



Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020



ATTENTION

**All scheduled masses and events are cancelled due to the ban.
As a Parish Family we pray for all who are affected by COVID-19.
The Church & Rectory will remain closed until further notice.**

**If you had a mass scheduled or offered the Bread and Wine or Sanctuary Candle for a loved one,
for this week or the upcoming weeks, please call the rectory to reschedule to a later date.
We apologize for the inconvenience.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**"Jesus is the gate for the sheep"
(John 10: 1-10)**

A little less than a month ago we could not imagine being outside the home. Today when the worst seems to have happened we can even picture lush meadows with a large flock of sheep enjoying fresh air and sunshine. This first Sunday in May, situated right in the middle of spring, may lend itself to such daydreams. Our faith in the Risen Christ helps us dream of a Church that is led by its pastor and that leaves the fold in search of the sources of living water. In the midst of the pain that still grips us for so many brothers and sisters who died by the pandemic, let us take time for the joy and gratitude that the Risen Christ brings to each one of us.

The image of a sheep dominates the readings today. We are comforted by those recent images of Pope Francis visiting the sick in hospitals and even praying for our dead. Our Pope is like Jesus, a shepherd with the smell of a flock. The figure of Peter inspired the early Church and all those who listened to his call to repent as Francis inspires us today to go to alleviate the needs of the poorest or as he said to me last week: *"Walk around the neighborhood."* The image that Jesus presents to us when he speaks of the good shepherd also reminds us today of all those shepherds who lost their lives for being at the service of the coronavirus patients. Today the challenge for everyone is to listen to the voice of our Universal Pastor, Jesus of Nazareth.

With joy we will celebrate First Communions, Confirmations and other sacraments in a few months. With the same joy we can approach the sacrament of reconciliation that is somehow preached by Peter in the first reading. Imagine the first pope calling us to conversion when he himself perhaps experienced these salvific actions after his own conversion. Peter became the shepherd of the sheep commissioned by the Risen Jesus. Because of his great love, he was entrusted with the task of tending his sheep. Both yesterday and today we are called to proclaim that Jesus is the gate to the sheep to which we must knock so that it would open to us and we can enter to be part of that large flock with its only shepherd.

More than one of us may have experienced an overwhelming amount of information through digital networks and even from church networks in the pick time of coronavirus. At that time, it was even difficult to decide who to see and listen to. Today, led by the Gospel of John, we can say that the task is to listen to the voice of Jesus, our "good shepherd" who speaks to us through our legitimate shepherds and above all through our conscience. Saint Ignatius of Loyola invites us to listen to the voice of God in what he defines as the **consolation** that comes from the Spirit of God, thus: "all increase of hope, faith and charity and all internal joy that calls and attracts heavenly things." Therefore, the true consolation that is the center of our paschal celebration leads us not to separate ourselves from reality in an alienating way, but to send and restore us to it as messengers of the Good News and strengthen us to assume the commitments of our vocation:

"Accompany them (the poor) as Jesus did."

Fr. Hernan, S.J.

Weekly Remembrances

**Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle**



~ For the safety & well being of
the People of our Parish Community

**Memorial Candle
Memorial Candle**

~ † For all the lives lost to
~ the COVID-19 Virus



SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

May 3: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14A, 36-41
Psalm 23:1-3A, 3B4, 5, 6
1 Peter 2:20B-25

May 10: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7
Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Peter 2:4-9



KEEP CONNECTED WITH YOUR PARISH THROUGH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Fr. Hernán and Fr. Marc and Fr Luis Mario are offering virtual Masses and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament through our Facebook page.

Connect and follow us to see these transmissions in your homes. Search "olmcsi" and send a friend request.

Masses on Sundays; 10:00 am (English); 11:30 am (Spanish)

Masses from Monday to Friday; 12:00 pm (Spanish); Thursdays 11am (English)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at 7:00 pm (Spanish)

LIVE-STREAMING MASS & PARISH SUPPORT - We want to thank you for all your concern and prayers for one another during this difficult time of the Coronavirus. The cancellation of public masses until further notice has been most challenging for all of us and I encourage everyone to join in spiritual communion with the faithful through televised masses on different cable stations and live streaming from our Facebook page (schedule listed above) and the live streaming site at St. Patrick's Cathedral at this link <https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live>. Needless to say, the parish will be facing financial setbacks in the days ahead. Your weekly contributions are essential for the good of the parish. Your sacrificial giving is of great importance with meeting the cost of many parish programs, employee salaries and benefits, utilities, etc. I ask your help in this difficult time to mail in your weekly offering envelope to the parish office. You may use online banking as an option too. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering as it may take some time to recoup when the crisis is over. You may log onto the parish website to view the bulletin, see any new developments and to register for OnLine Giving at www.olmcsi.org. From my heart, thank you for everything you do for us at OLMC-SB-SMA Parish. May Jesus bless and protect our whole parish, and all our relatives and friends.

REGISTER for ONLINE GIVING - WeShare allows parishes to receive online gifts and give their parishioners a safe and easy way to do so. You are able to set up recurring donations and manage your online giving accounts. If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Customer service number 1-800-950-9952 or weshare@4lpi.com.

- Visit our church website and click Give Online. (Parish Website: olmcsi.org)
- Select the collection or event of your choice.
- Setup your donation or payment.
- If you wish you may choose Click Recurring Donation, then enter your donation amount and frequency.

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

THANK YOU! We are short for words to thank you enough for your good heart. We pray for you earnestly from the bottom of our heart that you and your family be blessed in every way with good health, peace and prosperity. May the good Lord keep us all in the palm of His hands and make His face shine upon us.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION - It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

ACT OF 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 in 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.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF MASS ONLINE - It can be weird and rather difficult to focus on the mass while watching at home. It has been a joy seeing the number of you who turn in for daily mass and for the Sunday masses. Keep it up. These following steps are to help you fully participate at the mass while you watch from the comfort of your home. **Set Up a Prayer Space:** Set up a space in your home for prayer. Consider covering a table with a tablecloth or another nice cloth of the seasonal liturgical color. Place a Bible, a candle and a cross or crucifix on the table.

- Straighten the space, and arrange enough furniture for all.
- Have everyone go to the bathroom, get drinks, wash faces and come prepared to attend Mass.
- Turn off and remove all devices that can distract from the space.
- Encourage everyone to prayerfully enter the mass.
- Before the Mass begins, light the candle.