



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Serving • Worship

The fourth Sunday of Easter is commonly known as "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the Gospel is taken from Jesus' teaching in Chapter 10 of John's Gospel about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Prayer to Jesus the Good Shepherd for Vocations

Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd.

You know each of us and you call us by name to serve in faith.

Help us respond generously to Your voice.

Give courage and guidance to those You call to the priesthood and the diaconate, to religious life and lay ministry, so they may respond wholeheartedly and serve devotedly.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.,
3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 a.m.
Tuesday 6:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m.
Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.
Friday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.
Saturday 6:30 a.m.

Confessions

First Friday of month 12:00 noon
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

This weekend, a collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal will be taken up at all Masses. Right now, nearly 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home missions (including the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau) because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please be generous.

**JUST A REMINDER ...
THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND
APPEAL WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEKEND, MAY 6-7.**



... whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep JOHN 10:2

1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
573-335-7667 • Fax 573-335-0034 • www.svcape.com
Serving the Catholic Community since April 9, 1836

• Mass Intentions •

Monday, May 1 St. Joseph the Worker
6:30 am Doris and Dick Hagedorn ☩

Tuesday, May 2 St. Athanasius
6:30 am Mary Hotop ☩

Wednesday, May 3 Sts. Philip and James
6:30 am Intentions of the Robison Family
5:15 pm Jack Breen ☩

Thursday, May 4
6:30 am Holy Souls in Purgatory ☩
8:00 am Joyce Miller (living)

Friday, May 5 First Friday
6:30 am Dr. John Coleman ☩
8:00 am No Mass

Saturday, May 6
6:30 am Gerald and Marylan Diebold ☩
5:00 pm Collin McGuire ☩

Sunday, May 7 Fifth Sunday of Easter
7:30 am Living and Deceased Members
of the Ron and Judy Roth Family
9:00 am Martin "Junior" VanGennip ☩
10:45 am St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family
3:00 pm Poor Souls in Purgatory ☩
(Bilingual)

• Prayer Requests •

Please remember **Tillie Boswell**, the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.

Diocesan Development Fund

The annual Diocesan Development Fund appeal will be held next weekend, May 6-7. This effort is conducted in every parish of the diocese to help finance the activities and ministries of the Catholic Church in southern Missouri. The parish goal for St. Vincent is \$285,000. Your help is needed in order to be successful. Please pray about your participation and be prepared to respond next weekend, if you have not already.

Notre Dame Regional High School is excited to host youth camps this summer! A variety of sports, arts, and science camps for ages Kindergarten - 8th grade will be offered. Browse camp offerings and register online at www.notredamehighschool.org/camps2023/.

Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

Council of Catholic Women

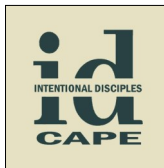
The next St. Vincent de Paul Women's Council meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 1, 2023**, in the lower meeting room. The special speakers will present information about their experiences from this year's Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Conference. All women of the parish are invited to attend. A potluck dinner will be served. Please bring a dish to share.

Eucharistic Minister Workshop

If you have not attended one the three previous workshops and are currently a Eucharistic Minister or would like to become a new Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (Eucharistic Minister), please choose one of the following below to attend.

- **Wednesday, May 3, 6:00 p.m. in Church**
- **Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m. in Church**

Bishop Rice wants all Eucharistic Ministers to go through a training workshop this Spring.



Young Adult Disciples Night

On **Thursday, May 4**, i.d.Cape (young adults) will host their monthly Disciples' Night at the old convent. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m.; a meal will be served at 6:15 p.m. followed by a live-streamed talk. All young adults in their 20's and 30's are invited. See the event on Facebook or email IdCapeinfo@gmail.com for more information. Please RSVP for the meal. Come and bring a friend!

First Friday Schedule of Prayer

All are invited to attend First Friday devotion on **May 5, 2023**. Please choose any of the prayer opportunities below, or you can attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament anytime throughout the day for quiet prayer time. Here are prayer opportunities:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 6:00 a.m. | Recitation of the Holy Rosary |
| 6:30 a.m. | First Friday Mass |
| 7:00 a.m. | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| 12:00 noon | Confessions from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. |
| 3:00 p.m. | Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet |
| 4:50 p.m. | Recitation of the Holy Rosary |
| 5:15 p.m. | Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament |



It is of particular importance to begin, or renew, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the spirit of reparation of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. The practice of the nine First Fridays is a particularly powerful way to do this. Jesus gave this devotion as a way of offering reparation to Him and consoling His Sacred Heart. Reparation is the way a person makes amends for a wrong done. Take full advantage of the means that are given by showing love for Jesus and His Sacred Heart. For more information, go to www.simplycatholic.com/how-to-observe-first-fridays-and-firstsaturdays/.

IS CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD ON YOUR GROCERY LIST?

May She Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the family of
Pat Brase, a member of the St. Vincent Parish family.

*May she and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*



Solemn Profession for Bob Janota

Bob Janota, ofs, will make his solemn profession as a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Secular Franciscan Order, on Saturday morning, **May 6, 2023**, during Holy Mass, at 10:30 a.m. Services will be held at the Poor Clare Monastery, 200 Marycrest Drive in Oakville, Missouri. All are welcome.

Bike 4 Vocations

Fern and Geoffrey Greenwell are biking across the United States for Vocation Awareness. They will stop in Cape Girardeau on May 7-8. Fern and Geoffrey will be at St. Mary Cathedral for *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on Sunday, **May 7**, 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. closing with Benediction. Pray the Rosary at the *Meet Me at the Grotto* event with Bishop Rice on St. Mary's green space at 6:30 p.m. Please pray for their safe travels. See <http://bike4vocations.org> for more information.

May Procession

Please join the Association of the Miraculous Medal on **Sunday, May 7, at 1:00 p.m.**, for the annual May Procession at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri. The procession will form in front of Saint Mary's of the Barrens Church. Participants will pray the Rosary during the procession to the historic grotto on the Rosary Walk. The traditional May Crowning and prayer service will be a part of this tribute to Our Blessed Mother. All are welcome to participate. You are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket as there is limited seating at the grotto. For any questions, please call 573-547-8343, or visit the website www.amm.org.

Attention: Catholic Men

You are invited to the Southeast Missouri

CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT
Men Meeting Jesus

Tuesday, May 9 • 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Guardian Angel Parish • Oran, Missouri

An evening of Adoration, Confession, and a Manly Meal with discussion
To plan for food, please RSVP to SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com,
or "SEMO Catholic Man Night" on Facebook or text 573-275-5214.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, that God will raise up good shepherds. If you think God is calling you to serve the Church as a priest, deacon, or consecrated religious, please contact Father Alex Sutachan at 573-335-7667 or email fatheralex@svparish.com.

• The Week Ahead •

Monday, May 1

6:30 pm Women's Council

Tuesday, May 2

6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study

6:30 pm St. Francis de Sales

Wednesday, May 3

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry
(8:00 - 11:00 am)

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

6:00 pm Parish School of Religion

Thursday, May 4

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 11:00 am)

9:00 am Thursday Women's Bible Study

9:30 am Communion Service
at Arbors/Auburn Creek

5:30 pm Centering Prayer

5:30 pm i.d.Cape

Friday, May 5

7:00 am Adoration of the Holy Eucharist

12:00 pm Reconciliation

5:15 pm Benediction

Saturday, May 6

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables
(9:00 - 12:00 noon)

3:30 pm Reconciliation

Sunday, May 7

9:00 am Children's Liturgy

*Extend mercy towards others,
so that there can be no one in need
whom you meet without helping.*

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Readings - May 7, 2023

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

Collection - April 23, 2023

Collection	\$ 10,944.35
E-Tithing	\$ 24,400.10
Total	\$ 35,344.45
Weekly Budget	\$ 33,000.00
Difference (7-1-22 to 4-23-23)	\$ 94,460.40

*Thank you for being good
stewards of God's gifts!*

• Contact Information •

Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

Father Alex Sutachan

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS
fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools /Diocesan Chancellor
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
rhuff@dioscg.org / 573-335-7667

Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA
mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University
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Tiffany Brey

Youth Ministry Coordinator
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Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance

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Campus Planning Update #2

I hope you have had an opportunity to review the plans, displayed in the gathering area, for the parking lot where the old rectory was located (south of the church). The construction plans for the parking lot have recently been completed. This project will also include new lights for that area.

After the parking lot has been completed, we will begin moving to the DePaul Center (Old Notre Dame building). As many of you know, when Notre Dame Regional High School relocated to the west of town on Route K (two miles west of I-55), the old Notre Dame was left vacant. Through the generosity of Wanda Drury, the parish was able to purchase the Notre Dame property. This included the high school building, the old Notre Dame Convent and the parking lot on the north side of the high school.

The old Notre Dame Convent has been used for various purposes. Many different groups have been able to meet there. It has housed Maxine's Sharable Wearables for a number of years.

The DePaul Center has been used for many events and activities over the past 23 years. Immediately, St. Vincent de Paul School was able to take over the gym and the concession area. That space has served our grade school well. Most recently, the old bleachers have been replaced with new bleachers which are safer. (NB: If you want to buy some of the old bleacher boards, they can be purchased for \$20 per board.)

Below the gym area is the old Notre Dame cafeteria. The kitchen space for the cafeteria needs new appliances. With that upgrade it has the capacity to be a great kitchen. The Campus Planning Team is looking for people to help design this kitchen space. If you are interested, please contact me at stvcapepadre@gmail.com or at 573-335-7667.

In addition to the kitchen rehab, there is space for an Event Center. This Event Center will be on the lower level of the classroom area. It will have approximately 6,000 square feet of space and will be large enough to hold any parish, regional, or Diocesan event. It could host a wedding or anniversary reception and could also house our famous Lenten Fish Fries. The space has much potential.

In a few weeks, another aspect of the rehab project will be highlighted regarding plans for the old Notre Dame building. Once again, these are only suggestions from the Campus Planning Team. In order for any of this to become a reality, the Parish Council, the Parish Finance Council, and you, as a parish member, have to reach a consensus to move forward. And, needless to say, moving forward will involve a Capital Campaign to raise significant funds for this project. So, let's pray to St. Joseph, the Master Carpenter, to guide us on the final Master Plan of this grand project!

St. Joseph – Pray for Us!

~ Father Rick



"We are an Easter people and our prayer is Alleluia!" Stay tuned to Covenant Network Catholic Radio to continue rejoicing in our salvation by our God and the Glory of Our Risen Lord. Listen to 94.3 FM on the radio or anytime on the free Covenant Network mobile app or at OurCatholicRadio.org.

Diocesan Traveling Exhibit

Miracles of the Eucharist Across the World

Do you wonder if the bread and wine at Mass really becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus? Or is it a symbol? Is the Eucharist really Jesus?

If you have these questions, you are invited to visit the Miracles of the Eucharist exhibit here at St. Vincent **May 15-21**. This exhibit was designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis and documents the many miracles of the Eucharist throughout the world and across the centuries. Ten large displays with color photos will describe just a few of the 140 Eucharistic miracles approved by the Vatican. Mark your calendars and bring your family and friends!

St. Louis Catholic Marian Conference

The 24th Annual Saint Louis Marian Conference will be held **May 19-21, 2023**, at the Renaissance Hotel - St. Louis Airport. All are welcome! The conference includes dynamic days of inspiring talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Confession, a large selection of vendors, beautiful music, and fellowship with Catholics from all over the country (15 states so far)! Confirmed speakers include Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, Msgr. Eugene Morris, Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, Fr. Bill Casey, CPM, Fr. Mark Wheelan, SOLT, Dr. Ray Guarendi, Jesse Romero, Patty Schneier, and emcee Zip Rzeppa. For registration or more info, please visit www.stlmc.org, phone 314-850-7718, or email info@stlmc.org.

Garden Work Day

Please pray for good weather on Saturday, **May 20**, so the parish can have a good garden work day. Gather at 8:30 with coffee and donuts and work until 12:00 noon. Tasks include transplanting irises and bushes in various spots on campus. Come and have fun in the dirt. Bring the tool that you use best. Tillers could be helpful. For more information, contact Father Rick at the parish office (573-335-7667).



Holy Land Pilgrimage

Join an unforgettable journey of faith and hope during an August 6-15, 2023, Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This trip will be led by Father Antony Thekkanath, VC, who is pastor at St. John Church in Leopold. The tour will include a trip to Mount Tabor to visit the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus, boat ride across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, Cana of Galilee, Nazareth, Yardenit, Beit Shean, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, Bethany, Bethlehem, Emmaus, Jericho, the Dead Sea and much more! The days will include daily Mass at many sites that were significant in Jesus' life and countless opportunities to contemplate the beginning of Christian faith. Itineraries can be found on the St. John Parish website at www.stjohnchurchleopold.com. If you have questions, please contact Father Antony by emailing thekkanathvc@gmail.com or by calling the rectory at 573-238-3300, ext. 2.

Upcoming Events

Annual Rummage Sale May 4-6, 2023

Thursday and Friday
7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday
7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Leopold KC Hall
Leopold, Missouri

Sponsored by St. John's PCCW

...

Buffet Style Breakfast Sunday, May 7, 2023

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

St. Maurus Parish Hall
Biehle, Missouri

Menu includes pancakes, ham, sausage patties, scrambled eggs, German fried potatoes, milk gravy, biscuits, homemade coffee cake

Adults \$10, Children (6-12) \$5
Children (5 and under) free

...

Annual Spring Dinner Sunday, May 7, 2023

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Parish
Glennon, Missouri

Menu includes kettle beef, dumplings, dressing, trimmings, dessert and drinks

Adults \$14, Children (6-12) \$8
Children (5 and under) free



Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at <http://www.svcape.com/Parish/>.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau.

☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member.

☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith.

☐ I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.

☐ Please change my address to the one shown above.

☐ I would like to sign up for Faith Direct.

Celebrating the Sacraments Celebrando los Sacramentos

Marriage: Please contact the parish office at least **six months** in advance. (If you have been married before, an annulment may need to be done first.)

Matrimonio: Por favor comuníquese con la oficina parroquial por lo menos con **seis meses** de antelación. (Si usted ha estado casado antes, una anulación del matrimonio puede necesitar ser hecha primero.)

...

Baptism: Your family needs to be registered in the parish for three months prior to the baptism. It is necessary to schedule baptismal preparation classes six weeks prior to your child's baptism. Taking the baptism class prior to birth is encouraged! Contact Deacon Mark at the parish office (573-335-7667).

Bautismo: Es un requisito ser inscritos en la parroquia por lo menos 3 meses antes de bautizar. También los padres tienen que celebrar la santa misa cada fin de semana. La clase de preparación para el bautismo para padres y padrinos es cada último lunes del mes. Favor de comunicarse con Padre Rick una semana antes al 573-335-7667.

...

Anointing of the Sick: If you are going to the hospital for a planned surgery, please call the parish office so this Sacrament can be celebrated with you.

Unción de los enfermos: Si usted va al hospital para una cirugía planificada, por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para que este Sacramento pueda ser celebrado con usted.

Employment Opportunities

Part-time Technology Teacher - St. Vincent de Paul School is currently accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year for a part-time Technology Teacher. Interested applicants may call the school office at 573-334-9594 or by email kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net to receive an application.

Summer Care Staff - St. Vincent de Paul Summer Care is looking for several individuals to join their staff from late May until the first week of August. Must be 18 years of age or older. Virtus training is required. For more info, please contact the school office or email 2023svsummer@gmail.com.

ND Tony Buehrle Alumni Golf Tournament

The Notre Dame Booster Club is hosting the Tony Buehrle Alumni Golf Tournament sponsored by Plaza Tire Service. The four-person scramble will take place at the Cape Girardeau Country Club on **Friday, June 16, 2023**. A 7:30 a.m. and a 1:00 p.m. flight are available. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

The cost is \$150 per player and includes cart, lunch, beverages, mulligans and skins. Registration is available online at www.notredamehighschool.org/summergolf. Participants must be 21 or older. Limited spots available!



Benedictine Sisters Monastic Experience

The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri, will host an in-person Monastic Experience **June 23-29, 2023**.

"It's a chance to experience the daily rhythm of our life where you can join us in singing the divine office, attend daily Mass, spend time in personal prayer and open your heart to God's call by learning about discernment and prayer," Vocation Director Sister Maria Victoria Cutaia, OSB said. "It's always a joy and an honor for me to journey with women who are discerning their path in life."

This opportunity is for single women, age 18-40, who are considering religious life. There is no cost to attend. For more information or to learn about upcoming Monastic Experiences, including virtual opportunities, please contact Sister Maria Victoria at vocation@benedictinesisters.org, call 660-944-2221 ext. 127, or visit www.BenedictineSisters.org and click on Vocations/Walk With Us.

Volunteers Needed

Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support, Inc. is a nationally recognized program that Saint Francis Healthcare System uses as a backbone to provide support and education to bereaved parents and family during the loss of an early pregnancy, infant, or stillbirth. The program provides mementos such as pictures, castings of the hands and feet, and burial gowns and suits for these precious babies. If you would be interested in sewing gowns and suits from donated wedding gowns, please contact April Bond, RN at 573-331-5917 or Sarah Beth Ross, RN at 573-225-0897 for more information.

The mission of Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support, Inc. is to serve those whose lives are touched by the tragic death of a baby through pregnancy loss, stillbirth, or in the first few months of life.

This Week at Home

St. Joseph the Worker

Monday, May 1

Today marks the second special date the Church has set aside to lift up and honor St. Joseph, the earthly father to Jesus of Nazareth. As a carpenter, Joseph serves as a model for the virtue of work and provision for his family. He did this quietly, without drawing attention away from his spouse, Mary, or his son, Jesus. His steadfast faithfulness led him eventually to be named the patron of the universal Church. St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us. *Today's readings: Genesis 1:26-2:3 or Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Psalm 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16; Matthew 13:54-58.*

The Father and I are One

Tuesday, May 2

Today's Scripture passage locates Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem, once again surrounded by his fellow Jews imploring him to explain himself. We can sense Jesus' exasperation with their lack of perception despite his many efforts to show and tell them his true identity. He concludes boldly, "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30). Take this essential truth to prayer today. Can you empathize with his contemporaries and their struggle to comprehend? *Today's readings: Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 10:22-30.*

Feast of Sts. Philip and James

Wednesday, May 3

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the path to life. Our key link to God the Father, Jesus came to show the way to experience a relationship with the One who desires to be with us. Through following Jesus to the Father, we also become key links in the relationship chain. The apostles Philip and James were some of the first links in this unbroken chain of those who call themselves disciples of Jesus. *Today's readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5; John 14:6-14.*

The Panoramic View

Thursday, May 4

The pairing of today's first reading and Gospel offers the aerial view of the plan of salvation. Paul paints the broad strokes of God's covenant with the people of Israel leading to Jesus. Jesus echoes his divine role when he claims that his purpose is the fulfillment of Scripture (John 13:18). Step back and take in the panoramic view to contemplate God's plan and our role in it as disciples in this time and place. *Today's readings: Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; John 13:16-20.*

In My Father's House

Friday, May 5

Chapter 14 of John's Gospel is often chosen for proclamation at the Mass of Christian Burial. The words of consolation, encouragement in faith, and promise of a place of rest with God for all of eternity are just the words many need to hear when grief is fresh and there is wonder about the care of our souls after death consumes our hearts. Jesus' assurance to his beloved disciples speaks to us today. Light a candle in remembrance of departed loved ones. Sit in prayer with this passage from John's Gospel. Allow it to sink in and comfort you today. *Today's readings: Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; John 14:1-6.*

Filled with Joy

Saturday, May 6

Luke paints a picture of the disciples Paul and Barnabas as active evangelizers, "The disciples could not but be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 13:52). Pope Francis calls us to follow their example as missionary disciples. The most effective approach is exuding the contagious joy of our life in God. Practice joy today. Attend to how you radiate joy in your words, actions, and gestures. *Today's readings: Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 14:7-14.*

Sunday, April 30

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today's readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1); 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. As part of John 10 is proclaimed, we hear Jesus boldly claim his identity as the Good Shepherd. Since young children are especially drawn to this image of Jesus, faith formation programs explore it to help children discover the voice of God calling each of his sheep by name. This relational analogy of Jesus the Good Shepherd calling his flock by name to follow him through the sheepfold gate resonates deeply. Listeners to this reading can contemplate all the ways a shepherd cares for his sheep, provides for all their needs, protects them, seeks them out if they stray, and guides their paths. Children easily see themselves as the sheep and intuit that Jesus' offer of love, care, and protection is for each of us.

This analogy communicates God's unceasing desire to be close to us. God entered into humanity and became one of us so that we might know and believe the possibility of true relationship with him. God knows each of us. God knows every part of us. God calls each of us by name. He leads us in right paths and stays by our side as protector and provider.

Good Shepherd Sunday offers a beautiful opportunity to place ourselves in this rich image and discover anew that we are called and beloved by Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

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