

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 24th and 25th, 2021

Greetings from the Pastor:

Jesus said, I am the Good Shepherd.” That is the opening line of our Gospel today on this Fourth Sunday of Easter. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd has deep roots in the story of Israel. The metaphor for shepherd was standard for kings and religious leaders who were expected to guide Israel in the ways of God, thus protecting them from spiritual and social harm. Jesus is taking up this divine role to the point of laying down his life for the sheep, rather than allowing them to stray or suffer.

In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus drew an analogy between two different kinds of shepherds. One would stand and defend his sheep against wild animals, even at the loss of his own life. The other would run away when he saw a wolf coming, leaving the sheep to be torn by the wolf. The shepherd who ran away worked only for money; he was a hired hand. The other who stood his ground was owner of the flock. He worked out of devotion to the sheep. Whatever our roles in life may be, if we know the Good Shepherd, our primary task is to be of service.

A reminder. This Saturday, April 24th, is First Holy Communion at the 5:30 p.m. Mass at Mary Our Lady of Peace (MOLOP). Our second graders are all excited for their big day and have worked very hard. A big thank you to all who have helped in any way with their preparation. A job well done! Congratulations to our First Communicants!!

Gala raffle tickets are available in the MOLOP parish office. Please get in on the first early bird drawing (to be held on May 22nd) for a chance to win \$500.00. Raffle tickets are only \$100.00.

As the planting season gets underway, please be safe. We also welcome back our snowbirds who are beginning to return. It is good to have you back.

Again, congratulations to our First Communicants.

Be Safe, be healthy

Father Tony