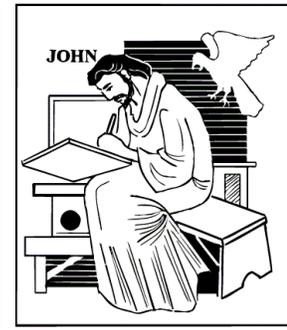
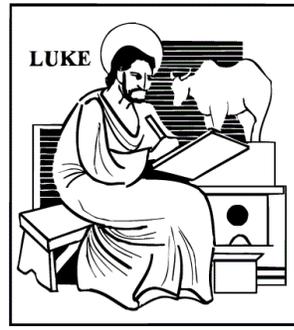
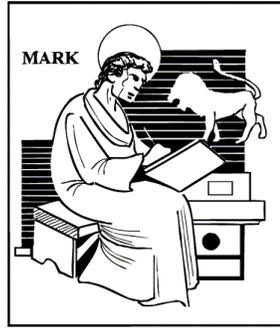
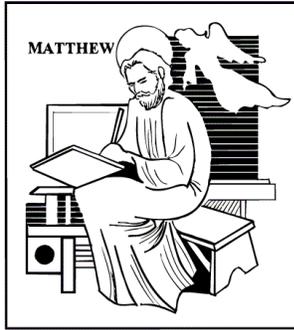


Breaking Open the Word



April 26, 2015 Fourth Sunday of Easter Lectionary: 50 Gospel Jn 10:11-18

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

Spiritual Reflection: Philosophers, scientists, and sages often lay claim to the superiority of their respective systems. Not surprising is it, therefore, that since both Our Lord and the Pharisees were teachers, there should be a dispute between them concerning their doctrines. But Jesus, as always, refused to put Himself on the level with human teachers; He claimed uniqueness as a Divine Teacher. But He went even further. He came to sacrifice Himself for His sheep, not to be a Master over pupils. - Fulton Sheen

Spiritual Questions

1. How do you take care of those under you?
2. How can you make the lives of others better?
3. What are you doing to help Christ find His lost sheep?
4. If you are lost what are you doing to allow Christ to find you?
5. Why is Christ willing to lie down his life for others?