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50 Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20 Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6 Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14 Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

DAILY OBSERVANCES

4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations Cinco de Mayo Wednesday:

National Day of Prayer

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

FOCUS ON THE WORD

UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

ourth Sunday of Easter 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 that hold 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 of 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. ©LPi



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? ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP -Recognize god in your ordinary moments

ecognizing 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



