

Most Holy Trinity Parish

mhtstl.org | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | MAY 3, 2020

On the fourth Sunday of Easter we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. The imagery of sheep and shepherds appear frequently throughout the Bible. Shepherds keeping watch over their flock was a common sight in the land of Israel. Many of the patriarchs of Israel were shepherders, including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David and Moses. Jesus uses the description of the Good Shepherd as one who cares for sheep so intimately, and “calls each sheep by name.” The sheep know and distinguish their shepherd “because they recognize the shepherd’s voice.” Jesus continues, “I am the gate,” of the sheepfold meaning he would lay down his life for any of the sheep rather than let anyone through the gate who would bring harm to any lamb, ewe, or sheep.

During this season, with an attentive heart, we hear Jesus’ voice. We hear Jesus say, “I came so that you may have life and have it more abundantly.” Resurrection is the full realization of this promise described in the twenty-third psalm. We are led, refreshed and guided along God’s graced path. We respond, “Even in the dark valley we will fear no evil. You are at our side. You give us courage. You are our food and drink. You anoint us. There is nothing we want. Goodness and kindness follow us all our days. You are with us forever.”

Pope Francis reminds us, “A person is Christian because she or he has met Jesus and has allowed

I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.

John 10:10



Reflection and Design: Joyelle Proot, SSND

Jesus to meet them. Jesus accompanies us along our entire journey, even when we are not aware of His presence. We meet Jesus in the darkness of our doubts. He is always there to help us in our distress. He’s always with us. Jesus accompanies us because He desires to meet us.” (homily April 26, 2020)

Jesus, you give each of us the grace to meet you every day, to know and to recognize you who walks with us in every moment. Jesus says, “I came that you may have life.” Let us share our life in the Risen Christ so that the abundance of goodness and kindness, that is Jesus with us, touches all whom we meet.

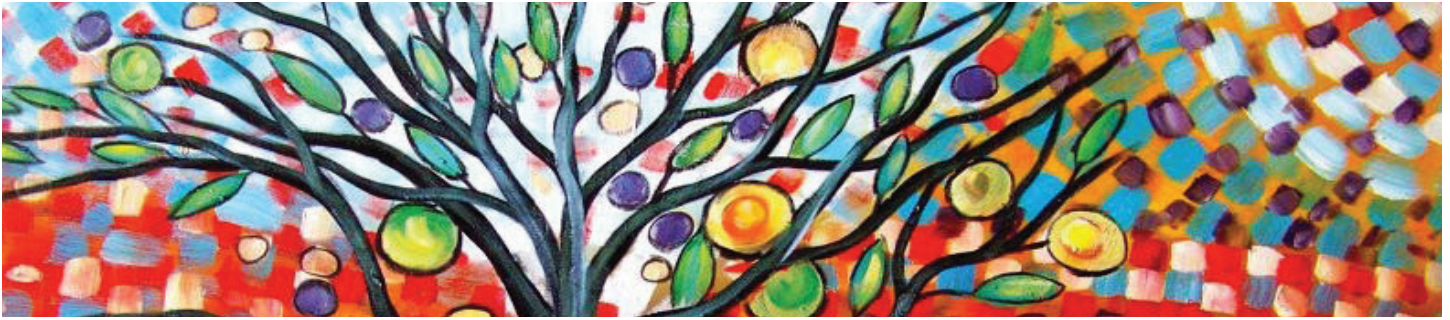
– S.Janice

(See other side.)

MISSION:

We are a people graced by God, who come together as a community of faith, supporting each other as we live and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Parish Mass Schedule: 4 PM Saturday Mass/Eucharistic Prayer Service in Rectory Chapel
9:30 AM Sunday in Church | 9:15 AM Wednesday School Mass in Church (during school year)**



God reaches out to all, in newness that is unprecedented among us.

We lived the 2020 Triduum, the most sacred of celebrations in our liturgical calendar. Today we live and celebrate the 50 days of Easter.

This Eastertide God invites us to be a gathered church community in new and amazing ways.

Each Sunday we pray the Eastertide gospels together in one home where the sky is the dome of the church where we gather. We pause and notice the gospels match our common life and experience today, 2020. The apostles were disappointed, fearful, and confused after the death of Jesus. Then they began to see Jesus in their ordinary life of fishing, walking together, enjoying a campfire. Just as Thomas wanted to see Jesus like the others; we too, see Jesus in the woundedness and generosity around us.

We, the local and world community, mourn. We grieve over loved ones lost during the pandemic, the loss of physical closeness to friends and family, the absence of many social goods, and loss of worship celebrated and shared together weekly in our chapel and church.

The apostles were led to understand that Jesus was with them in a completely new way. In this realization their sadness and was transformed into joy. Their joy impelled them to go throughout Jerusalem proclaiming the good news of Jesus risen. Today we, like the apostles, experience God's transforming love in our lives. How is God transforming our priorities, our learnings, our vision?

In this unique time in history marked by the coronavirus pandemic throughout the world, to what newness is God is leading our Most Holy Trinity faith community?

Where is the risen Christ leading us in our homes on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings during the time we are ordinarily gathered for Eucharist in chapel or church? How is the risen Jesus saying to each of us, "Grieve not. I am risen; I am with you, my beloved community?"

How are each of us witnesses of a deeper realization of Jesus among us in people helping people, often risking their own wellness for another?

This day is God's! What new understandings are growing our shared one heart and mind?

Our God is with us in our aloneness, our generosity, our tenderness. In what new ways do we experience that Resurrection grace is here, is everywhere in our one home, our world, our church?

As we experience the uprooting of usual ways, let us not be disturbed. God is our peace and strength. Confidently, we go forward knowing God is the path. We open our hearts to the grace of God; our ears to the inspiration of the Spirit and our eyes to seeing the face of the risen Christ in each step we take. Today we see the fullness of Resurrection joy in God's presence everywhere, in everyone.