



Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

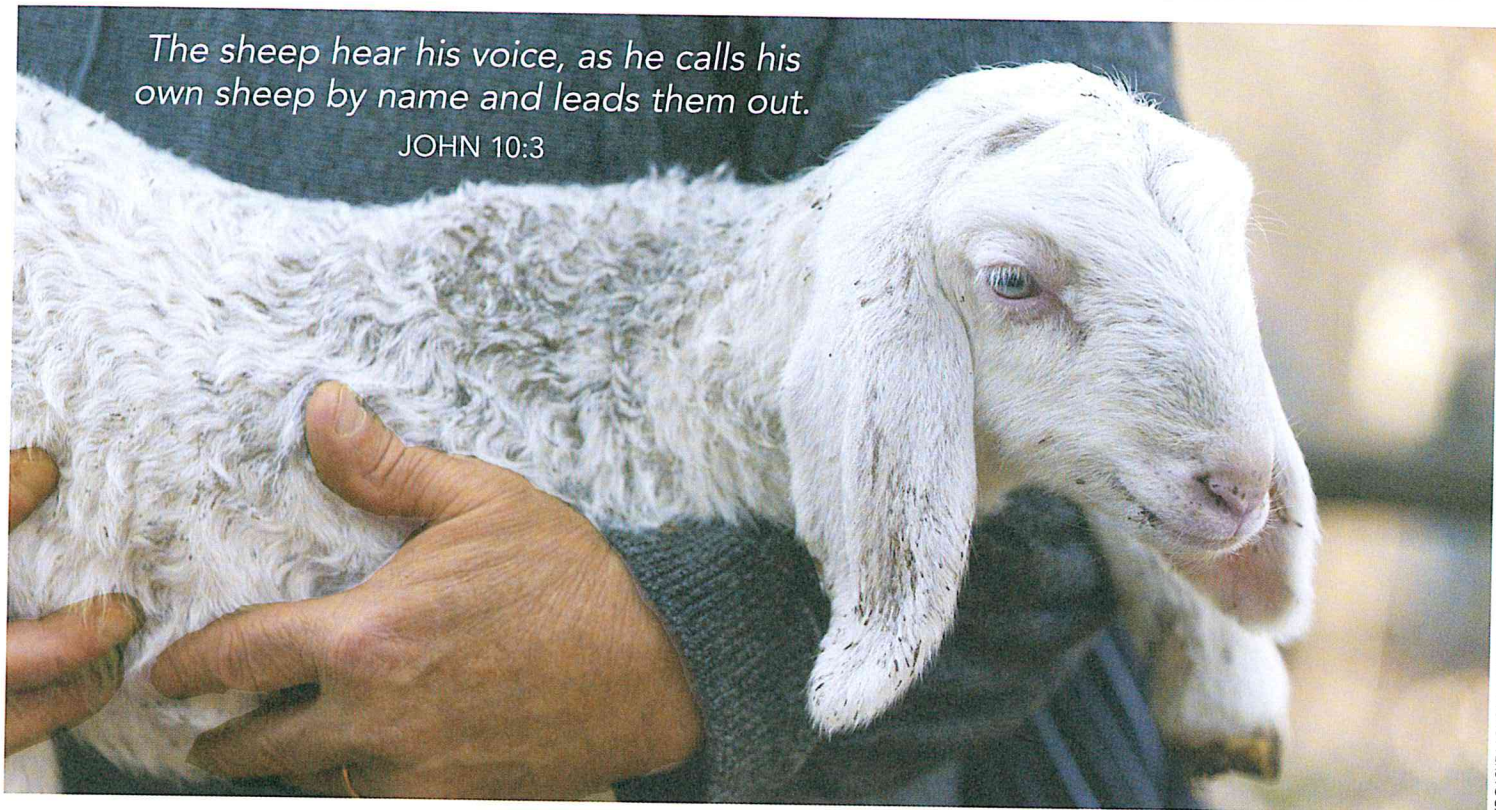
Acts 2:14a, 36–41

1 Pt 2:20b–25

Jn 10:1–10

The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

JOHN 10:3



SPETENIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Matters of Life and Death

Sheep are a lot smarter than some people think. They recognize the voice of their particular shepherd and follow that voice alone. However, that is not the point of Jesus' teaching today. Because most of us don't raise sheep or know much about them, we don't realize that the situation described in the Gospel passage is a matter of life and death.

It's similar to the relationship between a military squad leader and the troops he leads, another life-and-death matter. In both, unquestioning obedience is required, and absolute trust in the other is presumed.

That's what Jesus is describing. He's suggesting: "Listen to me. Follow my lead. Trust in me. I want only what is good for you, so I will be your sure protection."

It sounds so easy, as parables and metaphors usually do. What does it mean to follow this Shepherd? In the first reading, Peter announces the answer in one word: "Repent!" There is that challenging word—the word

we might associate with Lent, not with Easter. If we do so, we miss the point of following the Shepherd, for to follow him means to be like him. It means: "Repent! Stop taking advantage of other people. Open your minds and hearts to newcomers. Respect those who observe different religious traditions. Help those less fortunate than you." All of this is captured in the final words of the Gospel reading: do what you can so that all "might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Clearly, that's smart.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ On what path might the Shepherd be leading you?
- ★ In what area is he calling you to repent?

Dear Padre,

How will it happen that Jesus will come again and lead us “through the gates”?

We have it from the best of authorities that the date of the world’s end is hidden. Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows... but the Father alone” (Matthew 24:36). In spite of Christ’s admonition that the day of his Second Coming is known but to God, there have been countless false prophets who have confidently but incorrectly predicted a date for the end of the world. Most of these foolish forecasters based their claims on misinterpretations of the Book of Revelation.

The main purpose of the Book of Revelation is to assure us that God’s power will prevail. In the ongoing struggle between good and evil, there are times when evil seems to have the upper hand. No matter. Evil will be conquered and God’s rule will extend over all creation.

The world might end tomorrow, or next year, or in five billion years. Jesus tells us we can’t know for sure. We are sure, however, that this world will pass away. And for each one of us the world will end at the moment of death. What matters is that we should always be ready to meet Christ.

And we shall be ready if we follow Christ, our Shepherd, whom we meet in today’s Gospel. Jesus leads us safely through this life by his teaching, his example, and his grace.

—Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, CM
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Calendar

Monday

MAY 4

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:1–18

Jn 10:11–18

Tuesday

MAY 5

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:19–26

Jn 10:22–30

Wednesday

MAY 6

Easter Weekday

Acts 12:24–13:5a

Jn 12:44–50

Thursday

MAY 7

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:13–25

Jn 13:16–20

Friday

MAY 8

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:26–33

Jn 14:1–6

Saturday

MAY 9

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:44–52

Jn 14:7–14

Sunday

MAY 10

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1–7

1 Pt 2:4–9

Jn 14:1–12

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

We should never forget: the Church is not a static reality, inert, an end in herself, but is on a continual journey through history, towards that ultimate and marvelous end that is the kingdom of heaven, of which the Church on earth is the seed and the beginning.


—GENERAL AUDIENCE, NOVEMBER 26, 2014



The page following this page contains the Instruction from Bishop McKnight for the reopening of churches in our diocese. Please read it carefully.

**Bishop McKnight's
May prayer intention
for our Local Church**

As we honor the Mother of our Lord as the
"Queen of May," may there be a greater respect
and appreciation for all women on earth who
nourish us in mind, body and soul.



We have both the verbal and written approval to replace the school roof (which has been leaking) from the diocese. The total cost is \$63,650. We have a parishioner who has donated half of the cost and some other parishioners have donated towards replacing the school roof. As the moment, we have at hand roughly \$35,000 from donations. Please note: This is not connected to the Cornerstone Campaign. No money donated towards that is being used to replace the school roof.

Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to the following couple as they celebrate their special day.

John & Ruth Schneider – 52 years of marriage on May 4.

Financials for the week of April 26, 2020

Actual: \$35,605.90 Needed each week: \$11,775.43 Difference: \$23,830.47

Infirm Priests: \$115.00, Capital Improvements:

\$31,020.00,

Catholic Home Missions: \$150.00,

Cornerstone Campaign: \$200.00



DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

INSTRUCTION

On Fulfilling the Decrees of 31 March 2020 and 17 April 2020

For Pastoral Activities in the Diocese of Jefferson City During the COVID-19 Pandemic

On 27 April 2020, Governor Mike Parson issued a state-wide order for the reopening of churches for public, in-person worship services effective 4 May 2020. Please note that city and county ordinances may remain in effect that could further restrict or limit church services in person. All pastors, administrators and parish life collaborators are obliged to follow the requirements of legitimate state authorities with regard to the pandemic.

After consultation with the Bishops of the Missouri Province and the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese, this Instruction is given to clarify, elaborate and determine the methods to be observed in fulfilling the current decrees on pastoral activity during the pandemic as we open up our churches to public Masses and other liturgies or devotions.

1. As of May 4, Pastors, Administrators and Parish Life Collaborators are to arrange for the baptism, reception into full communion, confirmation and first Holy Communion of those Elect and Candidates who were anticipating the Sacraments of Initiation this past Easter Vigil, unless the local legitimate authorities restrict the possibility of public worship services. Preference is to be given to celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation at a parish Sunday or Saturday Vigil Mass, following the requirements of social distancing and adapting them as appropriate.
2. The celebrations of First Communions that have been postponed because of the pandemic may be scheduled according to the judgment of the pastor, administrator or parish life collaborator.
3. Parish priests have the faculty to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to their parishioners if the scheduled Confirmation Mass was canceled because of the pandemic (through 3 May 2020). For the scheduled Confirmation Masses on 4 May 2020 and after, the bishop's office will make contact with the pastors, administrators and parish life collaborators on the options for administering the sacrament.
4. The distribution of Holy Communion outside of Mass is left to the judgment of the pastor, administrator or parish life collaborator. If allowed, the requirements for the distribution of

Communion during Mass are to be observed (such as, the use of masks and the sanitation of hands before and after Holy Communion is distributed.)

5. Adoration chapels may be opened if, at the discretion of the pastor, administrator, or parish life collaborator, the requirements of social distancing and sanitation of the facilities can be observed. Common prayer materials should not be made available but should be stored until the pandemic is over. Individuals may bring their own prayer materials with them into the chapel.
6. In-person parish meetings may take place at the discretion of the pastor, administrator or parish life collaborator, as long as either the six-foot distancing requirement or the use of masks and gloves or frequent handwashing can be observed. Tele- or video-conferencing are always an option.

For the celebration of public Masses, the following is to be observed:

Before Mass

1. All the faithful are dispensed from the obligation of the Easter Duty and the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday through 30 June 2020.
 - a. Those who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to another with the virus within 14 days are not permitted to enter the church, in accordance with national, state and local health directives. All attendees are asked to check their temperature at home before coming to church.
 - b. Those who are at risk because of an underlying health issue or who are over 60 are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations of the Mass.
 - c. We highly encourage parishes to live stream Mass, even on a daily basis, so that those unable to attend in person may maintain a spiritual connection with their local church.
2. Appropriate cleaning of high use areas within the church is to be done before and after each service.
 - a. The pews utilized by the assembly shall be wiped down with disinfectant.
 - b. All hymnals and missalettes are to be removed from the pews and stored for the duration of the pandemic. No other materials may be left in the pews. The faithful are encouraged to bring their own missals or hymnals for use during the celebration of Mass.
 - c. Restroom facilities and door handles, push plates, and knobs are to be sanitized after each service.
3. Holy water fonts are to remain empty until further notice.
4. Hand sanitizer is to be made available throughout the church, whenever possible.
5. The faithful are obliged to wear a mask (or other face covering) upon entering the church and during the celebration of Mass, except when seated in the pew and for the brief moment of receiving Holy Communion. Ushers and other volunteers are to wear masks and gloves (when gloves are not available, frequent handwashing will be necessary) throughout the celebration of Mass. Pastors are to ensure that these obligations are enforced without exception.
6. Clergy and other ministers are to maintain six-foot distancing and should not greet parishioners as they enter the church.

During Mass

1. Entry and exit doors are to be adequately designated and monitored. Entry doors are to be propped or held open before Mass, and exit doors are to be propped or held open at the end of Mass to prevent people from touching the door handles, knobs or push plates.
2. Staff, ushers or other volunteers should assist with directing people to pews specifically marked. Attendance may be limited to assure compliance with social distancing requirements.
3. Families are to maintain six-foot distancing between their family and other families or individuals throughout the celebration of Mass.
 - a. Seating is to be arranged such that six feet of distance can be maintained between members of one household and members of another.
 - b. One or two pews are to be left vacant in between congregants such that six feet of distance can be maintained in all directions.
 - c. Music ministers are to maintain six-foot social distancing.
4. Offertory processions are suspended as well as the sign of peace. Collection baskets (or any other materials) shall not be passed from one family to another, nor shall ushers take up the collection from the congregation. Stationary baskets are to be used for donations from the assembly and are to be monitored by the ushers until the donations are collected and handled according to the proper protocols in place for handling the collection.
5. All concelebrating priests and deacons are to receive Holy Communion by intinction utilizing a separate chalice from the main celebrant and with the last clergy communicant consuming all that remains in the Chalice.
6. For the distribution of communion, ushers or other volunteers who are masked and gloved will ensure six-foot distancing in the communion line. Floor markings shall be placed six feet apart in the aisles in which the congregation approaches the sanctuary for communion to facilitate proper social distancing.
7. Communion ministers must be masked, sanitize their hands immediately before and after distributing Communion, and when at all possible, to utilize a disinfectant wipe or purificator dipped in a sanitizing solution (at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol) to sanitize their fingers when incidental contact is made with the communicant.
8. Distribution of Holy Communion from the chalice is prohibited to the assembly. For those who are gluten intolerant, special arrangements are to be made with the pastor.
9. For the distribution of Holy Communion, a single-file for each Communion minister is necessary to maintain social distancing. Multiple Communion ministers may be used as long as one-way traffic patterns are observed.
10. During this time, Holy Communion will only be distributed in the hand in keeping with the advice of state health officials and thereby to avoid the Communion minister's fingers coming into contact with saliva.
11. When approaching the Communion minister, the communicant is to pull their mask below their chin and present one hand resting on the palm of the other. After responding "Amen," the communicant reverently places the Eucharist in his or her mouth and immediately replaces their mask.

After Mass

1. Family units should depart the church in an organized manner wearing masks and observing six feet of distance between other households. Ushers or clergy may need to direct this process.
2. Ushers are not to hand out bulletins or other materials.
3. Clergy and other ministers are not to greet parishioners as they exit the church.
4. There are to be no receptions or social gatherings (e.g., coffee and doughnuts) following Mass.
5. Pews and other high traffic areas of the church are to be wiped down before the next service, with the removal of trash and other items from the pews.

Given this 28th day of April 2020 at the Chancery of the Diocese of Jefferson City.



+ Shawn McKnight

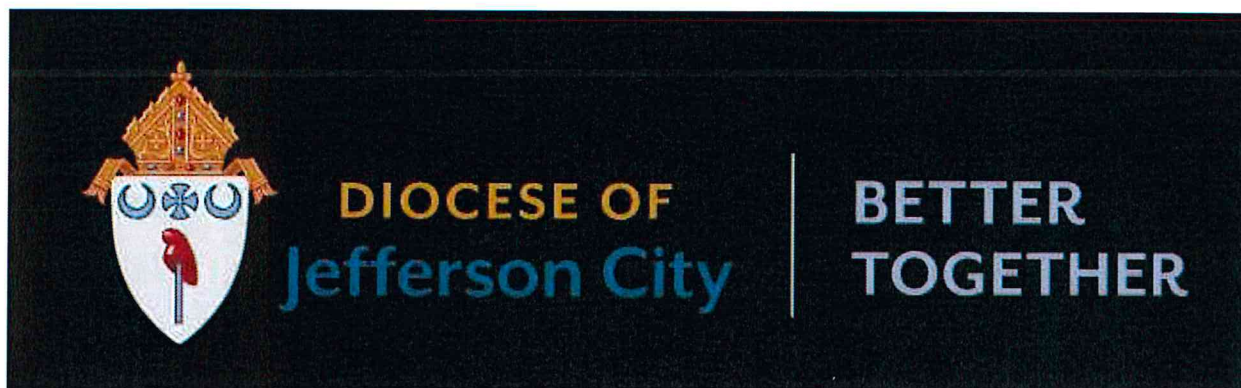
Most Rev. W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.

Bishop of Jefferson City

Mrs. Constance Schepers

Mrs. Constance Schepers

Chancellor



Pastoral Planning timeline revised

The deadline for submission of all discernment reports from parishioners, Sessions 1-4, has been extended to May 31. This is intended to allow as many parishioners as possible to participate. As we move forward in our focus and discernment of how our parish communities can become stronger centers of charity and mercy, practicing stewardship with a co-responsibility mentality between our clergy and laity, please encourage parishioners to consider how they can participate and finish the discernment process. Small group and/or individual discernment reports are to be submitted directly to the pastor or via online entry. To ensure a wider vision for planning, all parishioners throughout our diocese are encouraged to take this opportunity to share their thoughts and vision for their parish and provide insight into our diocesan pastoral plan. For more information regarding Better Together, please visit www.diojeffcity.org/better-together



The Immaculate Heart of Mary is the patronness of our diocese. Bishop McKnight asks all our parishes to celebrate this feast on June 21. Readings and psalm settings can be found [here](#).

Join a virtual novena to St. Isidore, patron of farmers

Every year hundreds of people join together for a very special Novena to St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers and Catholic Rural Life. Given the essential nature of farmers, farmworkers, and all who are involved in food production and distribution, especially during this global pandemic, CRL is hosting the novena virtually this year. The novena will begin on Thursday, May 7, and conclude on Friday, May 15, the feast of St. Isidore, with virtual Mass on a ranch in Texas. Each day a bishop from the CRL board of directors will lead the novena, lifting up all the intentions of rural communities throughout our country. Bishop McKnight will lead the novena on May 13 and 14 at 10 a.m. For more information and the full schedule, please visit <https://CatholicRuralLife.org/VirtualNovena/>.

Novena to St. Isidore, Patron Saint of Farmers

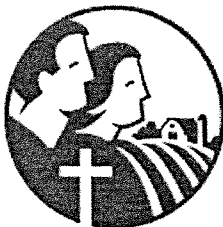
Daily from May 7 - May 15

Each day a Bishop from our Board of Directors will lead us virtually through the novena for the intentions of rural communities throughout our country.

For more information and to see the schedule go to:

<https://CatholicRuralLife.org/VirtualNovena/>

Questions? Info@CatholicRuralLife.org



CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE