

# CHURCH OF SAINT MONICA



**APRIL 21, 2024**

*Our Parish is Served by:*

Reverend Alex Enriquez, Pastor  
Deacon Christian Knoebel  
Deacon John L. White

*We invite you to celebrate with us*

**website: [www.saintmonica.com](http://www.saintmonica.com)**

**Parish Office: 732-928-0279**

**Email: [parishoffice@saintmonica.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintmonica.com)**

**Fax: (732) 928-1853**

**Religious Education: 732-928-4038**

**Email: [stmonicacd@yahoo.com](mailto:stmonicacd@yahoo.com)**

*Confessions*

Saturdays

3:15 pm

to 3:45 pm

1st Thursdays 7pm

or by appointment

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)

[ParishofStMonica/](http://www.facebook.com/ParishofStMonica/)

*Masses*  
Mon. to Thurs. 9 am  
Saturday 4 pm  
Sunday 9 am & 11 am

679 W. Veterans Highway  
Jackson, NJ 08527



*The Church of St. Monica is a warm, accepting, and caring parish that worships God, teaches and lives the message of Christ, seeks to support and strengthen family life, and serves those in need through parish ministries and organizations.*



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 21, 2024

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, April 20

4:00 pm Irene Glad (Carle Family)

#### Sunday, April 21

9:00 am Janet Johnson & Family  
(Chris & John Pascucci)

11:00 am Roseann Malouf (Herceg Family)

#### Monday, April 22

9:00 am John Mitchell (Monique Sasso)

#### Tuesday, April 23

9:00 am The Isope Family  
(Piacentino Family)

#### Wednesday, April 24

9:00 am Rev Daniel F. Gowan  
(St Monica)

#### Thursday, April 25

9:00 am Bill Mielnicki  
(Patricia Durkin)

#### Saturday, April 27

4:00 pm Denise O'Brien (Elaine Giblock)

#### Sunday, April 28

9:00 am Silvana Fallone (Gerarda Fallone)  
11:00 am Sophie Bove  
(Edward & Elizabeth Schultz)

*To secure your intentions, please contact the Parish Office.*

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Micki Smith, Joyce Picon, Carol Atherton, Beth Kujawski, Chuck Smith, Toni Hetteroth, Dianne Smith, Frank Diolosa, Theodore Dunyak, Andy Sabine, Elaine Giblock, Marie Gould, Christopher Diolosa, Steve Andolora, Doris Garbarino, Melissa Staiger, Bonnie Holton, John Jennings, Arlene Toth, Deborah MacInnes, Judy Bocchicchio, Leo Diaz, Glory D'Acunto, Josephine Brennan, Frank Trimboli, Gabrielle D'Acunto, Anthony Pelle, Jr, Joey Brune, Phillip Wenz, Patrick Abeel, Robin Trombino, Mary Miniscalchi, Lane Morell, Frank Falesto, Jean Stein, Ann Rosetto, Elaine Stemmler, Tom Martin, Dorothy Palumbo, Jacob Rivera, Jaxson Rivera, Jennie D'Angelo, Paul Hetteroth, Cheryl Vega, Irene Kislán, Renee Brady, Carol Spezzano, Michael Seiler, Shannon Hubert, Ronald Nuzzola, Ray Kijowski, Nicholas Biddle, Matthew Biddle, Dennis Shwiner, Bob Dushanek, Laura Stoyer, Ruth Biele

*Contact the Parish Office to let us know of anyone to be remembered in prayer, so we may include them or, if they can be removed.*

### Readings for the Week - April 21, 2024

**Monday, April 22, 2024** Acts 11:1-18 Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 Jn 10:1-10

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024** Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday, April 24, 2024** Acts 12:24-13:5a Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 Jn 12:44-50

**Thursday, April 25, 2024** 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mk 16:15-20

**Friday, April 26, 2024** Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab Jn 14:1-6

**Saturday, April 27, 2024** Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 14:7-14

**Sunday, April 28, 2024** Acts 9:26-31 Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 1 Jn 3:18-24 Jn 15:1-8

**2024 MOTHER'S DAY PLANT SALE**

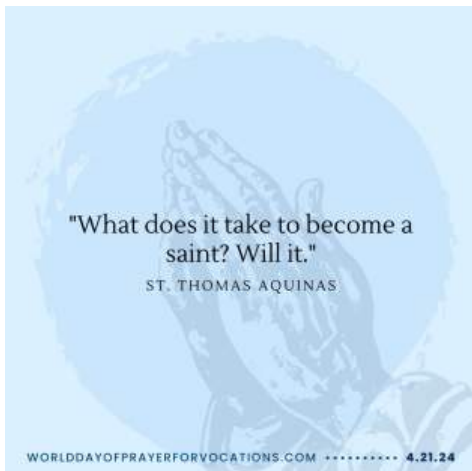
Once again members of St. Monica's Youth Group will be offering for sale beautiful 10" hanging baskets and potted plants on Mother's Day Weekend. Come on out and enjoy these beautiful plants that are suitable for all your gift giving needs! There will be lots of colors and arrangements to choose from after and between all Masses on Mother's Day weekend.

Cash and checks made payable to *St. Monica* will be accepted. For info or any questions, please contact Theresa Calsetta at 732-299-0261.

**MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCES**

Mass Remembrance envelopes for Mother's Day are on the table at the entrances to the church. Anyone wishing to honor their Mothers (living or deceased) may do so by filling out the intention envelope.

To ensure your intentions will be published in our bulletin on Mother's Day, please return your offering by placing it in the collection basket no later than May 5.



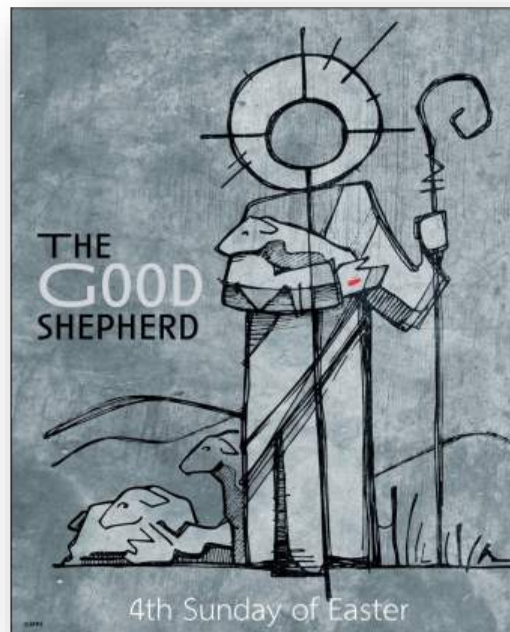
**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COLLECTIONS  
APRIL 1 - 7, 2024**

Total \$6,657.56

*Thank you for your contributions as we support the ministries, programs and facilities of our parish.*

**BEWARE OF SCAMS**

Parishioners have reported receiving scam messages which appear to be coming from Fr. Alex. Please be aware Fr. Alex would **never** send a message requesting money, gift cards or asking to contact him. Do not open the text or email unless you are positive it is from Fr. Alex. Please feel free to contact the parish office if you wish to verify it's authenticity.



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 21, 2024

JULY 17-21, 2024  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN



Will **YOU**  
be there?



SIGN UP NOW

## You Don't Want to Miss This Moment

God wants to do something NEW in and through his people, but first we must return to our first love: Jesus in the Eucharist. At the National Eucharistic Congress, every Catholic is invited to be healed, strengthened, and anointed for an exciting new chapter of mission. Then, we will be sent back home to our communities, on fire for Christ and ready to share his love! Our nation and our world will never be the same.

**COME IN FAITH. LEAVE WITH HOPE.**

[eucharisticcongress.org](http://eucharisticcongress.org)

## CALENDAR

**Saturday, April 20**

9:00 pm 1<sup>ST</sup> Communion Breakfast (Hall)  
 3:15 pm Confessions  
 4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, April 21**

9:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass  
 12:00 pm Baptism  
 6:30 am Unlocking the Bible (Church)

**Monday, April 22**

9:00 am Mass  
 4:30 pm Religious Education  
 6:15 pm Religious Education

**Tuesday, April 23**

9:00 am Mass  
 5:30 pm Religious Education  
 7:00 pm Adult Choir  
 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Little Church)

**Wednesday, April 24**

9:00 am Mass

**Thursday, April 25**

9:00 am Mass  
 7:00 pm K of C Mtg. (Church/Parish Hall)

**Saturday, April 27**

3:15 pm Confessions  
 4:00 pm Mass

**Sunday, April 28**

9:00 am Mass  
 11:00 am Mass

**Monday, April 29**

9:00 am Mass  
 4:30 pm Religious Education  
 6:15 pm Religious Education

**Tuesday, April 30**

9:00 am Mass  
 5:30 pm Religious Education  
 7:00 pm Adult Choir  
 7:30 pm K of C Officer Mtg. (LC)  
 7:30 pm Legion of Mary (Foyer)

**Wednesday, May 1**

9:00 am Mass  
 9:30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
 5:00 pm 1st Communion Practice

**Thursday, May 2**

9:00 am Mass  
 5:00 pm 1st Communion Practice  
 7:00 pm Adoration /Benediction /Confessions

**Friday, May 3**

6:00 pm Youth Group Mtg. (LC)

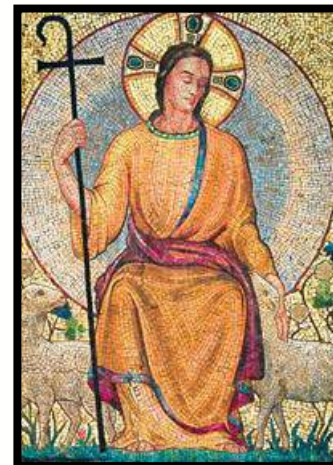
## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

World Day of Prayer for Vocations is observed this year on Sunday, April 21, 2024, also known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord’s call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life, or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found on the website: [www.USCCB.org](http://www.USCCB.org)

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, give to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give to parents that faith, love, and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood or religious life. May Your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 21, 2024



### Fourth Sunday of Easter: Becoming God's Children



**THE GRACE I SEEK:** to build up the Kingdom of God by cultivating unity among his children

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**

*Pause for a few moments, and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist. Realize that, at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive his loving gaze. You are his beloved child. Rest in his loving gaze.*

*Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.*

**ASK FOR THE GRACE:** Jesus, help me to build your Kingdom by becoming an instrument of unity for your children.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3–4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

**"Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." (1 John 3:1)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

Through Baptism, we are welcomed into God's family and become his adopted children. Do you think of yourself personally as a son or daughter of the Father? Rest in this truth. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you think of two or three concrete ways the Father has bestowed his love on you this week, noting his fatherly care for you.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3–4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through this passage.

**"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd." (John 10:16)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

We do not have a monopoly on God's goodness! Jesus is calling each person in the human family to an intimate relationship with himself, whether they know it or not. In today's world, God often uses our voices, the children of his fold, to speak to those who do not yet know him. Ask Jesus to help you identify one way that you witness to God's goodness and love in your life. Thank God for that! Now, ask him to help you humbly notice one area of your life that does not preach his goodness. Ask for the courage to reorient that part of your life back to God.

*Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.*

**CLOSING PRAYER** — Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, Fourth Sunday of Easter)

**SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION** — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your desire to see yourself as a son or daughter of the Father in order to preach the goodness of God to the world by your words and actions.

**FAITH IN ACTION** — We all have friends, family members, acquaintances, and coworkers who have either fallen away from the faith or have never really heard the Gospel. God has blessed you to be in relationship with them to invite them into his one fold! Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify someone that you can invite to Mass with you. Perhaps they will not be ready right away, but your authentic kindness and presence in their lives will pave the way to helping them take steps closer and closer to a new or renewed relationship with Jesus.



Diocese of Shreveport

“I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.” ~JOHN 10:11



Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

**Above:** Last year, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City led more than a thousand faithful Catholics in a two-mile Eucharistic Procession—one of the longest in the country.

**Masthead photo:** Fr. Peter Mangum of the Diocese of Shreveport celebrates atop a climbing wall during a vocations summer camp. Beside him is Fr. Kelby Tingle, who attended the diocese’s “Mission Possible” camp as a teen and is about to celebrate a much bigger achievement—his first year of priesthood.

## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS TO FOCUS ON VOCATIONS

In just three months, tens of thousands of Catholics will gather in Indianapolis for the nation’s first Eucharistic Congress in more than eight decades. While the main focus is clear—to adore Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament—participants will also notice a heavy emphasis on vocations.

Religious communities from across the country will be attending, many underwritten by Serra International, which is organizing a large area in the convention hall that will be teeming with sisters and brothers. The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring an entire section to showcase diocesan priesthood, with a small army of priests on hand to talk with young men.

Also in attendance will be hundreds of seminarians, many of whom will have just completed the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, an ambitious project that will see thousands marching toward Indiana along different routes totalling 6,500 miles.

The connection between the Eucharist and vocations is clear: Three-quarters of recently ordained priests regularly participated in Eucharistic Adoration before entering seminary. And at Catholic youth events, even those offering sports and high-energy activities, teen participants still rank one “activity” as their favorite: Adoration.

As the Church prepares for this historic event, let’s ask our Eucharistic Lord for an outpouring of vocations!



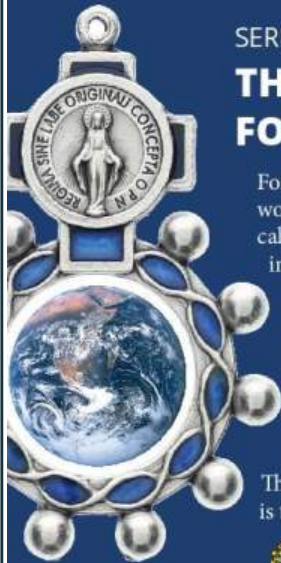
IDEAS FOR ACTION

**HOLY FATHER:  
DO THESE FOUR THINGS**

In a papal message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis used the term “con-vocation” to explain that a vocation is not an isolated “me-and-God” experience. Instead, young people hear God’s call within a *real Church community*. He offered four concrete ways to help youth discover their vocations, emphasizing these things should be done *together*:

1. Co-teach with a catechist
2. Visit a convent or monastery
3. Assist missionaries
4. Spend time with parish priests

Note that none of these involve phones or social media. How can you organize real-life activities for youth in your parish?



SERRA CELEBRATES 100 MONTHS  
**THE GLOBAL ROSARY  
FOR VOCATIONS**

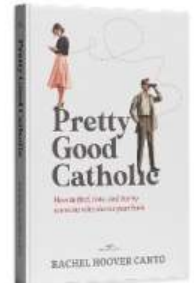
For 100 months, Catholics from around the world have joined a massive video/phone call during which they pray the rosary to intercede for vocations. Created by Tim O’Neill in 2015, the Global Rosary brings together Serra Clubs comprised of lay people dedicated to promoting priesthood and consecrated life. “In its simplicity it becomes quite a feat,” said Tim. “It gives a chance for people worldwide to visit beforehand and after.... The most powerful way we Serrans connect is through prayer.”

 Join the last Saturday of every month at 8:00 AM CST/CDT. Phone number and links are at [serrainternational.org](http://serrainternational.org)

THE VOCATION OF MARRIAGE  
**SOLVING DATING DILEMMAS**

The stats on Catholic marriages are alarming: for every ten weddings in 1970, today there are only two. Percentage-wise, that’s a steeper decline than priestly ordinations.

For young Catholics looking for love, the Catholic dating scene is not just frustrating, it’s downright discouraging. That was certainly the experience of Rachel Hoover Canto, whose new book on dating, *Pretty Good Catholic*, offers counter-cultural advice for how to date well, stay chaste, and find a good Catholic spouse.



After Rachel graduated from college, she watched her friends get married while she suffered through some tough breakups. That got her thinking deeply about the whole Catholic dating situation, which has its own set of quirks and challenges. Trying to be proactive, she started a Catholic singles group, interviewed people from CatholicMatch, and consulted dating experts. The result is *Pretty Good Catholic*, which serves as a how-to guide for even the most discouraged single man or woman.

Cristina Pineda, an LA-based celebrity matchmaker who also happens to be a faithful Catholic, offered high praise: “I wish I had this book when I was single,” she said,

**STORYBOOK ENDING**



*While writing Pretty Good Catholic, Rachel Canto took her own advice and found the love of her life. She and her new husband live in Nashville.*



*One Hail Mary*

Sometimes it’s the simple things! A traditional practice that’s making a comeback is helping kids pray for their future vocations by saying one Hail Mary each night: “Mother Mary, as you said yes to the angel Gabriel, help me say yes to God’s call. Hail Mary, full of grace...”



**The Eucharist - St Monica****Masses & Reconciliation**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 &amp; 11:00 am

Holy Days As NotedReconciliation Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm  
or by appt.**Exposition of the Holy Sacrament & Benediction**

1st Wednesday of each month 9:30 am

**Parish Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

**Baptisms**

Celebrated outside of Mass. Parents and godparents are required to attend our Baptism preparation program. Please call the parish office to register.

**Visits to the Sick and Homebound**

May be arranged by calling our parish office.

**Knights of Columbus Council #11529**

Did you know that the Founder of the Knights of Columbus, Blessed Michael McGivney, was also a heck of a ballplayer. He paved the way for a long history of baseball players who would join the Knights, including Connie Mac Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio. Catholic gentlemen 18 years and older can join online. Use Promo Code [BlessedMcGivney](#) for one year of free membership. Our local Council is #11529.

**St Vincent de Paul Society**

Emergency Assistance Helpline: 732-370-0098

**Bereavement Ministry**

Please contact the parish office for more information.

**Grief Support**

For those grieving the loss of a loved one or close friend. This is a Catholic centered Support Group offering a caring, compassionate, and confidential environment to support your journey from grieving to healing. For registration and details contact Deacon John White 848-992-1652 or [dcnjohwn@gmail.com](mailto:dcnjohwn@gmail.com)

**RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

For those seeking full membership in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office.

**Youth Group**

Open to all children of St Monica registered families and we would love to have you join us. For more information, contact Theresa Calsetta 732-299-0261.

**New Parishioners**Welcome to our parish family! Registration forms may be downloaded at [www.saintmonica.com](http://www.saintmonica.com). Please contact the parish office for further information.**Adult Faith Formation Core Team**

Our mission is to encourage and support parishioners in their lifelong learning in the faith in order to grow closer to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit through discipleship and evangelization.

**Marriages**

The Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey requests a one year period of preparation for marriage in the church. Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

**Religious Education**Children are expected to receive a Catholic-Christian upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to participate in ongoing Religious Education classes. Our program includes grades 1-8. Please contact Karen Badach, Coordinator of Religious Education 732-928-4038 or [stmonicaccd@yahoo.com](mailto:stmonicaccd@yahoo.com)**Legion of Mary**

Members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick and assisting with pastoral needs.

**Women of St Monica**

Ministry of Catholic women of the parish striving to fulfill their spiritual needs, sharing their faith, promoting community and conduct fundraisers throughout the year and enhance parish life in a variety of ways.



If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via email at: [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org)

## Reflections on the Readings for the 4th Sunday in Easter - April 21, 2024

### THE SHEPHERD KNOWS HIS SHEEP

Imagine an ant colony. The ants decide that they need to build a new hill and choose to do so at the busiest intersection downtown. You deeply love your ants, and so you try to instruct them that this is not a good idea, but as you get close to talk to them, they scurry away in a frenzy and then go back to gathering supplies to build their ant hill at the intersection. You think to yourself, "What must I do in order to get across to these ants that if they build at this intersection, they will die? How can I save them?" And then it dawns on you—you must become an ant. This is the only way they will listen to you without fear. You become an ant and work to lead them away from the busy intersection. Some follow you, others can't stand you and choose to put you to death.

As silly as this little story may sound, it helps show the radical love that Christ has for us. He needed to reach us, to come in a way that we would recognize him and hear his voice, and so God made himself a mere human. What amazing love Our Lord has for us! Let us spend some time today reflecting on this love as we hear of Christ as our good shepherd, keeping us safe from harm.

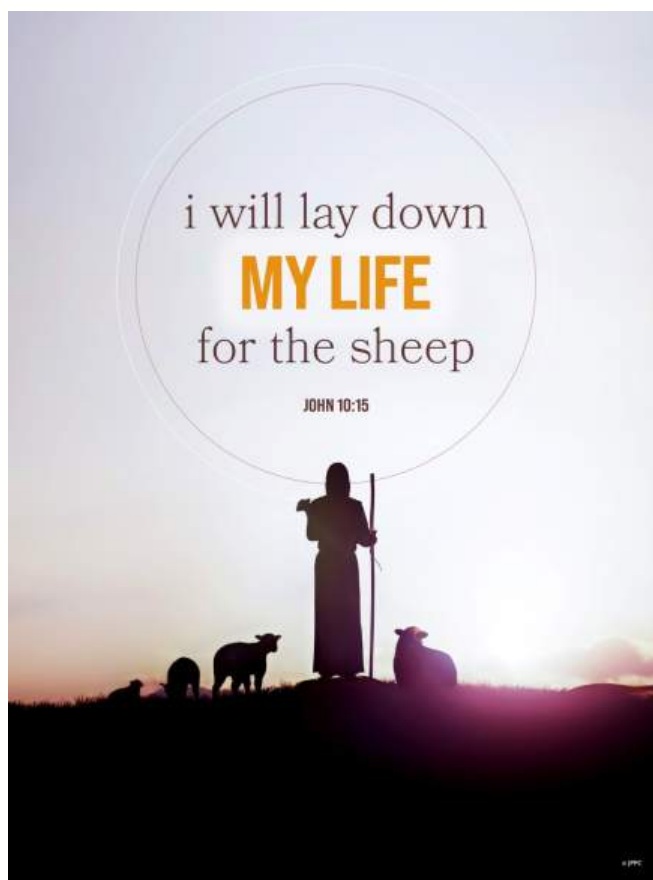
### PRAYER

Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." This is a powerful statement that Jesus is making. Would you ever expect a shepherd to risk his life for a mere sheep, an animal? But Jesus says that this is the call of a good shepherd, and he IS a good shepherd! We are the sheep and Jesus — God — is willing to give his life for us. The God of the universe is telling us that he will give his life for us to have salvation. What a powerful statement. Jesus goes on to say, "I know mine and they know me." Jesus knows us, and he has said he will lay down his life to save ours and has done it. But, do we know him? Do we know his voice amongst all of the other noise in our world?

Let us spend some time this week reflecting on the words from today's Gospel. If a word or phrase strikes you, stop and pray with it. Let the Lord's voice resonate in your heart with the words that he has chosen for you today.

### RESOLUTION

Let us resolve this week to begin training our minds, hearts, and ears to recognize Christ's voice in our lives. Make a commitment to spend time listening to his voice every day this week. | [formed.org](https://formed.org)



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**Knights of Columbus**

Daniel McGeehan  
732-597-3832  
daniel.mcgeehan@kofc.org

Contact me today to learn more.

\*Knights of Columbus and its partners, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors and Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, are entities that each provide separate and distinct products and services. Financial retirement planning, life and disability income insurance, and personal philanthropy entail certain risks. Learn more at [kofc.org/liveyourfaith](http://kofc.org/liveyourfaith)  
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*Deacon Christopher Buono, Manager*

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