

God Family Friends



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Dear Parents,

Whose voices are you listening to these days? Some, calling for an end to staying at home are loud, in contrast with steadier voices trying to protect us all from the dangers of the COVID-19 virus. It's only human: our own wants sometimes speak louder than the needs of others.

As Christians, we listen to the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who calls us to follow him and his way of love. In this Sunday's Gospel we hear "...the sheep hear his voice... and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice."

How can following the Good Shepherd help your family right now? In our Responsorial Psalm we sing: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." Trusting and hearing the voice of our Shepherd, we can discover rest, refreshment for the soul and a strong protector. Jesus offers a cup overflowing with love and in the end, he offers us a place in the house of the Lord forever.

Looking beyond what can seem overwhelming, can you see the goodness of the Lord? This week listen for the Shepherd. Be gratefully aware of Jesus' loving care. Know that you and your family are in our daily prayers. May God bless you abundantly!



"Have no fear for what tomorrow may bring, the same loving God who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations" (St. Francis de Sales)

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ST. PETER THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

www.stpeteritasca.com

 630-773-1272

Mary, We Crown Thee...

On Friday, May 1, eighth-grader, Sophia Ranallo, honored the Blessed Mary by crowning her with a beautiful wreath in celebration of this special month dedicated to her honor. Many thanks to Sophia and her family for taking the time to continue this beautiful tradition, especially during these unprecedented times.

As a reminder, here are some ideas for activities to honor our Blessed Mother:

- Take a walk or drive to visit the BVM outside of the school building – perhaps pray the Rosary along the way or once you arrive *(of course, please keep a safe distance if others are also visiting)*.
- Create a floral wreath and celebrate May Crowning with a statue of the Blessed Virgin that you have in your home or garden.
- Consider a DIY Rosary activity – here's a link to ideas to [Celebrate Mary](#).

INSPIRE US!

Whatever way you choose to celebrate our Blessed Mother, please [share](#) your family's activities and ideas to help inspire others.

Check out page 8 of this resource – St. Peter's is recognized for the beautiful Coronavirus Prayer video created by our very own Religious Ed families.

In case you missed seeing it this past week, take a moment to watch the video. Our families are truly a blessing.



Share your Sunday!

Share your family's faith experiences and activities on [Facebook](#), or post ideas for spiritual enrichment and prayer.

Outreach & Support

We have formed a team of people ready and willing to help those in need. If you would still like to offer your help, [please sign up here](#).

If you find yourself in need of errand help (i.e. someone to pick-up groceries for you), in need of a spiritual care phone call, or you just feel alone and isolated and could use a chat, [please sign up here](#).

Stay Connected

Please visit the parish home page at www.stpeteritasca.com for links to prayer opportunities, daily readings and Mass.



Connect with us on Facebook
[Stay Connected](#)

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My Sheep Hear My Voice

Last week, we encouraged your family to enthrone the Bible in your homes. The Bible is the very Word of God. Whether you are at Mass or at home, alone or as a family, reading scripture is a fantastic way for you and your family to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. We hope that you took the opportunity to enthrone the Word of God in your hearts and in your homes.

While you may have fallen into a routine already at home, we invite you to a renewed effort in leading your family closer to God this weekend.

"Watching Mass"

There are so many things available for your family to watch throughout the week - Mass should NOT be one of them!

Teach your family how to fully participate in the Mass. It can be very easy to passively observe like we do with so many other things. You might find this article helpful if you have experienced any challenges while streaming Mass at home:

["Watching Mass' With Your Family. Futile or Fulfilling? What Makes the Difference."](#)

[View this page](#) for live-streamed Masses across the diocese, or visit your parish website for the most up-to-date parish information. If your parish does not have a live-streamed Mass, we recommend a kid's Mass with Fr. Andy Davy on Saturday, or Sunday morning Mass with Bishop Pates.

LIVE
STREAM



4:00 PM

Saturday 5/2
with Fr. Andy



10:00 AM

Sunday 5/3 with
Bishop Pates

[Daily Readings](#)



The Gospel
Story for Kids



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Gospel Reading - John 10:1-10

Reader

Jesus said:

“Amen, amen, I say to you,
whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate
but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber.
But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice,
as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
When he has driven out all his own,
he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him,
because they recognize his voice.
But they will not follow a stranger;
they will run away from him,
because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.”
Although Jesus used this figure of speech,
the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you,
I am the gate for the sheep.
All who came before me are thieves and robbers,
but the sheep did not listen to them.
I am the gate.
Whoever enters through me will be saved,
and will come in and go out and find pasture.
A thief comes only to steal
and slaughter and destroy;
I came so that they might have life
and have it more abundantly.”

Reader

All

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord
Jesus Christ**

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly
present in the Holy Eucharist. I love You
above all things and I want to be with you.

Since I am unable to receive you at Mass,
please Jesus, come into my heart. Be
with me now and never let me be
separated from you. Amen.


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Attitude of Gratitude

When we take a moment to reflect on what we are grateful for in our lives, we allow ourselves to experience moments of appreciation, love, and strength. Particularly in times of stress and crisis, these moments are vital because they help us balance the difficult emotions we experience and propel us forward with a new and restorative enthusiasm and confidence.

Family Reflections:

- What do you most appreciate about each family member?
- What are you most grateful for in your life?
- Who/What has helped you the most during this crisis?
- What are the gifts that God has given you or our family recently?



"Immaculate of Heart of Mary, look with compassion on we, your children. Please draw us close to your son Jesus, keep us safe from illness, and bring a quick end to the Coronavirus."

The Month of Our Mother

For centuries, the entire month of May has been set aside to honor Mary the Queen of Heaven and Earth - and our mother. We invite your family to join us in praying the prayer above often in the month of May.

Many families have long standing traditions for how they celebrate Mary in the month of May. If you have not yet established anything in your home - what a perfect time to start! Consider: 1) doing a May Crowning at home, 2) making a Marian shrine, or 3) praying the rosary every day in May.

1

2

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The Shepherd's Voice

Have everyone pair up. One person is the sheep the other is the shepherd. Have each pair/team create their own special call to communicate between one another. Be creative!

Have the sheep line up 20-50 STEPS away from the shepherds. Shepherds will blindfold their sheep and leave them at the starting line i.e. in their 'pen' . The shepherds will then line up at the finish line.

On 'Go' each shepherd will begin to call their sheep and the first sheep to cross the finish line wins!

Gospel Connection

In Jesus's day the shepherds of the region would come together and gather all the sheep together in a large group or pen to protect them during the night. The sheep would rest knowing that they are safe, and shepherds took turns watching over the sheep during the night. In the morning the shepherds simply give 'His Call' and his sheep would come out of the pen running straight to him. Each shepherd did the same. How did this happen? Because each sheep knew his shepherds call.

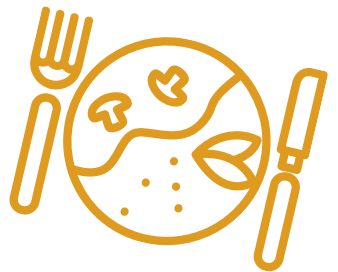
- Do you and your Shepherd-Jesus have a special call?
- How do you seek to follow your shepherd?
- Do you listen for His Call? How could you listen better?

This week ask Jesus to attune your ears and heart to hear Him when He calls.

Dinner Conversation Tonight

We are called to be shepherds and lead others into the Kingdom of God. Jesus is our shepherd and models shepherding for us.

- Who brings out the worst in you? Why?
- Who brings out the best in you? Why?
- Describe your feelings of being with these different people?
- Can you bring out the best in someone else? How?
- How do you know when it works?
- How does following Jesus bring out the best in you?
- What stops you from following Jesus all the time?



We saw this and HAD to share!

What a great idea to gather with friends and classmates who are unable to leave home! The parish of St. Peter the Apostle (Itasca) created this heart-warming Coronavirus prayer by recording individual parts of the prayer and editing them together.



Let's join with them in prayer, and be inspired by their creativity! **Calling all Youth Ministries, Schools, and Religious Education programs... let's see what you can do!** Write and record your own Coronavirus prayer. We would love to share yours out as well.

For what are you grateful?

God is so good to us and there is much that we can do to develop an attitude of gratitude. Call up friends and family members to check in. Let them know what you are grateful for and ask them if they are grateful too.

Surely, you are thankful for family... and maybe your Grandparents?? They would love to hear from you too. Ask to video chat and share the things you are grateful for. Ask them if they can remember something that they were grateful for when they were your age. Spend some time... look at photos from their childhood or maybe you can share stories.



Quarantine Collage

Thank you to all who submitted their photos for the Quarantine Collage - see the next page.

We welcome your photos and might do something else with them in the near future. Show us your family and how you are creatively making your home into a Domestic Church!

You may continue to email oyf@dioceseofjoliet.org* with your photos. God bless your family - may Jesus reign in your hearts!

*By emailing your photos you consent to and give permission to use these images in parish and Diocesan communications / publications.



God
Family
Friends