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ay, is a  
is the  
shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him,  
and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by  
name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own,  
he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because  
they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in  
fact, they will run away from him because they do not  
recognize a stranger's voice. Jesus used this figure of speech,  
but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling  
them. Therefore, Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am  
the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are  
thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I  
am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They  
will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only  
to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have  
life and have it to the full.

### Mass Intentions

**Saturday** RIP Anthony Jurkoic (death rem.)  
**May 2** By: his family & friends

**Sunday** RIP Hans Weltz  
**May 3** By: Phyllis

### Daily Masses

Monday RIP Anthony Jurkoic  
May 4 By: green Family  
Tuesday RIP Jim & Helen Gay Hurley  
May 5 By: Alan & Sandi Gaspardino  
Wednesday RIP Michael Shaughnessy  
May 6 By: Bing & May Agnes Jones  
Thursday INT Fr. Lance Harlow  
May 7 By: Barb & Leo Howell  
Friday NO Mass  
May 8

### Next Weekend

**Saturday** RIP Carrie Lynch  
**May 9** By: her family  
**Sunday** RIP William & Helen Peschl  
**May 10** By: Warren & Mary

Thank You to all those mailed their offertory envelopes.  
Please continue to support our church in this uncertain  
time.

### Readings for the Week of May 4, 2020

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10  
**Monday:** Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18  
**Tuesday:** Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30  
**Wednesday:** Acts 12:24-13:5a; Jn 12: 44-50  
**Thursday:** Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20  
**Friday:** Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6  
**Saturday:** Acts 13: 44-52; Jn 14:7-14  
**Sunday:** Acts 6: 1-7; 1Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14: 1-12

### ***Parish Support***

*Offering by Mail* \$ 1768.00

### **Last Year's Offertory Collection**

### **A Directive from Bishop Christopher J. Coyne**

**Effective Friday, March 20**, all regularly scheduled public celebrations of the Catholic Mass, sacraments and devotions are suspended until further notice. Priests of the Diocese of Burlington will continue to celebrate Mass privately for the intentions of their community and the Church.

Baptisms, funerals and weddings may take place but will be strictly limited in attendance to immediate family members.

I have taken this course of action following the advice of local public officials and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to limit gatherings to 10 people. While this is a difficult time for the faithful, we must all do our part to ensure the health and well-being of the larger community by helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary.

Plans are moving forward to "live-stream" a local celebration of the Mass daily beginning with this Sunday, March 22 at 10 AM. Please check the Diocesan website at <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/covid-19/> for all TV Mass options, resources to keep Sunday Holy and the latest updates.

### **Friday, May 8:**

"Oh, who will comprehend Your love and Your unfathomable mercy toward us! O Prisoner of Love, I lock up my poor heart in this tabernacle, that it may adore You without cease night and day." (St. Faustina, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, 80)



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E ch, Mary  
F ke, Lois  
V Bashaw,  
B elc, Tom  
S t Brown,  
N Marilyn  
Lemoine, Patrick Barry, Robert Fogg, Bernie Hindes, Nick Deistler, Ted Waryas, Peter Bodner, Ellah Williams, Fred Waryas, Maybelle Long, Joseph Mitchell, Heather Rodger, Patricia Jones, Frances Hackett, Colleen Paquet, David Robarge, Kathy MCarthy, Tom Burns, Mary Lou Fogg, Jim Nyberg, Cheryl Elysse Garrett, Ed Atkins, Conner Glover. **Please contact the rectory (463-3128) if you wish Father Maria Lazar to make a sick call or bring Holy Communion to someone who is unable to attend Mass.**

PLEASE follow us on facebook: **Charles Church**  
<https://www.facebook.com/stcharleschurchbfvt>

Or our website:  
[stcharles.vermontcatholic.org](http://stcharles.vermontcatholic.org)

If you would like to get the bulletin via email, please email the parish Office at [stcharlesrectory@comcast.net](mailto:stcharlesrectory@comcast.net), and we will add you to the email list.

If anyone is in need of last sacraments, please call the parish office, anytime night or day 802-463-3128.

Until further notice **ALL CCD classes are cancelled**, please check the Diocese website for remote learning.

Online Giving is being set up on our Church website. Please continue to support our Church during this difficult time. All offerings can be mailed to St Charles Church, 31 Cherry Hill Street, Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

If you would like to reschedule your mass for a different time, please email the parish office at [stcharlesrectory@comcast.net](mailto:stcharlesrectory@comcast.net).

Please remember if you do wish to move your mass, that there are NO available weekend masses and that only weekday masses are available for the remainder of the 2020 year.

**Guidelines and Safety measures from the CDC, about the COVID-19 Virus**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

#### **Please note:**

Regular online and phone office hours are open from Monday - Thursday from 11:00-4:00 PM to answer the phones and receive emails. Please dial 802-463-3128 for emergencies.

#### **Jesus is the gate for his sheep.**

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees. Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow. The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd. (Copyright © 2020 Loyola Press. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission. [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com))

#### **USCCB Prayer for healing and protection from COVID-19**

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.