

MAY 2021

Shepherd's Voice



The monthly parish newsletter of
GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

WHAT WE BELIEVE...

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance
with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is wor-
shipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the for-
giveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

HOLY SPIRIT WEEKEND:

ENCOUNTERING THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

May is an exciting month for us at Good Shepherd Church. On Sunday, May 23, we will observe our annual celebration of Pentecost. The 50th day after Easter is always a joyous time on the Christian calendar in that we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit to birth the Church at that first Christian Pentecost some 2,000 years ago.

Just as exciting for us this year is that the weekend before Pentecost, Good Shepherd Church will welcome the Diocesan Team that will be leading us in our Holy Spirit Weekend, May 14-16. This promises to be a faith deepening and life changing event for those who are ready and willing to step into living a Holy Spirit filled life.

The Holy Spirit Weekend will begin on Friday, May 14 at 6:00 PM with dinner in our fellowship hall. This will be a chance for us to also get to know some of the folks who will be with us for the weekend, both from the Diocesan Team and from St. Stephen's Church. Many folks will recall that St. Stephen's is a smaller parish in Metairie meeting in the chapel of a funeral home. They and their priest, Fr. Jim Tomkins, are prayerfully discerning entering into membership at Good Shepherd Church, so we will certainly want to take advantage of getting to know these "guests" who we pray will one day soon be a part of our church family.

After dinner on Friday, around 6:45, we'll move over to our sanctuary for a brief 15 minute worship service before we are treated to our first talk of the weekend entitled "**Who Is The Holy Spirit?**" given by Fr. Chuck Thebeau. Our evening will conclude at 8:00 PM on Friday.

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On **Saturday, May 15**, we'll regather for a continental breakfast at 8:30 AM and our day will formally kick off at 9:00 AM in the sanctuary. Talks on Saturday will include **"What Does The Holy Spirit Do?"** by Deacon Lisa Schwandt, **"How Can I Be Filled With The Holy Spirit"** by Bishop Clark Lowenfield, and **"How Shall We Live In The Holy Spirit"** by Ms. Rachel Thebeau.

Saturday's time will also include a lunch served in our fellowship hall, a time known as **"Holy Spirit Ministry Time,"** (which I can assure you will be a blessing) and a presentation by Deacon Jennifer Scherzer which will **include our children**.

Oh... did I forget to mention that **children are invited to be a part of the entire weekend?** That's correct! Deacon Jennifer has a special Holy Spirit Weekend planned for any children between the **ages of 5 and 12** who will be attending. All I can say is, based on the list of supplies she asked for, I'm thinking the children are going to have a GREAT time!

The entire weekend will come to a close on **Sunday, May 16** (the Sunday before Pentecost Sunday), as our Holy Spirit Weekend experience concludes with our 10:00 AM worship service. Because this is such a special weekend, we will not be holding our 8:30 AM worship service on May 16 and instead we are highly encouraging everyone to be a part of our 10:00 AM service.

Until next month, let your light shine!

Fr. Randall Graf+

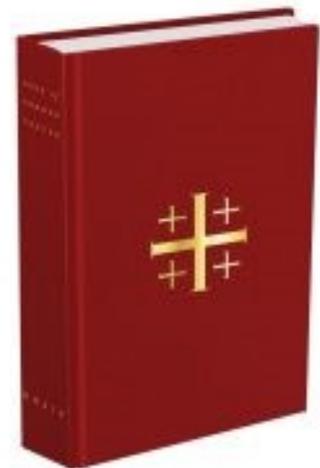


BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Good Shepherd Church has a new shipment in of Books of Common Prayer. If you would like to purchase a copy, please let Fr. Randall know. Each book is only \$21 and you are welcome to purchase as many as you would like.

Our Sunday liturgy, Midday Prayer, Compline--virtually every service we offer at Good Shepherd Church is included in the ACNA Book of Common Prayer (BCP). The BCP also includes a full psalter containing all 150 psalms, the three year Sunday lectionary, the daily lectionary, a calendar of holy days, and much more. To read several collects from the BCP, see page 3 of this newsletter.

Our last order was in the Fall and all books in that order sold immediately upon delivery. Now is your chance to get your own hard covered copy of this beautiful prayer book. Order your copies today! When paying for your order, please make your check payable to "Good Shepherd Church" and mark the memo as "prayer book".



A FEW COLLECTS FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

FOR THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER (Number 5, page 647)

O Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD (Number 27, page 654)

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FOR DESIRING GOD (Number 74, page 668)

O God, grant that we may desire you, and desiring you seek you, and seeking you find you, and finding you be satisfied in you for ever. **Amen.**

FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE (Number 82, page 670)

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Holy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE UNEMPLOYED (Number 47, page 660)

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive a just reward for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, meals, cards and support I received during my recent breast cancer surgery. The meals were delicious, the cards beautiful and the prayers meant so very much to both Bobby and myself. They worked.

All the cancer is gone and I don't require any chemotherapy. I am so blessed to have so much love and support from my church family. It meant the world to us and I know it helped keep me strong during this troubling time.

Debbie Volk

SERVICES FOR MAY 2021

Sunday, May 2 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist (Eastertide 5)

Tuesday, May 4 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Tuesday, May 4 @ 7:00 PM—Mothers Prayer Group

Wednesday, May 5 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, May 7 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, May 9 @ 8:30AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (Eastertide 6) (Mothers Day)

Tuesday, May 11 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, May 12 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

***Thursday, May 13 @ 10:00 AM**—Prayer Garden Holy Eucharist (Ascension Day) (By Reservation Only)

Friday, May 14 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

****Sunday, May 16 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM**—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (Holy Spirit Weekend Closing)

Tuesday, May 18 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, May 19 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, May 21 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, May 23 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (Pentecost Sunday)

Tuesday, May 25 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Wednesday, May 26 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, May 28 @ 9:00 PM—Office of Compline (online only)

Sunday, May 30 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist (Trinity Sunday)

PLEASE NOTE: As a reminder, all services are held in-person unless otherwise noted as “online only” and all in-person services require mask and appropriate social distancing. In addition to being offered in-person, our Sunday morning Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM is also live-streamed.

Our YouTube channel is located at www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet.

*Our Prayer Garden Holy Eucharist on Ascension Day, May 13 is by reservation only and open only to those not able to attend indoor services due to health concerns.

**We will not hold an 8:30 AM service on Sunday, May 16. We encourage everyone to join us at 10:00 AM for the closing of our Holy Spirit Weekend.



May 5—Cinco de Mayo

May 6—National Day of Prayer

May 9—Mother's Day

May 13—Feast of the Ascension

May 15—Armed Services Day

May 23—Pentecost Sunday

May 31—Memorial Day

NOTES FROM RINDA

One of the anthems that the choir will present during this time leading up to Pentecost is "Here I Am, Lord," which is based on a familiar Christian song that became popular in the '80's. The author, Daniel Schutte, was inspired by the recording of Isaiah's vision of the Lord sitting "high and lifted up" in the temple. Isaiah felt unworthy, but came to the understanding that God was indeed calling him to serve. The voice of God asked Isaiah "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"

At this point Isaiah answered, "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

This passage has inspired numerous songs, poems, and sermons. We can relate to Isaiah when we are facing involvement in a great cause. We see a need that we feel a responsibility to address.

The song can be a song of sending forth or a song of commitment. The writer speaks of God's command over the sea and sky, snow and rain, wind and flame. God has heard the cry of his people, borne their pain, wept for them. God will provide. We respond by going forth to minister to God's people.

Daniel Schutte, the writer of this hymn, is a Roman Catholic who studied extensively and has held many teaching positions throughout his career.

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



ISAIAH 6:8



CELEBRATIONS, REMEMBRANCES, AND ETERNAL FLAME DEDICATIONS

Each Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate and remember in our church family. To celebrate a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other joyful event or to remember a loved one who has returned home to the Lord, simply fill out a blue "Celebrations and Remembrance" form and submit it with a suggested \$10 honorarium. The name and event will be published in our Sunday bulletin.

If you would like to dedicate the weekly Eternal Flame Lamp in memory of a loved one who has returned home to the Lord, you may view the open dates in the red binder located in the narthex. The suggested minimum honorarium for the Eternal Flame dedication is only \$15.

MEN'S CLUB NEWS

The Good Shepherd Church, Men's Club has been inactive for a long time due to the Covid – 19 virus pandemic. I believe that it is time the Men's Club should start becoming active again, probably on a limited basis at first and take guidance from the C. D. C. and Father R. Graf as to planning activities.

SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled Men's Club meeting is on Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the church's sanctuary. NO food or drinks will be served at this meeting. Mandatory social distancing and mask wearing will be in place. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

I would like each member of the Men's Club to bring forth at least one idea for a fund-raising activity at our next meeting.

DUES

I remind ALL Men's Club members that our annual dues of \$25.00 were due on January 1, 2021. If you have not paid your dues this year, please make your check out to, "Good Shepherd, Men's Club" or give the cash to Brother John Falanga, our Treasurer, when you see him next. Or, you can mail your check to the church in care of the "Men's Club".

NEW MEMBERS

Any man that is not a member of our Men's Club and would like to become one, please contact me at djestopinal@gmail.com and we will get you signed up.

I hope to see all of the Men's Club members at our next scheduled meeting.

D. J. Estopinal

President GSC Men's Club



MAKING PROGRESS IN A PANDEMIC

Dear Good Shepherd Church,

During the last week of April, as this newsletter was going to press, the Louisiana COVID-19 mask mandate was drastically modified by Governor John Bel Edwards. Within hours of Governor Edwards' directives being issued, Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng also drastically modified local mandates.

Here's where we stand in Jefferson Parish:

At this time, there are no state or local mandates on numbers or mask requirements for venues such as Good Shepherd Church. As you are out and about in Jefferson Parish, you may notice many businesses no longer requiring masks and no longer imposing capacity limits. Other businesses may have a different approach and require masks of their customers and/or continue to utilize capacity restrictions. As it currently stands, individual businesses continue to maintain the right to require masks and self-impose capacity limitations regardless of the loosening of restrictions by government.

Here's where we stand as Good Shepherd Church Parish:

As of this writing, Good Shepherd Church continues to have our pews roped off in a manner consistent with 50% capacity and this will continue for the coming days. Likewise, we will continue to require masks at church.

I will address the issue of masks and capacity with our Church Council in early May. While we all look forward to lifting these restrictions and returning to a sense of normalcy, it is important that we do so while weighing multi-faceted approaches to both the safety and comfort of our parishioners.

Every week I hear from more and more members who are getting a first or second vaccination. I see the relief in the eyes of those who have been inoculated. I share in that sense of relief knowing that I and my immediate family feel protected by having chosen to receive the vaccine.

For the moment, I ask for your patience and prayers on this issue. Until I meet with our Council, I ask that you please continue to bring your mask with you to church and pray that we continue to make good, strong progress toward herd immunity from the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

In Service to Christ and His Church,

Fr. Randall Graf+



PRAYING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began last year, Good Shepherd Church has been streaming our 10:00 AM Sunday morning Service of Holy Eucharist each week. During the distribution of Holy Communion, the lector reads a prayer entitled **An Act of Spiritual Communion** for those who are watching at home and are unable to partake in the reception of Holy Communion sacramentally. That beautiful prayer comes from the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 677, ACNA 2019) and can be prayed by a Christian any time they are longing for the grace of Holy Communion but are unable to receive the tangible elements of the sacrament. These are the words to that prayer:

***Dear Jesus, I believe that you
are truly present in the Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to possess you within my soul.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people
gathered around every altar of your Church,
and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.***



GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

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Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

Service of Midday Prayer

12:15 PM Tuesday & Wednesday (online only)

Service of Compline

9:00 PM Friday (online only)

