

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth!

Masses For The Week

Sun 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

08:00 am +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)
+Pedro Villarreal (Carlos & Teresa Cassiano)
+Maria Louisa Castillo (D'Lilah Benavides)

Thr 25 Saint Mark, Evangelist

12:05 pm +Yolanda Zamora (Zamora Family)

Fourth Sunday of Easter

To “take refuge in the Lord,” the Good Shepherd, requires that we first face up to our own powerlessness, our limitations, and our need to follow someone if we want to experience true fulfillment in our life. Unlike literal sheep, we are aware of the risk that our Shepherd takes: “A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.” Therefore, we exclaim, “See what love the Father has bestowed on us!” More than merely knowing the Shepherd’s voice, we know his name “by which we are to be saved.” Because we agree to be sheep, “we are God’s children now.”

The Sanctuary Candle



This Week will be Burning in Memory of
+Alfredo L. Valles (Maria Valles)

Good News!

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

Acts 4:8-12 / 1 John 3:1-2 / John 10:11-18

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We live with a maze of instincts—some from the dark side and some from the light. In her book *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson describes how cultures tend to consign certain individuals to the bottom of the social ladder. She specifically compares the caste system in India with how the Nazis sought to suppress and eliminate Jews and with the way blacks were oppressed by slavery and even in our own time. She describes the instinct in every society to relegate others to a lower class, always seeking to ensure that we are not at the bottom. This instinct can come from the dark side of people.

There is also an instinct for goodness to others, an instinct of light—to recognize everyone as brothers and sisters. As Saint John notes, “we are God’s children now” (1 John 3:2). It is the voice of the Shepherd instilled in the human spirit that calls us into one fold, the voice of God urging us to healing goodness.

It is the dark side that nurtures white supremacy. It is the light that enables us to see beyond the color of our skin. It is the dark side that excludes those who seem different. It is the light that welcomes and offers hospitality. It is the dark side that succumbs to fear. It is the light of God’s love that confronts the wolves of hate and urges us to follow. There is always tension between darkness and light. ●

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SECOND COLLECTION - HOME MISSIONS

The Committee on the Home Missions' grants is made possible by generous Catholics who donate to the annual Catholics Home Missions' Appeal. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be next weekend. The Diocese of Laredo has benefited from this appeal. Please be generous!

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Olga Gonzalez, Cristina Zarate, Mina Aldaco, Mario Garcia, Ramona Alaniz, Edna Flores, Ana Maria Finley, Mary G. Finley, Margarita Inocencio, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cassiano, Dotty Guffey, and Rodrigo Medina.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Penance for Confirmation candidate on Sunday,
May 19 @ 7:15a-7:45a @ IHM, Encinal, TX

CONFIRMATION DATE

Candidate will receive Confirmation on Sun, May 26
at 12:30 pm Mass @ Holy Family Catholic Church,
2702 Stone Ave, Laredo, TX.



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Did you know... The Catholic Church is deeply committed to protecting children from abuse and holding people accountable for inflicting such pain. In December 2021, the revised Book VI of the Code of Canon Law went into effect. This is the most recent of several documents that specifically address the issue of the abuse of children. Other documents include Vos estis lux mundi and Vademecum. These documents expand the acts which are considered abusive, clarify the manner in which the cases are processed, and hold people accountable for their action or inaction with regard to processing of a case. Of significant importance is attention given to the care of victim survivors and all who have been harmed. Bishops in the US lead the way for these changes with the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People 20 years ago. Today every diocese and eparchy must have in place systems for tending to those who have been harmed, protecting those in our care and seeking restorative justice.

I am the good shepherd

Last Sunday's Collection

Envelopes: \$ 1,421.00

Loose: \$ 52.00

Children's Envelopes: \$ 2.00

Total Sunday Collection: \$ 1,475.00

Total Expenses Last Week: \$ 486.48

Dear Padre

April 21, 2024

My son was raised Catholic and still claims he is Catholic, but he and his wife go to a Protestant church. How should I deal with my frustration?

Many parents and grandparents today share your frustration. They raised their children Catholic, maybe even sent them to Catholic schools, but the children have grown up and chosen not to continue to be faithful Catholics. A recent survey showed that nine out of ten people say they believe in God, but often they are not committed to a single religion or house of worship. About half of the people questioned attend religious services less than once a month, or never. The loyalty to one Church that was evident in our own lives, or in our parents' and grandparents' lives, is lacking in today's people under age fifty-five.

What can one do about this situation? Certainly pray for your children and continue to give a good example through your own loyalty to the Catholic Church and attendance at Sunday Mass. Invite your son and his wife to attend with you when they visit. As your children age, they may become more interested in your family's history and traditions, and the religion of their childhood may again appear attractive. Try to be patient and continue to pray that your children will return to the Church of their roots. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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JESUS said:
I am the
good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays
down his life for his sheep.
This is why the
Father loves me,
because I lay down
my life in order
to take it up again.