



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

*"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."*

**Our Vision:** *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

**THIS SUNDAY — May 11th, 2025**

**“Shepherded to Life”**



## **Being Shepherded to Life**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is usually known as “Good Shepherd Sunday” because the readings on this coming Sunday all point to God and His Christ as the Good Shepherd, whose beloved sheep we have become through His loving grace.

I remember I served a low-income countryside church named The Good Shepherd in Cuba for about four years. Though they barely had resources to sustain their parish, the celebration of their patronal feast on this Sunday was a great event for them. There was always an abundance of food, joy, and grace, and they even used to invite the members of a nearby parish to celebrate with them!

The image of God and His beloved Son Jesus as the Good Shepherd has inspired artists and musicians throughout the centuries, giving us wonderful artistic representations of the Good Shepherd, and beautiful musical renderings of Psalm 23.

Shepherding was a common activity in the world where Jesus lived, and the Old Testament has several references to God as the Good Shepherd, and also to the leaders of Israel as not always being the good shepherds they had been called to be for their people.

It is only natural, then, that Jesus Himself made use of these well-known images in His sayings, to refer to Himself, and to the “so-called” leaders of the people in His time. It is also significant to notice that since the beginning of Christianity Jesus was identified as the sacrificial

Lamb of God “who takes away the sins of the world.”, thus making reference to the continual Jewish sacrifices of lambs which—conversely—were never able to really take them away.

In this respect, we could figuratively say that Jesus is the Lamb of God on one side, and the Good Shepherd on the other—whether it is the front or the back side in each case is of no relevance. Likewise, we could say that we—His followers—are also His sheep on one side and shepherds on the other, since we are all called to heed His voice leading us to eternal life, but are also called to lead others to Him.

One essential thing to always remember, though, is that the sheep—whether we ourselves or those we are leading to Him—are always His, not ours.

Last Sunday we had the Gospel reading in which Jesus has the conversation with Peter to fully restore His loving relationship with him. Each time Peter replies that he loves Jesus, what Jesus commands to Peter is “to feed, or tend His sheep”—not Peter’s sheep, but Jesus’ sheep.

In a world where personal importance through the accumulation of material wealth, prestige, or fame has become the greatest of all idols, it is more relevant than ever to mark Jesus’ words: “tend My sheep, feed My sheep.” Spiritual leaders are more than ever prone to fall into the temptation to let themselves be idolized. But the only way to be a good spiritual leader is to point solely to Him who—according to John’s heavenly vision in the Book of Revelation—is the Lamb “at the center of the throne (who) will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

May we always be counted among those described in the vision!

*Fr. Carlos, Rector*

### **Readings for *the Fourth Sunday of Easter***

**Acts 9:36-43 + Revelation 7:9-17 + John 10:22-30 + Psalm 23**

## CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10:00 AM. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

**SUNDAY May 11, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**

Ages 5 - 12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

**Christian Formation for Adults (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)**

Youth and adults around Noon after the Mass in the Library

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

### OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

[www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

[www.edsd.org](http://www.edsd.org)