

SAINT ANNE PARISH

20 Boston Road Southborough, MA 01772

ST. ANNE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St. Anne Parish, Southborough, in the Diocese of Worcester are called through Baptism to become one faith family. We commit ourselves to embody the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament; by using our ministries to welcome all who are seeking Jesus and to share in the life and work of our Catholic faith. In the spirit and truth of the Holy Trinity, we will use our time, talents and treasure to answer God's command to love one another as He has loved us, in holy worship, prayer, Catechetical formation for all, evangelization and service to others.

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A April 30, 2023

Lord's Day Mass Schedule:

Saturday ~ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday ~ 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.

Daily Mass Schedule:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.
First Fridays: 9:00 a.m.

Healing Mass:

First Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Confessions:

Saturday ~ 4:15 p.m.,
between Sunday morning
Masses, weekdays at 9:30
a.m., First Wednesday of each
month ~ 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.,
or anytime on request

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m. to
6:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the Parish Office to
schedule a Baptism.
Baptisms are celebrated
during a scheduled Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage

Arrangements with a priest
required at least one year
prior to the wedding date.

Visitation of the Sick

Fr. Albert is pleased to bring
Holy Communion to
parishioners who are unable
to join us for weekly worship.
Call the Parish Office to
arrange a time.

*"And Peter said to them,
'Repent, and be baptized,
every one of you, in the
name of Jesus
Christ...'"*

(Acts 2:38)

The word "repent" means
to turn from sin - to
change our thoughts,
words and actions.

Change that is permanent
comes from within - a
transformation or
conversion of heart.

This requires prayer,
discipline and
perseverance.

Change is hard.

The first step is
recognizing that we are
broken and that we need
God's help.

The good news - we are
not alone in our journey.

Ask Jesus daily for
guidance and patiently
listen for his response.

Office Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday ~ 9:30 a.m. to noon
Telephone 508-485-0141
Fax 508-460-0181

E-mail: stanne403@stannesouthborough.org

Web: www.stannesouthborough.org

Pastor: Fr. Albert Irudayasamy
fralbert@stannesouthborough.org

Parish Council: Nancy Denardo ~ Chair

Finance Committee: Rich Flathers ~ Chair

Director of Religious Education: Rachelle Carmony
rachelle@stannesouthborough.org

• Office hours available, by appointment

Parish Office Manager: George Stagno
stanne403@stannesouthborough.org

Bookkeeper: Nancy Denardo
nancy@stannesouthborough.org

Music Ministry

Choir Director: Paul Crivello 508-366-0821
pcrivello04@gmail.com

- Saturday 5:00: John Arnold
- Sunday 8:30 and 10:30: Paul Crivello
- Sunday 5:30: Kathy & Matt Bernier

Maintenance: Matt Bernier
mbern@stannesouthborough.org

Webmaster: Amy Buttiglieri
webmaster@stannesouthborough.org

PARISH
CONTACT
INFORMATION

*Would you like to receive a copy of the
bulletin via email every week?*

*Please send an email to:
stanne403@stannesouthborough.org with
"St. Anne Bulletin List" in the subject line.*



We welcome all visitors to
St. Anne Parish.
If you would like to join our
faith community, please call
the Parish Office to register: 508-485-0141

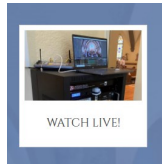
PARISH MASS INFORMATION AND MINISTRIES

St. Anne Parish Livestreamed Daily and Weekend Masses

Livestreamed St. Anne Masses

**ALL St. Anne Mass offerings will now be livestreamed:
5:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, and 9:00 a.m. daily Masses through website!**

- Go to parish webpage:
www.stannesouthborough.org.
- Scroll down and click on "Watch Live!" box.
- Scroll down to "eCatholic Live" box.
- Click on the arrow in the middle of the logo at 5:00 p.m. for Saturday evening Mass, 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. for Sunday Mass, and 9:00 a.m. for daily Masses Monday through Thursday and first Fridays.



SC LIVE

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

with MASS INTENTIONS (April 29 through May 7)

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| SATURDAY 29 | 5:00 pm | For George Stagno (<i>Healing</i>) |
| SUNDAY 30 | 8:30 am | For Julie Deciero (<i>35th Anniversary</i>) by her grandparents Pat and Nick Paganella |
| | 10:30 am | For First Holy Communion children |
| | 5:30 pm | For parishioners of St. Anne |
| MONDAY 1 | 9:00 am | For Ranjitha Mary (<i>2nd Anniversary</i>) by Father Albert |
| TUESDAY 2 | 9:00 am | For Mark S. Tootalian (<i>4th Anniversary</i>) by sister Deb Tootalian Sanford |
| WEDNESDAY 3 | 9:00 am | In honor of St. Joseph by Garden family |
| | 7:00 pm | Healing Mass |
| THURSDAY 4 | 9:00 am | Thanksgiving Mass by Fr. Albert |
| FRIDAY 5 | 9:00 am | For the success of the St. Anne project |
| SATURDAY 6 | 5:00 pm | For Sarkes Tootalian (<i>17th Anniversary</i>) by daughter Deb Tootalian Sanford |
| SUNDAY 7 | 8:30 am | For First Holy Communion children |
| | 10:30 am | For Paul Brodeur by family |
| | 5:30 pm | For parishioners of St. Anne |

Gertrude B. "Deb" Wallace

(Mother of Holly Spicer)

May her soul rest in peace.

We also pray for her family as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

The funeral Mass was on Saturday, April 15 at St. Bernard Parish, West Newton.



Liturgical Minister Schedule

To be trained, please call the Parish Office

April 29 & 30 - Fourth Sunday of Easter, A

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Sat 5:00 pm | Lector | Laura Schroeder |
| | Communion Minister | MaryBeth P-H Debbie Simon (cup) Laura Schroeder (cup) |
| Sun 8:30 am | Lector | Ellen Kluge |
| | Communion Minister | Fran Schiebe Elaine Yetman (cup) Nancy Denardo (cup) |
| Sun 10:30 am | Lector | Janice Brown |
| | Communion Minister | Steve Buttiglieri Nancy Denardo (cup) TBD (cup) |
| Sun 5:30 am | Lector | RE Students |
| | Communion Minister | RE Students Beth McGonagle (cup) |
| | Collection Counting | Raymond/Draper/ Garden/Flathers |

May 6 & 7 - Fifth Sunday of Easter, A

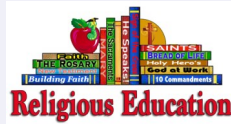
| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Sat 5:00 pm | Lector | Deborah Sanford |
| | Communion Minister | Debbie Simon Laura Schroeder (cup) MaryBeth P-H (cup) |
| Sun 8:30 am | Lector | Elaine Yetman |
| | Communion Minister | Nancy Denardo Doris Campero (cup) Elaine Yetman (cup) |
| Sun 10:30 am | Lector | Jim Garden |
| | Communion Minister | Joe Cruciani (cup) (cup) |
| Sun 5:30 am | Lector | RE Students |
| | Communion Minister | Beth McGonagle MaryBeth P-H (cup) |
| | Collection Counting | Raymond/Draper/ Garden/Flathers |

April 22 & 23, 2023

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Saturday - 7:30 p.m. | 35 | Mass Attendance |
| Sunday - 8:30 a.m. | 54 | |
| Sunday - 10:30 a.m. | 57 | |
| Sunday - 5:30 p.m. | 39 | |
| Saturday - 7:30 p.m. Streamed | 8 | |
| Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Streamed | 7 | |
| Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Streamed | 10 | |
| Sunday - 5:30 p.m. Streamed | 4 | |

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP

St. Anne Parish Pre-K through Grade 10+ Religious Education Classes



April/May RE Classes

Pre-K - 1, Grade 3 through Grade 5

Sunday, April 30, May 7 & May 21 in the Parish Hall
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Grade 2+ (FC Prep)

- Rehearsals: Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 27, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- FC Masses: Saturday, April 29, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 30, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- Going Forth Class: Sunday, May 7, 9:30 a.m.
- Going Forth Mass: Sunday, May 7, 10:30 a.m. Mass
- RE Wrap-up led by DRE: Sunday, May 21, 9:30 a.m.

Grades 6 through Confirmation (Grades 9-10)

Sunday, April 30, May 7 & May 21 in the Parish Hall
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

2023 St. Anne Parish High School Graduate Award

The deadline for submitting an application to the St. Anne High School Graduate Scholarship is this **Sunday, April 30**.

St. Anne Parish will be awarding two scholarships for \$750 each. Parishioners who will be graduating high school or an equivalent program in Spring 2023 are eligible to apply.

The 2023 St Anne Parish Scholarship Application Form is now available in the church foyers, in the digital bulletin, or on our Parish website (click [here](#)).



Completed forms must be returned via mail
(20 Boston Road, Southborough, MA
01772) or email
(stanne403@stannesouthborough.org).



Prayers for First Communion Children

24 St. Anne children will be receiving First Holy Communion on **April 29** and **April 30**.

Please pray for them and their families.

Raffle Ticket Sales to Support the 2023 St. Anne Parish High School Graduate Scholarship

St. Anne Parish will be selling raffle tickets to support our new annual scholarship program.

Tickets will be sold after all regular Masses the weekend of **April 29/30** and the following weekend **May 6/7**.

Tickets are \$20 each and only a limited number are available.

Five \$100 prizes will be awarded along with two \$750 scholarships. Cash or a check made out to "St. Anne Parish" is acceptable.

Please buy a ticket and support our graduating high school seniors and this important program!



Going Forth Mass & Parish Coffee Hour

On Sunday, May 7 there will be a Going Forth Mass at 10:30 a.m. Children who received First Communion this weekend will be invited to process into the Mass.

There will be a parish-wide coffee hour to follow.

Capital Campaign Update

Phase One



| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Goal: | \$2,000,000.00 |
| Total Pledges to Date: | \$2,045,601.95 |
| Payments Received to Date: | \$ 994,686.81 |
| Number of Families Pledging: | 162 families (35%) |

Thank you again for your ongoing support!

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORTS FOR Through April 23, 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Regular Weekly Offering: | \$8,468.00 |
| Capital Improvement: | \$ 105.00 |
| Fuel & Maintenance: | \$ 50.00 |
| Easter Offering: | \$ 50.00 |
| Priest Retirement: | \$ 50.00 |
| Blue Pay: Regular thru 4/23: | \$1,045.00 |
| WeShare: Regular thru 4/23: | \$ 210.26 |

Online Giving: WeShare allows both onetime gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website www.stannesouthborough.org for the link to WeShare.com or call 1-800-950-9952 and use option 1 to answer any questions.

St. Anne's Website: We have an **additional resource for online giving and online CE registration.** **St. Anne Parish partners with eCatholic and BluePay for easy on-line giving.** Our one-step on-line form allows both one-time gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website www.stannesouthborough.org and select the Quick Link to the BluePay On-Line Giving page.

Thank you for your generous support!



Partners in Charity Appeal 2023-2024

2023-24 Parish Goal: \$76,000.00

Amount Raised As of 4/21/23: \$53,650.00

(70.59% of amount goal - 48 donors)

Can we reach the goal of 100 donors?

No gift too big or too small...



Collection Counting Ministry

Collection Counting follows the
10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.

If interested in participating in this ministry, please contact the Parish Office at 508-485-0141.

Preventing Child Abuse is Everyone's Responsibility

It is every adult's moral responsibility to protect possible victims (any age) by reporting suspected abuse or neglect to the responsible authorities. For help you may call: The Office for Healing and Prevention, Diocese of Worcester, at 508-929-4363. The Diocese of Worcester requires Safe Environment training for all staff and volunteers.

PARISH RELIGIOUS NEWS AND EVENTS

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CL) will be offered at the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Masses.



At the beginning of Mass, children (and parents, too!) are called forward and invited to process from the church to the Parish Hall to listen and discuss the Gospel with CL leader Charlotte Zakarian.

Younger children (Pre-K and younger) are invited to participate with a parent/older sibling.

United Parishes of Southborough Food Pantry

c/o Pilgrim Church
P.O. Box 281, 15 Common Street
Southborough, MA 01772

southboroughfoodpantry@gmail.com

508-485-4847



Food Items

- Coffee (regular - unflavored)
- White tuna
- Mayonnaise
- Canned chicken
- Chunky peanut butter
- Flavored oatmeal packets

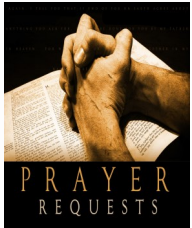
- Capri Sun juice pouches
- Brownie mix

Health and Household Items

- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent (especially skin sensitive)

A big THANK YOU for all Food Pantry donations.

As most food items are date sensitive, please be sure that your donation is not out of date. Donations may be left in the foyer of the parish hall. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the Food Pantry, please encourage them to come. Pantry hours (located at Pilgrim Church) are Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00-10:00 a.m.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sr. Yvette, Fr. Thirburs F. Millot, Bob Seariac, Thomas Chemmanur, Janet Mattioli, Tim and Diane Higgins, Dave Lemoine, Laval "Val" Provencher; Father Conrad Pecevich, Michael Philbin-Pelland, Jamie Farley, Jim Garden, Brookie Sullivan, Beth Stephens, Susane Crioppa, Peter Bradstreet, Rob Germeroth, Michael, George Stagno, Steve Buttiglieri, Kevin Sanford, Cecilia Lynch, Catherine, Joy, Walter McClain, Mabel, Ellie

To have a name placed on or removed from the prayer list, contact the Parish Office.

Altar Servers Need

Both students (Grade 4 and higher) and adults are welcome to serve.

If you are interested in being an altar server, please call the Parish Office.

Training is provided and scheduling of service is determined by server based on their availability.



Electronic Recycling Day

Please bring your small/large electronics and bicycles to the St. Anne parking lot on **Saturday, May 27** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for recycling/reuse.

\$5 Fee items: computer towers, scanners, VCRs, printers, copiers, DVD, stereo equipment, lighting, vacuums, speakers, modems, fans, video equipment, etc.

\$10 Fee Items: lawn mowers, exercise equipment, small microwave, empty propane tanks, weight sets

\$20 Fee items: dishwasher, dryer, stove, large microwave, AC, dehumidifiers, dorm fridges, grills, lawn mower, TV, flat panel monitors

\$40 fee Items: large refrigerators, large projection TVs, snow blower

No Charge Items: keyboards, car batteries, golf equipment, cables, wires, cell phones, bicycles (all types)



Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Prayer Shawl meets Mondays from 10:00 to noon to knit/crochet/weave for anyone who is ill or suffering who might welcome a blessed prayer shawl.

Do you or someone you know need a prayer shawl? Stop by the Parish Office during office hours to select a shawl. Free will donations collected for shawls are sent to our sister parish in Haiti to aid their rebuilding.



The Rosary portion of the Prayer Shawl meetings is live streamed via the parish website starting at 10:30 a.m. Password: shawls

Rosary Breakfast

The May Rosary Breakfast being held at Parish Hall on **Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Registration donation is \$25.00. Please call or email Marge Oliveri @ The Angel Connection 508-320-3498 or Email Faithful1111@aol.com to register.



Building Committee Reminder

Please take caution while traveling on Walker Street and the church's campus while water service upgrade and underground electrical facilities prep work is being completed.



PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS

2023-24 Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team Sign-ups

The application period for the 2023-2024 Diocesan Youth Discipleship Team is now OPEN!

This program is open to all 9-12th grade youth (as of August 2023). If you are a high schooler or know of one in your parish or school who is interested in diving deeper into the Catholic Faith, looking to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ, and interested in Christian leadership and evangelization opportunities, then this is the perfect opportunity for you!

Complete details as well as the online application can be found at www.neworchester.org/diocesan-youth-discipleship-team

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

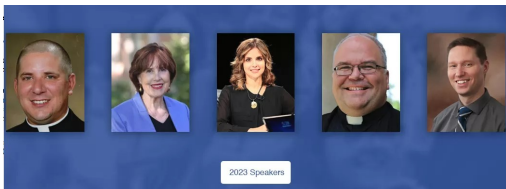
Worcester Catholic Women's Conference

The next Women's Conference will be on **Saturday, October 7, 2023.**

All women are invited to the Worcester Catholic Women's Conference, "Male & Female He Created Them", to be held at St. Joseph School in Webster.

Hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders, Dr. Deborah Savage, Dr. Christopher Klofft, Fr. Derek Mobilio, Fr. Colin Blatchford, and Patricia Sandoval. Diocesan priests will hear confessions and there will be many interesting exhibitors. Bishop McManus will celebrate Mass.

For more information and to register, visit our website at www.wcwconference.com or call Corinn Dahm at 508-277-3969. Seating is limited, register early!



Learn about Becoming a Deacon

The Office of the Diaconate is accepting applications from married and single men between the ages of 31 and 60 for this fall's beginning formation process.

Applications will be accepted through May 1, with classes to begin in September. Inquiry sessions will be held on request with those who are interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate.

To schedule a session, email your request to diaconate@worcesterdiocese.org, or submit an inquiry form at worcesterdiocese.org/diaconate-inquiry.

More information is available at worcesterdiocese.org/diaconate-information.



Pope Francis Prayer Intentions

April 2023

For a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

Volunteers Needed—Birthright of Hudson-Marlboro

Volunteer Opportunity! Birthright of Hudson Marlborough, serving pregnant women and babies in our community for almost 50 years, needs volunteer friendship councilors.

We especially need volunteers who speak Spanish and/or Portuguese in addition to English, to meet with our many non-English speaking mothers. The commitment is 2-4 hours per month and training is provided.



Please join us in this mission of love. Contact Birthright: 508-481-2055, or birthrightofhm@gmail.com

Vianney Dinner

The final Vianney dinner before summer break is **Thursday, May 4** at the Holy Name of Jesus House of Studies at 51 Illinois Street, Worcester.

The evening includes 6:05 p.m. Mass, 6:30 p.m. dinner, and 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. social.

These are nights for men, high school aged and up, interested in learning more about a priestly vocation.

Don't want to come alone? Bring a friend! You are welcome to come to all or part of the evening as your schedule allows.



An RSVP is not needed but it is helpful in getting an accurate count for food.

Email: director@worcestervocations.com.

St. Thomas More Law School Scholarship

Each year the St. Thomas More Society of our Diocese awards a scholarship of varying amounts, usually around \$3,000, to a law student attending an accredited law school in the fall.

Applicants or parents must be registered and active members of a parish in the Diocese of Worcester.

Applicants may be in any year of law school studies.

Applications may be obtained by visiting the diocesan website, www.worcesterdiocese.org/st-thomas-more-society, by mailing requests to: St. Thomas More Society, Chancery Office, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609 or by calling Joan DeMasi at 508-929-4345. **Applications are due on or before June 15, 2023.**



Should anyone wish to contribute to the scholarship fund, donations will be greatly appreciated.

**Application Form for the
ST. ANNE PARISH OF SOUTHBOROUGH, MA
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE AWARD 2023**

Awarded to high school seniors (or equivalent) who are members of St. Anne Parish graduating Spring of 2023. Please include this form with your submission.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Two scholarships awarded each worth: \$750

*Choose and answer at least one of the following questions in a **one page double spaced** response. Please note which question(s) you chose at the top of your essay.*

1. How has your involvement with the Catholic Church changed the lives of yourself and others?
2. Who in your life inspires you to put your Catholic faith into practice and what examples can you provide?
3. How do you plan to serve God and the Catholic Church beyond school?

In addition to the application form and essay, please also submit the following:

- **REQUIRED:** One letter of recommendation from an adult regarding the applicant's character.
- **OPTIONAL:** Provide a summary of any volunteer activities you are or have been involved with, especially Church related activities.

To receive this award the applicant must:

1. Be a registered member of St. Anne Parish in Southborough, MA.
2. Plan to graduate high school or equivalent program in the Spring of 2023.
3. Submit completed application by the deadline below.

*Completed application must be received by **Sunday, April 30th 2023.***

Please mail to: St. Anne Parish Scholarship Committee
20 Boston Rd. Southborough, MA 01772

Or email a scanned copy to: stanne403@stannesouthborough.org

READINGS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

READING I Acts 2:14a, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 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.

READING II 1 Peter 2: 20b-25

A reading from the First Letter of St. Peter

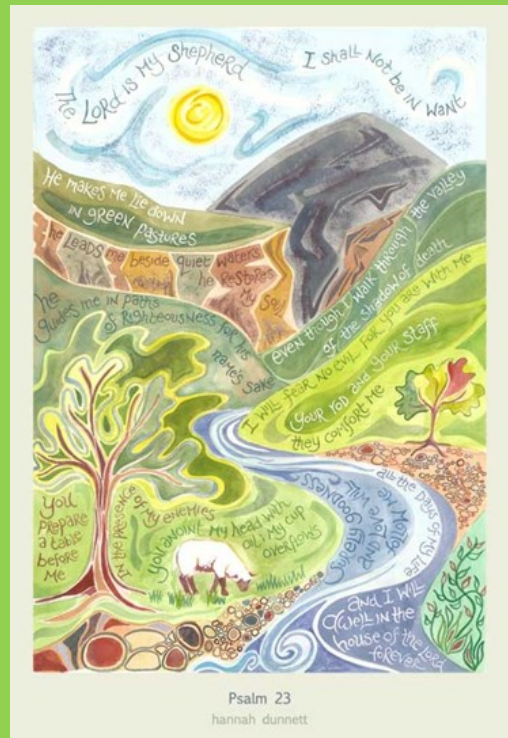
Beloved:

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.

The Word of the Lord.



John 10:14

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



GOSPEL John 10:1-10

A reading from the Gospel according to John

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Abundant Life

Fourth Sunday of Easter, A
April 30, 2023

Reading I: Acts 2:14, 36-41

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm

Reading II: 1 Peter 2:20-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Today's reading emphasizes that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the gate for the sheep. For Jesus' listeners—farmers, ranchers, and others steeped in an agricultural lifestyle—the metaphor was comforting. To us in the 21st century, many of whom have had little, if any, experience with sheep, the metaphor is probably less powerful.

The last line becomes especially important, then. "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." Whether or not we can imagine ourselves as sheep following Jesus, we can focus on his statement that he wants us to enjoy abundant life.

What does it mean to have abundant life? It doesn't mean that God wants us to have an abundance of "things," which can't bring fulfillment by themselves. Abundant life as Jesus preached about it means a life of joy, fulfillment, love, and freedom from want. Jesus wants us to have life in its fullness, here and now, not just after we die.

Unfortunately, some of us were raised to believe that a life of discipleship dooms us to a life of deprivation, boredom, and no fun. We might think, consciously or not, that we deserve punishment or that we must work to earn God's love. Or we might assume that we just have to accept this life of drudgery to get to heaven (abundance) in the next life. Yet so many of Jesus' teachings and his behavior pointed to the fact that he wants us to have the fullness of life now, not only in the future. He wanted to see people cured of their illnesses, freed from the injustices that kept the poor and the outcasts excluded from the community. He wanted people to celebrate rather than mourn.

If we listen for Jesus' voice, we can distinguish it from the voice of others in our world because Jesus' voice will lead to a more abundant life for us. If some voice (of a family member, peer, advertising, etc.) leaves us feeling insecure, inadequate, fearful, or anxious, that is not the voice of our shepherd. Jesus' voice always leads to a more profound peace, joy, comfort, and strength.

Questions of the Week

1. Share about a time when you have followed an invitation that you felt was from Jesus. How did you know the "voice" was from God?
2. Describe a time when you went astray by following another shepherd who didn't care for you as a good shepherd cares for his sheep. How did you realize you went astray? How did you find your way back to God's path for you?



What else did Jesus say?

Write the word that is opposite the one given.
Then move letters to the numbered lines of the story at the bottom.

Light 2 1 6 Frown 18 3 10 —
Day 14 — 5 Down — 11 —
Hard S — 7 15 Hello — 12 — 4 19
Take — — — Go — 13 — 17
High — 8 — — — — — —
16 — 9 — — — — — —



“ 9 5 12 17 8 17 6 17 14 15 17 6 18
15 5 6 12 11 20 5 3 17 9 10 16 16 4 17
18 1 8 17 2 10 5 1 8 17 13 12 3 17
15 5 1 15 15 5 17 19 3 1 19 5 1 8 17
16 10 7 17 1 14 2 5 1 8 17 10 15

”
10 14 7 11 16 16
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Ages 7+

April 30, 2023 • John 10:1-10

The Shepherd and His Flock

What did Jesus say to the Pharisees?

1 thief

Match the number with the word given.

4 robber

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|----------|
| 10 is | 15 way | 7 and | 17 other | 24 some | 9 the | 13 enter |
| 18 man | 5 I | 29 sheep | 21 the | 3 but | 8 the | 19 not |
| 11 you | 25 a | 23 by | 27 climbs | 22 a | 14 pen | 30 truth |
| 12 by | 2 the | 28 in | 6 does | 16 tell | 26 gate | 20 who |

“ 5 16 11 2 30 9
18 20 6 19 13 21
29 14 12 8 26 3
27 28 23 24 17
15 10 22 1 7 25 4
”

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Jesus continued His story.

Fill in the missing vowels in order. Then read the story.
e a o e e e a i e e e o i e e e e a a o e e e a e
o i a e e i e o i o i e a i o e e e a a e a e o u

“Th_ m_n wh_ _nt_rs by

th_ g_t _s th_ sh_ph_rd

_f h_s sh__p. Th_

w_tchm_n _p_ns th_ g_t _

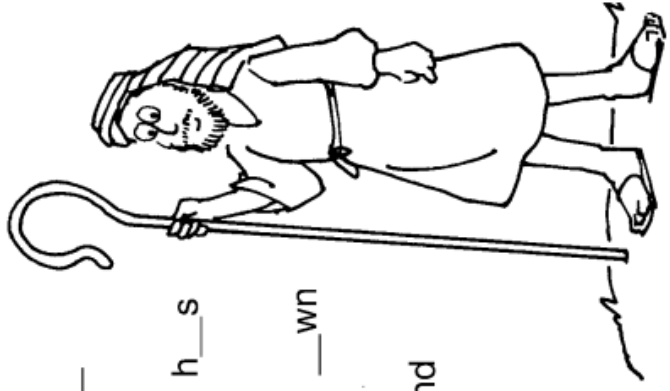
f_r h_m, _nd th_

sh__p l_st_n t_ h_s

v__ce. H_ c_lls h_s _wn

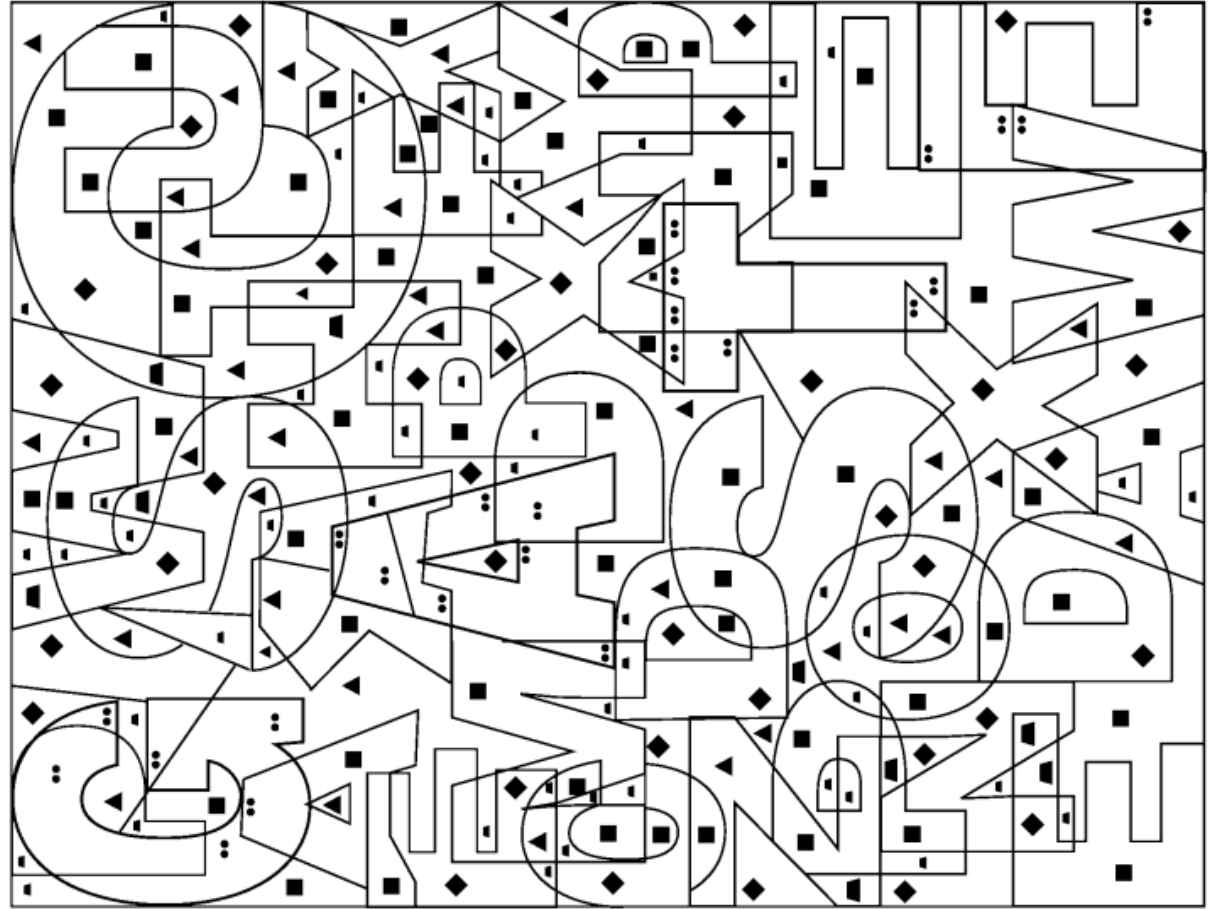
sh__p by n_m__nd

l__ds th_m __t.”



What did Jesus say next?

Fill in all the shapes with a ..
Then fill in the missing word in the sentence below.





“I tell you the truth, I am the _____ for the sheep.”



Find out something about Jesus.
Use the code to fill in the missing vowels.

 = a  = e  = i  = o  = u



J _ _ s _ _ s

_ _ s th _ _

g _ _ _ d




sh _ _ ph _ _ rd.

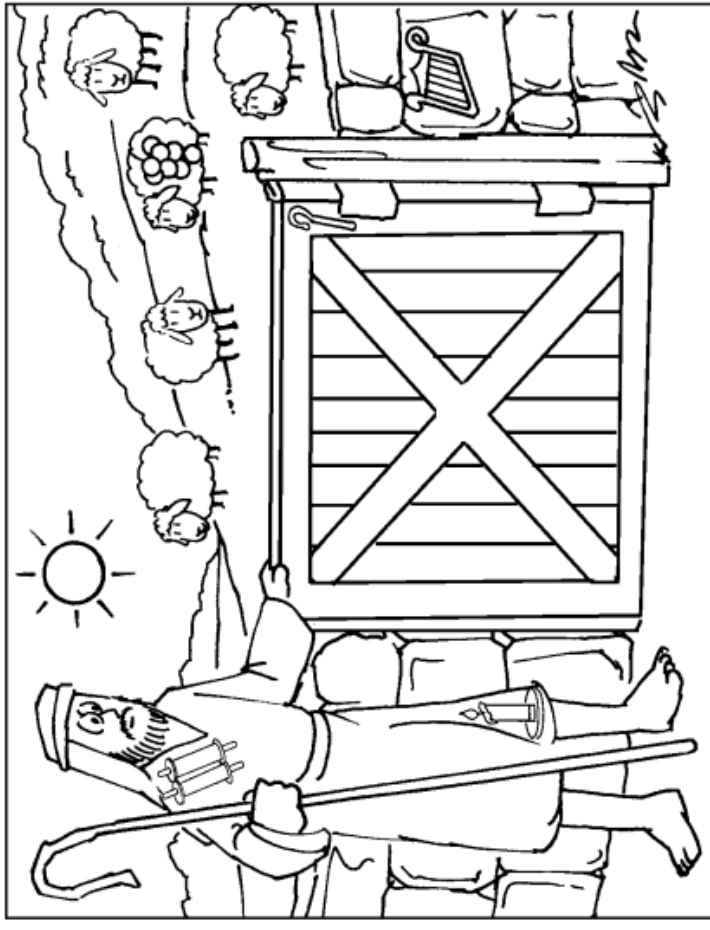
 

The Shepherd and His Flock

Jesus said, "The shepherd enters the sheep pen by the gate."

Find the hidden objects in the picture below.



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2.

The sheep will
listen to the shepherd's voice.

In each row circle the sheep that match.



3.

The shepherd calls each sheep by name.

Count the sheep. Trace the numbers.

