

## *A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR*



Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. The Church gives us the wonderful Gospel passage in which Jesus proclaims himself to be the Good Shepherd and not the hired hand.

*"I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.  
A hired man, who is not a shepherd  
and whose sheep are not his own,  
sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,  
and the wolf catches and scatters them.  
This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep."*

How appropriate that we are given this passage to reflect upon during the Easter Season so that we remember that Jesus willingly gave up his life for you and me. He did this to win for us the forgiveness of our sins and to open the gates of Heaven that where he is we will one day follow.

On this weekend I am reminded of all those who accepted the call to priestly ministry, men who are called to follow the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd in a life dedicated to the total service of his flock, the church.

It was through the selfless example of priestly service that I received the call to the priesthood. Those dedicated and holy men, who were my parish priests, pointed the way to come and follow.

I hope that you can recall those men who served here at St. James as your parish priests throughout the years as examples of priestly service following the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

It has been a great honor for me to serve as the pastor of St. James Parish. Together with the priests and deacons who have assisted me over these past eleven years I truly hope that you have been given living examples of the Good Shepherd in action.

I am also thinking of the many men and women who have also served in some ministerial position as workers or volunteers playing a vital role in the shepherding of the good people of St. James. Thank you, sincerely!

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, I invite you once again to join me in reaching out to our Brothers and Sisters of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are taking a special collection after all the Masses this weekend to assist them in the financing of the renovation of their church interior, which suffered extensive fire damage last Christmas Day. I thank the "Kidz for Christ" and Scouts for assisting with this collection.

May the Good Shepherd continue to manifest his presence among us through the loving service that we provide for each other as members of his one flock!

*Fr. John*