

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today is the fourth Sunday of Easter. This Sunday is called Good Shepherd Sunday. We first learn about shepherds in the bible in the Old Testament. The prophet Ezekiel wrote about shepherds in the context of rocky Palestine and its neighboring countries, where shepherds were nomadic and traveled simply with three things: water, their tents and their sheep. Their sheep provided the shepherds with wool and food.

The prophet Ezekiel wrote about bad shepherds that are selfish and primarily concerned with their personal well-being at the expense of the flock. "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who have been pasturing themselves! Should not shepherds pasture the flock? You consumed milk, wore wool and slaughtered fatlings, but the flock you did not pasture" (Ez 34:2-3)

Also, in Ezekiel, the Lord said, "I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest" (Ez 34:15). By pasturing his sheep, the Lord means that he will protect and care for the flock, healing and caring for the weak and sick, binding up the injured, seeking the lost, bringing back the strays and leading them to rich pastures to graze.

In today's Gospel Jesus identifies himself as "the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Jesus guides and protects us from harm and leads us to green pasture, but there is a deeper meaning in the gospel and the role of the good shepherd. Jesus is a good shepherd for multiple reasons. One of the most important of these reasons is that his love brings us into communion with God. This communion is not about social gatherings or organizational unity. In John 10:16 Jesus speaks of gathering other sheep into the fold. There is one flock and one shepherd, a unified flock that hears "his voice". All those who come together in faith must be welcoming to others. The nature of our communion as a Church is beyond a social gathering of like-minded people, it is all those who are "called by Christ" and among whom Jesus dwells. The Church belongs to God and it is our communion with Him through Jesus that allows and defines our communion with others. We too must be like Christ the good shepherd and welcome others as brothers and sisters in Christ into our faith community.

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr Khanh D. Nguyen, Pastor

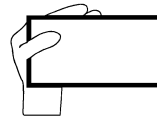
OPEN HOUSE You are invited to Holyhood and Calvary Cemeteries on Sunday, April 29, 12 pm -4 pm. Staff will be on hand to help you find graves, provide refreshments, and answer questions. For directions, please visit our website at www.MyCatholicCemertery.org

PLEASE PRAY for our St. Matthew High School Confirmation Candidates: **Joseph Gockowski** and **Gianni Milan** at Christ the King Parish, 7pm on Thursday, April 26; and **Elizabeth Bowen** at St. Benedict Church, 7 pm on Wednesday, May 2.

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

Monday, April 23, St. George, Acts 11:1-18; Gosp John 10:1-10 - Mass at 8:45 am
Tuesday, April 24, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Acts 11:19-26; Gosp John 10:22-30 - no morning Mass
Wednesday, April 25, St. Mark, 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Gosp Mark 16:15-20 – Mass at 8:45 am
Thursday, April 26, Acts 13:13-25; Gosp John 13:16-20 – Mass at 8:45 am
Friday, April 27, St. Zita, Acts 13:26-33; Gosp John 14:1-6 – Mass at 8:45 am
Saturday, April 28, St. Gianna Molla, Acts 13:44-52; Gosp John 14:7-14 - no morning Mass
5th Sunday of Easter, April 29, Acts 9:26-31; Gosp John 15:1-8

THERE WILL BE NO 8:45 MORNING MASS ON SATURDAY, APRIL 28.



ATTENTION ALL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE HEADS Please email your requested meeting dates and locations (1st & 2nd choices) to the

Parish Office no later than April 30. We need to finalize the calendar schedule for the coming calendar year, July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PLANT SALE will be after both Sunday Masses on May 6 in the Community Center. Dahlia tubers & starts, tomato plants & various other flower & veggie plants for your garden. Proceeds benefit our own St. Vincent de Paul ministry in the parish.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL "STUFF THE TRUCK" EVENT is Sunday, May 6. The truck will be in the west St. Matthew parking lot from 8 am to 2:30pm. The greatest need is for furniture in good shape, men's jeans, shirts and shoes, women's business clothes and small household items. Unfortunately, mattresses and beds cannot be accepted.

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE A LECTOR? Lectors proclaim the Word of the Lord at all Masses. Lectors, depending on availability, are normally asked to serve once a month at the Mass of their choice. As lectors are not always available due to family or work requirements, it may be necessary for lectors to be scheduled more often than once a month. Currently 4 lectors serve at the Saturday 5 pm Mass; 9 lectors for the 8 am Mass and 6 lectors for the 10 am Mass. More volunteers are needed at all Masses especially the Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 10 am. If you are willing to become a lector, please contact Frank dos Remedios at boofar@comcast.net or 206-363-1938. Training will be provided. Please prayerfully consider this appeal as your parish needs you.

Sacred Story - Week 29

Choose the time and place for your 15-minute prayer time.

- ♦ We continue the new unit on Spiritual Discernment. We take new "reading time" outside the 15-minute prayer time.
- ♦ Review our commitment to develop a rhythm of prayer that will carry us for the rest of our life.
- ♦ Spend no more/no less than 15 minutes for the 5 words of Sacred Story prayer.

Week 29

- ♦ Week 29 introduces a most crucial concept of Christian anthropology – the foundation of our being, as a humans made in the Divine Image of God.
- ♦ We are learning, in depth, how to distinguish truth and falsehood and who we are in body and soul.
- ♦ The readings work together to help us better understand both the theology of the Church and the way to apply these insights in our own lives,
- ♦ We keep going even, if we do not fully understand everything in the reading.
- ♦ We continue to daily pray with the five movements of *Sacred Story Prayer* and bring our questions to the Lord.

Affirmation

"My personal engagement with Sacred Story accomplishes, through Christ, a work of eternal significance."

Information

- ♦ Sacred Story Gathering May 7, 7:00 pm, in the Parish Office Library.
- ♦ If you wish to receive regular e-mail contact marycross@aol.com and msloane@comcast.net

THE 27TH ANNUAL RAINBOW HERITAGE FESTIVAL is Saturday, May 19 from 12:30 - 4:30 pm. Share your cultural heritage by donating a pan of food. Contact Rachel de Castro at rcdecastro@mac.com or 206-551-4558. Pans will be available at Coffee Hour starting April 29. Volunteers also needed! Please contact Elaine Abarientos at eabarientos@hotmail.com or 206-355-3392 for more information

CATHOLIC CONVERSATIONS is a weekly group who meets every Sunday, 11:20 am - 12:30 pm in the Parish Office Library. See the insert in this week's bulletin for details.

MARY: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER Every Wednesday through May 23 from 10 - 11:30 am in the Parish Center Library; and from 7 - 8:30 pm in the Community Center Conference Room. Contact Sara Lane at 206-334-5350 or sslane5@comcast.net. Suggested donation towards costs/Study Materials: \$30. You may register at <http://ascensionpress.com/studies/27533/registration/new>.

St. Matthew School News

Karen Herlihy, Principal, 206-362-2785 ext. 102,

kherlihy@stmattschool.org

Andy Hews, Administrative Assistant, 206-362-2785, ext. 101, ahews@stmattschool.org

"Excellence – Diversity – Community"

Now Enrolling for 2018 - 2019 St. Matthew School is now enrolling for Pre-K, Kindergarten, elementary school and middle school for the 2018-2019 school year. St. Matthew School provides academic excellence and diversity in a community of faith. Come see what we have to offer! Tours available weekly; contact Stacy Pretti at spretti@stmattschool.org or (206) 362-2785, ext. 103.

NORTH SEATTLE YOUTH SUNDAY GATHERING THIS WEEKEND – HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Join us Sunday Evening at St. Catherine Parish Victoria Hall as we continue our series "Living Like Mary. This week we'll specifically look at praying with Mary! As usually, there will be friends, fun, food, and Faith. All are welcomed! ►Middle School Grades 6-8 at 5pm; ►Fellowship Meal Grades 6-12 at 6:15 pm ►High School Grades 9-12 at 7 pm.

HONDURAS FUNDRAISER DINNER Tickets are on sale now for the April 28th Fundraiser Dinner featuring pulled pork sandwiches, home-brew and entertainment. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for ages 5-10. There will be a mini-silent auction and a dessert frenzy. ALL proceeds go toward projects our Parish Mission group work on at the Children's Homes with no money going toward participants travel expenses. Tickets are on sale after all Masses as well as in the Parish and School offices.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH Mental illnesses are far more common than cancer, diabetes, heart disease or arthritis. Our faith communities can be an important part of the recovery process through education, support and by helping individuals and families feel part of a caring community. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/mentalhealthministry> for additional information.

APRIL 2018 COLLECTION

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
4/15/18 collection (incl. online giving)	\$ 11,608	\$ 9,680	\$ 1,928
Year-to-date	\$ 443,462	\$ 410,956	\$ 32,506

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To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, "leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf."