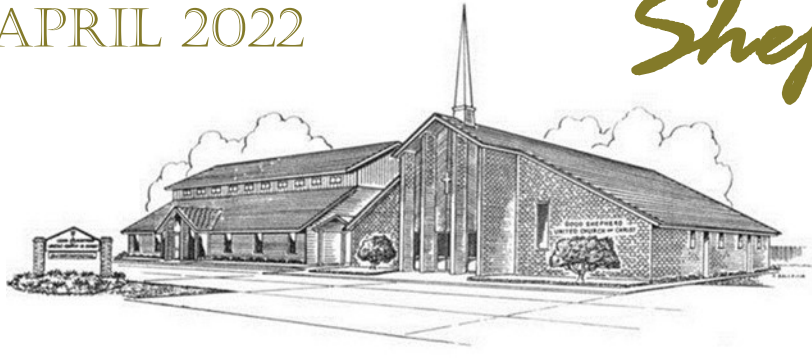


APRIL 2022



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-
shiped 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 RECTOR'S STUDY

Remember how he told you...?

We start the month of April this year completing the season of Lent. Halfway through the month, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday and in doing so, we will leave behind the 40 day season of fasting and move into the 50 day season of feasting on JOY!

In the 24th chapter of Saint Luke's gospel account, we're told that the women had gone to the tomb where Jesus had been placed. They were going there to bring spices that they had prepared—a custom of the Jewish people. Imagine the shock when they arrive and find that the body of Jesus is not in the tomb. Instead, St. Luke tells us that the women encounter two men in clothes that "gleamed like lightening" causing the women to become frightened and bow their faces down toward the ground.

The "men" say something very interesting to the women. They ask: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" They continue to speak stating "He (Jesus) is not here. He is risen."

Those words, "He is risen," are so important to our faith. On Easter Sunday morning, the prayer book liturgy for our worship will have us return joyously to the use of the word "Alleluia" and in fact, will prescribe us to acclaim it liberally. The opening acclamation spoken by the Celebrant is "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" to which the People respond "The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

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But there's also a little clause in the text of that Gospel reading that I want to magnify this month in my column. It's not one that we otherwise pay much attention to, perhaps because, rightly so, we're so caught up in singularly exclaiming the Good News of the Risen Lord Jesus. The clause is found in Luke 24:6b-7. Right after the angels tell the women that Jesus is not in the tomb because he is risen, they say "Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

Verse 6b, often overlooked, is beyond powerful. "Remember how he told you...". The Good News of the Gospel is certainly that "Christ is risen." Yet, let us not forget how much more God's Word tell us. The women at the tomb were about to miss out on the Truth of the greatest story in history of humankind—that God, through His Son Jesus Christ, had conquered sin and death through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Yet, if the angels had not been present to refocus the thoughts of the women from focusing on death to instead focusing on life, they may have literally left the tomb believing they body of Jesus was simply stolen for some nefarious purpose.

The fact is, (and it's easy for me to say because I have the benefit of retrospect afforded me by Holy Scripture), but the fact is, the women should have known better. How can I say that? Because the angels say the worlds "Remember how he told you...".

Have we forgotten the promises that God has given us in His Word? Do we even know what all those promises are? In order to know and remember these promises, we have to acquaint ourselves with God's Word. We must make a habit out of reading Holy Scripture.

As we journey this month through the final days of Lent, entering Passiontide and Holy Week before reaching Resurrection Sunday, let us realize this: When we live our lives for Christ, His Word promises more than many of us might ever have noticed. For example. God's Word tells us...

- He will always be with us (Joshua 1:9)
- We can have His mind (1 Corinthians 2:16b)
- We can have His peace (John 14:27)
- He will actually fight for us (Exodus 14:14)
- He will give us wisdom if we simply ask (James 1:5)
- He will give us joy (Psalm 16:11)
- He will strengthen us (Isaiah 40:10)

And best of all, these are only some of His promises and we can rest assured that whatever God has promised us, we can count on Him to deliver because we can trust Him (Hebrews 10:23).

The Good News is certainly about the promise of resurrected life in the future. But let us not forget that God's Word also gives us plenty of pretty good news about the lives we're now living, when we commit to live them for Him and His purposes.

Until next month, let your light shine!

Fr. Randall+
Rector

SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2022

Friday, April 1 @ 12:15 PM—Praying The Great Litany (online and in person)

Sunday, April 3 @ 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist Lent 5 (Passion Sunday)

Wednesday, April 6 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, April 8 @ 12:15 PM—Praying the Great Litany (online and in person)

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

Wednesday, April 13 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Thursday, April 14 @ 6:35 PM—Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist

Friday, April 15 @ 3:00 PM—Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 16 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 20 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, April 22 @ 9:00 PM—Compline (online only)

Sunday, April 24 @ 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM—Sunday morning Holy Eucharist Easter 2

Wednesday, April 27 @ 12:15 PM—Midday Prayer (online only)

Friday, April 29 @ 9:00 PM—Compline (online only)

Reminder: Our services are live-streamed and available for replay on our YouTube channel at <http://www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet>.



WOMEN'S GUILD MISSION: WOMAN'S NEW LIFE CLINIC

Women's Guild has partnered with Woman's New Life Clinic's Baby Bottle campaign during the month of April. This is a Christian organization staffed by licensed medical and counseling personnel who meet with women in need. In the case of unplanned or unwanted pregnancies, information is provided for alternatives to abortion and medical attention is given at no cost or low-cost. In other cases, diapers and other baby-related items are provided to those who cannot afford such items.

Woman's New Life Clinic is funded solely by donations and fund-raising events.

Good Shepherd's Women's Guild is collecting change in baby bottles placed at the rear of the sanctuary. We also have baby bottles for home collection and packets to further explain Women's New Life Center.

For more information, please see Women's Guild President Dottie Frilot.



PRAYER REQUESTS

A reminder that you may submit a name or cause to be entered on to the Good Shepherd Church prayer list by completing a prayer card found in the pews and placing the card in the offering plate. Please note that the computer program used to track our prayer listings places a time limit on entries. If a name or cause that was included on the list is no longer listed and you would like it to be, simply complete another prayer card. Likewise, if you would like to update a prayer request and have it removed from the list before it automatically cycles off by reaching its time limit, this too can be done using the pew prayer cards.



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS & REMEMBRANCES AND ETERNAL FLAME SANCTUARY LAMP

A reminder that each Sunday affords an opportunity to honor, remember, and celebrate people and events. Want us to offer prayers of gratitude for a wedding anniversary or prayers of remembrance for a loved one who has returned home to the Lord or prayers of thanksgiving for a special person's birthday? Let us know by filing out the blue **"Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances"** form.

The "Sunday Celebrations, Honors, and Remembrances" form is available in the narthex of the church. By completing the **brief form** with the necessary information (e.g., John and Jane are celebrating 20 years of marriage on June 15 or Mike and Sue wish to honor the memory of Sue's mother, Pauline on what would have been her 100th birthday) and turning it in along with **a small \$5 honorarium**, you can be assured that the Sunday of your choosing includes the publication of your honor in our Sunday bulletin and prayerful remembrance during our Sunday service.



Additionally, the **2022** book is now opened for sponsoring the **Eternal Flame Sanctuary Lamp**. If you would like to dedicate the Eternal Flame in memory of a departed loved one, please see the open dates in the red folder in the narthex. The suggested minimum **honorarium for the Eternal Flame Sanctuary Lamp is \$15**.

For more information, please see Fr. Randall.

NOTES FROM RINDA

The month of April brings us the celebration of the Resurrection. Easter is finally here!

The forty days of preparation during the Lenten season are coming to a close. It is fitting that Easter comes during the spring season with the renewal of life all around us. Flowers, trees, baby animals-all appear during this season.

One of the things that has been absent from our liturgy during Lent is the word "alleluia". We were literally fasting from the word during this time. The word "alleluia" comes from the Latin and was adapted from the Hebrew word "Hallelujah". Both words mean "praise the Lord"-"Hallel" meaning "praise" and "jah" referring to the Hebrew word "Jahweh" meaning "Lord." The word "Hallelujah" appears in the book of Psalms 24 times. The psalms were the hymnal of the Jewish people and were often written specifically as expressions of praise to God. So this exclamation of praise has been around for many centuries. During the time when Rome was in power, the Latin "Alleluia" replaced the Hebrew "Hallelujah."

In the past, we have had the children of the church "bury" the alleluia behind the altar during worship on the first Sunday of Lent and then resurrect it on Easter Sunday. It's not that we don't praise God during the Lenten season, but we do so in a more reflective, meditative way. Alleluia is indeed a shout for joy expressing our love for and dedication to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

On this Easter Sunday let us all praise the Lord! Alleluia!

Rinda Coleman
GSC Music Director



GOOD SHEPHERD'S COLLEGE MISSION NEEDS YOUR HELP

We want to bless UNO students again! The Lord provided connections and conversations last time we did this and we are praying He will do it again.

We ask you to prayerfully consider signing up and donating items listed on the sign up sheet in the narthex (or anything else you think of that students would enjoy, especially during the crunch time of final exams).

Please see me for more information!

In Christ,

Noah Huntley



KEEP UP WITH GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH ONLINE



www.Facebook.com/GSCMet



www.YouTube.com/GoodShepherdMet



www.Twitter.com/GoodShepherdMet



www.GSCMet.com



***PLEASE** got to our
website and
subscribe to our
e-newsletter!*



FR. CRAIGE BORRETT, CANON FOR PARISH DEVELOPMENT,

VISITS GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Good Shepherd Church was blessed to have Fr. Craige Borrett, Canon for Parish Development in the Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast visit with us in late March. Canon Craige preached at both of our Sunday morning Holy Eucharists on March 27, 2022 and also spent two days meeting with our Rector, Fr. Randall and our church parish leadership team. We are grateful for his visit and consultation and look forward to continuing our working relationship with him in areas of parish growth and development.



FREE CONCERT AT GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH—APRIL 21 @ 7:20 PM



The Jefferson Chorale
(an affiliate of JPAS)
presents
Dear Appalachia

Thursday, April 21
7:30 PM
Good Shepherd Church
5122 West Esplanade
Metairie

Sunday, April 24
3 PM
St. Joseph Church
610 6th Street
Gretna

Free and open to the public--donations accepted



COLLECT FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants on earth who seek through art and music to perfect the praises of your people. Grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(From the ACNA Book of Common Prayer, 2019, pg. 650)

PRAYING AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began, 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

5122 West Esplanade Ave

Metairie, LA 70006

504.454.0764

www.GSCMet.com

Father Randall M. Graf, Priest & Rector

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

Holy Eucharist

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM every Sunday

Service of Midday Prayer

12:15 PM Wednesday (online only)

Service of Compline

9:00 PM Friday (online only)

