



Update from Fr. Jake

July 16, 2021

Dear Friend of St. Lawrence,

This Sunday's Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23) is one that I believe everyone should consider memorizing. Perhaps I am somewhat biased since my mother made us memorize this and other passages as small children. At the time I certainly did not feel like doing the work of memorizing, but I am quite grateful now as an adult!

Why memorize? Well, as my father would often say: "Life is hard." Particularly in times of difficulty or doubt, we can draw upon the Word of God that has nourished countless hearts. A memorized Scripture passage such as Psalm 23 can nourish us with the stability of words, much like a hiking staff lends us stability and power in rough terrain. Sometimes in life, we cannot always put into words what our hearts most desire or feel; this too can be a great benefit to having the Word of God near us, "in our mouth and in our heart" (Romans 10:8).

I would like to focus our attention on the phrase "the Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." There is a mysterious phrase from the book *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis: "Master, overcome us so that overcome we may become ourselves." I believe this gets at the enigmatic truth that Jesus is always inviting us to see, namely that we are only free to the extent that He has become the Lord of the totality of our life. "Lord of our life" in the sense that I can say with sincerity: "my life is not my own, I belong to another." Perhaps Lewis's phrase draws out the truth that the Christian life is a true battle regarding the question: "who is on the throne of my heart?" We want our own wills to be overcome by His Will which, ironically, leads us to our true selves.

Are not our lives living mysteries? Part of this mystery is the perennial wants and desires that keep bubbling up within us. In the mystery of Psalm 23, it gets at the ultimate reality that our hearts were not made for anything other than God and we will never find true rest "until our hearts rest in Him" as St. Augustine famously stated. Ultimately, the fulfillment of Psalm 23 is beatitude, heaven. Simone Weil puts it very well, "That is what heaven is, [the place where] there is no separation from desire and the object of our desire."

I hope you might consider having Psalm 23 posted on your bathroom mirror or bedroom nightstand to have it not only in your mind, but as a stable friend in times of instability.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Jake

St. Lawrence Newman Center Communication Update

- **Next Saturday, July 24**, Mass will be canceled due to Fr. Jake and Fr. Philip being away.
- For all future parish-sponsored events, a space request form must be completed a week or more in advance. You can find the form [here](#) or at umncatholic.org/facilities-calendar
- Volunteers needed! Please contact Br. Gary at brogary@brohope.net to learn more.
 - We are in need of volunteers to remove weeds around the grounds of St. Lawrence. Feel free to come at any time.
 - Calling all future ushers for the 8am, 10:30am & 7pm masses. The main responsibility is to take up the collection and bring it in a basket to the altar.
 - We are looking for some volunteers that would be willing to come in for about two hours each week to straighten the books in the pews and replace candles.
- Please mark your calendars to celebrate a WELCOME BACK event on August 8. After a very long time - we want to celebrate together as a faith community after Mass. Please plan to come and reconnect.
- What is the significance of offering a votive candle? In early Christian times, we light a candle before a statue or sacred image of our Lord or of a saint. Of course, we do not honor the statue or the image itself, but whom that statue or image represents. The light signifies our prayer offered in faith coming into the light of God. With the light of faith, we petition our Lord in prayer or petition the saint to pray with us and for us to the Lord. The light also shows a special reverence and our desire to remain present to the Lord in prayer even though we may depart and go about our daily business. We have candles available in the church with a donation box attached to cover the cost of candles.
- Do you have a prayer intention? We have a place to collect your prayers [here](#) or visit umncatholic.org/st-lawrence. Please pray for us as we pray for you.
- We are grateful to our generous supporters for contributing to the mission here at St. Lawrence. Consider giving a gift today at umncatholic.org/donate or contact Rochelle Shirk at 612-261-2808.

In Christ,
Izabella Frederiksen
Communications Coordinator