

ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Rev. David J. Farrell, Pastor



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Easter

MAY 3, 2020

THE ONE WHO KNOWS US BY NAME

Today's readings tell about the confusion and fear that followed Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. In Acts, the people ask, "What are we to do?" after they are reminded that they were part of the death of Jesus, who was Lord and Christ. In First Peter we are reminded of Jesus' innocence. He did nothing to deserve the suffering and death that he experienced for us. Both the psalm and First Peter introduce the image of Jesus as shepherd. John's Gospel talks about Jesus as shepherd but not in the usual way. We recognize this shepherd's voice because he calls each of us by name. The confusion and fear we too often feel is calmed by the voice of the One who knows us by name.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

The readings describe that time when confused and frightened followers of Jesus looked to the apostles to tell them what to do after the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The answer seems simple. They must believe that Jesus, whom they crucified, is both Lord and Christ, both God and human. They must acknowledge their complicity in his death and seek forgiveness. They must be baptized. In First Peter the standard for their behavior is Jesus' behavior. Jesus, though free from sin himself, bore our sins and returned no insult or threat. Peter introduces the image of the shepherd who is the guardian of us who have gone astray. The Gospel emphasizes not the shepherd's leadership but that we are called by name.

LISTEN FOR YOUR NAME

The emphasis in John's Gospel is not on the leadership of the shepherd. The focus is specifically on the voice of the shepherd. We listen for the shepherd who calls us by name. We are not called to follow passively. We are called to recognize our name when it is spoken. We are to listen so that we can hear the voice of the One who knows who we truly are—not the external, transient realities like "I am a doctor" or "I am a mother." Our real name known to our Creator is much more than the roles we fill or the work we do. If my name is who I truly am, then I must listen for the One who calls me "forgiven" and "merciful" and "beloved." For this is my true name. This is my true nature.

The shepherd calls his own sheep
by name and leads them.

John 10:3

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:1, 4a, 36-41

Psalm 23:1-6

1 Peter 2:20b-25

John 10:1-10

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TODAY'S READINGS:

First Reading Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: “Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, “What are we to do, my brothers?” 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. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.” He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23: 1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:20b–25

Beloved: 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, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. 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. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Jn 10:1–10

Jesus said: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But 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. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 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.”

IN NEED OF A SHEPHERD: For a while it was very fashionable to own pigs as pets. The publicity surrounding these creatures informed us that they were—contrary to their popular image—very clean animals, and also quite smart. Sad to say, sheep will most likely never enjoy this sort of domestic vogue. They are neither clean nor smart and are largely defenseless when left on their own, even in large numbers. The biblical image of us as the flock of sheep is not a particularly flattering one. Sheep without a shepherd are truly sad, because they most likely will perish either from their inability to fend for themselves or from their lack of defenses against predators. Placing ourselves in the heart of this unflattering image can reinforce our faith. Until we come to a profound realization of how much we need a shepherd, we cannot appreciate how deeply blessed we are to have been given a Shepherd, one who laid down his life for us and was raised to life eternal in the Spirit, so he might guide us and we might follow him in faith forever. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Tithing Contributions for the week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$5,450.00

MASS INTENTIONS for May 4-10, 2020 are as follows:

Monday: Presider's Intention

Tuesday: Bob Noe Haydon

Wednesday: NO MASS

Thursday: Helen Brady

Friday: Presider's Intention

Saturday: Mudd & Wheatly Families, Freddie White

Sunday: For the Parish, Eric Riley, Presider's Intention

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50

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

Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, Healthcare Workers, Victims of Abuse, U.S. Military, Unborn & Elderly, Addictions, Joseph E. Kurtz, Jane Rudd Volz, Brenda Mackin, Roberta Williams, Jared Mudd, Jerry Craig, Ann Cieslik, Larry Smith, Margaret Faye Martin, Charlotte Disponett, Carolyn Greene, Marian & Wade Elliott, Sue Carter, Michael & Jennifer Jarboe, Debbie Hamilton, Buddy & Charlotte Smith, Wheatley Hamilton, Frank Peters, Lisa Hill (of Loretto), John Arnold, Corbin Noel, Geraldine Spalding, Dorothy Mattingly, Colin Walker, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic.

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

Live-Streaming/Recording of Masses: Mass will be live streamed on Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m. on our St. Dominic Church Facebook page. This will continue each Saturday until we are able to gather again in person. It will then be uploaded to our parish app (myParish App) and YouTube channel and can be viewed any time after 8:00 a.m. Sunday. On the parish app click on the "video mass" button. On YouTube.com search for St. Dominic Springfield, KY.

Rescheduled Dates: First Communion, Sun., June 14, 2020, 10:30 a.m. & Confirmation, Sat., August 8, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

Business Ads: St. Dominic Church is looking at the possibility of publishing a bulletin through Diocesan, which would be free to the parish if we can secure enough sponsorship ads from businesses. So, our local business community would play an important role in the bulletin process. Sponsorship (ads, cost, etc.) would be handled by Diocesan, not by the parish office. Should we look further into the process & you find yourself possibly interested in running a BUSINESS ad on the backside of the bulletin, please email me the name of your business, contact person & phone number. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Sonya at the Parish Office at stdom@bellsouth.net / 859-336-3569.

Wanting the church bulletin always at your fingertips? St. Dominic Church has gone mobile for iPhone & Android users with myParish App! Get the parish bulletin, latest messages, prayers, daily readings, etc., all by just uploading a simple app. Go to the app store in your phone & search for myParish (it's a blue app with a cross) or you can text App to 88202 to download the app. Once the app has been downloaded search for St. Dominic Catholic Church by zip code (40069). Make sure you "favorite" us & "allow" notifications.

Annual Fund Appeal: Many thanks to everyone who has given to this year's Annual Fund! As April 28, we have received \$31,345 in donations. If you would like to make a donation, you may mail it to St. Dominic School, 312 W. High St., Springfield.

COUNTING SHEEP: When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep. —Anonymous