

Dear Sacred Heart Parishioners,

I think it is sometimes difficult to picture Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leading His flock when the members of His flock are all appropriately spaced and comfortably seated in our Sunday pews. How would it feel if we were all up and moving following the Lord wherever He was leading us? What would we notice? Who would we see? We would probably be in the company of our family, our friends, but look! Just ahead – a small group of people with smiles on their faces. They were Catechumens and Candidates not that long ago, now they journey with us as full members. We would notice young parents carrying their babies making their way to the waters of Baptism. We would rejoice to see around us the young men and women, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the newly confirmed, walking courageously, filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Over there are a group of joyful parents holding the hands of their beautifully dressed children on their way to their First Holy Communion. Here and there, a tear-filled person stepping forward with humility having just confessed sorrow for their sins and now knowing peace, healing and forgiveness. Some following the Lord, learning from His example of service how to minister to His flock, others learning the miracle of two becoming one in holy Matrimony. The sick and the suffering being assisted in their need by compassionate companions. Loved ones being borne away to perpetual light and everlasting peace.

What a blessing it is to be here at Sacred Heart with Jesus as our cornerstone and to be on the way to the verdant pastures of the heavenly kingdom following our Good Shepherd. Does anyone feel lost, alone or abandoned? Is there another Shepherd we would rather follow? Another “Way” we would rather take? Amazingly, He finds a way to draw near to each one of us – caring for us, comforting us, protecting us.

“The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness fails me never;  
I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine forever.  
And so through all the length of days Your goodness fails me never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise Within your house forever.”

So grateful to be a member of this flock,

*Father John*