



OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET-IN-ILLINOIS

Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, Bishop

701 S. EOLA ROAD † AURORA, IL 60504

WWW.OLMERCY.COM

**OUR VISION: TO OFFER EVERY PERSON A LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTER
WITH JESUS, GROW DISCIPLES, AND SEND THEM ON MISSION.**

PARISH PRIESTS

Fr. Don E. McLaughlin, Pastor
Fr. Mark J. Bernhard, Parochial Vicar

TRANSITIONAL DEACON

Rev. Mr. Senovio Sarabia, Jr.

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Tim Kueper
Deacon Tony Martini
Deacon Mike Plese
Deacon Phil Rehmer
Deacon Art Tiongson

PARISH OFFICE

(630) 851-3444
(630) 851-3468 FAX
Monday-Thursday.....8:30am-4:30pm
Friday..... 8:30am-1:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....4:00pm
Sunday.....7:30am, 9:00am
10:45am, 12:30pm, 5:30pm
Monday-Friday8:00am
Rosary prayed after all daily Masses

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Schedule varies. Consult the Mass Schedule in the bulletin or website.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday.....3:00-3:45pm
1st Fridays of the Month....8:30-9:00am
Or by Appointment

PRAYER CHAPEL

Open Daily7:00am-8:00pm
Adoration.....Monday & Thursday
8:30am-6:00pm
Benediction.....Monday, 6:00pm

MAY 3, 2020 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



THE SHEPHERD CALLS HIS
OWN SHEEP BY NAME AND LEADS THEM.

~ John 10:3



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK.....
Also Known as Chardonnay W(h)ines!!

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Each gospel in the three-year cycle on the Fourth Sunday of Easter always speaks of Jesus in various aspects of Him being a good shepherd. This Sunday has also been a good opportunity to preach on vocations to the priesthood. My bulletin article today will focus on one aspect of the priestly vocation – being transferred!

Ever since it was announced on April 19 that Fr. Mark will be moving from our Lady of Mercy at the end of June, I have been inundated with the question, “why does Fr. Mark have to move?” We love him! He has done so much for our parish! We love his homilies and all the spiritual videos and information he has given us on the app and website during the stay-at-home order! The children, teens, young adults all love his youthfulness and his way of speaking and teaching about Jesus and the Church. His homilies are fantastic! They relate to him so well! He has only been here three years! Can’t he stay? I concur with your observations about the tremendous gift Fr. Mark has been to our parish and to me personally. However, moving on is a part, sometimes a painful part, of being a priest. In my 39 years of being a priest, I have moved to a new assignment 7 times. Each move was not easy because as a priest you love your parishioners and become close to them. Each new assignment however brings new friends and opportunities. I think it is a good for the personal growth of the priest and the parish that priests do move on.

The current policy in the Diocese of Joliet is that a newly ordained priest stays in his first assignment for three years, then receives a new assignment. When I was ordained in 1981, a newly ordained stayed five years in his first assignment. Over the years with the shortage of priests, associate pastors were becoming pastors sooner than in the past. I was ordained 12 years and in five different assignments as an associate pastor before I became a pastor. Today, an associate pastor can expect to become a pastor after only four to six years ordained. The bishop wants an associate pastor to have at least two different parish experiences before becoming a pastor. That is why Fr. Mark is being transferred now. While he has had a great experience at Our Lady of Mercy, it would serve him well to experience ministry at another parish before he becomes a pastor. I think he will make a GREAT pastor someday soon! Fr. Mark is a holy, prayerful man who has a deep personal relationship with Jesus and a burning desire to share that with others – making others committed disciples of Jesus! I have no doubt that he will do that wherever he is sent!

Have a Blessed Easter Season!

PARISH PRIESTS

Fr. Don McLaughlin, Pastor
 630-851-3444, Ext. 228
 frdon@olmercy.com

Fr. Mark Bernhard, Parochial Vicar
 630-851-3444, Ext. 226
 frmark@olmercy.com

PASTORAL STAFF

Frank Sauter, Dir. of Music Ministries
 331-707-5379 franks@olmercy.com

Jolene LeRoy, RN, Pastoral Care
 331-707-5380 jolenel@olmercy.com

Zara Tan, Evangelization & Communications
 331-707-5381 zara@olmercy.com

Dcn Tim Kueper tkueper5@yahoo.com

Dcn Tony Martini tonym@olmercy.com

Dcn Mike Plese deaconmikeplese@gmail.com

Dcn Phil Rehmer deaconphil@rehmer.com

Dcn Art Tionson hope2640@yahoo.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mary Jo Trapani, Dir. of RE (K-5) & RCIC
 331-707-5378 maryjot@olmercy.com

Candy Rice, Middle School Youth Ministry
 331-707-5376 candyr@olmercy.com

Dave Miserendino, HS & Young Adult
 331-707-5371 davem@olmercy.com

Jean Marie Palasz, RE Secretary (K-5) & RCIC
 331-707-5369 jeanp@olmercy.com

Jean Rehmer, RE Secretary (6-12) & RCIA
 331-707-5375 jeanr@olmercy.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Bob Gancarz, Business Manager
 331-707-5370 robertg@olmercy.com

Diane Reiter, Secretary/Receptionist
 630-851-3444 dianer@olmercy.com

Lydia Schmitt, Business Office Assistant
 331-707-5377 lydias@olmercy.com

Len Eickhoff, Buildings & Grounds
 630-631-1676 lene@olmercy.com

SEMINARIAN INTERN

Rev. Mr. Senovio Sarabia, Jr.
 ssarabia@usml.edu

Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

Monday, May 4 - Easter Weekday

8:00 AM † Mike & Carole Brogan, by Tom & Margaret Mary Powers

Tuesday, May 5 - Easter Weekday

8:00 AM † Mike & Carole Brogan, by Chris & Joe Riley

Wednesday, May 6 - Easter Weekday

8:00 AM † Rosa Rosario, by Family

Thursday, May 7 - Easter Weekday

8:00 AM † Estela Ramirez, by The Toschak Family

Friday, - May 8 - Easter Weekday

8:00 AM † Jose Tornero, by Family

Saturday, May 9 - Easter Weekday

4:00 PM **Vigil - Fifth Sunday of Easter**
 † Edward Schremp, by The Schremp Family
 † Joyce Markus, by Family

Sunday, May 10 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:30 AM † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family
 † Marie Klasinski
 9:00 AM † Victoria Tiu Lo, by Elizabeth Lo
 † Betty Miller, by Carl & Paulette Berg
 10:45 AM † Emma & Juanito DeChavez, by Family
 12:30 PM † Mother's Day Novena
 5:30 PM † Edward & Ida D'Silva
 The People of Our Lady of Mercy

Due to the Governor's stay-at-home order, all Masses are closed to the public.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL LAMPS

Votive lamps will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament for the following intentions:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Megan Gabaldon | 9. The Feldman Family |
| 2. Vocations | 10. Good Health for All |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos | 11. Special Intention-C.H. |
| 4. The People of OLM | 12. The Unemployed |
| 5. The Furloughed | 13. Cure for Covid-19 |
| 6. Dcn Bob & Betty Vavra | 14. Expecting Mothers |
| 7. George & Joyce Lange | 15. The Pluskota Family |
| 8. The Deceased | 16. The Homeless |

If you wish to have a candle burning for your intention in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, you will find envelopes on the shelf in the Narthex near the Priest's Sacristy or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Scheduled Mass Intentions

During this time in which Masses have been cancelled at OLM due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, intentions and the stipend for the Masses not celebrated will be sent to the Diocese of Joliet for retired priests and/or missionary priests to celebrate as soon as possible. It will not be possible for you to attend the Mass, as we won't know who, when or where the Mass will be celebrated, but the Mass WILL be celebrated. We decided not to re-schedule the Masses at OLM because the Mass intentions for 2020 and 2021 are nearly all taken. We appreciate your understanding.

We pray for our sick, confined and their families

Please contact the Parish Office if you or your **immediate** family member wish to be added to the Sick List.

Mark Hoeksema
 Wayne Draper
 Ailani Banulos
 Julia Schremp
 Billy Walowski
 Kathy Walowski
 Flo Paprzycki
 Helga Manglinong
 Michael Dandan
 Charlene Oates
 Maria Luna
 William Nimmow

Jill Brisceno
 Lexi Brisceno
 Michael Butler
 Hailey Hartnett
 Thomas F. Sterling
 Henrietta Pineda
 La Moua
 Valerie Plesha
 Hedy Sterling
 Diane Pazos
 Diane Ramonas
 Diane Singer
 Joyce Craig

John Swanston
 Robert Ciulla
 Bridget Garry
 David Bakke

Please note: Due to the government legislation regarding patient privacy, names of people to be prayed for at Mass or in the Bulletin can be listed only if that person, or in the case of their incapacitation, the person delegated to their medical care, calls to give permission.



DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DEL PASTOR.....
¡También conocido como ChardonnayW(h)ines!

El Cuarto Domingo de Pascua se conoce tradicionalmente como "Domingo del Buen Pastor". Cada evangelio en el ciclo de tres años en el Cuarto Domingo de Pascua siempre habla de Jesús en varios aspectos que Él es un buen pastor. Este domingo

también ha sido una buena oportunidad para predicar sobre las vocaciones al sacerdocio. Mi artículo del boletín de hoy se centrará en un aspecto de la vocación sacerdotal: ¡ser transferido!

Desde que se anunció el 19 de abril que el Padre Mark se mudará de Our Lady of Mercy a finales de junio, he sido inundado con la pregunta, "¿por qué el Padre Mark tiene que moverse?" ¡Lo queremos! ¡El ha hecho mucho por nuestra parroquia! ¡Nos encantan sus homilias y todos los videos espirituales y la información que nos ha brindado en la aplicación y el sitio web durante la orden de quedarse en casa! Los niños, adolescentes y adultos jóvenes adoran su juventud y su forma de hablar y enseñar acerca de Jesús y la Iglesia. ¡Sus homilias son fantásticas! ¡Se relacionan muy bien con él! ¡Solo ha estado aquí tres años! ¿No puede quedarse? Estoy de acuerdo con sus observaciones sobre el tremendo regalo que el Padre Mark ha sido para nuestra parroquia y para mí personalmente. Sin embargo, seguir adelante es una parte, a veces una parte dolorosa, de ser sacerdote. En mis 39 años de ser sacerdote, me mudé a una nueva tarea 7 veces. Cada traslado no fue fácil porque como sacerdote amas a tus feligreses y te acercas a ellos. Sin embargo, cada nueva tarea trae nuevos amigos y oportunidades. Creo que es bueno para el crecimiento personal del sacerdote y la parroquia que los sacerdotes circulen.

La política actual en la Diócesis de Joliet es que un sacerdote recién ordenado permanece en su primera asignación durante tres años y luego recibe una nueva asignación. Cuando fui ordenado en 1981, un recién ordenado permanecía cinco años en su primera asignación. A lo largo de los años con la escasez de sacerdotes, los pastores asociados se convirtieron en pastores antes que en el pasado. Yo estuve ordenado 12 años y en cinco asignaciones diferentes como pastor asociado antes de convertirme en pastor. Hoy, un pastor asociado puede esperar convertirse en pastor después de solo cuatro a seis años de haber sido ordenado. El obispo quiere que un pastor asociado tenga al menos dos experiencias parroquiales diferentes antes de convertirse en pastor. Por eso el Padre Mark está siendo transferido ahora. Si bien ha tenido una gran experiencia en Our Lady of Mercy, le sería muy útil experimentar el ministerio en otra parroquia antes de convertirse en pastor. ¡Creo que pronto será un GRAN pastor! El Padre Mark es un hombre santo y de oración que tiene una relación personal profunda con Jesús y un deseo ardiente de compartir eso con otros, ¡haciendo que otros se comprometan a ser discípulos de Jesús! ¡No tengo duda de que lo hará donde sea que lo envíen!

¡Que tengan una bendecida temporada de Pascua!

Padre Mark

SE NECESITA UN PASTOR

Por un tiempo estuvo de moda tener cerdos como mascotas. La publicidad que rodeó a estas criaturas nos informó que, contrario a la imagen popular, son animales muy limpios y también bastante inteligentes. Resulta triste decirlo, pero las ovejas probablemente nunca gozarán de este tipo de popularidad doméstica. Ni limpias ni inteligentes, son mayormente indefensas cuando se dejan solas, aunque el rebaño sea numeroso. La imagen bíblica de que somos un rebaño de ovejas no resulta muy favorecedora. Triste es el caso de las ovejas sin pastor porque, sin duda, perecerán dada su incapacidad de valerse por sí mismas o su carencia de defensas contra sus predadores. Colocarnos al centro de esta imagen poco favorecedora puede fortalecer nuestra fe. Sólo cuando tomamos profunda conciencia de que necesitamos un pastor, podemos apreciar nuestras bendiciones al haber sido entregados al Pastor, a aquél que dio su vida por nosotros y fue resucitado para la vida eterna en el Espíritu, a fin de poder guiarnos por siempre mientras lo seguimos en fe.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Hch 11:1-18; Sal 42
(41):2-3; 43:3, 4;
Jn 10:11-18

Martes: Hch 11:19-26; Sal 87
(86):1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Miércoles: Hch 12:24 — 13:5a; Sal
67 (66):2-3, 5, 6, 8;
Jn 12:44-50

Jueves: Hch 13:13-25; Sal 89
(88):2-3, 21-22, 25, 27;
Jn 13:16-20

Viernes: Hch 13:26-33; Sal 2:6-
11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Sábado: Hch 13:44-52; Sal 98
(97):1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Domingo: Hch 6:1-7; Sal 33 (32):1-
2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pe 2:4-9;
Jn 14:1-12

IN NEED OF A SHEPHERD

For a while it was very fashionable to own pigs as pets. The publicity surrounding these creatures informed us that they were—contrary to their popular image—very clean animals, and also quite smart. Sad to say, sheep will most likely never enjoy this sort of domestic vogue. They are neither clean nor smart and are largely defenseless when left on their own, even in large numbers. The biblical image of us as the flock of sheep is not a particularly flattering one. Sheep without a shepherd are truly sad, because they most likely will perish either from their inability to fend for themselves or from their lack of defenses against predators. Placing ourselves in the heart of this unflattering image can reinforce our faith. Until we come to a profound realization of how much we need a shepherd, we cannot appreciate how deeply blessed we are to have been given a Shepherd, one who laid down his life for us and was raised to life eternal in the Spirit, so he might guide us and we might follow him in faith forever. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All peoples called by God will receive the gift of the Spirit if they repent and are baptized (Acts 2:14a, 36-41).

Psalm — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — Once we were like straying sheep; but now we have been returned to the shepherd, our guardian (1 Peter 2:20b-25).

Gospel — The shepherd leads the sheep out into pastures of abundant life (John 10:1-10).


COUNTING SHEEP

*When at night you cannot sleep,
talk to the Shepherd and stop
counting sheep. —Anonymous*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14
 Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

PSALM 23



The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.



RE Family Corner

A Labyrinth Meditation with Jesus, Our Good Shepherd

Psalm 23 describes the Good Shepherd as taking care of us: the shepherd provides what we need ("green grass and cool water"), the shepherd is with us in scary places, the shepherd feeds us, and the shepherd surrounds us with love. What are your experiences of meeting the Good Shepherd?

Are you familiar with a labyrinth (LAB-rinth)? It is a pattern that leads us into a center and back out again. There are large labyrinths on the floors of churches and in outdoor spaces, and people walk upon them. There are also small labyrinths that can be placed upon a desk or a nightstand, and people use a tiny stick or their finger to trace their way through the pattern.

For followers of Jesus, moving through the labyrinth can help us quiet an anxious mind and open our hearts to God. I have fond memories at my former parish receiving a gigantic cloth labyrinth for a few days each year where parishioners, including families with children, walked the labyrinth to quiet the clatter of the culture and calm the soul. Later, we shared similar experiences of coming to a place of stillness and hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd and being held in His tender presence. The presence and voice of the Divine brought us to a greater trust that He desires to hear our voice, our prayers too.

Would you like to experience this form of prayer? Find a larger, free image of a labyrinth online like the one in this article. Place one of your fingers at the opening to the labyrinth. Imagine you are following Jesus, your Good Shepherd, into the labyrinth. Perhaps you will want to pray a few of the words from Psalm 23, "You are my shepherd," as you make your way to the center. When you get to the center, rest in the Good Shepherd's presence for a while. Imagine the Good Shepherd holding you and expect to hear His voice and feel His presence. When you're ready to follow the Good Shepherd back out of the labyrinth, perhaps you will want to pray, "I have everything I need."



Walking to Jerusalem

Thank you to the 46 participants that reported their miles either on a weekly basis or in one total at the end of our journey together. The question is: Did we make it to Jerusalem and back home? The good news is that **WE MADE IT TO JERUSALEM!** However, *we did not make it back home.*

The goal was to reach 12,430 miles. The reported total number of miles is 9,354 miles. We needed 6,215 miles so we made it to Jerusalem but were 3,076 miles short in returning home. If you have miles that you have not reported - it is not too late to report them by calling 331-707-5380 or email your miles to jolenel@olmercy.com.



Walking with Mary

Now that we know that the stay-at-home order has been extended through May, let's join together to grow closer to Jesus through Mary. I would like to challenge and invite parishioners – as individuals or as families to accumulate miles. Spiritual miles are accumulated by praying the rosary, reading scripture, times of prayer or joining virtual Mass or prayer services. Activity miles are accumulated by walking or other physical activity. Miles will be accumulated from May 1 to May 31. Our destination is to Fatima, Portugal to the sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima and back home – a total of 8,030 miles. We will end our journey on Pentecost Sunday!

If you would like to participate in this program – please contact Jolene LeRoy RN Director of Pastoral Care for information about the program especially on how to convert spiritual activity and physical activity into miles at jolenel@olmercy.com. It is a way for us to stay connected, pray the rosary and stay active to benefit our spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health!

Taking Care of Your Emotional and Mental Health and Wellness

May is designated as *Mental Health Awareness Month*. Mental Health America (MHA) was founded in 1909 and is the nation's leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and to promoting the overall mental health of all Americans.

Since 1949, MHA and its affiliates have been involved in promoting May as Mental Health Month as an opportunity to spread the word that everyone should care about mental health. Statistics show that one in five people experience a mental illness during their lifetime. Most would agree that everyone faces challenges in life that have an impact on mental health.

Please check out the Mental Health America website at www.mhanational.org for Tools 2 Thrive that are practical tools for everyone to use to improve their mental health and increase resiliency especially because of COVID-19 and social distancing. There is information and resources available on financial support, on anxiety, tools to connect with others and many other topics on the website.

MENTAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLNESS RESOURCES

ILLINOIS WARMLINE

1-866-359-7953

Monday-Friday 8AM to 5PM

To Talk with Someone & for Resources

ILLINOIS Call4Calm TEXT LINE

This is Not a Crisis Line – Is a Free Emotional Support Text Line
Free and Available 24 hours a Day, Seven Days a Week
Text “TALK” for English or “HABLAR” for Spanish to 552020
Connects a Person to a Counselor for Resources

AMITA HEALTH MERCY MEDICAL CENTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES RESOURCE AND REFERRAL LINE

Directs Callers to Available Community Resources
Monday – Friday 9AM to 5:30PM
1-844-569-5200





FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Easter

MAY 3, 2020

The shepherd calls his own sheep
by name and leads them.

John 10:3

THE ONE WHO KNOWS US BY NAME

Today's readings tell about the confusion and fear that followed Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. In Acts, the people ask, "What are we to do?" after they are reminded that they were part of the death of Jesus, who was Lord and Christ. In First Peter we are reminded of Jesus' innocence. He did nothing to deserve the suffering and death that he experienced for us. Both the psalm and First Peter introduce the image of Jesus as shepherd. John's Gospel talks about Jesus as shepherd but not in the usual way. We recognize this shepherd's voice because he calls each of us by name. The confusion and fear we too often feel is calmed by the voice of the One who knows us by name.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

The readings describe that time when confused and frightened followers of Jesus looked to the apostles to tell them what to do after the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The answer seems simple. They must believe that Jesus, whom they crucified, is both Lord and Christ, both God and human. They must acknowledge their complicity in his death and seek forgiveness. They must be baptized. In First Peter the standard for their behavior is Jesus' behavior. Jesus, though free from sin himself, bore our sins and returned no insult or threat. Peter introduces the image of the shepherd who is the guardian of us who have gone astray. The Gospel emphasizes not the shepherd's leadership but that we are called by name.

LISTEN FOR YOUR NAME

The emphasis in John's Gospel is not on the leadership of the shepherd. The focus is specifically on the voice of the shepherd. We listen for the shepherd who calls us by name. We are not called to follow passively. We are called to recognize our name when it is spoken. We are to listen so that we can hear the voice of the One who knows who we truly are—not the external, transient realities like "I am a doctor" or "I am a mother." Our real name known to our Creator is much more than the roles we fill or the work we do. If my name is who I truly am, then I must listen for the One who calls me "forgiven" and "merciful" and "beloved." For this is my true name. This is my true nature.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 2:1, 4a, 36-41

Psalm 23:1-6

1 Peter 2:20b-25

John 10:1-10



Parish Sacrificial Giving
Updated Easter Collection

04/12/20 Sunday Collection:	\$	52,479
Easter Sunday Goal:	\$	68,000
Amount Short of Goal:	\$	(15,521)

Thank you for your generosity!!

Construction loan for building the Parish Life Center

April, 2009	\$1,950,000
February, 2020	\$ 852,642
March, 2020	\$ 843,642



It is very important that these pledges be paid so that our parish will reach our goal. Once we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the additional funds received will be returned to the parish for our use.

Parish Goal	\$	146,700
Amount Pledged	\$	160,198
Amount Paid	\$	88,058
Remaining Balance	\$	72,140
Rebate Amount	\$	0
# of Families Pledged		632

4 Simple Ways to Evangelize During a Pandemic

A few days ago I heard a friend say, “The gospel can’t be quarantined.” I’m grateful he’s correct. People around the world face fear, isolation, and loss of their regular flow of life. Many face significant financial and health issues that often bring spiritual issues to the forefront. People tend to be open to Christ during trouble and transition. The coronavirus crisis fits both categories.

I’m praying that many years from now, this testimony will become common: “I became a Christian during the coronavirus pandemic.” It’s a ripe time to do evangelism.

1. Reach out to a lost friend: Ask how they’re doing and how you might pray for them during this uncertain time. This is a perfect time to break the ice with non-Christian friends you’ve not spoken with in a while. I’ve never met anyone who was offended by an offer for prayer. Go down your friend list and message everyone you know. I’m encouraging our student leaders to reach out to friends and set up times to catch up. Jump on Zoom or some other way you can see them face to face. Listen well. Short and simple is best. I’ve never met anyone who was offended by an offer for prayer. Most people appreciate genuine care and concern.

2. Go on a walk: Meet your neighbors and serve them. When the weather cleared up this week our family took walks and met many neighbors we’d never met before. This is a perfect moment to meet your neighbors and see if they have needs. Swap contact information and start making plans to throw a big block party when social separation ends.

3. Use technology to make social connections. Our college ministry is planning creative online events for students to fellowship, have fun, and invite new people into our community. We’ve planned a trivia night, a game night using Jack Box, and a virtual game night where we’ll use the break-out feature on Zoom to play online board games like Settlers of Catan. We’re continuing to explore creative ways to have fun together online during this odd time.

4. Record your testimony and share it on Facebook Live and Instagram Live.

Follow up personally with those who comment. Everyone is online now, and most have more time on their hands, so going live has great potential.

Prepare a two-minute testimony and casually share it via video on social media. You may be surprised by how many views and comments you’ll get. Encourage people to comment or message with questions. Consider answering questions live or take the conversation deeper via a direct message or by phone.

Author: Paul Worcester <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/10-ways-evangelize-pandemic>



Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus said, "I came so that they might have life and have ..."

A	B	U	N
E	R	D	I
O	L	T	A
Y	M	T	N

| _____ "

Answer: *it more abundantly*

© 2020 International Puzzle Features

Excerpt from the NAB © 2010, 1991, 1970, CCD

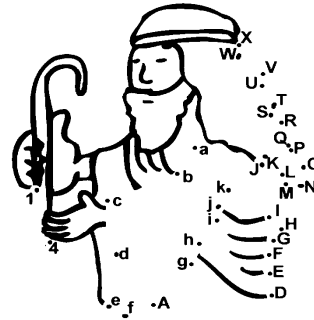
GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Acts 2:14, 36-41 Ps 23:1-6
1 Pt 2:20-25 Jn 10:1-10

Directions: Complete the dot to dot.



Pope St. John Paul II Catholic Academy
is currently registering for the 2020-2021
school year!

- Preschool 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds (full day and half day)
- Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- North and South Campus
- Before School and After School Care (6:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.)
- Hot Breakfast and Lunch Program

Register at www.jp2aurora.org

Catholic Academy

*Apply for financial aid through FACTS
on our website.*

Follow our Facebook page @PSJPIIAuroraLL
for highlights and information.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm; Reconciliation services held seasonally.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Contact the Parish Office so we may help you in any way possible.

HOSPITALIZATION: If you anticipate a hospitalization or are admitted to an area hospital and would like a visit from a priest or Eucharistic Minister, please notify the parish office.

BAPTISMS: Registered parishioners wishing their child baptized must attend a parent meeting held the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Baptisms are held at 12 noon the first Saturday of the month and at 2:00 p.m. the second Sundays of the month. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent.

WEDDINGS: The bride, groom or either set of parents must be registered members of the parish for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding. Weddings may be scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirements. Contact Diane Reiter, ext. 221.

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome you! Please register by attending our "New Parishioner Registration/Welcoming" meeting the last Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. For more info call: 851-3444, ext. 221.

HOSPITALITY: "Hospitality" weekend is held in the Parish Life Center Multi Purpose Room after all Saturday/Sunday Masses on the last full weekend of each month (excluding December).

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, Voicemail-ext. 400

CHURCH NAME AND NUMBER—

The Church of Our Lady of Mercy #512124

ADDRESS—

701 S. Eola Road
Aurora, IL 60504

PHONE—

630-851-3444

CONTACT PERSON—

Diane - Ext. 221

SOFTWARE—

Microsoft Publisher 2002

PRINTER—

Acrobat 6.0

TRANSMISSION—

Via Email
Day: Tuesday

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT—

1 through 11

SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN—

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS—

Fed Ex: Deliver inside Door B
on the North side of Church