



The Gospel reading today is part of an extended discourse by the Johannine Jesus about how he acts toward the Johannine Christians and those who follow in their footsteps. These present and future disciples are portrayed as sheep. In the part of the discourse heard today Jesus communicates who he is to Christians who are most in need.

The image of sheep is an apt one for Christians who are being threatened with expulsion from the synagogue, because the Johannine Christians appear to be largely Jewish Christians for whom synagogue represents fellowship with their larger community (9:22; 12:42; 16:2). Ostracism is extremely difficult because humans are thoroughly social creatures. Losing the associations of a lifetime can be traumatic. This is why the image of the Johannine Christians as sheep is so appropriate.

Ethologists (scientists who study animal behavior) tell us that dogs and sheep were two of the first kinds of animals to be domesticated. This occurred thousands of years ago in the case of sheep. We are also told that sheep have lost any possibility for survival out in the wild. They have no natural defenses.

Today's Gospel reading shows who Jesus is when people are most vulnerable. Jesus meets them in their high degree of vulnerability with a higher degree of commitment to them. Four times in the course of the short nine verses of today's Gospel Jesus declares that he will lay down his life for his sheep (10: 11, 13, 17, 18). The result will be eternal life for Christians exposed to danger. The repetitions of the assurance that Jesus gives his life freely for the safety and welfare of his sheep are soothing for those in difficult situations. Some things need to be said again and again in order to provide relief from daily rebuffs.

*Scripture Reflections and Commentaries by  
Msgr. Ralph Kuehner and Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis*

#### Readings for the Week of May 3, 2009

Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18
Monday	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday	Acts 12:24—13:5a; Ps 67; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday	Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89; Jn 13:16-20
Friday	Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday	Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

**If you are interested** in understanding more fully what we believe as Catholics, a sixteen lesson Basic Catholic Catechism Home Study Course will be offered covering the essentials of the Catholic faith in a systematic and comprehensive way. Written by the late Jesuit Father John A. Hardon, this challenging home study course is open to everyone. It will help you grow to a deeper knowledge and love of Christ and His Church. Study is done independently then participants meet twice a month to review the questions and answers and engage in a lively discussion of the lesson. An informational meeting will be held at St. Ann's Parish Center on May 13, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Course materials will be explained and will be available for purchase. For more information or to register, contact Freddie Lampl @ 868-2325, Viv Sullivan @ 868-9865 or Mary Eichhold @ 863-3345.

**The Benefits:** Adult education at home; participation in the New Evangelization as requested by our late Holy Father Pope John Paul II; greater confidence in knowledge of your Catholic faith; deeper love for the Lord.

**JOIN US for a EUCHARISTIC MISSION May 25-28, 2009 here at St. Ann Catholic Church.** The Mission will be presented by Father Chuck Zmudzinski, CPM Fathers of Mercy. Confessions will be heard at 6:30-6:50 p.m. each night and after the conference each night. Conference talks each night at 7 p.m. May 25-28<sup>th</sup>. Please join us in prayer as we anticipate the Feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord. For more information on the Fathers of Mercy visit them on the web at : [www.fathersofmercy.com](http://www.fathersofmercy.com).

**ST. ANN BRIDGE CLUB** needs two women players. If you are interested in playing bridge on the St. Ann Bridge Club please call the parish office for more information.

**The St. Ann Youth Group** needs large shoeboxes for Vacation Bible School. Please help us out and bring your shoeboxes to church. There is a container in the vestibule to collect them. We are hoping for 100 participants this year, and so we need 100 shoeboxes! Please help!

**Laying down our lives** The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. This theme is found also in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) On the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a man fell in with robbers. A priest and a Levite came by, but did not stop to help. Despite their knowledge of the Law and Prophets, they walked right by. Why?

One of the reasons may be that they were afraid. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is a dangerous road. Because of its numerous steep curves, it lends itself to attacks by robbers who can easily hide not too far from their victims. Perhaps the priests and Levites who passed by that man asked themselves, "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me? Maybe the robbers who attacked him are still here. Maybe they're hiding just around the bend. This is a dangerous road. I better keep going."

Sometimes we ask the same question. If, for example, I speak up too loudly about the victims of abortion, what will happen to me? Will I face persecution, will I encounter opposition, will I lose popularity if I get involved in a cause like this?

And then the Good Samaritan came along, and he reversed the question. He didn't ask, "If I help this man, what will happen to me?" The Good Samaritan asked, "If I do not help this man, what will happen to him?" And that's the question for us. If I do not address this evil, what will happen to the unborn? If I do not get involved, what will happen to those who are vulnerable, to those who are marginalized our society, those who are oppressed, those who have no one to speak for them?

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**This Week in our Parish**

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass  
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes  
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass  
**Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting  
**Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:00 p.m. Rosary Society meeting in Parish offices  
**Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul  
**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 6-8:00 p.m. Pack 907  
**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 a.m. St. Ann's Walking Group (parking lot)  
 3:30-4:30 p.m. Confessions  
 4:40 p.m. Rosary  
**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass  
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes  
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass

**ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS** The May Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 PM. After saying the Rosary at the shrine we will have a meeting in the Parish Center. Mark this date!! You might want to bring a chair for the saying of the Rosary. See you then.

**May Altar** –Many of you have beautiful flowers in your yard, please feel free to place them or purchased flowers on the Mary Altar. Mark your vases and they will be returned to you. Hope many of you will share your flowers with Mary.

**Spring Raffle**- The ticket for the raffle were mailed out the past week. If you need more just call 863-1700.

**SAVE THE DATE: St. Ann Catholic Church Family Fun Day**  
**Saturday, May 16, 2009**

*Congratulations to those who made their First Holy Communion on Sunday April 26, 2009.*



- Blake Adelsperger
- Alexandria Bigham
- Jack Bionda
- Andrew Bushman
- Maria Carter
- Dionys Del Rosario
- Andrew Enderle
- Max Ficker
- Tyler Gambrell
- Emily Hare
- Sydney Hauser
- Stephanie Jackson
- Amanda Maurits
- Abigail Middendorf
- Eric Nascimento
- Hannah Nugent
- Elizabeth Reif
- Angela Richmond
- Colleen Schindler
- Elizabeth Skillen
- Charles Smith



**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
 5:00 p.m. Eugene & Annette Pater  
**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
 8:00 a.m. Tess Fontaine (Mary Lou Cox)  
 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People  
**Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** **Easter Weekday**  
 7:15 a.m. Geraldine Greco (Lou & Liz Colantuono)  
**Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** **Easter Weekday**  
 7:15 a.m. Special Intention  
**Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** **Easter Weekday**  
 7:15 a.m. Walter K. Heermann-Birthday Remembrance (Roberta)  
**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** **Easter Weekday**  
 7:15 a.m. Communion Service  
 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton  
**Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** **Easter Weekday**  
 8:00 a.m. Thomas Pottenger (Michael Hingsbergen)  
**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** **Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
 7:30 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant  
 5:00 p.m. Mary Ellen Solazzo (Family)  
**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** **Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
 8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Lillian & Tony LoBuono on their 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
 10:30 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
04/26/2009	\$ 7,569.50
Additional Easter Collection	\$ 65.00
Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 509,096.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 412,409.35

**ATTENTION ST. ANN PARISHIONERS:** During the month of May the Rosary will be led each evening at 7:00 p.m. in front of the shrine outside church by a parishioner. Prayer leaders are needed for each of these sessions. There is a sign up calendar posted by the front doors which lists all the days available for those who would like to lead the Rosary. We hope everyone will join us! Thank you.

**DR J. C. WILLKE**, founder of the Right to Life Movement, Lecturer and Author, will speak at Sacred Heart Church in Fairfield on Monday, May 11, at 7:00 PM. He will update us on the issues that doctors and nurses are facing on right to conscience and he will update us on Stem Cell issues. Mark your calendar... plan to attend ...free admission...free-will offering.

**5K RUN/WALK FOR LIFE** plus 1-Mile Family Fun Walk, Saturday, May 9, 2009, 8:30 a.m., Winton Woods-Harper Meadows' shelter. A fun morning for all ages including music, awards, door prizes, and picnic. \$25 per individual; \$45 per family of 3 or more; teams \$15 each 3 or more sending pre-registrations at same time. Good Samaritan Hospital Title Sponsor; proceeds for Cincinnati Right to Life. See www.5krun4life.org or call 513-728-7870. Come celebrate LIFE!

**Today's the last day** to turn in your Wildtree order forms to the collection basket or you can turn them in Monday to the school office. This fundraiser will be used to purchase much-needed technology items for the school.

**St. Ann's PAC Golf Outing at Hueston Woods** Saturday, May 9th : 1:00 p.m. Shotgun start: Cost: \$65.00 man / \$260 team:\$5.00 skin optional. . For more information or reservations, call Dick Cepluch 863-6319 or cell 616-4535.