**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 10-11, 2025**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Gospel Reading**

Jn 10:27-30

[Jesus said:]

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out

of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take

them out of the Father’s hand.

The Father and I are one.”

**Intercession**

May we spend time in daily prayer so that we come to know God’s voice more clearly, love Him more deeply, and serve Him more faithfully, including through our support of the Diocesan Ministry Appeal.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

Just as a shepherd loves and cares for his flock, so, too, does Jesus love us, His followers, His sheep. The Father’s love for us is made visible through the actions of Christ on earth, the definitive demonstration being His death on the cross.

What is most important in comparing us to sheep is not that we are dim animals who blindly follow in a cluster. It’s the word that modifies these sheep. They aren’t sheep in general; Jesus calls them “My sheep.” There is an intimacy in this small word! We belong to God, and, as such, we can rely on God’s protection and love. When we stray, He gathers us back into His loving embrace. He knows each of us by name, deeply and individually.

May we seek ways to bring others into the fold of God’s love and care, including support of the Diocesan Ministry Appeal.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

Jesus the Good Shepherd is our protector. He says that when we follow His voice, “No one can take them out of my hand.” He feeds us and shelters us. When we rest in Him and surrender our cares and worries to Him, we are recognizing our dependence on the Lord and giving up the erroneous belief that we can do it all on our own. Self-reliance is not only hubris, but exhausting! Jesus knew about surrendering. He submitted himself to death as the ultimate showing of his love, and through the Eucharist, we gain spiritual sustenance that strengthens us and gives us graces to live according to God’s word. Through it, Jesus assures us that He gives eternal life and that we will not perish.

Let us help bring Christ to others through the Diocesan Ministry Appeal, so that more will become familiar with His voice and rest in his care.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Jesus as the Good Shepherd surrounded by His flock

Header: “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” – John 10:27

Copy: Rejoice, and rest in Christ’s care! Through support of the Diocesan Ministry Appeal, we can help shepherd God’s love to those in need.