

Announcement

We Would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to our beloved Father Gustavo! We hope you have a blessed day with many more birthdays to come!



Save the date!

On Saturday May 4th after 6pm mass we will be celebrating the 40th Deacon anniversary of Deacon Gene Corrigan. Both communities are invited to come and honor our beloved Deacon Corrigan on this special occasion at the bingo hall. We hope to see you there!

Announcement

May 9th There will be Confessions for both St. Patrick & St. Joseph First Communion students @ 6pm here at St. Joseph's. Mass for Thursday in St. Patrick's will be moved to 5pm also. Thank you and have a Blessed Day!

Catholic Sharing Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal campaign. The opportunity to contribute is still available at www.dioceseoflaredo.org/csa or by texting "GIVE" to 956-305-2140. Pledge forms should also be available in the parish. Thank You!

St. Joseph Catholic Church



LA PRYOR, TEXAS

Laying Down Your Life

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep." [John 10:11](#)

Traditionally, this Fourth Sunday of Easter is called "Good Shepherd Sunday." This is because the readings for this Sunday from all three liturgical years come from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel in which Jesus teaches clearly and repeatedly about His role of being the Good Shepherd. What does it mean to be a shepherd? More specifically, how is it that Jesus most perfectly acts as the Good Shepherd of us all? The Gospel quoted above gives us the heart of Jesus' definition of the most important quality of a good shepherd. He is one who "lays down his life for the sheep." He is one who is willing to suffer, out of love, for those entrusted to his care. He is one who chooses the life of the sheep over his own life. At the heart of this teaching is sacrifice. A shepherd is sacrificial. And being sacrificial is the truest and most accurate definition of love. Though Jesus is the "Good Shepherd" Who gave His life for us all, we must also daily strive to imitate His sacrificial love for others. We must be Christ, the Good Shepherd, to others every day. And the way we do this is by looking for ways to lay our lives down for others, putting them first, overcoming every selfish tendency, and serving them with our lives. Love is not only experiencing endearing and heartwarming moments with others; first and foremost, love is about being sacrificial. Reflect, today, upon these two images of Jesus the Good Shepherd. First, ponder the tender and gentle Lord Who welcomes you and cares for you in a holy, compassionate, and endearing way. But then turn your eyes to the Crucifixion. Our Good Shepherd did, indeed, give His life for us all. His shepherding love led Him to suffer greatly and to lay His life down so that we could be saved. Jesus was not afraid to die for us, because His love was perfect.

April 21, 2024

**St. Joseph Catholic Church and
St. Patrick Catholic Church
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Parish Administrator: Fr. Gustavo Ortega, OFM.

Assistants: Deacon Gene Corrigan and

Deacon Juan Gallegos

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