

**From the Desk of Father Ed:**

Dear Parishioners,

I remember one time waiting on line to have a Priest hear my confession. The man who was ahead me just finished his confession and on the way out of the confessional said to me, "Wow, I felt as if God spoke to me through that priest." When I had finished my confession with the same priest, I too passed by the person behind me and I said to her, "Wow, God spoke to my heart through that priest." Many times as a priest I have felt God place His words on my heart to give to His people, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This weekend the Church continues in the Easter Season with the celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday. In our Gospel from St. John, "Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." Jesus tells us that if we belong to His flock we will hear His voice. He reminds us that He is the Good Shepherd. The shepherd calls his sheep in and out of pasture and safely brings them into the sheepfold where they are protected from the wild beasts. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who protects us His flock from the evil one. He leaves the ninety nine in search of the one that strays and when He finds the lost sheep through His grace, He rejoices by carrying the lamb on His shoulders. When we sin and fall from grace, He is always pursuing us by His love to bring us back into the fold. We return to Him by humbling ourselves in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and once again His charity fills our souls as we hear His voice, "Your sins are forgiven!"

There are many ways in which our Lord speaks to us. Each time we gather to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we hear the word of God proclaimed in our Readings. The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts in the Sacred Readings and homily given during the Liturgy. We hear Jesus' words spoken to us in the Eucharistic prayers, "This is my Body" and "...this is the Chalice of my Blood". We also hear Jesus' voice in our quiet time of prayer with Him. He is always speaking to us, however, we cannot hear Him with our physical ears but rather the ears of our soul, through the gift of faith.

Let our hearts be filled with joy this Sunday as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus reminds us that if we follow Him, that is, by obeying His Commandments, the teachings of His Church, staying close to the Sacraments, and spending time with Him in prayer in silence and solitude, we will hear His voice forever in the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Parish Life:**

Congratulations to our 10th graders on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and our 2nd graders receiving First Holy Communion. Please keep our young parishioners in your prayers.

Be sure to join us for our annual Fishing derby on May 18th.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us,

Father Ed,

Pastor