



**HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH**

National Catholic Church

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FB: Holy Name of Jesus, South Deerfield

**APRIL 21, 2024 – 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

10:00 am – Monthly meeting of the Parish  
Committee.

Mass Intention: Sp. Mary Durkee offered by family  
members.

**OPENING HYMN**

**TO THEE, WE COME, O LORD, OUR GOD.**



**ENTRANCE HYMN**

(Ezekiel 34:31; Psalm 79:13)

**V. You, My sheep, you are the sheep of My pasture,  
and I am your God, says the Lord God. Alleluia.**

**R. Then we, Your people, and the sheep of Your  
pasture, will give thanks to You forever; through  
all generations we will declare Your praise.  
Alleluia.**

**C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the  
Holy Spirit,**

**R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall  
be, world without end. Amen**

**THE GLORIA**

**Glory to God in the Highest,  
And peace to His people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God, and Father**

**We worship You; we give You thanks  
We praise you for Your glory  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father  
Lord God, Lamb of God  
You take away the sins of the world  
Have mercy on us  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father  
Receive our prayer  
For you alone are the Holy One  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ  
With the Holy Spirit, in the  
glory of God the Father. Amen.**

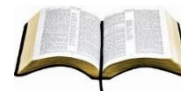
**OPENING PRAYER**

**C. The Lord be with you.**

**R. And also with you.**

**C. Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of Your  
people; strengthen us through Your risen presence.  
May we walk with You each day and follow You in  
humble trust for You are the Good Shepherd, You  
call us by name and lead us. For You live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever  
and ever.**

**R. Amen.**



**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS**

(Acts 4:8-12)

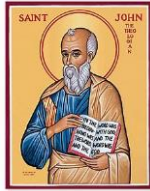
**Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said: “Leaders  
of the people and elders: If we are being examined  
today about a good deed done to a cripple,  
namely, by what means he was saved, then all of  
you and all the people of Israel should know that  
it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean  
whom you crucified, whom God raised from the  
dead; in his name this man stands before you  
healed. He is the stone rejected by you, the  
builders, which has become the cornerstone.  
There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is  
there any other name under heaven given to the  
human race by which we are to be saved.”**

**C. This is the Word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**  
**(Isaiah 40:11)**

- V. Like a shepherd He feeds His flock; in His arms  
He gathers the lambs, alleluia.**  
**R. Carrying them in His bosom and leading the  
ewes with care. Alleluia.**



**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF  
SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE**  
**(1 John 3:1-2)**

**Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

- C. This is the Word of the Lord.**  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE**  
**(1Peter 5:4; Psalm 95:7)**

- C. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
**V. And when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you  
will receive the unfading crown of glory. For He  
is our God, and we are the people He shepherds,  
the flock He guides.**  
**R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**



**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN**  
**(John 10:11-18)**

- C. The Lord be with you.**  
**R. And also with you.**  
**C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to  
Saint John.**  
**R: Glory be to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said: "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."

- C. This is the Gospel of the Lord.**  
**R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE  
CREED**

**I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth  
Of all that is seen and unseen.**  
**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
The only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father.**  
**God from God, Light from Light, True God  
from true God, begotten not made  
Of one being with the Father.**  
**Through Him all things were made  
For us and for our salvation.**  
**He came down from heaven:  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
He was born of the Virgin Mary  
AND BECAME MAN.**  
**For our sake, He was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate  
He suffered death and was buried.**  
**On the third day He rose again  
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.**  
**He ascended into heaven and  
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again in glory  
To judge the living and the dead**

And His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The Lord and Giver of Life  
Who proceeds from the Father,  
With the Father and the Son  
He is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in One, Holy, Catholic  
and Apostolic Church  
I acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
I look for the resurrection of the dead  
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



**OFFERTORY VERSE**  
(Jeremiah 3:15)

V. I will appoint over you shepherds after My own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently. Alleluia.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Almighty Father, accept this oblation and grant a loving, wise, and courageous spirit to all who pastor, minister and teach in Your name. Through all their Spirit, one God, forever and ever. May seek Your glory and the increase of Your kingdom. We ask this and ever.

R. Amen.



**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**Let us Pray:** Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

**COMMUNION VERSE**

(Psalm 119:175-76)

V. Let my soul live to praise You, and may Your ordinances help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant because Your commands I do not forget. Alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You so shepherd Your people that they shall not want. Lead us peacefully to Your green pastures and refresh us beside Your still waters. For us who have shared in the Holy Banquet, restore our souls when we go astray and always lead us in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

**“I am the Good Shepherd and I know mine and mine know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father.” - John 10:14**

**“I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through Me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The Gatekeeper opens it for Him, and the sheep hear His voice, as the shepherd calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. When He has driven out all His own, He walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow Him.”**

- John 10: 9, 3, 4

We find in the Gospel of John the great “**I AM’s** of Jesus.” I AM the living bread which has come down from heaven.” (John 6:51), I AM the living water.” (John 4:10) “I AM the Light of the World.” (John 8:12), “I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life.” (John 14:6) and “I AM the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25). Each of these great “I AM’s” of Jesus brings about not only the declaration of His Divinity, as God’s only begotten

Son, an emissary, and the Savior, but each of His declarations brings about the blessed assurance of spiritual enlightenment, fulfillment, and guidance for all who seek His Way, His Truth, and His Life through His teachings..

On this the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, we read of another great **“I AM”** of Jesus **“I AM** the Good Shepherd,”

You know, of all our physical senses, the ability to hear is one of the most important gifts we possess. I think again of Helen Keller and all those who in earlier times as well as today, cannot experience, as most of us do, the sounds of music, whether classical, rock or pop.

While there are so many sounds that we experience through listening to music, as well as the stillness of nature, the “sounds of silence,” there are also many daily external sounds, that we hear every day, that are distractions, and distortions which makes us deaf to the quiet sounds of the Master’s inner voice, calling to us, as a shepherd, found in the quietness and in the depths of our very souls.

We learn in our catechetical instruction, that each of us, born in the likeness and image of God, are given a “conscience” and that in this “conscience” we find His voice. In today’s Gospel, we read that our Lord calls out to His sheep by name and upon hearing His voice, they follow Him. It can be said that we are all called daily by this inner voice, which exists deep within each of us to come and follow Him and His Gospel. We are directed, through the teachings of Jesus, to strive daily to hear His voice. My brothers and sisters, I believe that when we search and read Holy Scripture, and then meditate and reflect on its wisdom, we begin to align ourselves closer to that voice and begin to hear this voice a little clearer, and a little stronger. In the end, this voice brings each of us closer to the “Shepherd and the Guardian of our souls,” the Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:25).

We also learn from catechetical instruction, that prayer is an essential tool, that helps centers ourselves to hear that voice, apart from all the distractions in our outside world. I do not know how many of us truly understand the meaning of the term, “The Word (the Logia) that was made flesh?”

We learn that in Palestine, shepherds have the uncanny ability of making sounds that can not only lead the entire flock but also individual sheep. The layout of the land in Palestine, where sheep would graze, is very rocky. It is easy for sheep, as they graze, to get lost among the rocks and the outcroppings. But when the shepherd calls out, the sheep hear his own voice through a series of whistles, singing or what we could call today “baby talk.” The sheep know of the uniqueness of their shepherd’s voice and will not hearken or be led by a stranger’s voice.

It can also be said that sheep are not the smartest of animals, just like humans. Humans, like sheep tend to wander and place themselves in dangerous situations and just like sheep can be taken away by others, robbers, and thieves, who would steal them away from the Shepherd. Now the Resurrected Christ, as being the Good Shepherd, calls out to those who have become lost due to their own choices. He calls out to them, gently by name. But unlike sheep, many humans will not always come back to the safety of the flock. And in the end, so many will be devoured in the world. Because of our free will, we all are given a choice, to either listen or ignore that inner voice that calls out to each of us to be tended and led.

And so, my brothers and sisters: The Lord calls out to each of us today, to find the safety and security of being a part of His chosen flock. He is there during our days as our overseer and at nights as a protector. We only need to listen to His voice within for guidance, direction, and inspiration. We read that our Lord knows each one of us by name, but the question is do asked: Do we know Him? Do we tend to graze away from the guidance of our Shepherd? And do we truly believe and trust that He knows our daily needs?

May we all “hearken” unto the voice of the Resurrected Lord this day and find assurance in the words spoken by Saint Peter who wrote in His first letter to Rome: “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”



## **THE SHEPHERD'S PSALM (Psalm 23)**

The **LORD** is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
 He leads me beside still waters  
 He restores my soul.  
 He leads me in paths of righteousness  
 for His name's sake.  
 Even 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 my enemies;  
 Thou anointest my head with oil,  
 my cup overflows.  
 Surely goodness and mercy  
 shall follow me, all the days of my life;  
 and I shall dwell,  
 in the house of the LORD  
 forever. Amen.



## **THE ROLE OF THE SHEPHERD**

If we were to look at the history of the Jewish people, as found in the Old Testament, we see that the Lord God is portrayed as a shepherd, who leads his flock of Israel first out of the bondage and slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness for 40 years and brings this flock into a new land.

If we were to consider the history of "shepherding" we realize that examples of the chosen "shepherds" of the Lord God.

- **Abel** was a shepherd.

- **Abraham** was a shepherd.
- **Jacob**, was a shepherd.
- **Moses** was a shepherd.
- **David** was a shepherd.
- **Amos** a prophet was a shepherd.

We read in Genesis 2:19 that God brought all the animals to Adam, to name them.

His son Abel tended flocks and found his offering to God more pleasing than the offering of his brother Cain, who out of anger killed his brother. Read Genesis 4.

God came to Abraham who in Genesis 13:2 had many flocks and God established a promise to Abraham, a covenant that would continue throughout his sons Isaac and Jacob, called by God "Israel," in Genesis 35:0-11.

Moses, the deliverer of the children of Israel and the giver of the Torah, was also as a shepherd as we read in Exodus 3:1.

David, who would unite the two kingdoms of the Jews was a shepherd as we read in 1 Samuel 16:11.

From the "root of Jesse" we see the lineage of Jesus as mentioned in Matthew and Luke.



## **THE PACAL CANDLE**

One of the sacred symbols found in during the season of Easter is the Pascal Candle. Found in the Catholic, the Lutheran, the Anglican, the Methodist Church as well as other Christian denominations, the Pascal candle plays a most significant part in the celebration of Easter.

Taken from the **Latin** word "**Pascha**," which comes from the Hebrew word, "Pesach" meaning "Passover." It is interesting that the Pascal Candle connects the Pesach of the Old Testament of "Deliverance" to the New Testament of Pascha with the understanding that in Jesus there is "salvation" or deliverance.

The Pascal Candle has been referred to, also as the "Easter candle" or the "Christ candle."

In the Eastern Orthodox Church the Paschal Candle is known as the "trikirion," or a "triple" candlestick,

In the Liturgy of Holy Saturday in the PNCC, the new fire is brought from the outdoors into the church on a single flame, carried by one of our parishioners. Another parishioner carries a "trident" of three candles, which are lit in three separate areas of the nave of our church, eventually coming to the Pascal Candle.

Other noteworthy information on the Pascal candle:

- The Pascal Candle is usually blessed on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter, and serves as the receptacle of the "light" of the "new fire," which is also blessed on Holy Saturday.
- In the liturgy of the church, the Pascal candle is also used in the blessing of Holy Water which also takes place on Holy Saturday.
- The Pascal candle is the first symbol of Easter that is carried in procession on Easter day, along with the "Glorified Cross" and the "Statue of the Risen Christ."

The very order of the Easter procession speaks of the evolution of the "divine will" of God; the "light" was the first act of His creation; the "Glorified Cross" represents the coming into the world His only begotten Son, Jesus, who would die upon for the sins of the world and finally the "statue of the Risen Christ," which represents His glorious resurrection from the dead, in which He proclaimed prior to His Passion and death. It would be through "perfect sacrifice" that would acts as an atonement unto God for the return of mankind to their "Edenic" state that existed before the fall of man from the "Garden," as described in the Book of Genesis.

In 2022, our parish blessed a new Pascal Candle which you see above. The name of this Pascal Candle is the "Good Shepherd" candle. It seemed appropriate that after our Parish, which was consecrated as "Holy Name of Jesus," back in

August of 1929, we would re-dedicate our Parish and ourselves to be led by the "Good Shepherd,"

Some other interesting facts on the Pascal Candle:

- It is the tallest of all candles.
- Chosen for its purity, the Pascal Candle is made entirely of beeswax. It is said that as the Pascal Candle represents the purity of Christ, the candle's wick signifies His humanity, and the flame His Divine Nature. For many churches a new Pascal candle is purchased every year.
- During the season of Easter, the Pascal Candle is the first candle to be lit and the last to be extinguished in the sanctuary of the church. In many churches that reads at the end of Holy Mass from the beginning of the Gospel of John 1:1-14.
- The Pascal candle is adorned with a cross that receives the five grains of incense, which represents the five wounds of Christ. Usually red in color, they are often referred to as "nails," The three nails represent the piercing of the hands and feet of Jesus, the crown of thorns that crowned his head and the spear that was thrust into His side.
- Also found on the Pascal candle is the Greek letters "Alpha" and "Omega" which symbolizes that Jesus is the beginning and the end as found in Revelations 1:8: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come."
- Finally, the present year is displayed on the Pascal candle that represents the year that the congregation chooses to follow the teachings of Christ.
- Following the season of Easter, the Pascal Candle remains in the sanctuary and is lit during funerals and in some cases the Sacrament of Baptism,"

Most importantly, the Pascal Candle represents Christ, who declared in John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."



**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**FEAST OF SAINT MARK**

Considered to be the first Gospel account of Jesus, written as early as 50 AD, the Gospel of Mark along with the Gospels of Matthew and Luke are known as the “Synoptic Gospels’ due to the fact that many events in the life of Jesus are found in all three Gospel accounts. But who was Mark?

His mother, Mary of Jerusalem, as mentioned in Acts 12:12 provided a home where the Apostles of Jesus met. It is also believed that it was at the home of Mark’s mother, that the Last Supper of Jesus was held.

A cousin of Barnabas, Mark was invited by Barnabas to come to Antioch from Jerusalem and travel with Paul on his First Missionary journey. There was a rift that grew between Mark and Paul that was created when Mark returned prematurely to Jerusalem and Paul questioned his missionary zeal. Some believe that Mark left Paul due to Mark missing his home.

Soon after, Paul was imprisoned and prior to his martyrdom, Paul wrote to Timothy at Ephesus advising him to "take Mark and bring him with you [to Rome], for he is profitable to me for the ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11). If Mark returned to Rome at this time, he was probably there when Paul was martyred in 64 AD.

According to Christian tradition, Mark also held a close relationship with St. Peter, who referred to Mark as 'his son' in his letter addressed to a number of churches in Asia Minor (1 Peter 5:13). Clement of Alexandria, Irenaeus and Papias all indicate that Mark was an interpreter for Peter.

Believed to have been the first Bishop of Alexandria, Mark lived for many years in Alexandria, Egypt and it is believed that he died as a martyr while being dragged through the streets.

In 828 AD, the relics of St. Mark were stolen from Alexandria and taken to Venice, Italy where they are enshrined in a cathedral dedicated to the saint.



**OUR PARISH CALENDAR**

**DAILY HOLY MASS**

**8:45 am Morning Devotions**

**9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist**

**THIS WEEK’S MASS SCHEDULE**

**(April 22<sup>nd</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup>)**

- Mon. 4/22**      **Private prayer and devotion.**  
Soter & Caius, Bishop & Martyr  
Leonides of Alexandria, Martyr  
Agapitus of Rome, Bishop
- Tue. 4/23**      **Mass for Health & Healing**  
Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr  
George the Great, Martyr  
Felix, Fortunatus, Doctor  
Achilleus, Doctor & Martyr
- Wed. 4/24**      **Mass to the Holy Saints of God**  
Mellitus of Canterbury, Bishop  
Egbert, Bishop  
Fiddelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr
- Thurs. 4/25**      **Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist**  
Mark, Evangelist  
Anianus of Alexandria, Bishop  
Heribald, Bishop
- Fri. 4/26**      **Mass to the Holy Angels of God**  
Cletus & Marcellinus, Bishop & M  
Peter of Braga, Bishop & Martyr  
Riquier, Abbot
- Sat. 4/27**      **Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus**  
Anthimus of Nicomedia, Bishop  
Asicus, Abbot & Bishop  
Maccul, Bishop



**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024**

**10:00 am – Our food ministry will hand out free groceries on a first come – first serve basis. We ask that you please share this information with others.**

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Contemporary rite.

Mass Intention: Sp. Stanley Lukomski (16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of passing) offered by family members.

**ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION**

**“Your lamp is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.” - Psalm 119:105**

During the month of April 2024, the Eastern Diocesan Mission, and Evangelism Commission of the PNCC, has called upon its members and others to offer these two following prayers on Wednesdays at noon:

**A PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**O Lord Jesus Christ**, before Your passion and death You prayed to Your Father for the Apostles “so that they may be one, even as We are one...so that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.” Reveal to the members of Your Church the peace, love and unity that comes through living in accordance with Your Word. Good Shepherd, lead us and make us one flock, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *(from the PNCC Book of Devotions)*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**OUR FATHER** who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.



**PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

In our prayers, may we remember all our brothers

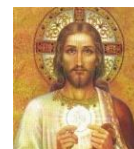
and sisters, who are sick and ill and ask for God’s blessings of health and healing. Let us also remember in prayer:

Louise Puchalski currently at The Atrium at Cardinal Drive in Agawam, MA.

George Sadowski currently at Quabbin Valley Rehabilitation Center in Athol, MA.

Joseph Kiloski currently at Amherst Rehabilitation Facility in Amherst, MA

**Let us pray.** O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illness and grant them recovery in Jesus’ holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



**ONE BREAD, ONE BODY**

**Daily Devotions**

New copies of the Easter daily devotional booklet, “One Bread, One Body” are now available, free of charge, and found in the vestibule of our Church. These booklets provide daily devotions, which are in accord with the daily readings as found in the “Common Lectionary” of the Christian Church.

**Our Food Ministry: “Feeding the Hungry”**

**” For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”**

- Matthew 25:35-36

I want to thank all who have and continue to donate non-perishable food items as well as monetary donations to aid our food ministry. May God bless all our endeavors to help others.