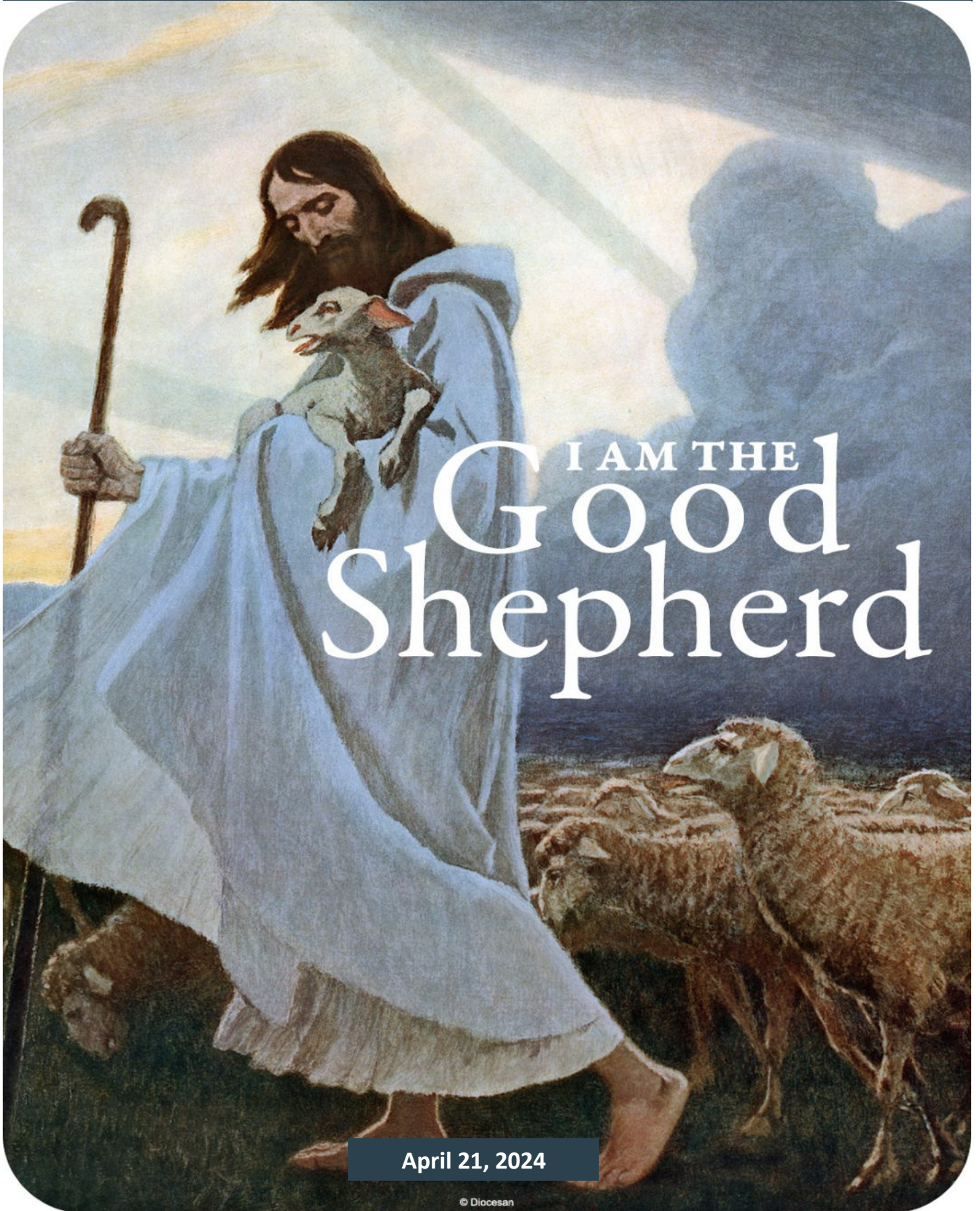


St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

[www.xavierbrunswick.org](http://www.xavierbrunswick.org), 912-265-3249



I AM THE  
**Good  
Shepherd**

April 21, 2024

## The Good Shepherd

We see many shepherds in the Bible: **Abel, Father Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David and the shepherds at Bethlehem.** We have all seen a painting or statue of the Good Shepherd. From the Old Testament through the New Testament God's people are compared to a **flock of sheep** and God is compared to a shepherd. One of the favorite scriptures of all time is Psalm 23, "**The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.**" This is made manifest in Jesus who comes as the **Good Shepherd** who will lay down his life for his sheep. In the Gospel Jesus says, "**My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me.**" This image is such a common metaphor for us that we may never give it a second thought. Since this image is used so frequently by the prophets and Jesus we should take some time to apply this comparison to our lives.

Unless we've grown up on a farm, we may not be familiar with the **life of sheep. Sheep require much care.** The shepherd knows where the rich fields are and tries to lead the sheep to the best fields. A shepherd must lead them to their summer fields and to their winter fields so that they will be **properly nourished.** A shepherd must labor to **keep his flock together.** The sheep can be independent minded and thinking they know more than the shepherd and may try to go off on their own. If a sheep becomes separated from the flock it risks **starvation, being trapped on a mountain or attack from wild animals.** Sheep quickly become accustomed to the **voice of the shepherd** and know when to follow because the shepherd will lead them to **safety.** A good shepherd will **leave the 99** in search of the lost sheep. In fact the good shepherd will lay down his life for his sheep.

There are many parallels to **our** life of discipleship. The **Shepherd** of our flock is Jesus. The **voice** of Jesus leads us and protects us. Because Jesus would not be present here on earth after the Ascension he gave us the Apostles and their successors, today's **bishops** as shepherds. What does a bishop carry in procession but a **crozier**, or shepherd's staff in order to remind us of his role as shepherd? In a very special way Christ gave us Peter and the Successor of Peter, **the Pope**, to be our visible head on earth. The Pope is our **chief shepherd on earth** because he represents Christ on earth. He is the vicar, or deputy of Christ.

One way to accustom ourselves to the voice of the Shepherd is through daily prayer. Jesus says "**My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me.**" Can I say that I hear the voice of Jesus? I find in prayer that we are very good at asking God for assistance. When we have a **health crisis, a financial need or a relationship issue** we turn to God. But how good are we at stopping to listen to the voice of God? **Do I know the voice of the Shepherd?** How often do I consult God about my marriage, my job, my children, or my health? The Good Shepherd wants to speak to us on a daily basis. **Am I listening?**

It is important for sheep to stay nourished. The shepherd tries to lead them to the best of fields. Prayer and study ensure that we can remain **nourished.** We can stay attuned to the voice of the shepherd by reading the **words of life of Jesus in the Bible.** We can read also **spiritual books and journals.** These are the rich fields of plenty that the shepherd leads us to. Is our relationship with Christ the most important thing in our life? Does what we read and talk about reflect this? Do we devote time and energy to growing in this relationship with the Shepherd?

There is one **glaring difference** in the whole analogy of the sheep and the shepherd, however. Most shepherds eventually **eat their sheep.** Our Shepherd gives up His very Body to **feed us. Our Shepherd has laid down his life for his sheep. This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper!** Truly we serve the **Good Shepherd!**

-Fr. Tim McKeown

RCIA class will be a dinner **Monday, April 22** in the Narthex at 7 p.m.

Our **Young Catholics** (18-35, single or married) meet each Friday night. Please contact Rob Sadowski for the schedule. Phone - (912)230-4863 or email [robertsadowski@yahoo.com](mailto:robertsadowski@yahoo.com)

**That Man is You!** For more information contact Deacon Chris at [csadowski@bellsouth.net](mailto:csadowski@bellsouth.net)

We have contributed \$49,646 of our \$67,829 goal for the **Annual Catholic Appeal** which puts us at 69%. If you have not yet made your pledge please do so this week!

### **Adult Bible Study**

Sundays in the St. Anne Room Meets between 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Please come join us!

### **Our High School Youth Group**

meets on Wednesdays in the Narthex from 3:30 until 7:30. Please come and join us. Snacks, games and homework starting at 3:30 pm. Group activities at 4:30 pm. Dinner served at 5:15 pm. Spiritual lesson at 6:00 pm. Holy Mass at 7:00 pm in Church.

### **Keep in touch with us via text!**

Mass times, ministry updates, & more delivered to your phone TO SIGN UP, TEXT **SFX150 TO 84576**

SIGN UP ONLINE AT: [stfrancisxaviercatholic2.flocknote.com](http://stfrancisxaviercatholic2.flocknote.com)

At the **Saturday Vigil Mass on April 20**, we welcomed our candidates (those already validly baptized) into the Catholic Church through Profession of Faith, Confirmation and First Communion. These six candidates have been studying the Faith in RCIA since August. We congratulate them for their example of Faith!

**ST. VINCENT  
de PAUL**

**FOOD PANTRY  
REQUESTS**

Baked Beans,  
Cereal, Stove top  
stuffing



**Confirmation Mass**

May 7th at 6 p.m.

**First Communion**

**Mass May 11th at  
10 a.m.**



**Knights of Columbus State Charity Raffle:** The 2023-2024 Charity Raffle to benefit both statewide and local charities is now being held through the end of April. **Up to 70% of the proceeds from local ticket sales will be used to fund improvements to the parking area between SFX church and the school.** The prizes are: 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$5,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$2,500; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$1,000. Tickets may be obtained from members of the Knights of Columbus – 1 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. Tickets will be available after most weekend masses. Winners will be drawn on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Georgia Knights of Columbus Convention. For tickets or more information, call Don Heinecke at 912-577-8722.

## MASS INTENTIONS

April 20 - 28

### **Saturday, April 20**

5:00 p.m. † John Trinidad

7:00 p.m. † Carol Malek

*(at Jekyll United Methodist Church)*

### **Sunday, April 21**

8:30 a.m. † Jim Holland

11:00 a.m. † Mary, Effie & Preston  
Blanchard & Helen Watkins

6:00 p.m. (Spanish) Efrain Lopez (int.)

### **Monday, April 22**

Noon † Carol Malek

### **Tuesday, April 23**

Noon † Theresa & George Smith &  
† Mary Ellen Van Vactor

### **Wednesday, April 24**

7 p.m. † John LaNeve

### **Thursday, April 25**

8 a.m. Dorcas-Ehlman Families

### **Friday, April 26**

8 a.m. † Elvia Palacios

### **Saturday, April 27**

5:00 p.m. Nick & Mary Faust

7:00 p.m. † Charles Lennon

*(at Jekyll † United Methodist Church)*

### **Sunday, April 28**

8:30 a.m. Emma Lou Abel

11:00 a.m. † Renata Silvia Simone

6:00 p.m. (Spanish) † Maria Mendez &  
Rafael & Rafael Rojas

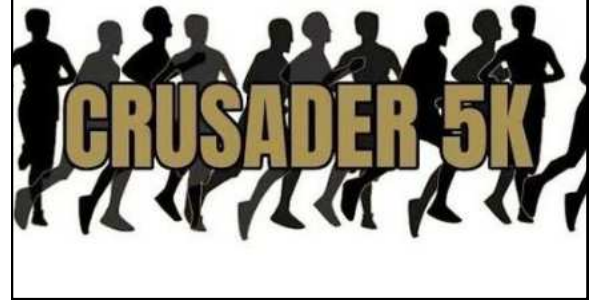
Do you pay most of your bills online? You can donate to SFX online through Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) on our website.

Would you prefer to receive your bulletin each week via email? Go to [www.DM.CHURCH/4324](http://www.DM.CHURCH/4324) or you can scan the code on the back of the bulletin.

2024 Mass Intention book is open. If you are interested in having some Masses said for a loved one, contact Ann in the office. You can call, email or stop by. Suggested donation is \$10 per Mass.

If your baby or toddler is feeling restless, the **Narthex** is open with a **live video and audio feed**. There are about 25 seats available. There is also a room located at the back of the Church you can go to.

**May 18** starting at  
7:30 a.m. in front  
of the school



<https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Brunswick/StFrancisCrusader5k>

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School is hosting the Second Annual Crusader 5k Run and Fun Run. We are excited to encourage movement and promote health and fitness to the community. This event is for all levels of fitness. While the run/walk itself will be fun, the 5k will be professionally timed, with awards to each age group. The Crusader Run will begin and end near St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in downtown Brunswick. All proceeds from the Crusader Run will help support the funding of the new parking lot.

## **St. Francis Xavier School**



**2023/24  
Principal  
&  
Assistant  
Principal**



**Annemarie Marr**

**Katie O'Connor**

**St. Francis Xavier Staff email addresses and exts.**

**912-265-3249**

Fr. Tim, **Pastor**: tmckeown@diosav.org ext. 302

Fr. Esteban, **Associate Pastor**: emallar@diosav.org, ext. 303

Ann, **Office Manager**: annbuebel@yahoo.com, ext. 301

**Deacon** Chris Sadowski, csadowski@bellsouth.net, ext. 305

Nalleli, **Hispanic Ministry**: SFXHispanicMinistry@gmail.com, ext. 402

Kathy, **Finance Director**: kwood@sfxcs.org, ext. 401

Deacon Dr. Mermann, **Principal**: tmermann@sfxcs.org, **912-265-9470**