**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 20-21st, 2024**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Gospel reading**

Jn 10:11-18

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.

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;

and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.

These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,

and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

This is why the Father loves me,

because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.

I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.

This command I have received from my Father.”

**Intercession**

That, following Christ, the shepherd who leads us to good pastures, our Diocesan Ministry Appeal will help lead many sheep to His sustaining grace.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. But what does that mean?

Shepherds were a common sight in His day. A person paid as little as the usual shepherd had little incentive to risk his life to protect someone else’s livestock. Jesus makes it clear; He is not in the shepherding business for a paycheck. He is in it because He loves His Father. He lays down His life for His sheep.

Like sheep, we all need someone to follow who we can trust. When worldly leaders lead us astray, it is disheartening. Jesus does not do that. The peace of knowing that we are in the hands of the Good Shepherd, ais enduring. Please support our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, so that we can help more people find the same enduring peace in the Good Shepherd’s fold. God will reward you.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Everyone needs leaders they can trust. Jesus is the most trustworthy leader of all! Please give as you can to our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, so that we can help others come to know the Good Shepherd—not just the “acceptable” one! Thank you in advance for your help.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: A painting of the Good Shepherd feeding his sheep.

Text: *“I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.”* – John 10:16

Copy: Our parish exists to provide pasture for Jesus’ sheep. The Good Shepherd longs not only to feed his parishioners; He says there are others we must bring in. Please give generously to our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, so that we have the resources needed to bring them to the Savior’s watchful care.