

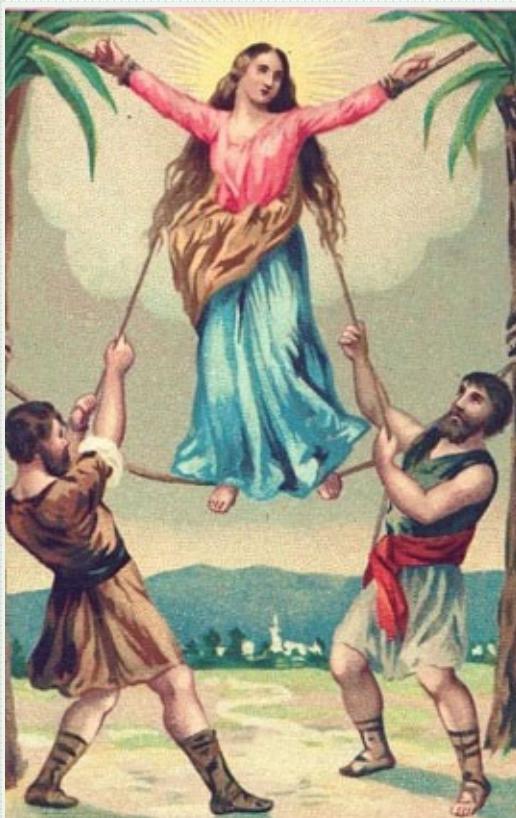
# FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Easter*

MAY 3, 2020

**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
**309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503**  
**[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)**

The shepherd calls his own sheep  
by name and leads them.

John 10:3



## PASTORAL STAFF

**Monsignor Michael Becker** - [mbecker253@aol.com](mailto:mbecker253@aol.com)

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**Mr. Ken Dunmire** - Maintenance

## *Prayer to St. Corona in a Time of Epidemic*

Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world for our salvation. Look kindly on us now, we pray, that we, and all those who serve You, might be kept safe from this epidemic.

Heal those who are sick, comfort the suffering, bring back those who have gone astray, and above all, increase our faith, O Lord.

Give us the grace to follow You and, like the martyr St. Corona, who gave her life for love of You, to take up our crosses daily without fear or hesitation.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

St. Corona, patroness of epidemic victims, pray for us.

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**A LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS TO THE CHURCH** - as pastor of the universal church, Pope Francis has felt very deeply the anguish of his people during this time of the pandemic. He has written a letter to the church urging that we turn our attention to Mary, seeking her protection. Below I have included his letter, as well as the first of two prayers which he has written for our use:

My brothers and sisters,

The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.



*O Mary,*

*You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.*

*We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,*

*who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.*

*"Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide,  
so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love,*

*to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.*

*For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows  
to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*

*We fly to your protection,*

*O Holy Mother of God;*

*Do not despise our petitions*

*in our necessities,*

*but deliver us always*

*from every danger,*

*O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY:** I have begun a Bible study on Tuesday evenings at 7 o'clock. The focus of this study will be the readings to be proclaimed on the following Sunday. This meeting is conducted on ZOOM, and all are invited. Please email me your intention to join this study. May God bless us as we share God's word with one another.

### ***Prayer for a Spiritual Communion***

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## May Prayer Intention of Pope Francis For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.



**WEEKLY FOOD BANK DONATIONS:** Just a reminder that we will continue to collect food weekly for our local food banks. The need is greater than ever now. Simply drop off your donations under the rectory carport. Monetary donations can go into the offertory box. Simply add a note that your donation is for our food bank collection.

In April, through the generosity of St. John's church members, we sent \$1000 to St. Vincent De Paul food pantry,



\$500 to the United Way of Blair County Covid 19 Disaster Fund to offer food vouchers to residents of Blair County and \$300 to St. Luke's Episcopal Church's Food Pantry.

You are angels and your help is greatly appreciated!

## Liturgical Ministry Scheduling – Summer

**June – September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

It has been a Spring of change and uncertainty – to say the least. But as children of God we live in the hope and expectation that we will soon be able to worship together as a community. And so to be prepared, we will create a Summer Liturgical Ministry Schedule for the time when Bishop Mark permits public Mass again.

And so, we are asking that you give us the dates for which you are NOT available for June through September 7<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day Weekend).

If you have internet access please update your profile in **Ministry Scheduler Pro**. There is a link from our parish website (<https://stjohnsaltoona.org>) and a link in the email reminder you will receive soon.

***There are cards available in the rectory carport for those who do not have access to the internet.***

If you are not able to update your profile online or visit the rectory to fill out a card, you may give me a call on a weekday evening between 7 PM and 10 PM or on the weekends at 814-932-2223.

**Please update your profile online by midnight, Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> or fill out a card and leave it in the box in the rectory carport or call me.**

Family members may fill out one card front and back.  
Thank you.

## ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [ginnen.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:ginnen.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

Baby Adam • Baby Aiden • Baby Maddie • Cari Ann  
James Aubrey • Julie Beiswenger • Robert Cole  
Millie Grace Capon • Betty Dennis  
Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy • Bernadine Farrell  
Kathy Felty • Christine Finklestine • Helen Fornwalt  
Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell • Ken Hartman  
Denny Horton • Randy Horton • Brian Kopp • Lisa  
Joan Litzinger • Sherri Maffettone • Louis Jack Mathias  
Bryson Miller • Mildred Miller • Susie Miller  
Barbara Moore • Donna Moyer • Ailani Myers • Nancy  
Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher  
Karen Price • Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish  
Allison Recker • Vicki Riley • Allison Ritchey  
Olga Romerowicz • Cari Roth • Mike Rudolph  
Fr. Robert Rustin • Peggy Seiler • Bruce Shank  
Anne Showalter • Tim & Dina Temofonte • Patty Teufel  
Rose Wargo • Lois Werfel • Carol White  
William Wieland • Noah Wills • Milan & Family  
HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:  
Michael A Maier, father of Mike (Loane) Maier  
Richard Bender - brother of Carol Field  
Mary Jo Sibert - sister of Carol Field  
*May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*

## Stewardship at St. John's

**April 19, 2020**

Envelopes	\$	8,131.00
Loose	\$	660.00
Catholic Education	\$	25.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$	194.20
Catholic Home Missions	\$	35.00
Easter Flowers	\$	10.00
Easter Offering	\$	825.00
Holy Thursday	\$	95.00
Good Friday	\$	45.00
Food Bank Donations	\$	860.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$	10,880.20
Online Giving	\$	4,326.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	\$	<b>15,206.20</b>

***Restore\*Repair\*Rejoice***

Payments/Donations \$144,921  
Pledge Payment Committed \$30,085  
Total Pledges/Donations \$175,006

***Catholic Ministries Drive***

Last Update: March 31, 2020  
Target \$ 44,423  
Payments/Donations \$ 24,105  
Pledge Payments Committed \$ 1,200  
Total Gifts \$ 25,305

**THANK YOU!**: Many thanks to all who have contributed their weekly offering by dropping it into the box in the rectory carport or mailing it to the office. Thank you for your weekly support to our parish, our mission collections and the Annual Catholic Appeal. Your financial support is vital and continues to be so especially during the COVID-19 crisis.

Online Giving is available for you to make contributions to the church. This option makes use of current technology and security standards and allows you to easily setup recurring contributions. It also enables our church to take advantage of new tools to become more efficient.

#### **Online Giving Parishioner Benefits**

- *Secure and confidential.* No need to share payment information with the church office.
- *Efficient.* Set up direct withdrawals from your checking, savings account or a credit card.
- *Simple.* Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
- *Convenient.* No need to write a check or have cash available.
- *Remote flexibility.* You can give from virtually anywhere anytime.

Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for you to use, and we strongly support both Online Giving and Offering Envelopes for contributions to the parish. Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in weekly offering.

Start giving online today!

1. Visit our church website at <https://stjohnsaltoona.org> and click on the online giving link on the left side of the homepage.

2. Create an account.

3. Schedule your recurring gifts.

Please prayerfully consider giving online.

**2020 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE:** Our Parish Goal this year is \$44,423. Consider Online Giving To The Catholic Ministries Drive. It's fast, it's easy – the click of a button! Parishioners can give through our secure, online giving portal. We accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover cards. We are also able to process e-checks directly from a donor's checking account. From any page on the diocesan website, <https://www.dioceseaj.org/>, click on "The Blue Giving Icon" which will lead you to the donation page. Receipts are generated once a donor successfully makes their gift. A reminder that online donors should print out their on-line receipts as that is their official receipt for them to use for their tax purposes.



**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
May 3, 2020

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

— *I Peter 2:24a*

Although we cannot celebrate mass together, Monsignor Becker will be saying Mass privately each day for the following Mass intentions.

Sunday Masses will continue to be live-streamed on Facebook at 10:00 AM and recorded to be posted on our website later that day.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

##### **Sunday May 3 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Mass for *People of the Parish*

##### **Monday May 4 – Easter Weekday**

Mass for *Dave English* requested by Carolyn English

##### **Tuesday May 5 – Easter Weekday**

Mass for *Elaine Houseknecht* requested by Richard & Joyce Lowe

##### **Wednesday May 6 – Easter Weekday**

Mass for *Fr. Leo Lynch* requested by Bill & Norma Foose

##### **Thursday May 7 – Easter Weekday**

Mass for *June Miller* requested by Mahoney's & Carl Family

##### **Friday May 8 – Easter Weekday**

Mass for *Joe Robeson*

##### **Sunday May 10 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Mass for *People of the Parish*

#### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43: 4; Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

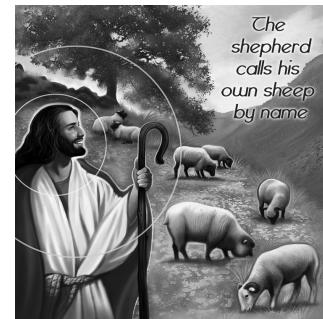
Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8;  
Jn 12:44-50

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





The shepherd calls his own sheep  
by name and leads them.

John 10:3

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Easter*

MAY 3, 2020

## 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?

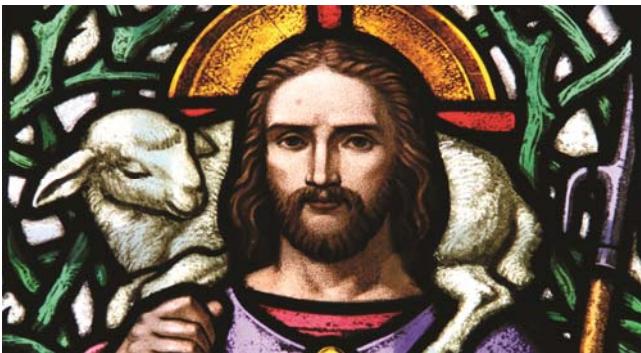
The readings describe that time when confused and frightened followers of Jesus looked to the apostles to tell them what to do after the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The answer seems simple. They must believe that Jesus, whom they crucified, is both Lord and Christ, both God and human. They must acknowledge 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



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF Easter

MAY 3, 2020

## Sunday Readings May 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter

### Reading 1

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: “Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, “What are we to do, my brothers?” Peter said to them, “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. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.” He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23: 1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6

R. (1) **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

## **Reading 2**

### **1 Pt 2:20b–25**

Beloved: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.

*He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.*

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

## **Gospel**

### **Jn 10:1–10**

Jesus said: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 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, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

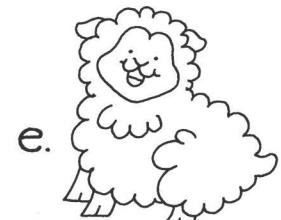
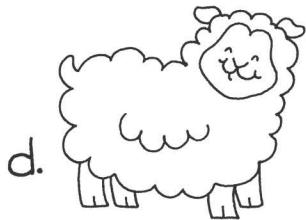
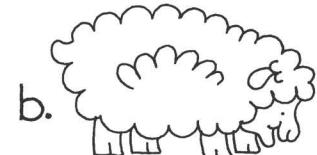
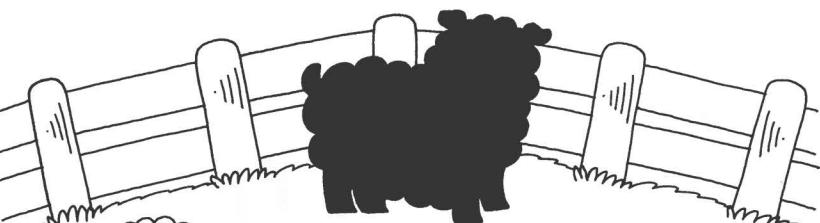
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# God's Word for Children

Jesus said the sheep follow the shepherd  
because they know his voice.

Are you following Jesus' voice?

Which of the sheep below matches the shadow?

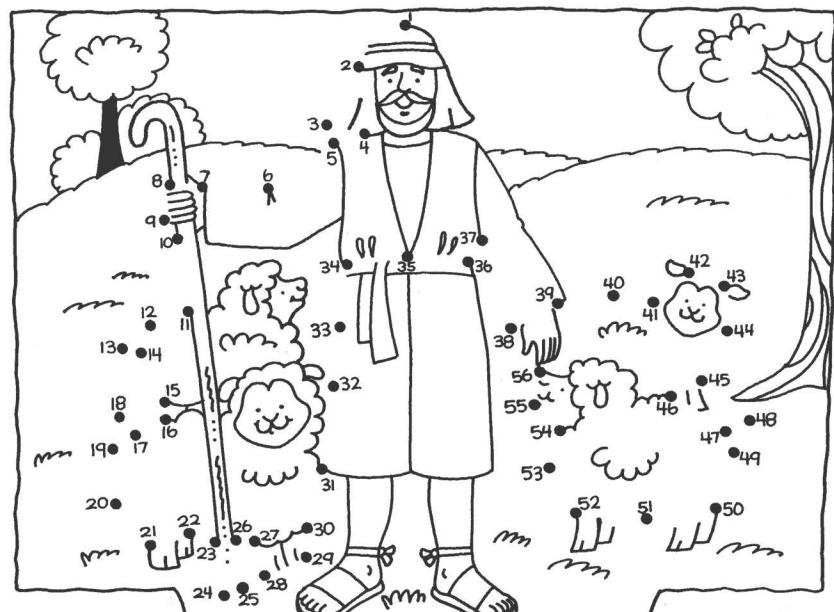


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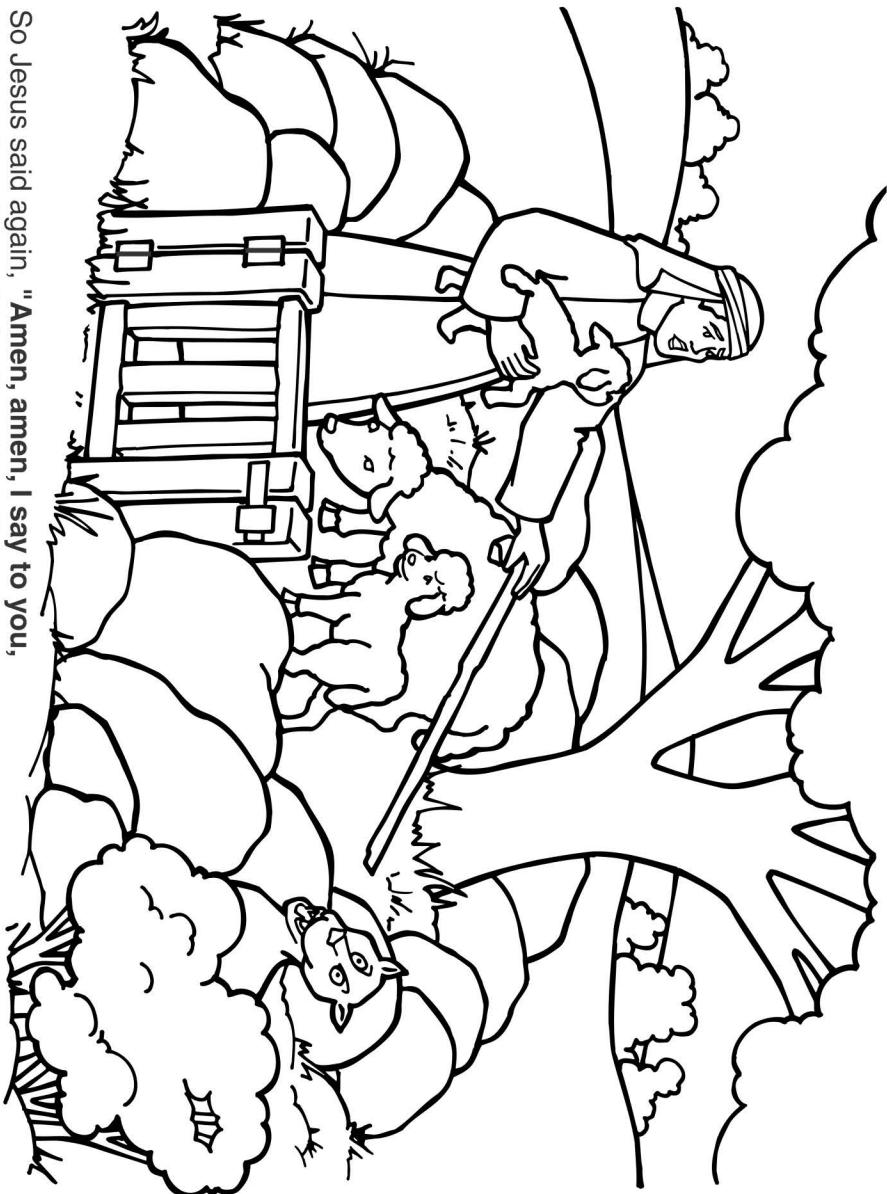
## Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today's readings compare us to sheep  
that have returned to the shepherd.  
Complete this dot-to-dot and color it.  
Then write your name on the blank below.



JESUS IS  
's shepherd!

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you,  
I am the gate for the sheep."  
John 10:7



## ALL OUR MOTHERS

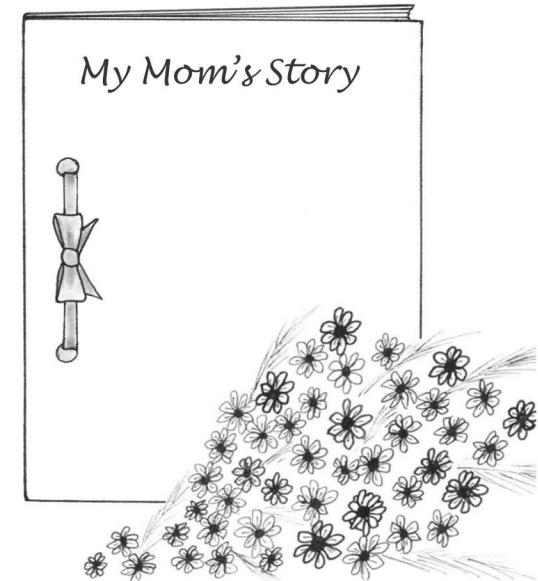
Next Sunday we will celebrate Mother's Day. Different professions, such as lawyers and bakers, have patron saints. Patron saints are people who showed an exceptional quality or performed a notable activity that leads us to consider them a special protector or guardian in certain areas of life. St. Monica, St. Ann, and St. Elizabeth are just a few of the patron saints and protectors of mothers.

St. Monica was the mother of another important saint, St. Augustine. Monica was a devoted Christian but Augustine was not, so Monica prayed for her son every day and asked God to help him become a faithful follower of Jesus. Your mother probably prays for you, too. St. Monica's feast is on August 27, the day before St. Augustine's.

St. Ann was the mother of Mary, our Blessed Mother. We don't know much about Ann, only what has come to us through tradition. But Mary must have learned how to pray, love others, and be compassionate from her parents. You learn some of these same things from your mother. We celebrate Ann's feast, together with her husband, Joachim, on July 26.

St. Elizabeth was the mother of John the Baptist. Her son, an important prophet, prepared the way for Jesus. We read about her at the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. Your mother may be teaching you how to share what you know about Jesus with others. Elizabeth's feast, together with her husband, Zechariah, is celebrated on November 5.

These are saints in heaven, and some people, like your mother, are saints in the making. What sort of story would you write about your mother? It should include all the things your mother does for you because she loves you. She might do some of the same things Mary, Ann, and Elizabeth did for their children. Give the story to your mother along with whatever other presents you are preparing for her. Your words might be the most special gift.





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