



21 April 2024

Today's Readings Pg 148
 Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12
 Psalm 118:8-29
 1 John 3:1-2
 John 10:11-18



I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead... and there will be one flock, one shepherd.
 JOHN 10:16

Living with Our Instincts

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We live with a maze of instincts—some from the dark side and some from the light. In her book *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson describes how cultures tend to consign certain individuals to the bottom of the social ladder. She specifically compares the caste system in India with how the Nazis sought to suppress and eliminate Jews and with the way blacks were oppressed by slavery and even in our own time. She describes the instinct in every society to relegate others to a lower class, always seeking to ensure that we are not at the bottom. This instinct can come from the dark side of people.

There is also an instinct for goodness to others, an instinct of light—to recognize everyone as brothers and sisters. As Saint John notes, “we are God’s children now”

(1 John 3:2). It is the voice of the Shepherd instilled in the human spirit that calls us into one fold, the voice of God urging us to healing goodness.

It is the dark side that nurtures white supremacy. It is the light that enables us to see beyond the color of our skin. It is the dark side that excludes those who seem different. It is the light that welcomes and offers hospitality. It is the dark side that succumbs to fear. It is the light of God’s love that confronts the wolves of hate and urges us to follow. There is always tension between darkness and light. ●

Reflect

How does the voice of the Good Shepherd call you to reject the dark and embrace the light?

Lord, We Lift Up to You in Prayer...

Joan Rourke, April Hicklin, Mary Lou Weepie,
Lois Wickman, Carma Schmidtke, Charlie Corey,
Pam Miller, Marci Willey, Diana Snyder,
Michael McDonough, Rose Kalb, Dave Chase,
Marisa Davidson, Mary Ellen Youngblut, Karyn Beenken,
Elaine Ernst, Lindsey Ernst, Ron Babinat,
victims of hatred, racism, violence, natural disaster;
terrorism, and all in our parish, our community, and our hearts
who are suffering and in need of Christ's healing touch †
May they know His loving Presence in the eyes, hands and
hearts of those who give them care.

**May our prayers for help and
healing rise like incense
to our God of hope, love and mercy.**



► Communion To Our Sick Or Homebound Ministry:

contact Michelle Weepie 319-635-2428

► **IC Parish Prayer Chain Hotline:** Please contact
Vivian Rourke at 319-238-3225 (V) or 319-238-2083 (M)

► **Sacrament Of The Sick** ~ Anointing for the seriously ill
or dying, call the Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743,
or if having surgery speak with Father Atwood in the
Sacristy before or after Mass

► **Baptism Class For Parents:** All parents who wish to
have their child baptized at Immaculate Conception
parish are required to attend a baptism class prior to
scheduling the baptism. Please contact Deacon Jim
at 319-509-1210 for scheduling details.

► **IC Cemetery** – contact the parish office

► **Funeral Dinners: Group #2 May, June, July,, & August**
We provide desserts & serve a catered meal

IC STAFF

~ Fr. Ray Atwood, Pastor ~

IC Parish Office Wednesday Mornings after 8:30AM Mass

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Sacred Heart Rectory 319-283-9577

email: dbq151@dbqarch.org

~ Deacon Jim Patera ~

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Cell phone 319-509-1210

~Glenda Kleitsch IC Secretary/Bookkeeper~

IC Parish Office PH: 319-635-2211

located at 405 Fairbank St

IC Parish Office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8AM – 3PM Closed Friday

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[website: http://icfairbank.weebly.com/](http://icfairbank.weebly.com/)

[Archdiocesan website: www.dbqarch.org](http://www.dbqarch.org)

~Kim Weepie, DRE & Youth Ministry~

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Mailing address: P O Box 505, Fairbank IA 50629

Jean Sauerbrei, Facility Rental Coordinator

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or email jmsauerbrei@yahoo.com



April 21, 2024

“What are Holy Orders?”

Next month, I celebrate 30 years as a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. 30 years! I can hardly believe where the time has gone. I was ordained a transitional deacon on the feast of the Holy Innocents, Dec. 28, 1993, at St. John's in Placid, Ia. The following May 28, 1994, I, along with one other young man, was ordained a priest at St. Raphael's Cathedral in Dubuque. Since then I have served in 13 parishes of varying sizes. It has not always been easy, but it has always been a gift and a privilege. With God's grace, I will serve many more years in the wonderful Archdiocese of Dubuque.

This weekend, Good Shepherd Sunday, is one of the ideal occasions (the other being Holy Thursday) to reflect on the sacrament of Holy Orders. “*I am the good shepherd,*” Our Lord tells us (Jn. 10:11). We look to Jesus as the perfect model of our priestly vocation. While it is true that all of us share in the priesthood of Jesus Christ by virtue of our baptism, I share in the priesthood of Christ in a special way.

The *Catechism* points out:

The chosen people [they were Israelites, God's chosen people] was constituted

... “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Ex. 19:6) [all of them, just like you]. But within the Israelites, God selected a particular tribe. There were twelve tribes of the Israelites. God selected one, the tribe of Levi, and they were to be the priests. They were to serve the people in a special way. They were to offer sacrifice. They were to pray for the people (CCC 1539).

Then we are told:

Everything that the priesthood of the Old Testament prefigured came into fulfillment [or perfection] in Christ Jesus, who was the “one real mediator between God and men” (1 Tim. 2:5) [1544].

The redeeming sacrifice of Christ [His crucifixion and death] is unique [it happened only once in bloody form on Calvary]; yet it is made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church. The same is true of the one priesthood of Christ. Christ is the only priest, and those of us who are ordained priests derive our priesthood from him [1545]. [That is why the ordained priests are said to act in the person of Christ and all baptized derive their priesthood from Christ, who is the priest par excellence.]

Having said all this about priests, it is essential to point out the other degrees of Holy Orders. **Bishops** are the fullness of the priesthood of Christ, and have the exclusive power to ordain priests and deacons. The bishop is chief shepherd of the archdiocese, and directs us in the fulfillment of the Church's mission. **Deacons** also share in Holy Orders. They are ordained ministers who assist in the ministry of the Word and the ministry of Service. They assist priests and bishops in the celebration of the Divine Mysteries.

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, please know what an honor and privilege it is to serve you in the Church. Rest assured of my prayers on this day, and please keep me in yours. **God Bless You!! Father Ray Atwood**

Parish Financial Support

Apr 14-18

Budget	\$2435
Offeratory	\$261
Easter	\$25
Building Fund	\$50
Parish Center Debt	\$65
Donut Sunday	\$96



Thanks
for Your
Support!

April 2024

Apr 21-26 ~ Father Atwood Vacation

- Sat Apr 27 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party
- Sat Apr 27 ~ Faith & Four-Letter Words – Legion Hall 6-8PM
- Sun Apr 28 ~ **Colleen Pasnik- speaking at 8:30AM Mass.**

Mary's Inn Maternity Home

Donut Sunday - Faith Formation Comm

Brief Presentation by Colleen Pasnik

Join Us for the

Wapsie Valley FFA Omelet Breakfast

April 28 8-12PM Free Will Donation!!

Readlyn Elementary School Gym

May 2024

- Sat May 4 ~ First Sat Mass 8:30AM
- Sat May 4 ~ Spring City Wide Garage Sale
- Sat May 4 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party
- Sun May 5 ~ First Communion Mass at IC Church
- Mon May 6 ~ Fairbank City Wide Clean-up Day
- Tues May 7 ~ Card Bingo – Assisted Living 1:30PM
- Wed May 8 ~ Faith Formation Mtg 7PM
- Thurs May 9 ~ Parish Life Mtg 9:30AM
- Thurs May 9 ~ KC Mtg 7PM



THANK
YOU

Thanks to all that attended the KC Pancake breakfast in March. We were able to donate \$2000 to Fairbank Fire Dept and thanks to the person who paid the grocery bill at the Food Center.

- Fri May 10 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party
- Sat May 11 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party
- Sun May 12 ~ Class of 2024 Graduation Mass
- Wed May 15 ~ Monthly Community Potluck 11:30AM
- Wed May 22 ~ Pastoral/Finance Mtg 5:30PM
- Fri May 24 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party
- Sat May 25 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party

2024

Just Married

...and the two shall become one..

Congratulations and God's Blessings extended to Courtney Gremaud & Brock Buzynski on their new beginning in life Saturday, April 20 as Mr. & Mrs.

May Christ always be the head of your home and the heart of your life together.



Mass Intentions

Sun	Apr 21	8:30 AM	IC	Don & Catherine Willwerth
				M: Deacon Jim EM: Duane Schmidtke
				Altar Servers: Marshall & Ellie Weepie
				Lector: Kelly Cummings
Sun	Apr 21	10:30AM	SH	Mary Crahan Carney†
Mon	Apr 22	8:30AM	SH	} NO MASSES Father Atwood On Vacation
Wed	Apr 24	8:30AM	IC	
Thurs	Apr 25	8:30 AM	SH	
Fri	Apr 26	12:00 Noon	SH	For the People
Sat	Apr 27	4:30PM	SH	
Sun	Apr 28	8:30 AM	IC	Michael & Jerry Shannont
				EM: Michelle Weepie, Diane Rourke
				Altar Servers: Bailey & Hayden Szurley
				Lector: Kevin Bodensteiner

Sun Apr 28 10:30AM SH For the People

May 5, 2024 8:30 AM Mass

EM: Joe & Cheryl Kleitsch

Altar Servers: Rachel & Wally Kaufman

Lector: Lori Beierschmitt

April Ushers and Greeters

John W Even, Mitch Sauerbrei, Chad VanDaele

Mark & Donna Weepie, Rick Woods

April Money Counters

Tom Kleitsch, Jean Sauerbrei



Elections Nomination Forms are in the East Entrance for possible candidates for the upcoming Pastoral Council Election in May. Who among our parishioners do you think would serve the parish well in this ministry? Give us the name(s) of those you would recommend for the job. Nominees will be contacted to ask them to consider being on the ballot. Be sure to turn in your nominee's form by Sunday, May 5. Drop it off at the parish office or into the collection basket.



As we close another CCD year for our youth, please acknowledge our wonderful staff of teachers for 2023-24 year.

Kim Weepie – DRE

Ella Weepie – Kindergarten & 1st grade

Kelly Cummings – 2nd grade

Jillian Sinwell – 3rd & 8th Grades

Angel Martin – 4th Grade

Issy LaRue – 5th Grade

Elaine Zimmerman – 6th Grade

Ava VanDaele – 7th Grade

Tony Salisbury – 9th & 10th Grades

Chris Boehme – sub

Teachers
are
Angels
in disguise!

THANK
YOU!

Last Class for CCD 2023-24 is Sunday, April 28

Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

Jesus says that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

Save the Date: Totus Tuus will be at St. Athanasius, Jesup on July 7-12. Totus Tuus is a summer Catholic youth program for 1st-12th grade students. It not only teaches the faith through prayer and educational activities, but also through fun and games that your child is likely to look forward to year after year! Registration and more information will be coming soon. Please contact Lori Schutte at dbq109ff@dbqarch.org with any questions.

Question of the Week: How do you feel about Jesus' being your shepherd? What does it mean to you that he lays down his life for you?

Choose one of the following activities as a way to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

- Jesus, the Good Shepherd, shows us the way. Together, compose a prayer that describes how your family follows the way of Jesus. Tell of how Jesus, the Good Shepherd, guides you in your daily lives.
- Look up sheep or goats in the encyclopedia, or find a storybook about them. Read the text or the story together, and discuss how animals depend on us to take care of them. Remind family members that Jesus tells us that he is the Good Shepherd. Talk about how Jesus takes care of us.
- Reflect on how Jesus leads us by means of his Church. How are our leaders like shepherds? What qualities of the Good Shepherd do you bring to the Church?
- Use Psalm 23 as your family prayer this week.

MONDAY

April 22

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:1-18

Jn 10:1-10

TUESDAY

April 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 11:19-26

Jn 10:22-30

WEDNESDAY

April 24

Easter Weekday

Acts 12:24-13:5a

Jn 12:44-50

THURSDAY

April 25

St. Mark,

Evangelist

1 Pt 5:5b-14

Mk 16:15-20

FRIDAY

April 26

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:26-33

Jn 14:1-6

SATURDAY

April 27

Easter Weekday

Acts 13:44-52

Jn 14:7-14

SUNDAY

April 28

Fifth Sunday

of Easter

Acts 9:26-31

1 Jn 3:18-24

Jn 15:1-8

