John 10:1-10

May 3rd, 2020    4th Sunday of Easter

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www.stdenisparish.org

St. Denis Church (Parish Office)
2250 Avy Avenue • Menlo Park

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
930 Portola Road • Portola Valley
**Gospel Reading**

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.

Loyola Press “Sunday Connection”

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**We Believe**

If you’re reading this, chances are you’ve opted to recognize Jesus as your Shepherd and the “Gate” you choose to enter. These lingering days of isolation are a chance to ponder how to continue to choose Christ in the situations we find ourselves. Perhaps the initial days of lockdown were met with disbelief and a kind of stunned immobilization. After a couple of weeks and the sober realization that isolation isn’t going away, these days could be a chance to catch up on things. Sometimes, in spite of the “gift” of free time comes the humbling observation that procrastination has less to do with busy schedules and more to do with the dislike of certain tasks.

Often the biggest challenge is to just get started. Whether it’s updating a will, organizing the garage, weeding the garden, or cleaning out those closets, they all require a start.

We may be called to make starts in another direction, and it’s useful to adopt the mindset of a beginner. Having a “beginners mind” means discerning what life is saying right now in the present. “Being able to experience not what we want but what actually is and opening ourselves up to it.” (Christine Walters Painter)

During this time of worry and uncertainty there is an opportunity to go deeper and to see ourselves as people who live in the hope and promise of the Resurrection. As Fr. Richard Rohr says, “To be born again is not to become somebody else but to become ourselves.” As we seek to move toward being the people we are really meant to be, our Shepherd is with us whether it’s washing the car or spending time in a prayerful walk. In closing here’s a Facebook quote to get us.

“Fear does not take away death. It stops life. And worrying does not take away tomorrow’s troubles. It takes away today’s peace.”

May peace be with YOU!

Dede Waters-Masters

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**Mass Intentions**

St. Denis & Our Lady of the Wayside Parish

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Fr. Ed Grimes (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Teresa Bautista (living)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Edmund Goedde (living)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Peter Fulchiron (+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Angel Donohoe &amp; family (living)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Martin &amp; Hilary Donohoe and family (living)</td>
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**In your charity, please pray for...**


Names will be removed monthly unless you let the office know. Thank you.
**Faith Formation News**

May is traditionally the month of Mary, our mother. There are many ways to honor Mary during her month. Try praying the rosary together. You don’t need beads, just your fingers will do! It’s easy to find instructions online.

While you are online, look for pictures and stories about Mary to share. Mary has appeared to many people all around the world over the centuries. Each time, she looks familiar to those who see her, like their own mother might look. And she always has a message of peace and comfort, always pointing to Jesus.

While we wait for our church buildings to open again, please join Fr. Paul as he live-streams the Mass on Facebook every day at 11:30am (except Saturday). Please check our Facebook page at St. Denis and Our Lady of the Wayside Parish and join the group! If you are not on Facebook, you can watch the video later on our website. You’ll also find tips on how to fully, actively and consciously PARTICIPATE in the Mass.

Please contact Lucy at lsoiltau@stdenisparish.org with any questions or concerns.

Pray for each other and for all effected by this virus. Stay safe and healthy!

**Question Of The Week**

Where is Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leading you?

**Prayer During 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!"

**Live Streamed Liturgies At The Cathedral**

Daily liturgies are livestreamed at St. Mary’s Cathedral. The faithful may not attend in person. These prayer opportunities are available only online, through the Archdiocesan YouTube channel: youtube.com/archdioceseofsanfrancisco/live. For a full schedule of liturgies at the Cathedral, including daily Masses, see the Livestreams webpage, above.

**Bulletin Deadline**

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Deadline for bulletin articles is Tuesday before noon, before the weekend of publication. All announcements during Mass are to be scripted and approved by Dede prior to Masses. Contact her at dedewm@pacbell.net

NOTE: Announcement may not appear until the next bulletin due to space.

**Stewardship**

- July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 (Estimated goal) $459,000.00
- July 1, 2019 to March 2020 $323,521.00
- Monthly Goal– March 2020 $45,000.00
- March 2020 Sunday Offertory Collections $26,793.00
- Annual Appeal 2020 Goal $107,655.00
- Annual Appeal 2020 Actual $80,325.00

**Donation Corner**

“Save Time and Donate Online!”

Online Giving is available for parishioners with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and completely secure. If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please visit our website stdenisparish.org, and follow the links. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call WeShare at 800 950-9952.
We Are Church

Fr. Paul can now “see you” during his daily masses! We took your pictures from the parish directory, enlarged them and pinned them to every seat in the chapel. If you were not in the directory or would like a different picture please send it to Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org. Fr. Paul said it really makes a difference!

To Our Parishioners

To slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the church will be closed until further notice. All events are CANCELLED, including masses. Fr. Paul will be live-streaming the Mass on Facebook every day at 11:30am (except Saturday.) Please check our Facebook page St. Denis and Our Lady of the Wayside Parish and join the group! If you are not on Facebook, you can watch the video later on our website www.stdenisparish.org You’ll also find tips on how to fully, actively and consciously PARTICIPATE in the Mass. If there’s anything that Fr. Paul can do to help and support you & your family during this unusual time you may call him directly at 415 686-9951. We are praying for you. Please pray for us.

Supporting Your Parish During These Difficult Times

Please continue to financially support your parish so that we can continue to provide the ministries that everyone relies on. You may mail your donations to the parish office, or you may give online through WeShare. Go to the parish website, stdenisparish.org to find the links to set up your donation or you may call WeShare at 800 950-9952, press 3, then press 2 or email weshare@4lpi.com. We thank you for your support!