

We Are Part of the Flock that Gathers

By Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM

Enter, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
we are the people he shepherds,
the sheep in his hands.
Oh, that today you would hear his voice.

Psalm 95:6-7

It is nice to belong. The prayer of this psalm alludes to the communal reality of our faith: we are not alone in our relationship with God but part of a larger flock. Too often the messages we receive from the cultures and society around us lead us to believe that what is most important is the fulfillment of our individual desires or wants; that we should look out for ourselves first and then maybe consider others; and that it is even foolish to put the needs or interests of others before our own. Sometimes a culture of individualism and self-centeredness creeps into the practice of our faith and views of the world.



People who focus on their "personal relationship with Jesus" to the exclusion of what that relationship means for how they relate to others have succumbed to this temptation to individualism. In Christianity, there is no such thing as an "independent" Christian or a "sole proprietor" Christian or a "rogue" Christian. Christianity has one flock, one vine, one kingdom where all can gather.

As we continue our journey of faith, may we join the psalmist in giving praise and worship to the God who loves us all, who loves us together, and who guides us by means of the Holy Spirit. May we recognize that what I do for my sisters and brothers is, as Jesus says in Matthew 25, worth far more than what I say with my words or claim to believe in my heart. God remains steadfast as our Good Shepherd. We—God's people—must remember we are first and foremost a flock with others in this life. †

**There is no such thing as
an independent Christian.**



*Lord Jesus, when we fail to hear
your word or listen to your Spirit
within us, please open our minds
and hearts to your voice, we pray.
Amen! Alleluia!*

The Redemptorists

Paige Byrne Shortal

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 1-6

Monday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 11:1-18 / Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday, St. Athanasius:

Acts 11:19-26 / Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday, Sts. Philip and James:

1 Cor 15:1-8 / Jn 14:6-14

Thursday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 13:13-25 / Jn 13:16-20

Friday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 13:26-33 / Jn 14:1-6

Saturday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 13:44-52 / Jn 14:7-14

Bringing Home
the Word 

April 30, 2023

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Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

April 30, 2023

Matters of Life and Death

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Sheep are a lot smarter than some people think. They recognize the voice of their particular shepherd and follow that voice alone. However, that is not the point of Jesus' teaching today. Because most of us don't raise sheep or know much about them, we may not realize the situation described in today's Gospel is a matter of life and death.

It's similar to the relationship between a military squad leader and the troops he leads, another life-and-death matter. In both, unquestioning obedience is required, and absolute trust in the other is presumed.

That's what Jesus is describing. He's suggesting: "Listen to me. Follow my lead. Trust in me. I want only what is good for you, so I will be your sure protection."

It sounds so easy, as parables and metaphors usually do. What does it mean to follow this Shepherd? In the first reading, Peter announces the answer in one word: "Repent!" There is that challenging word—the word we might associate with Lent, not with Easter. If we do so, we miss the point of following the Shepherd, for to follow him means to be like him. It means: "Repent! Stop taking advantage of other people. Open your minds and hearts to newcomers. Respect those who observe different religious traditions. Help those less fortunate than you." All of this is captured in the final words of the Gospel reading: do what you can so that all "might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Clearly, that's smart. †

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

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

1 Peter 2:20b-25

For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10

[Jesus said,] "The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

**It sounds so easy,
as parables and metaphors
usually do, but what
does it mean to follow
this Shepherd?**

A Word from Pope Francis

How can we recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd from that of the thief, how can we distinguish the inspiration of God from the suggestion of the evil one? One can learn to discern these two voices: they speak two different languages, that is, they have opposite ways of knocking on [the door of] our hearts.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 3, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I find myself torn between two ways to act, two paths?
- Is there someone who can help me discern the voice of God?



Parish of St. Vincent De Paul

"We as a community rooted in the Catholic faith seek to imitate Christ's
Examples of love and service to others and spread the light of our faith to others."
Parish phone: 509-234-2262 **April 30, 2023 website: stvincentconnell.org**
Fr. Miguel A. Gustavo Ruiz Juárez 509-318-0295 g Ruiz@dioceseofspokane.org
Deacon Arturo Biebrich parish phone: 509-222-9223 after 5 pm only

4th Sunday of Easter

Mass April 30, 2023
Lector: Stacy Kniveton
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
Eloisa M. & Stacy Ferguson
Greeters & Presentation of Gift
Danny & Martha Holt Family
Altar Servers:
Giselle S. & Adrian K.

5th Sunday of Easter

Mass May 7, 2023
Lector: Danny Holt
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
Maria Garcia & Helen Tobin
Greeters & Presentation of Gift
Martin & Maria Garcia Family
Alter Servers:
Isabela & Nadia Holt

Pope's Prayer intentions:

For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover
their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own
charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's in Eltopia
10:30 a.m. @ St. Vincent's (English)
12:00 p.m. @ St. Vincent's (Spanish)
Saturday: 7:00 p.m. @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)
Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Adoration @ St. Vincent's
8:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Vincent's
Confessions: Wednesdays 6:30 pm @ St. Vincent's
Friday 4:30 pm @ San Juan Diego
Church Secretary: Elida Fernández - secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com
Tues, Weds. Thurs 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917; 12 pm – 3:30 pm on Tues. Weds. Thurs.

Prayer Chain: Call Carolyn Nordhus @ 509-234-5972

Breezeway Calendar: If you have any parish events or meetings that you would like
on the all-parish calendar that is posted in the breezeway please contact
Marla Goade @ 539-5354 wmgoade73@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletin: Please email Elida Fernández secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com by
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS for information to be included in the upcoming Sunday
bulletin. Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917

Website: To add or send information, pictures or news to the website please
email Jaeniffer Kaiser @ jaeniffer2002@hotmail.com

LIKE our Facebook page to get updated posts and information about our parish. You can also
see photos of all the activities that have been happening. If you want to post church happenings on
Facebook, please email Onna Pollock at olpollock@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Altar Flowers
May – Guadalupanas
June – Altar Society Guild 1

CONFESSIONS
Wednesday the 24th of May
@ St. Vincent Parish
6:30 pm

Confession Schedule
@ St. Pat's –Pasco
Tuesday – Friday
5 pm – 6 pm
@ Sacred Heart- Othello
Wed. @ 5 pm

Connell Food Bank
Banco de Comida
Seniors: Tuesdays
3rd Edad- Tues. / Martes
May 9 & 23
10:00 am – 11:30 am
General Public:
El público en general:
Wednesdays / Miércoles
May 10 & 24
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Thank You for Your Generous Contributions

Apr. 2, 2023	Apr. 9, 2023
10:30 am - \$1973.77	10:30 am - \$2036.75
12:00 pm - \$818.31	12:00 pm - \$687.40
Basin City - \$968.00	Basin City - \$1364.53

Safe Environment

All the presentations for all students Kinder –
High School at St. Vincent Parish and San Juan
Diego Mission have been completed. If you are
interested in a copy of the lesson presented.
please contact: Elida Fernandez 509-318-0917

Prayers for 1st Communion Students
Please keep all of our 4th- 6th graders in our
Religious Ed class in your prayers as they
finish their preparation for 1st Communion:
Abimar Cardenas, Kevin Ceja, Breanna Damian,
Erik Duron, Logan Ferguson, Amaya Garcia,
Kaylah Garcia, Ivan Lopez, Anthony Martinez,
Gloria Mata, Joselyn Moreno, Leah Roman,
Armando Rubio, Isabel Rubio, Ximena Rubio,
Juan Salas, Arianna Sanchez, Leonardo
Sanchez, Otoniel Torres, John Yerbich, Amerie
Zuniga, Natalie Magana

New Act of Contrition
O my God,
I am sorry and repent with all my heart
For all the wrong I have done
And for the good I have failed to do,
Because by sinning I have offended you,
Who are all good and worthy to be loved above all
things.
I firmly resolve with the help of your grace,
To do penance,
To sin now more,
And to avoid the occasions of sin.
Through the merits of the Passion
Of our Savior Jesus Christ,
Lord, have mercy.

FR. GUS'S SCHEDULE FOR 2 WEEKS: April 30, 2023 – May 14, 2023

Mon. May 1:
Fr. Gus @ Spokane Meeting

Tues. May 2:
Fr. Gus @ Spokane Meeting
No Confessions @ Eltopia
No Mass @ Eltopia

Wed. May 3:
Fr. Gus @ Spokane Meeting
No Adoration @ Connell
No Mass @ Connell
No Confessions @ Connell

Thurs. May 4:
10:00 am Adoration @ Eltopia
10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia
5:30 pm Parish Council @ Eltopia
7:30 pm Finance Council @ Eltopia

Fri. May 5:
8:00 am Prison Ministry
No Confessions @ Basin City
5:00 pm Marriage Prep @ Connell

Sat. May 6:
7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun. May 7: Mass
8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia
10:30 am Mass @ Connell
12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

Please Keep Fr. Gus in Our Prayers.

Mon. May 8:
Fr. Gus' Day off

Tues. May 9:
No Confessions @ Eltopia
5:30 pm Mass, K of C Meeting @ Connell

Wed. May 10:
8:00 am Adoration @ Connell
8:30 am Mass @ Connell
5:00 pm Rehearsal for 1st Communion @ Connell

Thurs. May 11:
10:00 am Adoration @ Eltopia
10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia
6:00 pm Meeting @ Basin City

Fri. May 12:
8:00 am Prison Ministry
No Confessions @ Basin City
4:00 pm Marriage Prep @ Connell
7:00 pm Meeting @ Connell

Sat. May 13:
12 pm 1st Communion Mass @ Connell
7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun. May 14: Mass
8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia
10:30 am Mass @ Connell
12:00 pm Mass @ Connell