

Read from the Ambo after bell is rung...

Good morning! We gather together on the Fourth “Good Shepherd” Sunday of Easter.

Picture a lush meadow with a large flock of sheep enjoying the fresh air and sunshine. This first Sunday in May, situated right in the middle of spring, may lend itself to such daydreams. But this is no daydream, for we indeed are part of a flock with a devoted shepherd, one who calls us each by name and invites us to have life and have it more abundantly. Let us join together today in joy and gratitude.

Welcome to all those participating this morning with us online, especially those who might be with us for the first time. The words to all the songs will appear on your screen throughout the liturgy. You can download the responses for Mass and ~~our St. Raphael Children’s ministry handout for today~~ on our website at saintraphael.org forward slash prayer.

Please join in singing our opening song, “The Strife is Over”.

PRIEST

Just as we know the voice of the Good Shepherd, we trust that God knows our voices and responds to our prayers, so we gather together our needs and the needs of the world:

READER/DEACON

Cantor will intone the sung response to the intentions, then all will sing...

For the Church, on this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, that many respond to the voice of the Good Shepherd calling them to help shepherd the flock, for ordained and lay vocations among God's people, especially for an increase of vocations to the Society of Jesus. **[PAUSE]** We pray to the Risen Lord: **R/O God, hear us, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the protection and safety of all farm workers facing extreme difficulties because of the pandemic; for all essential workers who continue to put themselves at risk daily in our service; and for all workers who are currently unemployed, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may the Lord accompany them and see them through. **[PAUSE]** We pray to the Risen Lord: **R/O God, hear us, hear our prayer.**

We continue to pray in solidarity with the many members of our community still awaiting the celebration of sacraments such as Baptism, First Communion, and Matrimony, may they find God's love and grace in surprising and new ways as they continue to await with hope to encounter Christ sacramentally. **[PAUSE]** We pray to the Risen Lord: **R/O God, hear us, hear our prayer.**

For our special intentions, including those named in our Virtual Prayer Book, those that we hold in our hearts, and our prayer requests we offer now online. **[PAUSE FOR 10 FULL SECONDS]**; We pray to the Risen Lord: **R/O God, hear us, hear our prayer.**

For our faithful departed ones, that Jesus, who came that we may have life, takes them into the abundant and eternal life that is heaven. **[PAUSE]** We pray to the Risen Lord: **R/O God, hear us, hear our prayer.**

PRIEST

Now let's take a moment to pray in silence for our prayer partners whom we promised to pray for during this Mass... [PAUSE] We pray to the Risen Lord: R/O God, hear us, hear our prayer.

Loving God, like sheep who find a home with their flock, help us to find our home in you. Grant this and all our prayers through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

READER

As you're able, please consider financially supporting our mission and vision here at St. Raphael. You can set up recurring donations, make a one-time gift or use text-to-give by visiting the parish website and clicking on "Give". You may also mail your envelope or a check to Saint Raphael. If you're a member of another parish, please be sure to support your home church financially. Thank you for your generous support.

Read from the Ambo after the Prayer after Communion...

- 1. Both Saint Raphael Preschool and Saint Raphael Catholic School for K through 8 students are now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Contact Mary Morgan at Saint Raphael Catholic School for K through 8 students, or Katie Mistele at the Saint Raphael Preschool to learn more about our schools.**
- 2. For those awaiting delayed reception of the sacraments of Baptism or First Communion, all of these celebrations will be rescheduled, but we're not able to set new dates yet until we know for sure when and how we'll be able to gather again in the church. As soon as dates are set for these celebrations, all of our families will be notified via email. Thank you for your understanding.**
- 3. All are invited to an introduction on Ignatian spirituality with a series of online presentations and guided prayer led by our Jesuits at St. Raphael. The sessions will be held at 7pm daily beginning May 11th through May 19th. Visit the website for more details.**
- 4. As we observe World Day of Prayer for Vocations today, if you're experiencing a call to religious life, you can find out some next steps for the process of discernment by visiting the parish website, saintraphael.org forward slash vocations, or by contacting Father Bruce Bavinger at the parish.**
- 5. Whether you're a long-time St. Raphael parishioner, or you're praying with us for the first time this morning, thanks for being a part of today's celebration. The best way to stay connected with our parish is to receive our weekly e-newsletter, which you can sign up for right from the home page of our website, saintraphael.org**