



# St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles Church

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**VERY REVEREND  
RAJU D. THOTTANKARA  
PASTOR**

**REV. ERIC CHAPA  
PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**PRIEST:**  
Msgr. Seamus McGowan

**DEACONS:**  
Allen Cicora  
Eluterio Farias

**WEEKEND MASSES:**  
Saturday: 6:00 PM  
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 AM  
12:00 PM and 6:00 PM

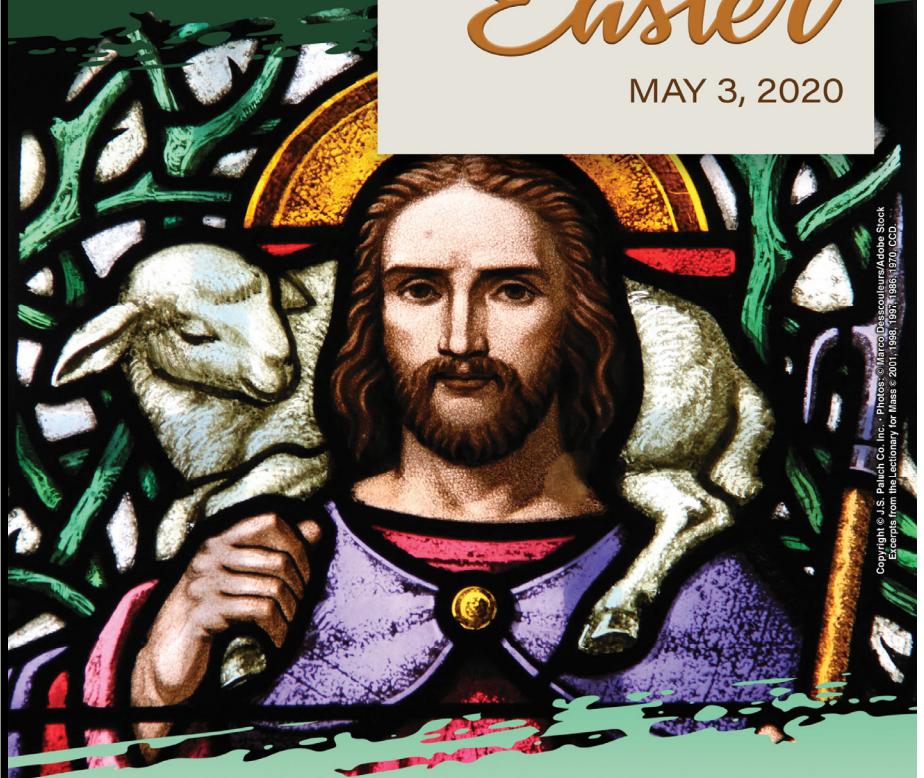
Confessions are heard on  
Saturday from 4:30 - 5:30  
PM and by appointment.

St. Mary Mission  
Mass, 10:00 AM

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF**

*Easter*

MAY 3, 2020



The shepherd calls his own sheep  
by name and leads them.

John 10:3

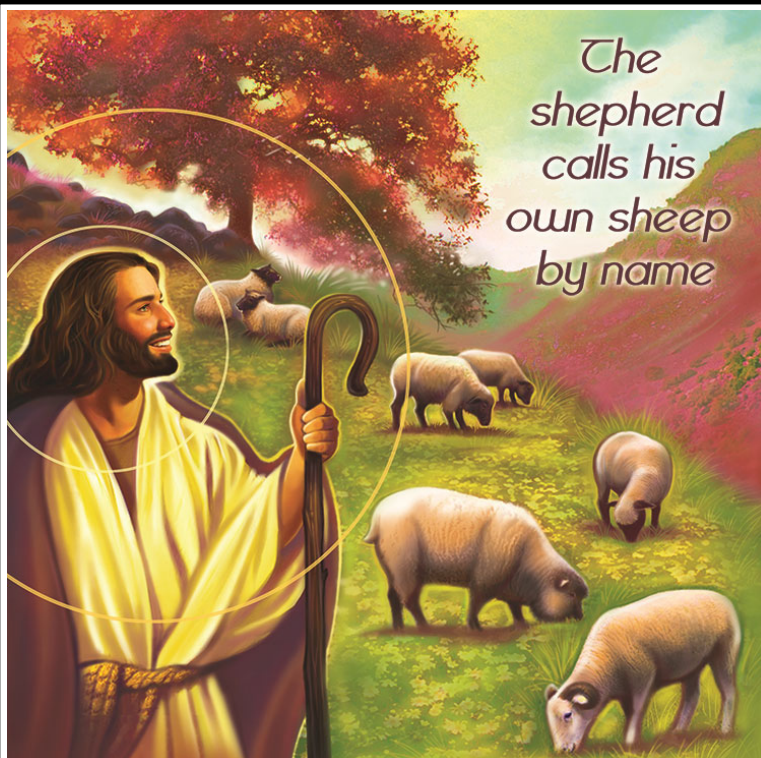
## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles Catholic Church  
is a welcoming community dedicated to promoting  
a devout life of prayer and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
through living the sacraments in a spirit of generous service.

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross,  
So that, free from sin, we might live for  
Righteousness —1 Peter 2:24a



The  
shepherd  
calls his  
own sheep  
by name

### IN NEED OF A SHEPHERD

For a while it was very fashionable to own pigs as pets. The publicity surrounding these creatures informed us that they were—contrary to their popular image—very clean animals, and also quite smart. Sad to say, sheep will most likely never enjoy this sort of domestic vogue. They are neither clean nor smart and are largely defenseless when left on their own, even in large numbers. The biblical image of us as the flock of sheep is not a particularly flattering one. Sheep without a shepherd are truly sad, because they most likely will perish either from their inability to fend for themselves or from their lack of defenses against predators. Placing ourselves in the heart of this unflattering image can reinforce our faith. Until we come to a profound realization of how much we need a shepherd, we cannot appreciate how deeply blessed we are to have been given a Shepherd, one who laid down his life for us and was raised to life eternal in the Spirit, so he might guide us and we might follow him in faith forever.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18  
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30  
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50  
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14  
 Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

Online [Cityof.com/goodnews](http://Cityof.com/goodnews)

### Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter;  
World Day of Prayer for Vocations  
 Tuesday: Cinco de Mayo  
 Thursday: National Day of Prayer

### Today's Readings

**First Reading** — All peoples called by God will receive the gift of the Spirit if they repent and are baptized (Acts 2:14a, 36-41).

**Psalm** — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

**Second Reading** — Once we were like straying sheep; but now we have been returned to the shepherd, our guardian (1 Peter 2:20b-25).

**Gospel** — The shepherd leads the sheep out into pastures of abundant life (John 10:1-10).

# *Saints Philip And James, Apostles May 3*

Call Philip the gospel's "Answer Man." "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nathaniel asked Philip, who had proclaimed Jesus "the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets" (John 1:45). Jesus asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" (John 6:5). Greeks brought Philip their request: "We would like to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Philip's answer to each question: bring people to Jesus! At the Last Supper, finally, Philip had a request of his own: "Show us the Father!" (John 14:8). Jesus had three last questions for Philip: "You still don't know me? How can you ask that? Don't you believe?" And an answer: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (John 14:10). Today's James is not John's brother, Zebedee's son, but, tradition says, author of the New Testament Letter of James, who died praying for his murderers in Jesus' words: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Few historical details for either saint, but lessons aplenty: Bring every question we have and everybody we meet to Jesus; be, as James' letter challenges, "doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

## *Entrance*

How else but through a broken heart May the Lord Christ enter in? —Oscar Wilde

## *Much-Needed Love*

No one needs love more than someone who doesn't deserve it. —Anonymous

Today's readings invite us to recognize our need for one who ensures our safety, nourishes us, and leads us to peace and security, like sheep who rest in the care of a good shepherd. Such a shepherd will protect and save the sheep, even from the most deadly of predators. Today, we ponder the incredible news that Jesus accepted death on the cross in order to open the gates of eternal life with God for us. Through his resurrection, Jesus protects and saves us from the power of sin and death. We need only accept his love and live as God's people in this life, relying on the Lord who is the door to new life for us and for all.

## *Good News!*

When Peter faced the crowds on Pentecost, he was emboldened by the Holy Spirit and proclaimed the truth of Jesus Christ passionately to those who gathered to hear him. There was likely part of him that was not quite sure what to expect, knowing that a few weeks prior, crowds of people had chanted "Crucify him!" as Jesus was sentenced to a cruel and unjust death. The people who heard Peter were moved by his witness, compelled to acknowledge their sinfulness and to accept the news of salvation through Jesus Christ as good news, the gospel that changes everything.

## *Jesus Saves*

Be honest with yourself. Have you ever gone astray? Have you ever given in to temptation or weakness? Do you sometimes feel that you need someone to help you get your life on back on track? Most people could answer yes to any of these questions. As people of faith, we know that Jesus understands the struggles we face and gave his life to save us from our human frailty. The Lord knows that we need help in order to live as God's people in the world. There are people and powers that seek to mislead us, who offer a way that may for a time be appealing, even though it does not lead to the true way of life, love, and peace. We can be readily dissuaded and distracted from the ways of holiness. We easily lose our way, lured by the trappings of material possessions, wealth, or social status. Jesus is our only real way, the door that leads to meaning and peace in this earthly time, and to life everlasting.

Today's Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS