

CLOSING PRAYER:

~ Resurrection Light ~

**Risen Christ,
when darkness overwhelms us
may your dawn beckon.**

**When fear paralyses us
may your touch release us.**

**When grief torments us
may your peace enfold us.**

**When memories haunt us
may your presence heal us.**

**When justice fails us
may your anger ignite us.**

**When apathy stagnates us
may your challenge renew us.**

**When courage leaves us
may your spirit inspire us.**

**When despair grips us
may your hope restore us.**

**And when death threatens us
may your resurrection light lead us.
Amen.**

Our Lady Chapel



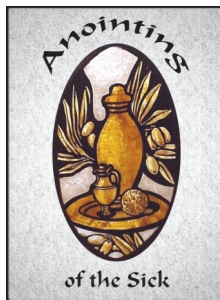
Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE:

The Campus Ministry Office is located in **Our Lady Chapel**.
phone: [440] 473-3560 [office] or 216-570-9276 [cell].
e-mail: blazekj@gilmour.org

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

At all our Masses this weekend, April 29-30, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Illness and suffering have always been part of human life. In illness, we experience our powerlessness, our limitations, and our mortality. Every illness can make us glimpse death. Illness can lead to anguish, self-absorption — sometimes even despair and anger against God. It can also make us more mature — helping us discern in our lives what is not essential so that we can turn toward that which is. Very often illness provokes a search for God and a return to Him.



The Church believes and confesses that among the seven sacraments, there is one very special sacrament which is intended to strengthen those who are being tried by illness. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was instituted by Christ our Lord as a true and proper sacrament of the New Testament. It is alluded to by Mark in his gospel, but is recommended to the faithful and more fully explained in the letter of James the Apostle [James 5:14-15].

Most of us remember the time when the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was conferred exclusively on those who were at the point of death; it's very name — "Extreme Unction" [Last Anointing] reminded us of this practice. But it is clear from the scriptures that this was never the intent of the sacrament. The early Church had an entirely different approach to this sacrament; the Vatican council restored this approach and returned the sacrament to its original name. Today, this beautiful sacrament allows us a special encounter with God during those times of illness in our lives. The cross always leads to the resurrection; sickness leads to salvation.

When are the times when we can receive this sacrament? There are many occasions — during any serious illness; before surgery; the elderly; mental and emotional illness; spiritual struggle; approaching death. Who determines when an illness is serious? You do! Whenever you feel you need the sacrament you should receive it. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has been the vehicle of many powerful encounters with God in the lives of people. If you have or know of friends or relatives who should receive this sacrament, please try to arrange for them to be here. If there is a problem with local transportation, please let us know. Join us for this special occasion.

FIRST COMMUNION:

On Saturday, April 22nd, our 2nd graders, along with 3 of our 4th graders, made their First Communion in a private, intimate family ceremony. Few of us will argue the fact that one of the times we are closest to God is at our First Communion. The faith and openness of a child to Jesus is inspiring. May we all receive the Eucharist with so deep a faith. Congratulations to our children who are celebrating this special bond with Jesus: **Mary Rose Geiser, Michael Geiser, Ameera Jayawardane, Adriana Khater, Addalyn Malanaphy, Quinn Marks, Alexandros Nalmpantis, Sophia Nemeth, Bobby O'Neill, Valentina Salvador, Anthony Semaan, Rita Sheehan, JB Thomas and Sonny Tropiano.** Congratulations to all of our children, and also to their parents who have nurtured them in the faith and the love of Jesus. May we always remember that as people of faith — the Church — we too play a very important role in bringing each other into deeper relationship with Jesus.



PLAY BALL!

Our Lady Chapel is going back to Classic Park to watch the **Lake County Captains**. Join us on **Friday, June 30th**. Game time is **7:00 PM** to watch the Lake County Captains take on Fort Wayne TinCaps. **Tickets are \$25.00 each and include game ticket, picnic dinner and postgame 4th of July fireworks.** The picnic begins at 6:30 PM and will continue until 8 PM. Sign up on the easel in the narthex. **Final day to RSVP is Monday, June 19th.**



PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; also for their families and all the first responders.
- For the Holy Cross Religious in Haiti, and for the people of that country, which is under siege because of political and civil strife.
- For a woman struggling to find a better home situation.
- For a family going through a difficult time.
- For an end to violence and racial injustice in our society.
- For an end to sexual abuse and lack of respect for human persons.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.
- For a greater awareness of our call to create a more humane and just society.

LIFE TEEN and EDGE:

Our Life Teen and EDGE youth group meets in-person following our 10 AM Sunday Mass, beginning at 11:30 AM, in the Lennon Board Room. We meet most Sunday's for about an hour. If you are unable to join us, there are many resources available for you on the Life Teen website — lifeteen.com. There are numerous blogs and videos for you to connect with. The Life Teen national office continues to release many new programs. **Please contact Father John for more information. And please join us each Sunday for our Mass at 10 AM — in person or live-streamed, and then come to our Life Teen/EDGE gathering after Mass.** And above all, let us continue to join each other in prayer. **Father John is available for you. Please contact him [cell: 216-570-9276].**



CHAPEL ENVELOPES:

There are many ways that you can support our Holy Cross Mission and support Our Lady Chapel. You can place your offering at the door of the chapel as you enter; you can use our on-line donation link; or you can mail in your offerings to the Chapel itself — whatever best serves your needs. If you need a supply of envelopes, please pick them up off the table in the Narthex of the Chapel when you come to Mass. Or you can call the office or stop in to request them. **If you would like us to send you a supply of envelopes, please call Father John or Patty at [473-3560], and we will get them right out to you..**

WEEKLY OFFERING:

Thank you to those who have begun to send in weekly offerings. We really appreciate it. Thanks for not forgetting about us.

Offerings-----[Saturday, April 22]-----[Mass, Online, Mail-in]----- \$ 1,210.00
 Offerings-----[Sunday, April 23]----- \$ 310.00

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Father John is available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you. Please call him [440-473-3560] to arrange for this experience. All social distancing will remain in place. Always remember the Lord's invitation: "I will give them a heart with which to understand that I am the Lord. They shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart" [Jeremiah 24:7].



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

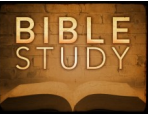
- For Kathy and Jim Pender, parents of Mark [‘83] and Michael [‘90] Pender, grandparents of Matthew [‘11], Charlotte [‘13] Pender, and Katherine [‘17] and Tyler [‘19] Clark, who are both seriously ill with health issues.
- For Jackie Rusnik, aunt of Jakob Bennish [‘30], who is recovering from open heart surgery.
- For Dale Rusnik, uncle of Jakob Bennish [‘30], who is undergoing treatment for various medical issues.
- For Father Diego Irrazaval, C.S.C., who is critically ill following a stroke.
- For Megan Schaefer Wenker [‘09], who is undergoing treatment for lung cancer.
- For Anna Heryak, Aunt for Mike Heryak, great aunt of Lilian Heryak Tran [‘09], Rosa [‘12] and Edwin [‘17] Heryak, who is under the care of Hospice.
- For Paul Hannon, who has serious health issues.
- For Sharon Wilson, wife of Brother Ken’s nephew, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Martin Murphy, father of Maureen Linz [‘84], Baseball Coach, John Murphy [‘88] and Julie Cathey [‘90], father-in-law of Amy Sullivan Murphy [‘88], grandfather of Michael [‘16], Molly [‘18] and Megan [‘19] Murphy, who is undergoing treatment following a stroke.
- For Ralph Elwart, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- For William Schiedel, who is experiencing complications with cancer treatments.
- For Janis Barnes who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Lisa Samples, who is recovering from multiple injuries sustained in a fall.
- For Frank Potenziani, father of David [‘95] and Cyrena [‘01] Potenziani, who is seriously ill.
- For Gia Cefferati, aunt of Rilyn [‘23] and Jackson [‘25] Anderson, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Carl Grassi, father of US Science instructor, Jessica Simonetta [‘05] and grandfather of Clare Simonetta [‘39], who is recovering from open heart surgery.
- For Bob Anderson, grandfather of Rob Belknap [‘21], and father of former Gilmour instructor, Cindy Anderson., who is recovering from serious surgery.
- For Judith Higbee, wife of Gilmour’s. Musical Theater Director, Allan Higbee, who is critically ill.

FOR THE DECEASED:

- For Thomas Rini, grandfather of Maddie [‘20] and Katie [‘24] Puletti.
- For Henry Cornely, son of Amy Zeit Cornely [‘87]
- For Frank Johns [‘50]
- For Lee Travis
- For Melanie Lowrey, close family friend of Performing Arts Co-ordinator, Lucas Clark
- For Velma Hobbs, grandmother of Lower School Instructor, Brian Hill.
- For Diamond Stewart, grandmother of Upper School Science Teacher, Noah Smith.
- For Eleanor “Ellie” McInerney, the mother of Lower School Admissions Director, Christie Radke, grandmother of Luke Radke [‘23]
- For Jason Ornstein [‘91], brother of Kevin Ornstein [‘93]

NEXT BIBLE STUDY — WEDNESDAY, MAY 10th:

Our next Virtual Bible Study will be on Wednesday, May 10th at 6:30 PM. Bible Study continues to meet bi-weekly. The Bible Study is open to everyone — all middle and high school students, college students, young adults, and all adults. We will all come together to be enriched by God’s word. It’s a great time, and a good witness of our faith to others. If you can’t come at 6:30, come when you can. Gather your favorite snack and/or drink, but be prepared to be nourished on God’s word.



Our topic: What is next? — grieving and the Resurrection

We also need your help — we need future topics. **So, if you have a topic that you would like us to discuss, please let Father John know.** Mark your calendars and be part of this wonderful activity that will deepen your spiritual journey. **We will meet every other week — topic to be decided at the end of the previous meeting.** Join us. You’ll have a blast, and celebrate your faith along the way..

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, April 30: 4 th Week in Easter	10:00 AM In Person & Live Stream
Monday, May 1: St. Joseph the Worker	Check with Office for time
Tuesday, May 2: St. Athanasius	Check with Office for time
Wednesday, May 3: Ss. Philip and James	Check with Office for time
Thursday, May 4:	Check with Office for time
Friday, May 5:	Check with Office for time
Saturday, May 6: 5 th Week in Easter	5:00 PM In Person
Sunday, May 7: 5 th Week in Easter	10:00 AM In Person & Live Stream

EASTER FLOWERS:

Once again, we would like to ask for help in offsetting the cost of our Easter flowers. As has been our custom, we will remember your loved ones in prayer throughout the entire Easter Season. Following Easter, the flowers will be planted outside in areas surrounding the chapel. As we celebrate together the new life of Easter, we share also in the renewing of the world of nature. We would like to remember: **Eveyn Bibbo, James Maruna, and Members of the Heryak, Wyrwas, Blazek and Rezabek Families.** Please say a prayer for our loved ones and for their families. **If you would like to add your loved ones to this list of remembrances, please turn in your list of names to Father John.** We will publish this list throughout the Easter Season.



FAITH EDUCATION:

Faith Education meets next on Sunday, April 30th and May 21st. As has been our custom in the past, our Faith Education Classes are followed by our 10 AM Mass which is held in the chapel. **If you have any questions, please contact Patty in the Chapel Office [440-473-3560].** Thank you.



REFLECTION ON THIS WEEK'S THEME:

Back in the “old days”, my dear Grandma O’Connor had in her living room a huge radio set in front of which I would sit and listen. Equally fascinating to me, besides the sounds, was the figure on this very old and substantial piece of furniture — there was a large white dog intently listening to something emanating from a larger horn-shaped speaker, and below it were the letters: “RCA VICTOR”. Whenever I visited her house, there was that dog listening to something I could not hear myself. Perhaps the dog was waiting for me to turn on the set and we would both listen. My Grandpa told me the dog was listening to the “Voice of his master.” When I asked him if I could listen to the “voice of the master,” he only smiled and said that I would have my chance. I always wanted to listen to the radio, but I knew for sure that I lacked the intensity of that devoted white dog.

In the Scripture readings for this 4th Week in Easter, there is some intent speaking and listening going on. Peter, speaking the words of the Master, announces that Jesus is the Lord, and Christ — the Messiah [Acts 2:14, 29-41]. Peter is speaking to the people of Israel, and he makes a direct appeal to the Jewish longing for the Messiah —the One whom they crucified was the One for whom they had longed and sought. While this statement can appear to be accusatory, that doesn’t describe how the people responded — “What are we to do, my brothers?”

This sets up the basic proclamation for the preaching of the early Apostles and the first three Gospels. All who desire salvation must repent and be baptized. Peter then affirms the promise which the Messiah made to them that it was not too late. The people listened and acted upon their reception —three thousand of them were convinced that this Jesus, whom they had crucified, was to be their covenanting Lord.

John’s Gospel [10:1-10] doesn’t sound very much in keeping with Easter. But it does have much to do with listening and not listening. The backdrop for Jesus’ teaching on the Good Shepherd is the incident that happens after Jesus cures the blind man [see John 9]. The Pharisees were threatened by this healing, and Jesus confronted them with the challenge that they were once able to see, but they have become blind themselves. The parable of the Good Shepherd offers them an invitation to allow God to comfort and care for them — and all God’s people. But the parable ends up intensifying their feelings even more. So the parable becomes more about their not listening than that Jesus is a shepherd. This is a comfortable and convenient image, of course, but the clearer image is that of Jesus being the “Voice of the Master.”

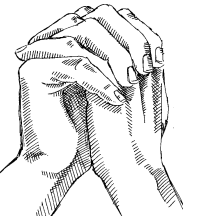
Jesus uses what we call, an extended metaphor. The Pharisees fail to figure out the figure of speech so He has to explain it all — provokingly more to the point. They are the “thieves and robbers” who came before Jesus. Jesus had the “gate” opened to Him by the “gatekeeper” — His Father. The Pharisees are pictured as those who selfishly steal, slaughter, and destroy, but Jesus has come to give life to those who can hear His voice calling. Jesus is using a biblical image with which the Pharisees and Jewish listeners are quite familiar. The people of Israel had known themselves as “flock” and the Lord as “shepherd”. What Jesus is doing is completing the prophecy of Ezekiel [see Ezekiel 34]. Jesus is the God-Sent shepherd Who will pasture God’s flock with tenderness and not selfishness.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

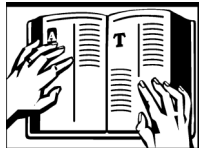
PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Kevin Kennedy, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic and lung cancer.
- For Maria Ruiz, mother of Elina Gurney, grandmother of Joseph and Christina Gurney, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Susan Vance-Johnson, sister of Chief Advancement Strategy Officer, Ray Murphy, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- For Ken Matty, who is recovering from surgery for a shattered leg.
- For Chuck Shade, father of Loren Shade, grandfather of Michael, Madeline, and Charles Shade, who is in seriously ill with several health issues.
- For Chuck Campanella, father of Anthony Campanella, who is in rehab following serious surgery.
- For Bill McGinley, father of Chief Academic Officer, Elizabeth Edmondson, and grandfather of Mollie [‘21] and Abby [‘23] Edmondson, who is recovering from health treatment.
- For Laurie Lozier, sister of Fathers Bill and Jim Lies, C.S.C, who has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of dementia.
- For Kim Clark, who is undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of cancer.
- For Paula Smith, mother of Tyler [‘10] and Alec [‘13] Smith, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Andy Andino, Sr., father of Music Director, Andy Andino, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Jill Shemory, mother of Adam [‘08], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Carol Lowen, mother of Denise Shade, grandmother of Madeline, Michael, and Charles Shade, who is undergoing treatment for Breast Cancer.
- For Sue Elliott, who is critically ill with complications of Parkinson’s Disease.
- For Cameron Monesmith, who is recovering from Brain surgery
- For Baylea O’Brian, friend of former Gilmour Teacher, Erin Thompson, who is undergoing treatment for Hodgkins Lymphoma
- For Walter Carey, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.
- For Carol Triplett, sister of Linda McGraw, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Judy Collins, aunt of Chief Academic Officer, Elizabeth Edmondson, great-aunt of Mollie [‘21] and Abbie [‘23] Edmondson, who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.
- For Marina McCarter, grandmother of Aaron [‘25] and Mason [‘28] McCarter, who is ill
- For Susan Plavcan, sister-in-law of Linda McGraw, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For James Law, husband of LS resource associate, Elana Law, who is undergoing treatment for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- For Fletcher Linsz, brother of Logan Linsz [‘26], who is undergoing treatment for Hodgkin Lymphoma.
- For Michael Nestor [‘98], who is undergoing treatment for a rare form of cancer.
- For Bernice Girgash, aunt of Basketball Coach and Counselor, Dan DeCrane, and great-aunt of Mackenzie DeCrane [‘36], who is undergoing treatment for cancer..
- For Melita Chiacchiari, mother of Mark [‘94], mother-in-law of Michelle DeBacco [‘96], grandmother of Aurelia [‘28], and Olivia [‘30] Chiacchiari, who is undergoing further treatment for cancer.
- For Mike Heryak, husband of Janet, father of Lillian [‘09], Rosa [‘12] and Edwin [‘17] Heryak, who is seriously ill.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE LECTOR?

We continue to be in need of Lectors for our weekend Masses. **Any student who is in the 5th [and up] grade is invited to become a Lector. Adults are also needed!** This is a wonderful ministry — a great way to serve God and the faith community. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, **please give your name to Father John.** You do not have to attend Gilmour to be a Lector, or to be involved in any other ministry at Our Lady Chapel. **Please call the Chapel office [440-473-3560].**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

Monday: Genesis 1:26--2:3, Matthew 13:54-58
Tuesday: 1 John 5:1-5; Matthew 10:22-25
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

5th Week in Easter: Acts 6:1-7, 1 Peter 2:4-9, John 14:1-12

SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR — SAT. MAY 20th:

Our Savior Lutheran Church, across the street from Gilmour, has a Food Pantry which distributes food to the community on **the third Saturday of each month.** They welcome volunteers. If you want to volunteer, they have instituted some **new procedures** because of the Coronavirus. **Thus they help pre-pack non-perishables in bags on Thursday evening beginning at 5 PM.** They continue this prepacking on Friday if needed. Check with Elina Gurney on this. **On Saturday morning at 9 AM, they need help putting items from the foodbank into the prepacked bags.** Only volunteers will be allowed in the Church building, so you will be protected against the virus. Clients will remain outside in their cars. **The food pantry is then open from 9:30 AM—1:30 PM on Saturday.**



Our Savior Lutheran's Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. All those in the area with need will be served equally, as supplies allow. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Please let Elina Gurney know if you would like to help. You can do this through the chapel office [440-473-3560] or by emailing Elina Gurney at gurney.oh@gmail.com. This is a wonderful way to serve others. Please consider this opportunity.

In the curing of the blind man, Jesus presented himself as the Light and the blind man now sees. Now Jesus presents Himself as a voice to be heard. The Pharisees have not — they have refused to hear — but there are those who by hearing have come into the “flock” of believers. This is why Jesus came — to voice the announcement that the Jewish people as well as all others are being called again. This continues the theme of the post-Resurrectional Jesus — “I have come to tell you again, to voice your personal and collective identities.”

The “voice” of Jesus and the Christian message does not sound attractive to all who hear it. Many of the Christian responses in world history have not made the ways of Jesus desirable — the Crusades, the Inquisitions, persecutions, and the anti-Semitic statements, teachings, and persecutions are embarrassing now to us, and have left a bad image or somewhat of a dubious voice to be heard in the world. As GK Chesterton once said: “Christianity hasn't failed; it just hasn't been tried yet.”

In a world of ISIS, racial and religious discrimination, pornography and casual sex — to name a few — the communicational jungle continues — and Jesus continues speaking through the Church. Into all this cacophony, we who hear His voice, speak it in words and actions that the life He came to give us in “abundance” and is still available and worth the living. The Pharisees did use their power to demand religious conformity. Jesus is not demanding — He is inviting us, both personally and through our lives. Stealing, slaughtering and destroying are appropriate to the thieves and robbers. Sharing, encouraging life, and recovery are the words we have heard and the gestures which will eventually bring about God's one and healed flock.

—taken from the writings of Father Larry Gillick, S.J., which appear on the internet

CROSS AS AGENDA:

In terms of healing and symbolism, everything hinges on the cross. The cross is about how to fight and not become a casualty yourself. The cross is about being the victory instead of just winning a victory. The cross is about refusing the simplistic win-lose scenario and holding out for a possible win-win scenario. The cross clearly says that evil is to be opposed, but we must first hold the tension, ambiguity, and pain of it — “Resist evil and overcome it with good” [Romans 12:21]. The cross moves us from the rather universal myth of redemptive violence to a new scenario of transformative suffering.

On the cross of life, we accept our own complicity and cooperation with evil, instead of imagining ourselves on some pedestal of moral superiority. As Paul taught: “everyone has sinned” [Romans 5:12], and Jesus the Lamb of God had the humility to “become sin” [2 Corinthians 5:21] with us.

The mystery of the cross teaches us how to stand against hate without becoming hate, how to oppose evil without becoming evil ourselves. Can you feel yourself stretching in both directions — toward God's goodness and also toward recognition of your own complicity in evil? If you look at yourself at that moment, you will feel crucified. You hang in between, without resolution, your very life a paradox, held in hope by God [see Romans 8:23-25].

The goal of God's work is always healing reconciliation — not retributive justice. And like Jesus, we must invest ourselves in this work of reconciliation that “the two might become one” [see Ephesians 2:13-18].

Human existence is neither perfectly consistent, nor is it total chaos, but it has a “cruciform” shape of cross purposes — always needing to be reconciled in us. To hold the contradictions with God, with Jesus, is to participate in the redemption of the world [Colossians 1:24]. We all must forgive reality for being what it is. We can't do this alone, but only by a deep identification with the Crucified One and with crucified humanity. Christ then “carries” us across!

The risen, victorious Jesus gives us a history and hopeful future that moves beyond predictable violence. He destroys death and sin not by canceling it out, but by making a trophy of it. Think about that for a long time until it cracks you open. And it will!

—taken from the writings of Father Richard Rohr, O.F.M., which appear on the internet.

THE VOICE OF THE LORD:

In the United States, most of our ranches are self-contained. By that, I mean that the rancher has his own fields for crops or grazing and his own facilities to care for his livestock. That is not the case in the most of the rest of the world — not just the ancient world of Jesus, but even in the modern world. In much of the world, the animals belonging to various families are kept together in a large pen. This is particularly true regarding sheep.

Now sheep all look alike — perhaps except to each other. So if there are 200 sheep in a pen, how is a shepherd able to pick out his 50 sheep? Actually, the sheep do the work. The shepherd just stands at the entrance of the pen and calls to his sheep — or perhaps he just sings to them. His sheep know his voice and follow him out. If he is going through the hills and comes across another shepherd with his sheep going in the opposite direction, the sheep will mingle together. Each shepherd will just keep singing or calling, and their own sheep will follow their Master's voice.

Jesus says that he is the Good Shepherd. His sheep know his voice. We are His sheep. We know His voice [John 10:1-10]. We know if something we hear is coming from him or from another source. We know this in many ways. First, we can tell if He is calling us to do something or not do something through our conscience. We know right from wrong. We do not have to be moral theologians to know that people who post hurtful things about others on the internet are doing something very wrong. We do not get our morality from civil law. We don't judge the merits of something according to whether or not there is a law about it. Our civil laws must flow from our morality. Our morality should not be determined by our civil law. A law may be needed to protect society, but right or wrong is not determined by the law; the Voice of God determines it. We also know that whether we are caught or not has nothing to do with whether something is right or wrong. For example, we might be driving in our neighborhood and can see clearly enough that there are no police cars around. But we don't speed because there may be children outside playing, or folks crossing the street in the middle of the block. We do not want to endanger the life of a little child or another person just because we are in a hurry. There is no law saying that we should look in on the elderly man two houses down who didn't pick up his paper yesterday, but it is the right thing to do. Right or wrong is determined by conscience, not by law.



Sometimes people will say: "Catholic guilt" when we do not feel right with something we have done or not done. They act as though the Church is imposing guilt upon them. That is not true. Conscience is not imposed upon us from outside of us — it is within us. A conscience committed to doing the right thing is itself the Voice of the Good Shepherd. Sure, other voices try to draw us away from that which is right, but we listen to the voice we need to follow. What is imposed upon us from the outside is not guilt, what is imposed upon us is the immorality of a society that calls us to follow it instead of follow the Voice of God.

Our conscience also speaks to us by continually asking us: "How well am I living my Christianity?" The Christian lives his or her Christianity throughout daily life, in the home, at the workplace, in the world. Many of the young and not so young, make time to volunteer in our parish ministries for the poor and homebound, the Pregnancy Center, or in other ministries such as Hospice, the City Mission, Fatima Center, Providence House, West Side Catholic Center, etc. You are acting on the voice you hear within you saying: "I have to do something to help out. I am only doing what a Christian must do to be a Christian."

Sometimes, we have to perk up our ears to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. There are so many distractions in life, that we have to listen closely to hear His voice. That is why we need to make time in our lives for daily prayer. Those prayers we say at night or in the morning every day give us the opportunity to hear His voice and to follow our Shepherd.

There are times, though, that we need help discerning the voice of the Lord. Life is complicated. We often have to ask ourselves: "Is this coming from the Lord or from another source — like my pride or ambition, etc?" Jesus gave us a guide to answer this question. He said, "Check the fruit." Actually, he said: "By their fruit you will know them" [Matthew 12:23]. What are the long-range results of an action or inaction? Are they good or bad? For example, people will say that there is nothing wrong with taking this or that drug. Look down the road a piece. Have people who have been doing this for years fallen into deeper problems? Have bad relationships been established and good relationships been destroyed?

We can still be confused though. Sometimes we need to meet with people who may have insight into the best direction we should take in some given situation or other. So we go to a priest or deacon, or a spiritual director. Maybe ask a question in confession or we make an appointment for a sit down. We do this to get help with sorting out the complications of life. This is what deacons and we priests do, and we are honored that you share your concerns with us and are asking us to apply the Church's teaching to your situation. We may not have the answers you seek immediately, but we do know where to look.

But there is a second part to what Jesus is telling us — he is not only the Good Shepherd; He is the sheep-gate. He is our protection against thieves and marauders who would steal and destroy our souls. The New Testament proclaims that all who stay united to Christ will live forever. It makes no difference what other people attempt to do to us — no matter how they attack us. They cannot destroy that Life that He has given us — the Life we celebrate particularly at Easter-time. Nothing can destroy His Life. The Sheep Gate protects us from eternal death. Yes, we may even suffer from a terminal illness that is attacking our body, but, like a dying 14-year-old boy once told me: "Nothing can take Jesus from me." We may be in a horrible family situation and be afraid for others and for ourselves, but with the Lord, the negativity can become a source of growth as we are determined to find a way to draw closer to the Lord through the negatives of our lives. Or perhaps, we suffer from some form of psychological problem. We may be in recovery, but are continually battling the addiction. We do not fight alone. We fight with the Lord, who protects us from the terrors of life.

John's Gospel forces us to ask ourselves: "Whose voice is it that I am following? Is it the voice of the immoral elements of our society? Is it the voice of the popular but self-absorbed? Or do I follow the voice of the Lord?"

As always, we pray today for the courage to be Catholic.

—taken from the writings for Father Joseph Pellegrino, which appear on the internet

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

We are currently discerning a new group of Eucharistic Ministers who would undergo training within the next month. If you feel that the Lord is calling you to this ministry, we would be delighted to include you in that ministry here at Our Lady Chapel. Both adults and teens [must be a Senior in High School] are welcome to participate in this very special ministry. We are in need of ministers for both our Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. **Contact Father John or the chapel office [440-473-3560] if you feel called to this ministry.** We are always in need of Eucharistic Ministers.

