



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

May 3, 2020

**4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SUNDAY**  
OF EASTER

“

I CAME SO THAT THEY  
MIGHT HAVE LIFE

*and have it more abundantly.* ”

- JOHN 10:10

# WELCOME TO ALL!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family or marital situation, no matter what your past or present religious affiliation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, or color—you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved, and respected at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

## CONTACT US

Phone 513-777-6433 • Fax 513-777-9741 • info@stjohnwc.org • www.stjohnwc.org



St. John the Evangelist Church, West Chester

### Parish Phone Numbers

Pavilion 513-755-4973 • Parish Center 513-755-4973 • For emergencies, please call 513-777-6433 and press 5.

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday ..... 8:30am - 5:30pm

Friday ..... 8:30am - Noon

Saturday (Church Office) ..... 3:30pm - 6:00pm

Sunday (Church Office) ..... 7:30am - 1:00pm

### Pastoral Team

**Rev. Don West** ..... **Pastor**

Ext. 133 ..... dwest@stjohnwc.org

**Sarah Chivers** ..... **Director of Communication**

Ext. 116 ..... schivers@stjohnwc.org

**Lynn Meisberger** ..... **P.A. of Music**

Ext. 128 ..... lmeisberger@stjohnwc.org

**Annie Mesewicz** ..... **P.A. of Youth Ministry**

Ext. 114 ..... amesewicz@stjohnwc.org

**Mary Montour** ..... **P.A. of Children's Faith Formation**

Ext. 118 ..... mmontour@stjohnwc.org

**Joan Seibenick** ..... **Business Manager**

Ext. 124 ..... jseibenick@stjohnwc.org

**Scott Steinke** ..... **P.A. of Liturgy**

Ext. 115 ..... ssteinke@stjohnwc.org

### Parish Staff

**Katie Behrle** ..... **Early Childhood Coordinator**

..... kbehrle@stjohnwc.org

**Karen Hake** ..... **Office Manager**

Ext. 110 ..... khake@stjohnwc.org

**Brigid Loebig** ..... **Bookkeeper**

Ext. 119 ..... bloebig@stjohnwc.org

**Deacon Fred Merritt** ..... **Senior Ministry**

Ext. 132 ..... fmerritt@stjohnwc.org

**Kirt Robb** ..... **Facilities Manager**

Ext. 122 ..... krobb@stjohnwc.org

**Karen Simmons** ..... **PSR Administrative Assistant**

Ext. 111 ..... ksimmmons@stjohnwc.org

**Deacon Jerry Barney** ..... **jbarney@stjohnwc.org**

**Deacon Rick Reder** ..... **rreder@stjohnwc.org**

**Darren Coe** ..... **Maintenance**

**Ellen Krumme** ..... **Weekend Office Assistant**

**Janet Raters** ..... **Weekend Office Assistant**

**Bette Vorbroker** ..... **Weekend Office Administrator**

### Fiscal Year-to-Date Amount as of April 22:

Actual: \$1,085,019 versus budget of \$1,118,000.

We are currently 2.95% behind budget. Please continue to give! Thank you to those who are continuing to give in this unsettled time! Please consider giving, if you are able. You can mail a check or drop it off in the parish office lobby. Or you can give online through the donate button on our website.

Thank you and we are praying that your family is safe and healthy!

# FATHER DON'S REFLECTION

JN 10:1-10

The Shepherd is calling, are you listening?

The Good Shepherd is a powerful image of Jesus. Yet for most of us, we have little insight to the relationship between shepherd and sheep. Listen to the powerful image described in the gospel. He calls his own by name. They recognize only his voice, and they follow him. Jesus is the true shepherd. He has already laid down his life for his chosen, his sheep. Once we have been called forth, we are in his full protection, we belong only to Jesus. That should give us a great sense of comfort knowing the communion we have with our Lord. If we follow the Shepherd, Jesus, we will not be led astray. We will feel his protection and experience his life eternal.

In these days of the pandemic, we need to be more aware of the voice of the Lord. We must find a way to remain close to his voice and to follow his lead. He can take us to enter the pastures of peace and comfort, and he will provide us protection always. The trouble is that there are so many voices in the world calling out to us. Each one sounds exciting to follow. It is easy to be led astray. The voices can seem overwhelming during these strange times. The authentic voice of the Shepherd calls us to be still and reflective in our life. In many ways this time of the pandemic gives us more time to listen to Jesus calling us. When we take the time to truly hear his calling, we can find comfort in his commanding voice.

I am both excited and humbled to know Jesus calls me by my name and loves me enough to lead me to saving pastures. He wants nothing but the best for you and me. All we have to do is tune into the voice of the One who saves. It is sad that there is evil in the world that would do anything to take us away from a right relationship with Jesus. But if we belong to the Lord and are under His protection no one or no thing can lead us away from Jesus. His dying and rising from the dead allow us to have a clear path to salvation. Jesus has made the choice to follow him simple, but we must remove the voices in our lives that want to lead us away from Jesus. They may sound inviting but they will always leave us empty and lost. Be still and listen to the Lord calling out to you. Know that it is Jesus and he alone can lead us to the Father. Spend some time reflecting on the call of the Lord. Listen, he is calling out to you and me. He will not disappoint nor leave us alone. When fear and doubt come into your life turn to Jesus and surrender to his loving care. His voice is true and commanding.

Know you are missed at church. I continue to pray for the parish; it is just not the same around here anymore. God is in the midst of this in some way. I know he is calling each of us to a deeper appreciation of our faith. We are all part of the Body of Christ whether at home or at church. Realize how special you are to God and to one another. Be safe and be careful. I hope to be with you soon. Have a great week!



## Readings for This Week: May 4-8

Monday	ACTS 11:1-18 Psalm 42 JN 10:11-18
Tuesday	ACTS 11:19-26 Psalm 87 JN 10:22-30
Wednesday	ACTS 12:24-13:5A Psalm 67 JN 12:44-50
Thursday	ACTS 13:13-25 Psalm 89 JN 13:16-20
Friday	ACTS 13:26-33 Psalm 2 JN 14:1-6

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## Next Weekend: May 9 / 10

First Reading: ACTS 6:1-7  
*"The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly."*

Second Reading: 1 PT 2:4-9  
*"You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."*

Gospel: JN 14:1-12  
*"I am the way and the truth and the life."*

# May: The Month of Mary

## Why is May the Month of Mary?

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day in May, mind you, but the entire month.

The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated *ludi florales*, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms. In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth.

During this period, the tradition of *Tricesimum*, or “Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary,” came into being. Also called, “Lady Month,” the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary. It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

## Mary Throughout the New Testament

The Virgin Mary plays a prominent role in the New Testament gospels (i.e. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), especially in the birth stories of Matthew (Ch. 1-2) and Luke (Ch. 1-2). According to Luke, Mary was of the tribe of Judah and the lineage of David (1:32).

When Mary was a young woman engaged to Joseph, the Angel Gabriel announced to her that she would give birth to a son that would be born of the Holy Spirit. Mary humbly accepted her divinely-appointed role, saying, "May it be unto me as you have said." She then conceived and gave birth to Jesus while remaining a virgin (Lk 1:31f; Mt 1:20, 23).

Mary appears periodically throughout Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection. She was present at Jesus' first miracle, which he performed at her suggestion (John 2:1f).

At the crucifixion, Mary and a small group of women were present (Jn 19:25). Speaking from the cross, Jesus entrusted her care to his disciple John (Jn 19:26). One of Michaelangelo's most famous sculptures (left) depicts Mary mourning



According to traditional interpretation, the Virgin Mary was not the "other Mary" who visited the tomb after Jesus' death (Matthew 28:1) – it is said she did not visit the tomb because she already knew he would not be there.

In addition, there is no biblical record of the resurrected Jesus appearing to Mary. After the resurrection, Mary was present in the Upper Room at Jerusalem with the disciples (Acts 1:14), but this is the last biblical mention of her.

## The Rosary

The Rosary is a prayer that the Church received in 1214 by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners. Mary has appeared to several people over hundreds of years, every time asking them to pray the rosary, and promising her special protection and the greatest graces. The word Rosary means "Crown of Roses." Our Lady has revealed that each time we say a Hail Mary, we are giving her a beautiful rose, and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the Rosary is the rose of all devotions, and it is, therefore, the most important one.

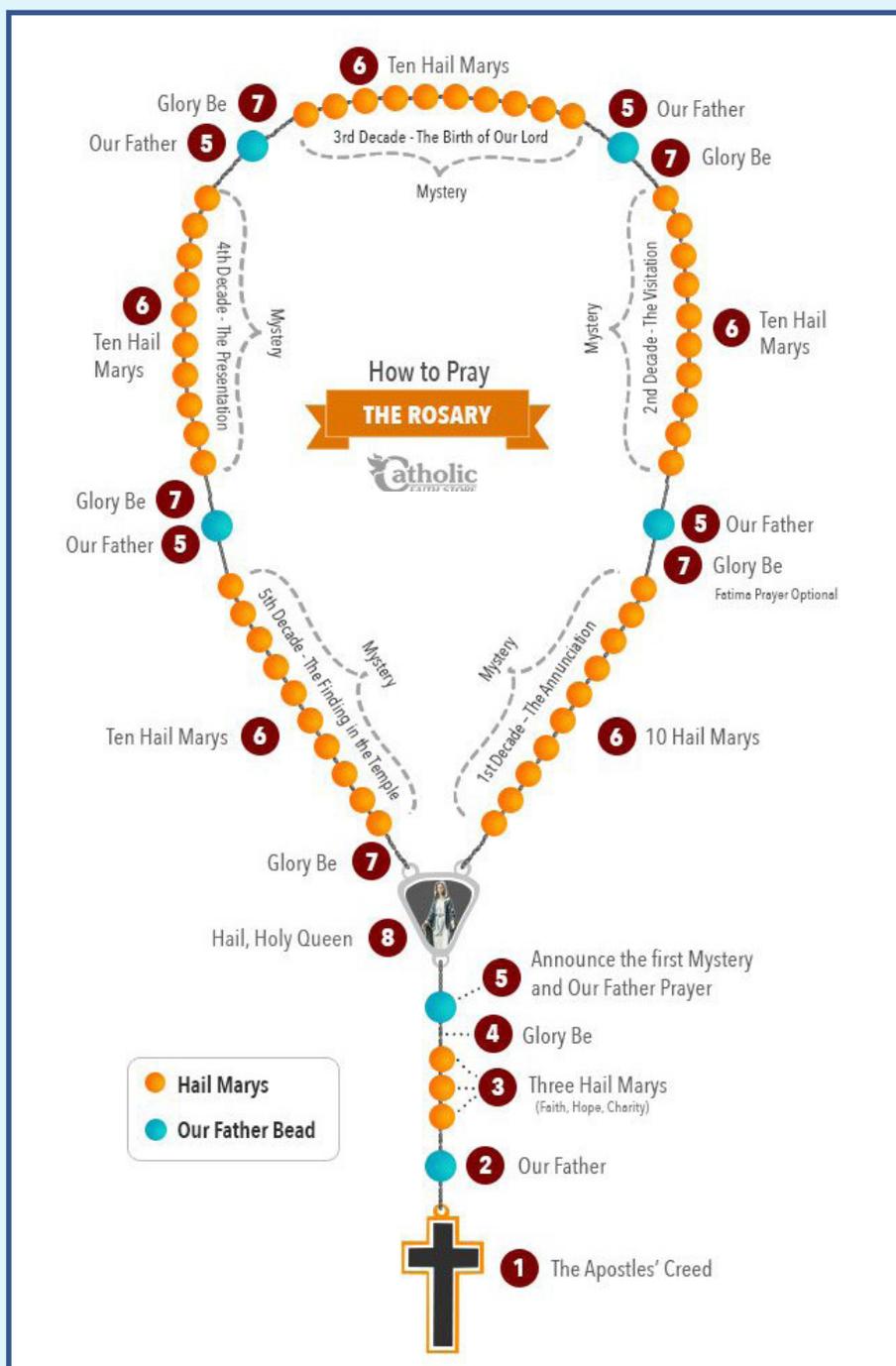
The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. With the Rosary, we meditate on the mysteries of Joy, Sorrow, Light, and the Glory of Jesus and Mary. It's a simple prayer, and it can seem a repetitive one, but instead it is like two sweethearts who many times say to one another the words: "I love you". With each "Hail Mary" we invite Our Lady to pray for us.

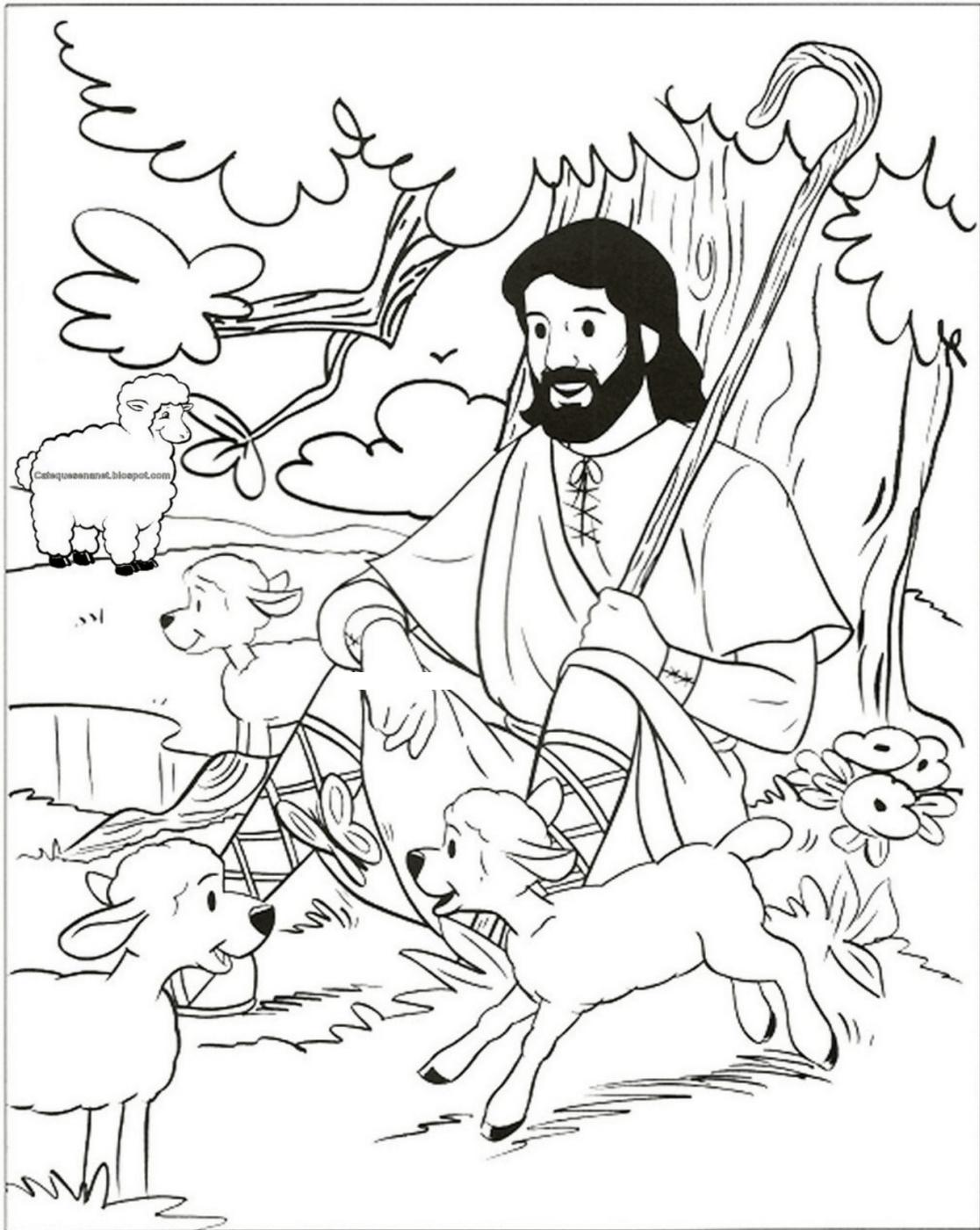
## Apparitions of Mary

People around the world have reported appearances of Mary. We hear messages of hope and healing, and most importantly, messages calling us back to her son. The Church evaluates these appearances and carefully approves ones believed to be true.

Key apparitions of Mary include:

- **Miraculous Medal** – Mary appeared as Our Lady of Grace in 1830 to St. Catherine Labouré in Paris. She revealed the image of the Miraculous Medal, promising special graces to anyone who wears it. Mary also gave this prayer to be included on the medal, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."
- **Lourdes** – In 1858, Mary appeared to 14-year-old St. Bernadette in the small French town of Lourdes. Our Lady appeared 18 times, encouraging people to pray and return to God. She urged people to pray the rosary, and called herself the Immaculate Conception. Mary also helped St. Bernadette find a miraculous spring with healing waters.
- **Fatima** – Mary appeared six times to three young shepherd children in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal. Mary urgently called for people to return to God and to pray the Rosary.



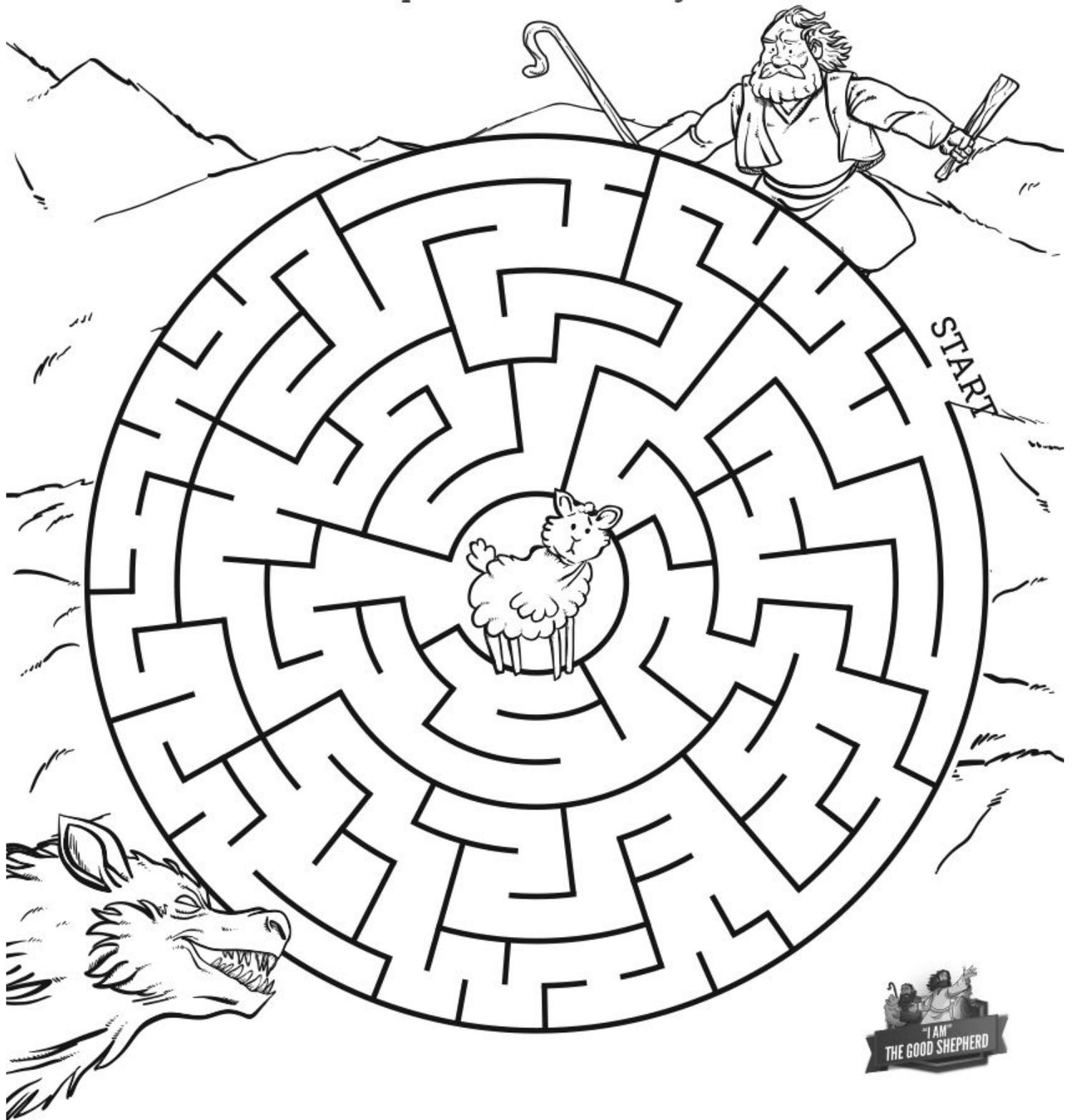


I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.  
THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE  
FOR THE SHEEP.

- JOHN 10:11

# "I AM" THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Protect the sheep before the enemy reaches them.



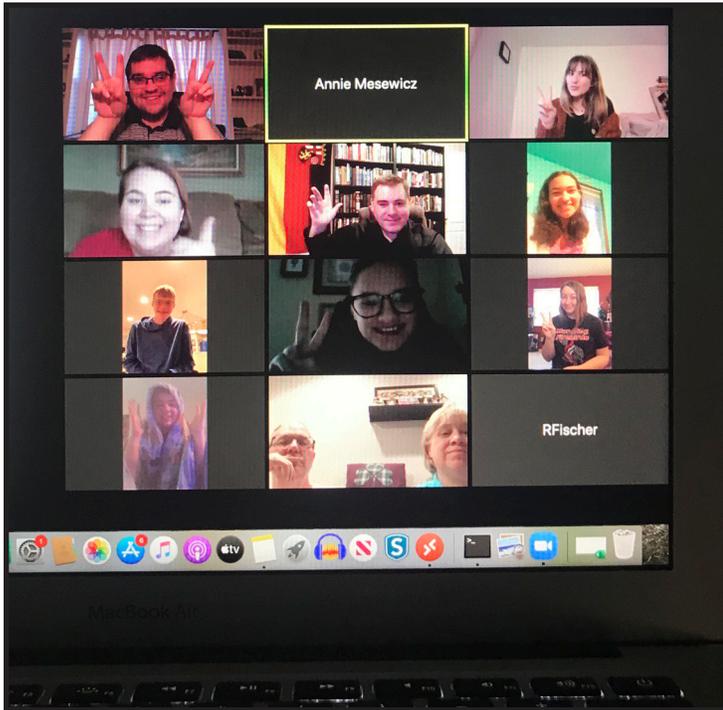
## Youth Ministry Continuing Community

Community has always been an important thing to Annie, the St. John Youth Minister. Ever since the quarantine, her vision of community has been forced to shift dramatically. This applies not only to her personal life but also for her ministry serving the teens of our parish community.

As the pandemic grew, she thought to herself, *how am I going to make this time valuable and sacred for the teens at St. John?* The answer for her was simple: look for ways to bring community amidst the roadblock of quarantine.

With the technological world we live in, it's easy to find ways to connect. Zoom specifically helped to continue the Youth Group nights "as normal." This blessing of continual community has brought so many graces and ideas, including writing letters to elderly parishioners in strict quarantine and isolation. If we cannot gather physically, we will gather spiritually. Annie invites all teens at St. John to join us each Sunday as youth ministry comes together as the Body of Christ.

Zoom dates: May 3, May 10, May 17, May 24, May 31 (all Zoom sessions are from 7-8pm)



## St. Vincent de Paul

The Coronavirus has turned lives upside down. Like the poor, our lives are now limited, but not forever. Jesus the Good Shepherd gives us hope! The mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues in good times and in bad. If you are in need of help or you want to assist us in our mission of hope, please call 777-6433 ext. 120.

## Ministries in Action During Quarantine

During this pandemic, we as Christians and as St. John parishioners have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. Many at St. John do just that through monetary contributions, delivery of services, reaching out to those who are isolated, and serving food to the disenfranchised and homeless.

The work at St. Francis Seraph Ministries on Republic Street in OTR continues during the pandemic providing the homeless with carry out daily breakfast and a hot dinner 5x/weekly as well as bag lunches 6 days a week.

The Share-A-Lunch ministry of St. John provides peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and non-perishable foods to Reach-Out Lakota and St. Francis Seraph. Even with the various St. John ministries physically shut down, supplies were collected through a bulk food drive and those supplies found their way to St. Francis and Reach-Out Lakota.

But pantries remain low at this time. To contribute to Share-A-Lunch either through buying supplies, through monetary contributions or through monthly volunteer opportunities, please contact Diane Clayton 513-779-6895 or visit the St. John website.

If you would like to contribute monetarily to St. Francis Seraph Ministries so that they can continue their important work, please do so online at [sfsministries.org/donate](https://sfsministries.org/donate) or send a check c/o Jay Olzak to:

St. Francis Seraph Ministries  
1615 Republic Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Your donation is tax-deductible and will help feed the most vulnerable.

If you wish to physically volunteer at St. Francis, please contact Theresa Diersen at [tdiersen@sfsministries.org](mailto:tdiersen@sfsministries.org). It takes all of us.

We are directed by Christ to nurture and nourish the poor in mind, body and spirit. Thanks for your continued support. It truly makes a difference.

## Spring Cleaning? Donate to the Parish Festival!

Are you keeping yourself busy by cleaning or de-cluttering your home? Save items for the Parish Festival! Sunday drop-offs will be held from noon to 3 p.m. starting at the end of June. Small items may be accepted in early May by appointment. Contact Julie at 513-400-5504 or e-mail [stjohnwcfestival@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnwcfestival@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

# WE ACCEPT:

- GENTLY USED/NEW INDOOR AND OUTDOOR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
  - FURNITURE
  - HOLIDAY
  - TOYS
  - HOME DECORATIONS
  - KITCHEN
  - BIKES
  - VEHICLES, BOATS, CAMPERS, TIME SHARES, ETC.
- SIGNIFICANTLY ADD TO THE SUCCESS AND EXCITEMENT.

# WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

- CLOTHING
- BOWLING BALLS
- EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
- COMPUTERS
- CAR SEATS
- CRIBS
- MATTRESSES
- ORGANS
- ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS
- NON-HD TV'S



This year's parish festival will be on August 7-8-9. We always look forward to our festival, but especially this year! But, before that weekend happens, our Festival Committee spends time on so many activities. We decide on the layout, games, food and beverages. We configure electrical lines, order prizes; determine how many booths and tents and grills we need. We advertise, set up a volunteer website, go shopping for baskets and find sponsors and donors. The list is pretty endless. Luckily we also have a team of about 20-25 people who make this all happen as seamlessly as possible. I am honored and privileged to work with this group of people.

As many of you know, when you give of your time and talent, the rewards that you receive are greater than the time and energy that you give. And, as exhausted as we are on Sunday night at 9pm on the first full weekend in August, we get up and do it again each year. Why? Because we love it and also because we know how much it means to our parish. A full 10% of our parish income comes from these three days each August. Last year, we earned \$160,000 in net income from our festival. That is an amazing feat accomplished by an even more amazing team of people. You can imagine how important our festival income will be this year!

If you are interested in serving on our festival committee, we have several positions open this year: Prizes Co-Chair, Basket Co-Chair, Grounds Co-Chair, Entertainment Co-Chair. We also have several booth captain positions open. All committee meetings will be remote for the next couple of months. Please consider helping! We need you. Contact [jseibenick@stjohnwc.org](mailto:jseibenick@stjohnwc.org) to volunteer.

# PARISH OUTREACH, RESOURCES & ORGANIZATIONS

## Parish Ministries

### Baptism

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### Communion to the Sick/Shut-Ins

Julie Chapman ..... 513-807-8004

### Companions on the Journey

*Grief support for those who have lost a loved one; meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month in the Hospitality Room at 7 p.m.*

Ron Meyer ..... 513-376-1277

### Confirmation Preparation

Annie Mesewicz ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 114

### Funeral Preparation

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### Hospital Notifications

*If you know that you are going to the hospital and would like to be remembered at Mass or have a pastoral staff member visit, please call the parish office at 777-6433. We are no longer notified by hospitals or chaplains about parishioners who are ill.*

### Liturgical Ministry

*Opportunities available as Altar Attendants, Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Lectors and Sacristans.*

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### Meal Ministry

Joan Seibenick ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 124

### Music

*Opportunities available in the Adult Choir, High School Choir, Youth Choir, or as Singers & Instrumentalists.*

Lynn Meisberger ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 128

### Prayer Network

*If you or someone you know is struggling w/ a difficulty or crisis, contact the Prayer Network. They will ask members of the Network to pray.*

..... prayernetwork@stjohnwc.org

Margaret Kellogg ..... 513-777-4253

Mary Moore ..... 513-492-9015

### RCIA Fullness of Joy / Ministry to Returning Catholics

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### Sacrament of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office ..... 513-777-6433

### Small Church Communities (Journey of Faith)

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### St. Vincent de Paul

Guy Lavergne ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 120

### Stephen Ministry

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### Wedding Preparation

Fr. Don West ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 133

## Formation & Education

### Early Childhood Program (during 9:30am Mass)

Katie Behrle ..... kbehrle@stjohnwc.org

### Liturgy of the Word with Children

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 115

### PSR (grades 1-8), 1st Eucharist, 1st Reconciliation

Mary Montour ..... mmontour@stjohnwc.org

### St. Gabriel Consolidated School ... stgabeschool.org

..... 513-771-5220

*St. Gabriel Consolidated School in collaboration with our three parishes, St. Gabriel, St. John - West Chester and St. Maximilian Kolbe, in partnership with the families of our diverse student body believe Christ is the center of all that we do.*

### Shaylen Gettelfinger ..... Marketing Coordinator

513-578-3640 ..... segettelfinger@hotmail.com

### Amy Tanaka ..... Parish Representative

..... 513-702-8361

## Parish Organizations

### Boy Scouts Troop #940

Steve Bush ..... 513-206-2937

### Festival Committee

Kevin & Gina Kohls ..... 513-256-8934

### Finance Committee

John Insco ..... 513-755-7594

### Girl Scouts

Laura Smith ..... 513-378-6709

### Knights of Columbus

Patrick Leeper ..... 513-604-4449

### Knights of Columbus Membership

Bob Heglin ..... 513 509-6537

### Justice & Peace Commission

Tony Klimek ..... 513-787-0038

### Pastoral Council

Dan Woods ..... pastoralcouncil@stjohnwc.org

### Spirited Seniors

Deacon Fred Merritt ..... 513-777-6433, ext. 132

### Worship Commission

Scott Steinke ..... 513-777-6433