



4th SUNDAY of EASTER YEAR B – April 22, 2018

Today, on this fourth Sunday of Easter, we have a host of things that call for our attention. It is the National Day of Prayer for vocations and we ask you to make time each day to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. There is a prayer for vocations provided by our local Serra Club in the back of our hymnals and we invite you to use that prayer each time you come to Mass.

Every morning, we have a group of people who pray in the tabernacle room for all kinds of intentions, including vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We invite you to join them. It isn't necessary for you to be present with them, but it is important that we all pray for vocations.

This Sunday is also Good Shepherd Sunday. We are reminded that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and he wants all of us to remember everything he said and everything he did for us. He continues to love us even after he died on the cross and rose from the dead. He gave us the Eucharist and asks us to remember him each time we receive Communion.

And finally, as you know from the information you received in the mail, the Bishop's Annual Appeal is now in progress.

While it is called the Bishop's Annual Appeal, not a penny of the appeal goes to the bishop. A small percentage (6 to 8%) goes to the running of the appeal and all the rest goes to the beneficiaries who are identified in the information you received in the mail.

Years ago, we used to show a video here in church. That video is now available on the internet and the picture and sound are much better than anything we can do here in church (<https://faithhopecharitygives.org/>). Please pray for the success of the appeal each day. I don't know what you can contribute to the appeal this year. Only you know that. Our parish goal this year is 142,000 dollars. 113 of our parishioners have already made their pledge and it's up to the rest of us to help the cause. Collectively we can do what can't be done by our parish alone. It means a lot to those who need our help.

Prayerfully reflect on what you can do to help our brothers and sisters. Make a decision to pray for vocations every day and reflect on what Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, means to you..

