

Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 22, 2018

Jesus Good Shepherd - Loving Brother

In today's readings, we see Our Lord described as the cornerstone on which the Church is built, the big brother who always watches out for us, and the Good Shepherd who not only was willing to lay his life down for us but did. The common denominator of all these images is the charity of Our Lord and the importance of building our own lives on that charity. In today's Gospel we see the concern Our Lord has for every soul, a concern he describes as like a shepherd toward his sheep.

Throughout Church history, this has been seen as "pastoral" concern for others, and in today's 1st. Reading we see the Good Shepherd has entrusted his sheep to Peter and the Apostles without relinquishing them so that their pastoral needs can continue to be met. Peter has made a great commotion in healing a crippled man who begged at one of the entrances to the Temple area for a long time. However, he does not take credit for it: he did it in the name of Jesus. Just as Our Lord worked signs for the sake of the Gospel Peter has received the power and the authority to preach in the Lord's name. Peter speaks today of Our Lord as the cornerstone: a stone essential to maintaining the stability of a structure. A sheep cannot take the place of a shepherd, which is why Our Lord remains the Good Shepherd, the key to pastorally caring for us, his sheep. The foundation of our pastoral well-being is his death and resurrection, and it continues to be so. This Good Shepherd Sunday is a very special time to pray for more vocations to the Priesthood that the Church may have the Pastors she needs who will pour out of themselves and gently lead as Jesus does.

The 2nd Reading reminds us that Our Lord laid down his life so that we could become not only his property but his adopted brothers and sisters. In the Old Testament a treasured lamb is described as being like a daughter to her owner (2 Samuel 12:3), but John reminds us that God is not just our Father metaphorically. Our adoption as sons and daughters is thanks to the Son, our big brother. Just as he shows and ensures a pastoral concern for us, he also watches over us as a big brother should. As children of God the Father, we should also respect and cherish God Our Big Brother who made it all possible.

Our Lord describes himself in today's Gospel as the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd cares so much for his sheep that he is willing to lay down his life for them. A person hired to do such a job would say "this is not in my contract" and abandon them. Even the owner of the sheep might write them off as a wolf drew close, thinking to himself, "I'm insured," or "I'll need to write this off as a loss on my tax returns." The Good Shepherd shares his life with his sheep. He's not indifferent to their trials and sufferings, so he's not indifferent to their death. He'd rather die first. That attitude goes beyond just business or even obligation: Jesus says he willingly lays down his life for us, his sheep. He cares about each one of us. Amen!

Father Blake Evans, Pastor.

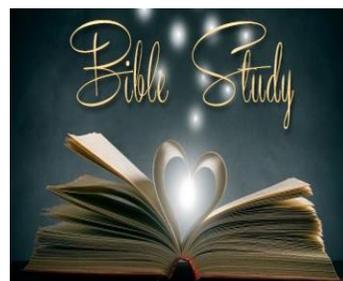


Rest in Peace

Rev. Monsignor James T. Beattie, 83. Ordained to priesthood on 1961; served in many parishes in Maryland and DC. Named Monsignor in 1991. He served as Dean of Upper Montgomery County, as a member of the Priest Council, and as a member of the Priest Personnel Board for 33 years.

Bishop David E. Foley, Bishop Emeritus of Birmingham, Alabama. Ordained to priesthood on 1956; served in the archdiocese for 30 years. On 1986 was ordained auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Richmond and on May 13, 1994 was appointed as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama.

"Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them Oh Lord"



"Gospel according to Mark".

Mondays at 5:45 pm in the Music Room with Fr. Evans.

Bring your Bible and a catechism. St. Mark, pray for us!



Mass Intentions

April 21- 28, 2018

Sat. 4/21	8:00pm	Rafaela C. Evans & Family
	5:300pm	Diana Faridzadeh & Family
Sun. 4/22	8:00am	Mr. & Mrs. James Pope (healing)
	10:00am	People of the Parish
	1:00 pm	Nativity: Financial & Temporal needs
Mon. 4/23	Noon	Knights of Columbus – USA
Tue. 4/24	Noon	Dr. Mary Ellen Ritchie & Family
Wed. 4/25	Noon	+Jim De Courcy
Thu. 4/26	Noon	+Harriet B. Carter
Fri. 4/27	Noon	Thanksgiving to God (Tan Family)
Sat. 4/28	8:00pm	Dr. Maureen Pizzaro & Family
	5:300pm	+Deacon Marion Evans, Sr.

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Francis Howard, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Geraldine Jones, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Robert Myers. *Iris Newman, *D. Cynhia Peters, *Willie Poole, Jr., *James Pope, *Margaret Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Alice Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Donald Whiting, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta.



May & Mary: May is a month for particular devotion to Mary. Nativity welcomes **The Legion of Mary** Praesdiiums of Washington, various chapters, on May 5th for a special day of prayer and evangelization of Brightwood. Solemn Mass 8 am followed by the Rosary. Talks/meetings and Legion members will spend the afternoon going door to door

inviting people to visit our parishes or return to the Sacraments. Welcome Legion members!

ATTENDANCE REPORT

4/15/18

Attendance: 482 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$6,918

Spanish Mass: \$362

Utility fund: \$1,708



Our own beloved parishioner and volunteer **Ebuka Mbnude** will be ordained a Deacon by Cardinal Wuerl on June 9 at 10am at St. Matthew Cathedral and preach his first homily here at 10am June 10th!

Deacon Patrick will be ordained a Priest on June 2nd. at the Cathedral in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.: www.cathedralfortwayne.org

Fr. Evans will attend both. Parishioners are **URGED** to attend Ebuka's ordination.



Upcoming Days of Grace!

May 5: Marian Day of Reflection with Legion of Mary

May 6: Last Sunday" of Religious Education

May 12: 1st Communion Retreat Day

May 20: 1st Communion Mass at 10 am

June 2: Confirmation – Basilica at 2:00 pm

June 2: Ordination of Father Patrick Hake.

June 9: Ordination of Deacon Ebuka Mbnude