

**PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:**  
**April 30 – May 1, 2022**

**Some facts about the Centennial Celebration (1923-2023):** “*On the opposite pier a beautiful statue of Joan of Arc with mosaic effects in colors balances the pulpit on the opposite side.*” **NOTE:** This entry was made after the old pulpit was transferred from the pier column located across the large crucifix which was its original location. “*Confessionals in quarter sawed oak in harmony with the pulpit are located next to the Transepts and in the front part of the Church. New pews have also been provided in harmony with the remainder of the work. Throughout the entire structure the symbolism contained in the ornamentation add much to the interest. The entire interior has been studied, planned, decorated and executed under the direct supervision of Emile Weil, Inc., and Albert Bendersnagel, Associate Architects, New Orleans, Louisiana.*” (page 21, Memoirs of St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1931)

This 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, we will hear again the familiar story of Jesus appearing to the Apostles on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias. After being locked up in a house after the death and burial of Jesus, Peter and the others were getting antsy and so when Peter decided to go fishing, the rest of them wanted to go as well.

After spending some time fishing, the apostles caught nothing. No surprise there since they were probably not really “fishing” but, rather, trying to get out of that house and away from everyone! The apostles were still overwhelmed by what happened to them on Good Friday that their minds and hearts were somewhere else. It is in their restlessness that Jesus appeared to them, engaged them in a conversation, instructed them what to do, revealed Himself, and then shared a meal with them.

After they had eaten, Jesus asked Peter the question that he never expected: “Do you love me?” Jesus asked him not once but three times. Can you imagine what must be going on in Peter’s mind? He was probably saying to himself, “Uh-oh, it’s payback time!” Remember, Peter denied Jesus three times, then ran away and hid himself during Jesus’ arrest, trial and crucifixion. However, when we look at the conversation that Jesus was having with Peter, it was not about “payback” but “pay forward” that Jesus was after.

Because He loves us, Jesus made the sacrifice in order to pay for our sins and give us all a chance to be part of His Kingdom. He knew that no one else could do what He did once and for all; we can’t love God more than

He loves us. As a way of expressing our love for God, Jesus wants Peter and all of us to “pay it forward” by “feeding His lambs, tending and feeding His sheep.”

“Paying it forward” is what Peter did after the Ascension of Jesus. We got a glimpse of this in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading (Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41) where Peter and the other apostles were accosted by the members of the Sanhedrin for teaching in the **name** of Jesus. The apostles followed the instructions of Jesus to “feed His lambs, tend and feed His sheep,” even in the face of persecution and death. “So they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the **name**.” *Lagniappe: all the apostles suffered martyrdom except for one who was blessed to live a long life and died of old age. Can you guess who?*

Just like the apostles, WE ALL LOVE GOD and we want to follow Jesus. We have ideas and plans on how we would and could express our love of God. Though our ideas and plans are noble and good, Jesus wants us to express our love of Him by “feeding His lambs, tending and feeding His sheep” just like He did. And how did Jesus feed, tended His lambs and flocks and sheep? Go back to the Scriptures and read from the beginning until the end.

This Easter season and all the seasons of our lives we have opportunities to express our love of God. In doing so, let’s keep in mind that we MUST express our love the way God did and not the ways we think we should. Keep in mind that Jesus already forewarned His disciples: “even pagans and sinners can do that!” In expressing our love of God and neighbor, we must do it the way God did – with generosity, unconditionally, spontaneously, repeatedly, wholeheartedly, unceasingly, without question and expectation, so that at the end of our lives you and I “may be found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the **name** [of God]!” Remember what Jesus said to Peter and the Apostles, IT IS HIS SHEEP, HIS FLOCK, HIS LAMBS that we are asked to tend, sheep and feed – not ours but God’s own.

*Father Vic+*

**April 16th / 17th 2022**

**Weekly Offering**



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Easter Quota	\$ 17,075.00
Collection	6,854.50
Monthly ACH	4,057.00
Weekly ACH	355.00
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	\$ 28,321.50

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Please remember  
**Joan Galloway**

Who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that her family may find comfort and consolation through their faith.

**PRAYER INTENTION BOOK**

We have a Petition Book for your prayers and intentions.

The Petition Book can be found in the vestibule (front entrance) of the church and it will be offered during the celebration of Mass. In addition to being part of the Eucharistic Celebration, some of our prayer warriors will be praying for all petitions and intentions written in our Petition Book. Let us continue to keep and lift up each other in prayer.



**First Friday Adoration**

Friday, May 6th  
7AM till 5PM

Please sign in when you arrive.  
*Jesus is waiting for you!*

**YOUTH FORMATION**

We are in need for volunteers for all grade levels for the 2022 –2023 school year. Please contact Sue or Patty 985-446-1387 ext. 217

**ROSARY**

Mondays & Thursdays  
9:30 AM



**Flame of Love Rosary**

Wednesdays 8:30 AM—10 AM

**CHANGING CONTACT INFO / MOVING ??**

If you are moving or changing your phone number, please let the parish office know. You can do this by mailing a note, phoning, emailing or dropping a note in the collection basket. If you are going to a nursing home or assisted living center, call so we can keep our records updated . We depend on our parishioners to help keep our records current.

Thank you for your help.

Life Center 985-446-1387  
E-mail [stjosephcc@htdiocese.org](mailto:stjosephcc@htdiocese.org)



***Nathan Hoffmann & Shelby Theriot (3)***  
***Patrick Huettemann & Nina Kalpakis (3)***  
***James Vigerie & Lauren Bergeron (2)***  
***Gregory Fabre & Meghann Holland (1)***  
***Stefano Guarisco & Sydney Rutter (1)***