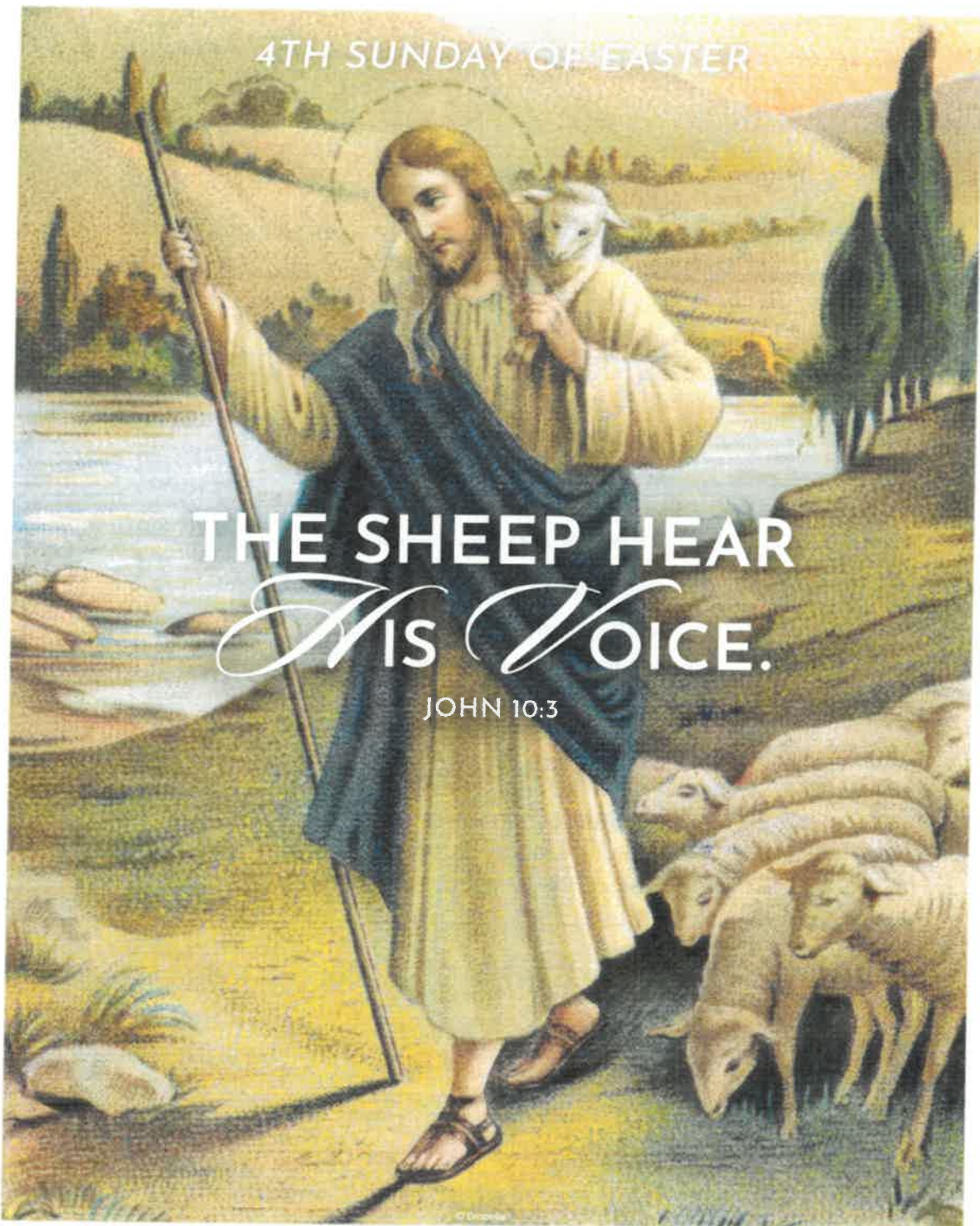


4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE SHEEP HEAR
His VOICE.

JOHN 10:3





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
 14936 W. Wilmington - Peotone Rd.
 Manhattan, Illinois 60442
4th SUNDAY OF EASTER
 April 26, 2026

Most Revered Bishop Dennis Spies
 Administrator

Office Phone 815-478-3440

Facebook St. Patrick Church of Wilton Center

Website: www.stpatrickwiltoncenter.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass is celebrated on Saturday evening only

April 25	5:45pm	+Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Eleanor Price req. by Ken & Cindy Smith Parish Family of St. Patrick
April 29	5:30pm	Communion Service
May 2	5:45pm	MAY CROWNING +Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Eleanor Price req. by Ken & Cindy Smith Parish Family of St. Patrick
May 6	5:30pm	Mass - Parish Family of St. Patrick
May 9	5:45pm	Mothers of St. Patrick +Gladys Meyer req. by The Family +Grace Niemiec req. by The Family

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Minister</u>
April 25 - 5:45pm	Jerry Kinsella	C. Kinsella
May 2— 5:45pm	Mark May	C. Smith
May 9— 5:45pm	Jerry Kinsella	C. Kinsella

**COMMUNION SERVICE
 WILL BE OFFERED
 WEDNESDAY AT
 5:30PM
 COME AND PRAY FOR
 OUR PARISH**

SERVERS & USHERS

Please volunteer at the Mass you are attending

**Scripture Readings
For the Week of April 26, 2026**

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

Monday Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday Memorial of Saint Catherine of Siena,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church** Acts 12:24-13:5a;
Ps 67:2-3,5,6 and 8; Jn 12:44-50

Thursday Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21, 22, 25 and 27;
Jn 13:16-20

Friday Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

**Saturday Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church** Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab,
3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

**WEEKLY OFFERING FOR
4/19/2026**

Sunday - \$1,763.00

Our weekly budget goal is \$1,211.54
Thank you for your faith filled support.

**HOLY FATHER INTENTION FOR
MAY**

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.



**Our Blessed Mother
Candle
Is burning for
THE PARISH FAMILY
OF ST. PATRICK**

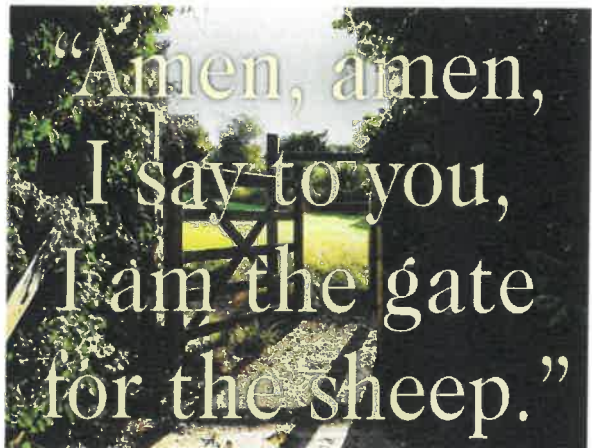


**Our St. Joseph Candle
Is Burning for
A SPECIAL INTENTION FOR
DEREK HECKLER
Req. by Don & Sue Nugent**

Please Remember our sick: especially:

Greg Harnois, Jim Kreske, Ann Marie & Tori Jasinski, Lisa Price, Barbara Schriver, Leslie Lund, Joe & Carol Price, Bernice & Dominick Marino, Tom Lane, Peggy Schiesow, Haley Donzella, Ken Smith, Laura 'Hanson, Steve Niemiec, Nancee Long, Shay Phelan, Lisa Bernard.

**PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO HAVE A
LOVED ONE ADDED TO THE PRAYER LIST.**



SPECIAL COLLECTION— Over the past several weeks, we have gone through some very unusual weather. We have been fortunate to not have serious damage. However, the church had a few gutters come loose and a cap on the rectory chimney blew off.. These have been fixed but at an extra cost that was not expected. **SPECIAL COLLECTION** envelopes are in the back to help cover the extra expense . If you are able to help, please use these **SPECIAL** envelopes next weekend, May 2. Thank you,



The Kankakee area was not as fortunate as we were. Bishop Spies sent a request to all the parishes in the diocese to help those who were impacted the most by these events. This collection will be taken up the following weekend May 9
Thank you



Fourth Sunday of Easter A Lot of Nerve

The first reading from Acts of the Apostles takes place right after the disciples received the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Peter, the apostle who had denied knowing Jesus before he died, now comes out and accuses the crowd of killing Jesus. Considering that he was outnumbered three thousand to one, it took a lot of nerve. So the Spirit gave him the courage to face that crowd. But he did more than just stand up to the people. He offered them forgiveness and hope. He asked them to repent, but not just profess a rejection of sin. What we call repentance, in Peter's time meant a change of heart away from sin and toward a new way of acting or believing. He offered them the same gift of the Spirit that he and the disciples had received. As Peter says in our second reading, "free from sin, [they] might live for righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24). We too can make a change of heart. We can turn away from selfishness and begin to love as Jesus did. We can relinquish anger and begin to forgive. We can put aside fear and boldly proclaim our faith.

Peter also shows us another gift of the Spirit—the ability to suffer for doing good. That also takes a lot of nerve. It's hard enough to suffer for our sins; who wants to suffer for doing good? Yet that is just what Jesus did for us. It is what all disciples are called to do. Following the example of Jesus on the cross, we accept the suffering that comes to us. It may be ridicule for expressing our faith, the pain of losing someone we love, or the eventual pain of dying ourselves. We accept pain because we love the Lord and so love others enough to bear the pain of helping them.

As Jesus became flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit, so the same Spirit shows us that Jesus is present today in his disciples, in the poor, the homeless, the sick and dying. Let us ask the Spirit to help us repent from selfishness to live a new life of love for God and our neighbor. - Tom Schmidt

The Lord is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall want.



Fourth Sunday of Easter TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Especially during the Easter season, we are very conscious of the communal nature of baptism. We stand witness to the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil in many parishes, and countless parishes celebrate festive baptisms for infants. The rule for celebrating baptism is that it be only once a day in any parish church, a sign of the Church's desire that baptism be the work of the gathered community. "Private baptism" is therefore a misnomer, since all baptisms, even emergency baptisms for infants in danger of death, are a public act of entrance in to the Body of Christ, the Church.

In an emergency, and providing the parents desire it, anyone can baptize by pouring water and saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." But then afterward the Church is encouraged to supply what is missing: the gathered assembly to proclaim and hear God's word, the promises, the naming, the anointings, the clothing with a white garment, the candle, the Lord's Prayer, and the solemn blessing of the parents at the altar. Wonderfully, this ritual often provides the opportunity for great rejoicing at the recovery of an infant who had been in danger.

— Rev. James Field



The 2026 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

Monthly pledge payments are due in the next few days. These payments are essential to reaching our parish goal. Once we reach our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to our parish for our needs .

PARISH GOAL: 10,500.00

AMOUNT PLEDGED: \$702.00

AMOUNT PAID: \$3,145.00

REMAINING BALANCE: \$500.00



Special Message from Bishop Dennis E. Spies April 2026



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter! As we continue celebrating the joy of the Resurrection, I have a special request for the people of our diocese on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Kankakee County.

On March 10, severe storms and tornadoes caused widespread destruction in the area, damaging homes, vehicles, Bishop McNamara Catholic School, and affecting families throughout our diocese—including those of some of our priests. Many now face a long and challenging recovery. We continue to pray for all who were injured or suffered loss.

A Special Second Collection

To offer concrete support, I am asking every parish in the Diocese of Joliet to take up a special second collection the weekend of May 2–3 or May 9-10, 2026.

How the Funds Will Be Used

Every dollar collected will directly support two urgent needs:

- Families in Need - Catholic Charities of Joliet will administer a grant process to provide financial assistance to families who have suffered significant hardship.
- Bishop McNamara Catholic School - Assistance with repairs to buildings, buses, athletic fields, and other property not covered by insurance.

Where to Send Collections

Collections should be sent to:

Diocese of Joliet
c/o Finance Office
16555 Weber Road
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403

All funds will be distributed responsibly to those in need. Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and care for one another. May the hope of Easter strengthen us as one Body of Christ.

+ Dennis E. Spies

Sincerely in Christ,
Bishop Dennis E. Spies

Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Joliet

The Lamb, the Shepherd and the Gate

Throughout salvation history, the image of Jesus as Shepherd and the people who follow the Lord as the sheep of His flock, has been a revered, iconic way of reflecting on relationship. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we reflect not only on the Good Shepherd lovingly taking care of us, His sheep, but also on how Jesus expanded our understanding of the relationship He offers to each of us.

In today's Gospel from John, Jesus reminds us of that shepherd-sheep relationship, that as Shepherd He knows us individually. He calls us by name. And He cares for us, leading us to where we should go and going ahead of us as both example and protector.

St. Peter, in both his speech in the Acts of the Apostles and in his letter in the Second Reading, reminds us that belief in Jesus is our goal. He was crucified for us, thus He is not only our Shepherd, but the Sacrificial Lamb that takes away our sins. Those sins were us actively straying from the Good Shepherd. His saving act of death and resurrection calls us back into His flock, where we must actively listen to and follow His guiding voice.

Modern society would have us believe that being a sheep is a bad thing, following along in a group, supposedly without thinking. Modern society, of course, gets it wrong. Scripture shows us that being a sheep of God's flock is not without thinking. It's actively listening to the Word and accepting it. Sure, in today's age if we follow along with the crowd, it *is* a bad thing if we aren't paying attention to what we're actually following. If it's not the loving voice of our Good Shepherd, then nothing good can come of it.

And thus we return to today's Gospel for one more beautiful image, where Jesus tells us He is the gate. We can easily understand a Sacrificial Lamb, giving His life to save ours. We can easily understand Good Shepherd, leading and guiding us with love and care. But a gate? A passageway? More than that, *the* passageway — to good pasture, to salvation, to having life and having it more abundantly in the world to come.

As Peter exhorts the people to repent and be baptized so as to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness, it becomes readily apparent that Jesus — the Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins, the Gate by which we enter into the salvation of Heaven — that He alone is the Way, the Truth and Life. Let us find our way to the glory of the Father through Him, with Him and in Him.

By Mike Karpus