

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
Psalm 23
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord Is My Shepherd

This is the last weekend in the Liturgical Year A. The following Sunday, 29th November marks the beginning of Advent and Liturgical Year B. This last Sunday of the Year, therefore, is special because it reminds us that there will also be a Last Day in human history when Christ, Our King, will return in glory, “So that God may be all in all,” as the Second Reading tells us.

In the **First Reading** the prophet Ezekiel has just criticized the kings of Israel for not being good shepherds to their people so the Lord Himself, the Good Shepherd *par excellence*, tells them that He will shepherd them instead. The Good Shepherd will rescue His sheep no matter how much they may have strayed or been scattered, and He will tend them as a shepherd ought to tend his flock. He will make them to lie down in green pastures, He will lead them beside still waters, He will guard them and care for the sick and injured. The Lord warns, however, that the kings who have grown fat and strong at the expense of their flocks and forgotten that they too are but sheep of the Good Shepherd, shall be destroyed. Anything which endangers the flock will be destroyed. The Lord reminds the flock that they too will be judged. The Good Shepherd does all this for good of His sheep.

In the **Second Reading** St. Paul outlines the process which began with Christ's Resurrection from the dead and continues until the end of time when “God may be all in all.” Christ's Resurrection was just the beginning of the first fruits. Adam's Fall condemns us all to death while Christ's Resurrection restores us to life. His Resurrection is a testimony that those who believed in Him will also rise to New Life. At the Last Judgment, every human being will be raised from the dead, good and evil alike, and judged by Our Lord in the sight of all. The powers which Jesus destroys, including death itself, are all the evils which afflict Creation. We shall never have to fear those evils again because they will have been overthrown by Christ once and for all. Then, with His Kingdom purged of all evil and securely established for all eternity, Jesus Christ will it return to the Heavenly Father and with Him the faithful whom He has gathered in.

In the **Gospel** we hear, in Our Lord's words, what the Last Judgment will be like. At the end of time everyone, living or dead, will stand before the Judge and be evaluated on their charity. The Golden Rule, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” receives an added incentive: What you do unto others you are also doing to the Lord himself. Love for neighbor is not just ethically and morally right, it is also the way by which our love for God is manifested. All humankind will be judged on both love for God and for neighbor. Sometimes the Good Shepherd hides His face among people whom we are trying so desperately to love. Many saints throughout history knew this and so persevered in loving nasty, offensive, cruel and ungrateful people because they knew that in so doing, they were loving Our Lord and showing those people just how much

God loved them too. We may not feel the love, but we must persevere in charity towards them based on a deeper spiritual conviction that it is the right thing to do and a necessary path by which to manifest our love for God. As we enter the 4-week period of Advent next Sunday, 29th November, we shall yet again have new opportunities to demonstrate this love for God and neighbor in attending Mass more often, in purging our sins in the Blood of Christ by going to Confession on **Saturday, 28th November** (see Parish Bulletin for times), in offering a gift of food to the local Food Bank or of clothing to the less fortunate among us (see Parish Bulletin for details of the Project Christmas Child & the Donation of Hats, Mitts, and Scarves), in extending a helping hand to shut-ins this Christmas by taking someone out to lunch or in bringing lunch into them, in giving them a food or gift basket. For whenever you do an act of charity for the least among you, my friend, remember that you are doing it also for the Lord.

Caring for the Hurting

Patricia L Miller, a former hospital staff person, writes: While at work in the emergency room, I



*As often as you did it for one
of my least brothers, you did
it for me.*

learned to stop crying at the pain around me. Each day it seemed as if I were becoming more insensitive to people and to the real needs. Five years of emergency room exposure had taken its toll. Then God intervened. I was taking information for registering a young woman who had overdosed on drugs and had attempted suicide. Her mother sat before me as I typed the information into the computer. The mother was unkempt and bleary-eyed. She had been awakened in the middle of the night by the police to come to the hospital. She could only

speak to me in a whisper. *Hurry up*, I said to myself as she slowly gave me the information. My impatience was raw as I finished the report and jumped to the machine to copy the medical cards. That's when God stopped me - at the copy machine. He spoke to my heart so clearly: *You didn't even look at her*. He repeated it gently: *You didn't even look at her*. I felt his grief for her and for her daughter, and I bowed my head. *I'm sorry, Lord. I am so sorry*. I sat down in front of the distraught woman and covered her hands with mine. I looked into her eyes with all the love that God could flood through me and said, "I care. Don't give up." She wept and wept. She poured her heart out to me about the years of dealing with a rebellious daughter as a single woman. Finally, she looked up and thanked me. Me. . . the cold-hearted one with no feelings. My attitude changed that night. My Jesus came right into the workplace in spite of rules that tried to keep him out. He came in to set me free to care again. He gave himself to that woman through me. My God, who so

loved the world, broke that self-imposed barrier around my heart. Now he could reach out, not only to me in my pain, but to a lost and hurting women.¹

Where can you go this weekend to Mass? Here are the attendance numbers from last weekend Check it out!			
	SHJ – 5pm Saturday	SJM - 9:15am Sunday	SFA – 11am Sunday
	14 November	15 November	15 November
Placements Available in Church Each Weekend	16	47	16
Parishioners Who Attended Last Weekend	25	59	29
Placements Still Open Last Weekend	3	12	0



Face coverings are now mandatory.

Weekdays

- If you are unable to make it to Mass on Saturday or Sunday, don't forget that we also have a weekday Mass at 9 a.m. in St Francis, Frankford every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Before setting out, however, be sure to check the Weekly Parish Bulletin, which is sent with this newsletter, because weekday Mass schedules can sometimes change!

Weekends

- The doors of the church open 30 minutes before the start of Mass.
- Seating is on the basis of first-come-first-seated.

¹ Citation: Patricia L. Miller, adapted from Pentecostal Evangel (10-15-00, pp. 9-11)

- Upon arriving at the church, please let the usher know how many people are in your group.

Parish Financial Support



Thank you for continuing to help our Parish through these difficult times with both your prayers and generous donations. Your contribution will help to ensure that the Parish can cover its present financial obligations until we are able to resume offering full capacity seating at all our Masses and liturgies.

Here are now 6 ways to donate:

1. Set up an automatic deposit to the Parish bank account – this can be done by calling the Parish at 613-398-6745.
2. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the Office at 288 Riverside Parkway, Frankford, and leave it in the small black mailbox to the right of the door.
3. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the St James Church at 236 Edward Street, Stirling, and leave it in the black mailbox to the left of the main door.
4. Send an e-transfer from your account to St Francis of Assisi Parish at email assisifrankford@gmail.com. Then email us at assisi@sympatico.ca to let us know (a) the password which you have chosen for us to access the donation, (b) your first and family names, address, telephone number, and the number on your regular Sunday donation envelope (if you do not have one, let us know that, too).
5. Mail your donation to St Francis of Frankford, ON K0K 2C0
6. At Mass in the Collection Box



Assisi Parish, PO Box 339,