

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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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

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Mission Statement

Called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to live His Gospel by answering daily, "Yes, here I am Lord". Strengthened by the sacraments and trusting in God's saving grace, we joyfully commit ourselves to sharing our gifts for the continual renewal of our parish and the Maplewood community.

From Deacon John:

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY: WE HAVE A GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus is our shepherd. He opens the gate for us...he leads the way...he calls us by name. Why does Jesus do this? In the gospel today Jesus explains, *"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."*

These are profound words as the news for the last two months has been focused on suffering and death from COVID-19. The suffering is intense, and often lonely since most nursing homes and hospitals are now closed to visitors. The Vietnam war lasted eleven years and killed 58,220 Americans. In two months we have lost 58,351 to COVID-19 in all age groups and all states.

In our first reading (from the second chapter of Acts) follows up from last week when Peter said the Resurrection of Jesus was the fulfillment of God's plan outlined throughout scriptures after people chose to crucify him. When people ask Peter *"What are we to do?"* he says *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* Baptism is the beginning of us following the Good Shepherd.

The second reading (from St. Peter's letter) seems to apply very well to us today as we "STAY-AT-HOME". Peter writes *"If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you.**"*

Suffering has always been a human mystery. But when we look at Jesus on a crucifix we begin to understand Jesus became human to "suffer with us and for us." Peter goes on to say *"**By his wounds you have been healed.**"* HIS SUFFERING CONNECTED JESUS TO US. OUR SUFFERING CONNECTS US TO JESUS.

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO US AND COVID-19? We all have to suffer some to try to stop COVID-19 for all. As we suffer we draw closer to our shepherd. *By his wounds you have been healed...by giving up what we WANT to do and by doing what we SHOULD do by staying-at-home we can help bring healing to others.*

Jesus came so we *"might have life and have it more abundantly."* As we limit our everyday activities we make it more possible for OTHERS to *"have life and have it more abundantly."* We may only see the negative aspects of the "Stay-at-home" orders because we give up some freedom and what we want. But through prayer and thoughtfulness we can see how our suffering can be positive...we can draw closer to Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

HOPE & RESURRECTION vs. PANDEMIC COVID-19:

Yes, COVID-19 is highly contagious and it can be spread by someone who has no symptoms. In two months it's caused more American deaths than eleven years of the Vietnam war. In just one week we went from the first case of COVID-19 at Regina Cleri (retired priests) in Shrewsbury to 19 cases and 1 dead priest. COVID-19 is powerful and deadly...and real.

Our HOPE comes from our Good Shepherd. Jesus' Resurrection, following his painful and humiliating crucifixion, shows the power of God. Hope is not a magic trick to make the coronavirus disappear. But the resurrection shows the victory of love over hate. Pope Francis said *"the resurrection is the victory of love over the root of evil, a victory that does not "bypass" suffering and death, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming evil into good. This is the unique hallmark of the power of God...This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic."* Hope is REAL.

Hope can spread as fast as a virus. **HOPE CAN BE CONTAGIOUS.**

May God bless you in a special way,
Deacon John



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marriage/Family Life Update.

“The Archdiocese of Saint Louis Office of Marriage & Family Life is dedicated to preparing couples for a joy-filled sacramental marriage with all the beauty and graces it offers. To service this mission during this time social distancing and gathering restrictions due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Marriage Preparation classes from the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be presented as live webinars during the month of April. The class dates and times remain the same as published at <https://www.archstl.org>.

CREATE A FAMILY PRAYER SPACE AT HOME

In the coming weeks, families will be spending more time together at home. One good use of this time would be to pray together on a regular basis. This prayer time together can be enhanced by creating a place in your home dedicated to prayer. Making a place for prayer in our home can help us do what the Gospel tells us, to go into an “inner room” to pray (Matthew 6:6). Make your prayer place as quiet, uncluttered, and “desert-like” as possible. It can be the corner of a room or any unused space. Furnish your prayer place with a Bible, prayer books, cross, rosary, icons, and a candle. Encourage family members to use the prayer place for personal as well as family prayer.

You can bless your place of prayer, saying:
Come, Holy God. Dwell in this place of prayer,
and bless it with your peace and presence.
Bless all who seek you here.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

If you are unable to go to Mass, one idea for prayer together is to find a resource with the prayers and reading for Sunday Mass and pray those together. Your parish may have something you can take home and use. You can find the readings online at www.usccb.org.

SLUH is pleased to offer **MULTIPLE** virtual opportunities to future Jr. Bills and their parents to experience our brotherhood, our academics, and our robust athletics and co-curricular opportunities including InsideSLUH Visits, a Campus Tour, Office Hours, and Feature Zoom Events with SLUH Subject-Matter Experts. Visit our Virtual Admissions Office at <https://www.sluh.org/admissions> to learn more.



St. Louis Friends of Birthright Virtual Run for Life and Learning

Looking for a fun and safe way to support Moms in need? The Friends of Birthright Run for Life and Learning has gone Virtual! To register or donate, visit:

run4lifeandlearning.eventbrite.com. Complete a Run/Walk distance of your choice (6K, 1 mile, 0.25 mile) individually or with your immediate family anytime between Monday, June 1 and Sunday, June 7. Post your time and/or photo to our Facebook page, or email us, and receive a race t-shirt. Proceeds enable women who are financially stressed by an unplanned pregnancy to continue their education. Please email us at run4lifeandlearning@gmail.com for sponsorship opportunities.

Dynamic Catholic, Alive! – Spiritual Heartburn and Typology The disciples recounted how their hearts were burning within them when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them. One of the many beautiful elements of the Faith is Biblical typology, the fulfillment of elements of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Common examples are Noah’s ark prefiguring the Church, the Flood prefiguring Baptism, and Moses prefiguring Jesus Christ. As we rejoice throughout this blessed Easter Season, let us pray with the Old Testament and see how Christ fulfills what is found in it. St. Augustine wrote, “In the Old Testament the New Testament is concealed; in the New Testament the Old Testament is revealed.” Through typology we can experience spiritual heartburn, the best kind, and more fully appreciate God’s plan in salvation history. archstl.org/dynamic



Join the 2020 Census Team!
Be a part of History!

2020census.gov/jobs

1-855-JOB-2020
(1-855-562-2020)

Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339 TTY / ASCII
www.gsa.gov/fedrelay

The Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) provides telecommunications services to allow individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or have speech disabilities to conduct official business with and within the federal government.
The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Starting at \$17-
\$20/hr

Paid Training

Multiple Positions

Flexible hours

Weekly Pay

No Cold Calls

Schedule For The Week

Sunday, May 3 8:30 a.m.	Mass-Suspended
Monday, May 4 10:30 a.m.	Senior Exercise-Cancelled
Tuesday, May 5 7:00 p.m.	Choir-Cancelled
Wednesday, May 6 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Parish Hall Walking-Cancelled
Thursday, May 7 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Small Faith-Cancelled Men's Prayer-Cancelled Quilting-Cancelled
Friday, May 8 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 9:00-10:00 a.m.	Adoration-Cancelled Parish Hall Walking-Cancelled
Saturday, May 9 4:00 p.m.	Mass-Suspended

4:15-4:45 p.m.	CONFESSIONS—with Fr. Pete St. Luke's Parish
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Sunday, May 10
8:30 a.m. Mass-Suspended

Weekly Offering



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Register for simple & convenient

Online Giving at:

[https://](https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357)

www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357

April 11th/12th: 1st Collection: \$1,857.00 2nd Collection: \$720.00

Online Giving: \$852.25

April 18th/19th: 1st Collection: TBD 2nd Collection: TBD

Online Giving: \$1,687.25

April 25th/26th: 1st Collection: TBD 2nd Collection: TBD

Online Giving: \$1,564.25

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: I want to remind you that collections remain essential to the continued operation and existence of our parish and our mission. Thank you to all who use online giving. It helps so much during times like this, snow days and vacation times. It is EASY to sign up for online giving on the internet at www.osvonlinegiving.com/1357. You may make one-time payments or set it up for automatic payments—it is very flexible. Otherwise, please mail or drop-off your contribution. Many expenses continue.

Stewardship

Jesus said: My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I have internal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one. John 10:27-30

John tells us how Jesus clearly speaks of His mission on earth. He and the Father are one and he was sent to tell us of our purpose and our destiny.

As Christian stewards we are asked to fulfill the time that Jesus spent on earth. His teachings, His death and resurrection have guided us to hear the voice of the Father and react. All of us have something to give. We are now the hands, the eyes, the voice and the ears of the Lord. We are asked to serve the Lord with gratitude and joy!

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

STAY WITH US, LORD

Walk with us, Lord,
along the road of resurrection!
Explain for us, so slow to believe,
the things that Scripture says of you.
Break the bread of the Eucharist with us
whenever we share our lives
with our brothers and sisters.
Stay with us
each time night approaches
and the daylight fades in our hearts!
—From Come, Lord Jesus by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1976,
1981, Lucien Deiss. Published
by World Library Publications. p.168

Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.



Prayer: Historic Saint Paul Catholic Church, Lexington, KY

PARISH PASTORAL STAFF

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Father Peter Blake, Sacramental Minister
314-644-2144
Deacon Clyde McEntire, Deacon (Retired)
Kathleen O'Reilly, Parish Nurse, 314-644-6805
Father Michael Esswein, Pastor 314-962-5955

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Daniel Jenkins, Maintenance Assistant

Parish School of Religion

Karen Lightfoot, PSR Coordinator, psricmaplewood@gmail.com
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314-289-6101 ext. 2226

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Tim Yohe, Chair
Nikki & Todd Bircher
Deacon John Flanigan
Laura Miller
Mary Bankston
RJ & Suzee Irwin
Becky Konersmann
Ken Amend

Schedule

We will announce when Masses resume.

SVDP Food Pantry: Saturdays from 9:30-11:00am

Ministry Schedule-Suspended

Saturday EM's: *Suspended until Masses resume*
Saturday Lectors:
Saturday Servers:
Saturday Usher Captain:
Saturday Gifts:
Sunday EM's:
Sunday Lectors:
Sunday Servers:
Sunday Usher:
Sunday Greeters:
Sunday Gifts:



Hope and Healing

“There is no grief like the grief that does not speak.”
Henry Longfellow.

The grief over an abortion experience is often so deep that it seems to be silent. Women and men may bear this burden for years thinking that there is no hope of forgiveness or peace. Project Rachel/Project Joseph offers free, private, professional counseling for anyone who is suffering because of an abortion experience. Call Project Rachel/Project Joseph at 314-792-7565 to begin your journey of healing and reconciliation.



Suspended until mass resumes.

Please email the church to reschedule a Mass Intention-scheduled from March 16th-present or call Eva May at 314-776-7172.

Please Pray For:

Jim Higgins, Eileen Lencz, Jim Haislip, Alice Hezel, Gary Gray, Ellen Simmons, Chuck Ellermann, Mona Tillman, Heidi Barks, Madelyn McClure, Paul Rygelski, Mary Johnston, Jim White, Everleigh Lauber, Jack & Pamela Warner, Pam MacDonald, Nancy Maurer, Linda Amend
Terry & Ron Kippenberger (family of Rita Kippenberger)
Lisa Massack (sister of Joshua Capstick)
Jamie Jackson (Granddaughter of Annabelle Moran)
Pam Brown (former parishioner)
Tony Simmons (son of Tom & Ellen Simmons)
Sr. Barbara Paul (former parishioner)
Jan Pilla (daughter in law of Eddie Pilla)
Nick Simmons (son of Tom & Ellen Simmons)
Carl & Susan Case (brother and sister in law of Pat Curtis)
Mary Lucas (friend of Al & Maureen Daniels)
Drew Becker (son of Paul Becker)
John Biondo (brother of Maria Gray)
Deimeke Family
John Graves (brother of Karen Bish)
Lisa Hanley Blake (daughter of Celene Hanley)

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

**Col. Peter White, USAF, son of Jim & Lucy White
Senior Chief Matthew J Paul, USN, son of Maria and Gary Gray
William Patrick Flynn, USN, son of Patrick & Michelle Flynn**

To add your loved one's name (s) contact Eva at the rectory. 314-645-3307 or email at icmaplewood@gmail.com

CONFESSIONS—with Fr. Pete

Available at St. Luke's Parish
Saturdays 4:15 to 4:45

*How else but through a broken heart
May the Lord Christ enter in?
—Oscar Wilde*

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

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