

## Our Lady of the Desert



15385 Pierce Ferry Road  
(Poste de milla número 4)  
P.O. Box 337, Dolan Springs AZ 86441  
Teléfono: (928) 767-3397

**Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,  
Administrador Parroquial**

**Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial  
Confesión el Sábado:**

Por cita en (Español y Inglés)

**Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima  
Virgen Maria—3:20pm**

**Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.**

**Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima  
Virgen Maria— 9:40am**

**Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.**

### Liturgia en los Días de la Semana

**Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli**

**Lunes: Adoración 7:30am y Misa a las 8:00am**

**Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:**

Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

**Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz  
con Adoración**

**Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am**

**Misa en Honor de Virgen María**



## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." - Jn 10:14-15

"Yo soy el buen pastor, porque conozco a mis ovejas y ellas me conocen a mí, así como el Padre me conoce a mí y yo conozco al Padre. Yo doy la vida por mis ovejas". - Jn 10, 14-15

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## April 21st, 2024

**Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator  
Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar**

### **Confession on Saturday:**

By appointment English/Spanish

**Saturday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary - 3:20pm**

**Saturday Mass (Vigil): English -4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary—9:40am**

**Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am**

### **Liturgy of the Weekdays**

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

**Monday: 7:30am Adoration & Mass 8:00am**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:**

**Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am**

**Friday: At 6:00pm Rosary of Queen of Peace with  
Adoration**

**Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass  
In Honor of the Virgin Mary**

Reflection for Fourth Sunday of Easter : Year B  
Fourth Sunday of Easter – April 21, 2024  
Fr. Matthew Duclos

*Readings: Acts 4:8–12 • Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28, 29 • 1 John 3:1–2 • John 10:11–18* [bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/042124.cfm](http://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/042124.cfm)

I used to be a babysitter for several young children when I was a teenager. I took the certification classes, I knew basic first aid, I was comfortable with the parents, and I landed a few babysitting jobs and had the opportunity to earn a few dollars. And although I did indeed care about the children I babysat and we had some fun playing games, I obviously could never be a replacement for their parents. In that sense, I was the “hired man” to take care of the child.

This weekend is known as “Good Shepherd Sunday” because of the images in today’s Gospel. Jesus uses the terms “good shepherd” and “hired man” to clarify the relationship he has with his flock, a flock that includes you and me. Just as the babysitter is by no means a substitute for a parent, a hired man is no substitute for a good shepherd.

What’s the difference? In the babysitting situation, it’s the parent who has true love for the child, they’re raising the child, they have finances invested in the child, they’re educating the child. With a babysitter, although they certainly care for the child, there’s a limit to their involvement. They’re most likely not going to be there at the child’s wedding or dropping them off at college.

Jesus, depicted as the Good Shepherd, epitomizes the profound intimacy between the divine and human. His knowledge of his sheep extends far beyond mere acquaintance; it delves into the depths of our being, encompassing our joys and sorrows, our triumphs and struggles. This intimate knowledge echoes the divine intimacy shared within the Holy Trinity itself, where God the Father’s knowledge of Jesus the Son transcends mere awareness to a profound understanding of his essence. Likewise, Jesus intimately knows each one of us, from the intricate complexities of our hearts to the smallest details of our lives. His love for us surpasses our comprehension, embracing us in our entirety, flaws and all. In his unwavering devotion, Jesus desires nothing more than for us to remain within the safety of his flock, under his watchful care. His promise to never forsake us stands as a testament to his boundless love and mercy, offering solace and reassurance in the midst of life’s uncertainties.

In contrast to the steadfast devotion of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, a hired man lacks the deep-rooted commitment that characterizes genuine care. When faced with adversity, the hired man’s allegiance falters, and he swiftly abandons his post, leaving the flock vulnerable to danger. The Gospel passage vividly illustrates this as the hired man flees at the mere sight of

a wolf, prioritizing self-preservation over the well-being of the flock. In such moments of crisis, the flock is left scattered, devoid of guidance and protection, gripped by fear and uncertainty. However, Jesus stands in stark contrast to this portrayal, exemplifying unwavering dedication and selflessness. Instead of retreating in the face of adversity, he remains steadfastly by our side, his voice resonating with reassurance and compassion. In times of fear, trouble, grief, or pain, Jesus does not shrink away; rather, he emerges as a beacon of hope and strength, leading us forward with unwavering love and guidance, ensuring that we never walk alone in the journey of life.

John’s letter confirms this relationship between us and God: “See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.” “Beloved, we are God’s children now . . .” What a gift! Being known as a child of God means that we feel the unconditional love of a parent despite the times when we might stray away from that relationship on account of our own sins. God does not abandon us in these moments; rather, he continually leads us back to the one flock with the one shepherd of Jesus Christ.

The relationship that Christ, portrayed as the Good Shepherd, shares with us, his beloved flock, transcends the confines of mere transactional exchanges. Unlike a hired hand whose commitment wanes when faced with adversity or challenge, Christ’s bond with us is characterized by an abundance of grace and unconditional love. His care for us extends far beyond the fulfillment of duties; it is rooted in the profound depths of divine compassion and selflessness. In every interaction, Christ embodies the essence of sacrificial love, tirelessly guiding and nurturing us with unwavering devotion. His presence in our lives serves as a testament to the boundless mercy and compassion that defines his character. As recipients of this immeasurable gift, we are enveloped in the warmth of his love, finding solace and security in his unwavering embrace. In embracing Christ as our Good Shepherd, we discover the true essence of love — a love that knows no bounds and endures through every trial and tribulation.

Let us rest assured in the knowledge that we are cherished and cared for, forever held in the tender embrace of our Good Shepherd.

***Fr. Victor is scheduled  
To be at “Our Lady of the Desert”  
the 4th Sunday of every month. (Dates are subject to change)***



**Gospel Meditation  
Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture**

Recently I was with my little dog Libby at a retreat center in the Arizona desert. I sat in a chair near a ravine filled with shrubs. Unbeknownst to me, Libby wandered down there and disappeared. Suddenly an animal's wild shriek erupted from the area. Without thinking, I bolted down into the ravine fully expecting to see coyotes, javelinas, or rattlesnakes. I didn't care. I desperately wanted to get Libby out of there, without any self-regard. Before I could face whatever danger lay hidden, my dog blissfully trotted out from an entirely different area, utterly unaware that I had (quite heroically) just placed my life on the line.

When the adrenaline wore off, I thought to myself: how far would I have been willing to go to save her? I don't know. But I do know, if I had literally died, my friends and family would have certainly thought me insane for dying for a dog. No offense, Libby.

How passionately Jesus wants us to know him and his willingness to die for us! This week he says, **“I know my own and my own know me,”** and **“I lay down my life for the sheep.”** Here we encounter an insanely excessive love for us. Christianity is a relationship and not simply a religion or ethical code. In Jesus, God rescues and saves us. He laid down his life for you and me — and he has taken it up again. So often we are like Libby — blissfully ignorant of the reality of both our spiritual danger and his saving love. This Easter season, the risen Jesus calls us to be more conscious than ever before about his love. He never ceases to lay down his life for us.

— *Father John Muir*

**Readings for the week of  
April 21, 2024**

**Sunday:**

Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22)/Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

**Monday:**

Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

**Tuesday:**

Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday:**

Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/  
Jn 12:44-50

**Thursday:**

1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/  
Mk 16:15-20

**Friday:**

Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/  
Jn 14:1-6

**Saturday:**

Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/  
Jn 14:7-14

**Next Sunday:**

Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32  
(26a)/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"There is no salvation through anyone else,  
nor is there any other name under heaven  
given to the human race by which we are to be saved."  
(Acts 4:12)

### Psalm:

The stone rejected by the builders has become the  
cornerstone. (Ps 118)

Or: Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

Beloved, we are God's children now;  
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.  
We do know that when it is revealed we shall be  
like him,  
for we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn 3:2)

### Gospel:

Jesus said:  
"I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (Jn 10:11)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus the Good Shepherd knows that real love is an action, not an idea. His sacrifice is the proof of his love for his flock. Let us remember to love one another as the Good Shepherd loves us: not just in words but in actions, in choices, in deeds.

## Observances for the week of April 21, 2024

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations  
**Monday:** Earth Day  
**Tuesday:** St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr  
**Wednesday:** St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr; Administrative Professionals' Day  
**Thursday:** St. Mark, Evangelist  
**Friday:** Arbor Day  
**Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter



## Saint of the week

St. Paschal Baylón was a devout Spanish monk. In his vocation as a lay brother, he worked as a chef, porter, gardener, and official beggar. He often gave so much to the poor that his brothers tried to limit his generosity. Because of his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, he is the Patron Saint of Eucharistic Congresses and Societies.

## Prayer of the Good Shepherd

Dear Lord,  
You are my Shepherd, a Good Shepherd, who leads in ways beyond my understanding. Guide me in the paths You would have me go.  
Amen.

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### The Good Shepherd and the Wolf

I remember very clearly the first movie I watched during my pregnancy with my eldest child. In this film, there is a scene where a young boy is kidnapped and shoved into the back of a van guarded by vicious dogs. His mother persists in trying to free him, even as the dogs snap at her. Their bared teeth and full-throated snarls don't slow her efforts in the slightest.

It wasn't a great movie or even a particularly great scene, but I'll never forget this scene. I'll never forget those dogs.

I had just learned that I was a mother a few days ago. The life growing deep within seemed to me as frail as a whispered secret, but I loved it powerfully. I worried constantly if the baby was safe and healthy. I agonized over signs — real or imagined — that could tell me if the poppyseed-sized child was thriving or failing.

I understood, for the first time in my life, why a woman would charge a pack of attack dogs without hesitation — not because she should, but because she has to.

She could choose not to fight, certainly. She could walk away. But why would she? A future without her son is so much more painful than any physical wound. She may fear for her life, but she fears a life without her child so much more.

The Good Shepherd discourse reveals to us the motivation behind God's actions throughout all of salvation history. From Adam to Noah to Abraham, all the way down to the time of the Messiah and beyond, He keeps trying to get us back. He keeps braving the attack dogs, time after time. He never stops. He never grows weary. And it baffles us: *what's in it for Him?* we wonder, because we are quicker to give up on ourselves than He is. *Why does He keep trying?*

He could choose not to fight, sure. But why would He? He doesn't want a future without us.

*"I will lay down my life for the sheep." — John 10:11*

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

What is unique or different about the way Catholics read and are exposed to the Bible?

#### Answer:

Catholics are exposed to Scripture primarily through the Sunday readings from a book known as the *Lectionary*. The *Lectionary* is a book of selected passages from the Bible set in the context of a liturgical season, such as Advent, Lent, or ordinary time. There are four readings assigned to any Sunday: the first reading (usually from the Old Testament), the responsorial psalm, the second reading (usually from a New Testament letter), and the Gospel reading.

These readings together give them a new context. The selected readings relate to one another in a unique manner that is not present in the Bible text itself. In close proximity to each other, these readings now have the opportunity to converse with each other in a way that would have not been possible before. A homilist pays attention to all four readings, preparing a reflection that speaks of this conversation among the readings, enabling us to zero in on what this unique combination of God's word has to say to us this particular Sunday.

Next time you attend Sunday liturgy, try reading the Scripture ahead of time and see how this new relationship among the readings addresses and challenges you to be a better Christian here and now.

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