

From the Pastor's desk
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 8, 2022



In his book "Everyday Life of the Mayas," Ralph Whitlock tells us of the delicate respect that these Central American Indians had for animals in pre-Christian days. "Every animal in the forest," he writes, "had a soul, which was protected by the gods of the earth. A man could kill an animal if he needed to, but before or immediately afterwards he had to offer an apology."

When Christ spoke of the almost "family" relationship between the Good Shepherd and his sheep, he was speaking in terms that his Palestinian listeners, largely shepherds, well understood. Even today in the Middle East, there is close, almost familial, rapport between a shepherd and each of his flock. The sheep know his voice and follow him like children. He in turn knows them as individuals and treats them as a loving father. He will protect them at all costs against anybody who will try to "snatch them out of his hand" (Today's Gospel). If one of them should stray, he leaves the rest in a safe place and goes off through brush and briar in search of the wanderer. Even when he finds the maverick sheep, he will not scold it (it is already sufficiently frightened and humbled); but simply put it over his shoulders and bring it back joyfully to the sheepfold.

St. Maximus the Confessor, an abbot of the seventh century, pointed out the close parallel between the forgiving shepherd and the forgiving Christ. Of Jesus he said, "When He found wandering in the mountains and hills the one sheep that had strayed from God's flock of a hundred, he brought it back into the fold, but He did not exhaust it by driving it. Instead He placed it on His shoulders and so compassionately, He restored it safely to the flock."

Jesus, our good shepherd, calls on us, the sheep of his fold, to return to Him, whether we have wandered far or near. He asks us to confess our sins and change our hearts. We need not fear to say, "I am sorry". He who calls will treat us gently. He not only loves us; He respects us. On this fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday, the Scriptures for this day concern the role of the shepherds of God's flock in the Church. Each year on this Sunday, we reflect on the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who devotedly and kindly takes care of his flock. The earliest Christians saw Jesus as the fulfillment of the ancient Jewish dream of the Good Shepherd Who also wished to include the Gentiles as part of God's flock. We are called in turn to seek what is good for one another and follow in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd, leading others to God's mercy and love. Let us love one another as He first loved us.

Fr. Dennis

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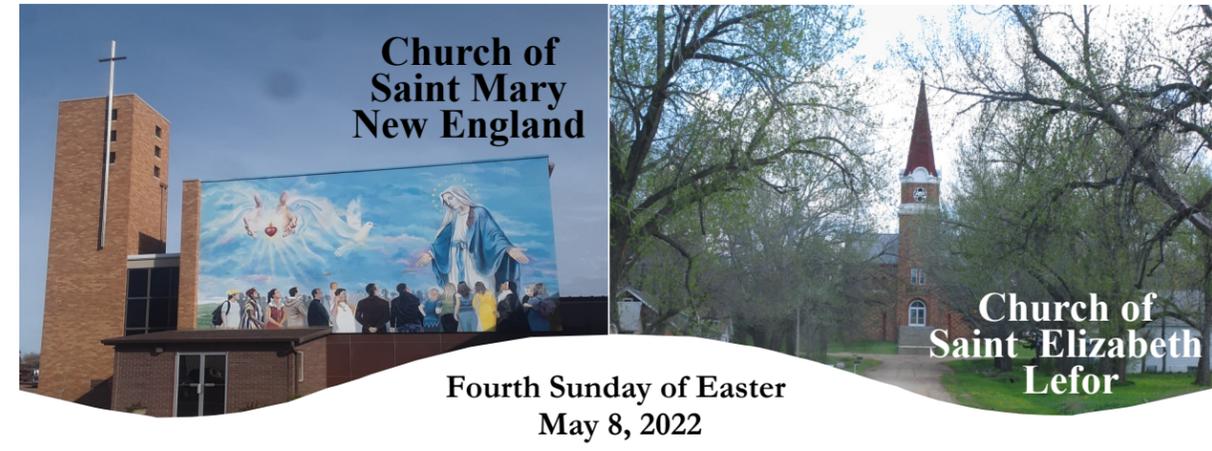
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Church of Saint Mary New England
 Church of Saint Elizabeth Lefor
 Fourth Sunday of Easter
 May 8, 2022

I had a vision of a great multitude.... They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches.
 REVELATION 7:9

- Scripture Readings**
- Sunday, May 8th:**
 Acts 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 10; Revelation 7:9, 14b-17; John 10:27-30
- Monday, May 9th:**
 Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42 & 43; John 10:1-10
- Tuesday, May 10th:**
 Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87; John 10:22-30
- Wednesday, May 11th:**
 Acts 12:24-13:5a; Psalm 67; John 12:44-50
- Thursday, May 12th:**
 Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89; John 13:16-20
- Friday, May 13th:**
 Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2; John 14:1-6
- Saturday, May 14th:**
 Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Psalm 113; John 15:9-17

A WORD FROM Pope Francis It is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance, or fear....The Book of Revelation speaks of "an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tongue and tribe and people."
 EVANGELII GAUDIUM, NOVEMBER 24, 2013

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day." St. Gianna Molla

MASS & ADORATION

Saturday, May 7th
 5:00 PM SM—First Holy Communicants

Sunday, May 8th
 8:30 AM—+Steve & +Bertha Anton by Duane & Kathy Schwab
 10:30 AM SM—Pro Populo

Monday, May 9th
 7:30 AM SM— Communion Service

Tuesday, May 10th
 7:30 AM SM—+Adam Krebs & +Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs

Wednesday, May 11th
 7:30 AM SM— +Deceased parents of Ervin & Diane Binstock
 6:00 PM SM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00 PM SE—+Steve & +Bertha Anton by Duane & Kathy Schwab

Thursday, May 12th
 7:30 AM SM — +Adam Krebs & +Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs

Friday, May 13th
 7:30 AM SM—+Adam Krebs & +Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs

Saturday, May 14th
 5:00 PM SM—+Joe Erhardt by Liz Yates

Sunday, May 15th
 8:30 AM SE—+Betty Biel by family
 10:30 AM SM—Pro Populo

Confessions will be offered before each daily Mass and before Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Mary's.



St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers		
May 14th & 15th		
MINISTRY	Saturday 5:00 PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Connie J.	Jon W.
Mass Server	Mark S./Katie S.	Brock E./Josh E.
Rosary Leader	Maureen G.	Vivian H.
Gifts	Connie J. Family	John E. Family

Collection Report St. Mary's		
April 30th & May 1st, 2022		
Adult	Youth	
\$ 3082.00	Envelopes	God's Share-\$8849
\$ 64.00	Loose Plate	Needy fund—\$250
\$ 3146.00	Total	Rice bowl—\$50
\$ 3146.00	Monthly Total	Building fund- \$175

Saint Elizabeth's Liturgical Ministers	
May 15th	
Sunday 8:30 AM	
Lector	
Mass Server	
Ushers	
Gift	

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's		
May 1st, 2022		
Adult	Youth	
\$ 960.00	Envelopes	\$.00
\$ 31.00	Loose Plate	
\$ 991.00	Total	
\$ 991.00	Monthly Total	God's Share \$900.00

Knights of Columbus	Knights of Columbus
Council #5477	Council #9675
Meetings held monthly at the Lefor KC Club. For more information contact Fran at 483-6091	Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday at St. Mary's. For more information contact Mike at 701-290-2493

Keep in your prayers our deceased loved ones:
 +Arlene Schaefer, +Jim Krebs, +Lea Madler, +Juanita Koppinger, +Eleanor Kilwein, +Dorothy Kohl, +Kevin Schaefer, +Drew Madler, +Fran Serr, +Harvey Herberholz, +Shirley Sticka

Saint Mary's Birthdays & Anniversaries
 May 10th: Victoria Jalbert, Benjamin Schmidt;
 May 11th: Braden Rayhorn; May 12th: Patricia Ehlis, Rita Stoltz, Anthony Hibi; May 13th: Elliot Ehlis; May 14th: Valery Herberholz, Gerald Jung,
 (A) Todd & Adele Fitterer

Saint Elizabeth Birthdays & Anniversaries
 May 13th: Lorraine Jordan

St. Mary's Announcements:

*Graduation Mass will be held at St. Mary's on Sunday, May 22nd during the 10:30 AM Mass.

St. Elizabeth Announcements:

*Parish Council May 18th after Mass.

*May church cleaners are Tina Lefor, Delinda Kaufman and Cindy Schneider.

Dickinson Catholic Adults is geared towards adults (21-50) from the Dickinson area who are seeking community and to deepen their faith. Our next event will be on Friday, May 13, at 6:30 PM at 618 Palm Beach Road, Dickinson. Father Christian Smith will be our featured speaker. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. For childcare options, please email dickinsoncatholicadults@gmail.com For more information, join our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/dickinsoncatholicadults/)

Stewardship

Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may be met with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life. • Stewardship Thought: Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of our time, talent and treasure allotted to us.

Please Keep in Your Prayers: Belinda Lynch, Doretta Wiegum, Nicole Leck, Gene Wert, Rick Schaefer, Anthony German, Kent Candrian, Dan Mollman, Rod Crane, Katy Kautzman, Bob Barnes, Bart Rohan, Cooper Craig, Derek Benz, Theresa Tarpo, Todd Leach, JoAnn Urlacher, Josie Steier, Katie Stolz, Bonnie Benz, Andy Prokop, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Howard Schiwal, Yvonne Fettig, Kim Kuhn, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick
Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents: Leona Schiwal, Violet Dobitz, Theresa Tarpo, Beverly Held, Theresa Decker, Marilyn Wert, Gilbert Buzalsky, Mary Hanson, Joe & Aggie Wandler, Charlotte Krebs, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Donnell Koppinger, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick

Every Nation, Race, People, and Tongue Today's readings tell us of the Church's universality. The Church might have been born of the people of Israel, but from its beginning it was meant to spread throughout the world—and it has. The first reading describes the success that Paul and Barnabas enjoyed in cities in what today is Turkey. Believing that Jesus was the fulfillment of Jewish expectation, these missionaries naturally went first to the synagogues, where they preached to the Jewish people and those who had recently converted to Judaism. The next week the entire city came to hear them. This angered many of the Jewish people. The text says that this was because they were jealous of Paul and Barnabas. Jealous of what? We know that many Jewish-Christians believed that converts had to accept the practices of Judaism before they were considered full members of the Jesus movement (see Acts 15:1). They maintained that everyone should be the same. Mention of converts in this story suggests this may have been the issue. Whatever the problem might have been, the movement spread, adapting itself as it did. The vision reported in Revelation assures us that, in the end, the spread of the gospel will see completion. It will have been preached to and accepted by "every nation, race, people, and tongue" (7:9). This speaks of genuine universality rather than uniformity. This is unity among diversity. The distinctiveness of nation, race, people, and tongue will be respected because what really unites them is the "blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14).
 Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Dear Padre: Because it's not in the Bible, our Protestant friends don't believe in purgatory. When did the Catholic Church adopt this belief? "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but [who are] still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they [must] undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1030). This process of purification is purgatory. The word purgatory may not appear in the Bible, but it does capture a truth found there. Scriptural imagery of figuratively passing through fire for spiritual refinement helped formulate the doctrine of purgatory in the patristic period (see 1 Corinthians 3:15). Forgiveness of sins after death is also suggested in Matthew 12:32 and 2 Timothy 1:18. By the Middle Ages, purgatory had been defined at the Second Council of Lyons (1274), the Council of Florence (1439), and in the Decree on Purgatory at the Council of Trent (1563). The doctrine of purgatory is part of our Tradition and deposit of faith. At one of his weekly general audiences in 2011, Pope Benedict XVI said, "Purgatory is like a purifying fire burning inside a person, a painful experience of regret for one's sins. A soul stained by sin cannot present itself to God" (see Revelation 21:27). Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



Congratulations to our students who received their First Holy Communion **Saturday, May 7th at Saint Mary's**. Please remember Kaydon Herberholz, Kinzlee Messer, Ben Schmidt, Rylee Sonsalla, Luke Urlacher, and Ayria Wolbaum in your prayers. Also, Hadley Kuhn received her First Holy Communion at **St. Elizabeth on Sunday, May 1st**. May God bless these children and their families as well, that the Holy Eucharist may remain the foundation of their families' spiritual lives.

Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners, to date we have pledges totaling \$8849.00 (SM) & \$900.00 (SE). Your prayers for the success of the God's Share Appeal and the ministries it supports are still needed, as are pledges and gifts. Each gift is important to the mission of the diocese; it takes many people to form the Body of Christ. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please return a pledge envelope with your response today. Our parish goal is 100% participation. Together with your support we can accomplish many beautiful works of faith, hope and charity.



Thank you to those who have generously donated to our needy fund. Donations to this fund at this time or throughout the year are greatly appreciated. Funds may be given to Father, dropped off at the office or put in the weekly collection and noted 'needy fund'. Our fund is currently around \$1500.00.

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Deacon:
 Deacon Victor Dvorak
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Email: julienesm@ndsupernet.com
 Phone #: 579-4312

Office Hours:
 Monday—Thursday 8:30am—3:00pm

Website:
www.stmarychurchnewengland.com

Mass Schedule

St. Mary
 Tuesday: 7:00 PM
 Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 7:30 AM
 Last Saturday: 9:00 AM (Adoration Chapel)
 Saturday: 5:00 PM; Sunday: 10:30 AM

St. Elizabeth
 Wednesday: 7:00 PM
 First Friday: 7:00 PM
 Sunday: 8:30 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

St. Mary—Tuesday: 6:00 PM; Adoration Chapel at your convenience
St. Elizabeth—Wednesday: 6:00 PM

Marriage: Contact Pastor at least nine months prior to your wedding date.
Baptism: Pre-Baptism preparation session required.
Anointing of the Sick: By request.