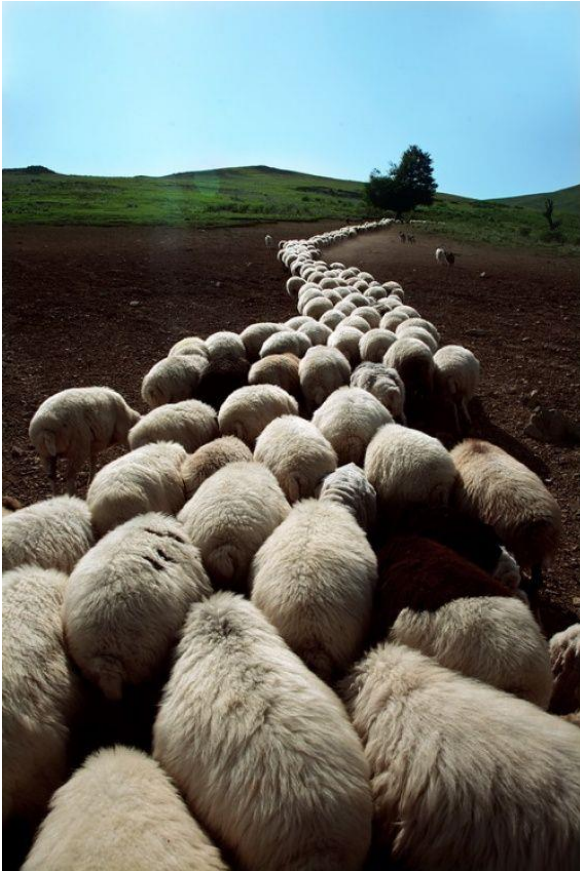




# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY May 7 & BEYOND**

## **The Abundant Life of Sheep**



The readings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter always illustrate how Jesus fulfills the image of the Good Shepherd that runs through the Bible, and this year's gospel reading (John 10:1-10) focuses on how the sheep hear his voice and follow. To fully appreciate what Jesus is saying, we need to understand that sheep have an incredibly strong instinct to follow their "friends," which allows shepherds to move huge herds by getting just a handful moving in the right direction. This is where the popular belief that sheep are dumb comes from, but that's a misconception – because while they're not exactly dolphins, sheep aren't necessarily dumb; they're just easily distracted.

Consequently, it's also hard to keep their attention, because if they don't find what they're looking for, they'll stop following. They follow shepherds because once the shepherd gets their attention, they immediately follow up with a sign of their "friendship," like some food or a treat. Over time the sheep become especially tuned to his voice because they know that he has what they're looking for.

What is it that Jesus has given that His sheep hear and follow? Life – He tells us that He came that we may have life, and have it abundantly. That's what we're all looking for, and since no one else can offer it, Jesus says that all who came before him were thieves and robbers—and He's not just talking about people here. There are a lot of other "voices" in the world competing for our attention and trying to get us to follow; things like wealth, pleasure, power, honor, family, health, and so on.

Jesus wants us to see that even though these are all good things, they're not life-giving in themselves. Whatever "life" they feed or offer us, means they're stealing from some other part of our lives. There are countless examples of people who have become so focused on something that it's destroyed everything else in their life. When we let Jesus lead us, those same things become life-giving because He infuses them with His own divine life, so instead of having one good thing at the expense of another, we have life in abundance.

Those voices are all still out there, so it's important that we take time every day to listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd. In reading the gospels or some other spiritual reading, we can let ourselves be drawn to Him and be fed by Him. It's also helpful to pay attention to the other "voices" that have gotten or tried to get your attention. What were they offering that attracted you? What were they trying to feed you?

Father McQueen

## CALENDAR

SUNDAY:           8:00a Low Mass (Church)  
                      9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)  
                      10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue*—

*Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

MONDAY           7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY:        Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

THURSDAY       6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY:           9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)  
                      9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)