



St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church

Father Thomas Hoisington, Pastor

Address: P.O. Box 289 / 430 N. Main / Caldwell, KS 67022

Website: stmartincaldwell.org Phone: 620-845-6763

Email address: stmartinscaldwell@gmail.com

The Fourth Sunday of Easter — April 30, 2023

FROM FATHER HOISINGTON

Jesus focuses in today's Gospel Reading upon "the gate for the sheep". This focus is emphasized by Jesus in the way He introduces His teaching about the gate. He begins: "Amen, amen, I say to you" Here we need to stop and consider this important phrase.

In the Gospel account of St. John, Jesus speaks this phrase—"Amen, amen, I say to you ..."—fifty times. Fifty times Jesus begins an important teaching with this phrase which signals to us just how important the subsequent teaching is. Jesus means these words to be a red flag.

But in today's Gospel Reading, Jesus twice within the span of just seven verses says, "Amen, amen, I say to you" That's more like a red cape being waved in front of a bull. We should consider His point here as so necessary to being His disciple that without hearing and heeding it, we would be lost.

"I am the gate for the sheep." This is what Jesus says the second time He powers up His speech with those strong introductory words: "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep." The first time that He uses those introductory words, He's speaking about the same reality a bit differently: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate, but climbs over elsewhere, is a thief and a robber." The common thread is "the gate", which Jesus identifies with Himself.

This is important for you and me, because Jesus is first emphasizing that we need to be members of a flock, and that we need to enter into this flock through the gate that Jesus Himself is.

But where does this gate that is Jesus lead?

The Good Shepherd carries us through the gate back into the midst of the flock. Jesus returns the stray to its flock so that all one hundred can graze and dwell together. This is an image of the Church. Being a Christian is never just about "me and Jesus". As soon as we try to separate love of God from love of neighbor, we will love neither God nor neighbor as He wants, or as He does. The gate that Jesus speaks about in the Gospel Reading is not simply the Pearly Gate leading into Heaven. We cannot enter through the Pearly Gate into Heaven unless we first enter the Gate into the Church on earth.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

If there is a need for Last Rites or funeral services, call Father Maybrier in Wellington at 620-326-2522 or Father Dugan in Conway Springs at 620-456-2276.

FATHER KAPAUN PILGRIMAGE

The 2023 Father Kapaun Pilgrimage registration just opened for those of you who wish to go on this journey. The Pilgrimage will take place **June 1-4, 2023** beginning in Wichita and ending with Mass and a luncheon in Pilsen. This Pilgrimage is family friendly and open to everyone. If you have any questions please contact Leesa Sandell 562-458-3776. Also, you may visit the following link for more information:

<https://frkapaun.org/pilgrimage/>

MOTHER'S DAY/GRADUATION BRUNCH

After Mass on May 14, enjoy scrumptious breakfast casseroles, homemade cinnamon rolls, filling biscuits & sausage gravy, fresh fruit and more. All are invited. If you know of someone who would like a meal just let us know and we will prepare it "to go". Contact Kathy Blubaugh for any questions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- The Knights of Columbus will meet May 1st at 8:00 pm.
- May 3, 2023 is the next Altar Society Meeting at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Kelsi Regier, Zena Kennedy Schmelzle, Verna Schmidt, Connie Selenke, Mark Schmidt, Jo Ellen Schmidt, Kathy Schmidt, Pat Schmidt, Don Schmitz, Rose Troyer

PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	May 1	Knights of Columbus meeting at 8:00 pm
Wed	May 3	Altar Society Meeting at 6:30 pm
Sat	May 6	Anointing of the Sick after 5:00 pm Mass
Sun	May 7	Anointing of the Sick after 9:00 am Mass
Sun	May 14	Mother's Day & Graduation Brunch
Sat	May 27	Saturday Social after 5:00 pm Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat	May 6	5:00 pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun	May 7	9:00 am Rod Jacobs +

**CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD SATURDAY
AFTERNOONS FROM 4:00-4:30 PM**

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Member of St. Martin of Tours Parish

Pastoral Council: Father Hoisington, Woody Barnes, Dave & Betty Schmidt, Greg Schneider, Arlene Tracy, Cheryl Warner

Finance Council: Father Hoisington, Chris & Kathy Blubaugh, Martin Schmidt, Steve Schmidt, Leo Schmitz

Altar Society: Shawna Schneider, President; Pam Schneider, Treasurer; Lori Barnes, Secretary.

To reserve the hall for groups or individuals: Chris (620-845-0072) or Kathy (620-845-3962) Blubaugh
See the parish website's "Parish Hall" page to see what dates are already reserved.

Bulletin News: The bulletin deadline is Wednesday. Information needs to include specific dates and needs to be worded as it's to appear in the bulletin. Email bulletin items to the parish email address in the bulletin header.

ROSARY LEADERS (Rosary Starts 20 Minutes Before Mass)

Apr 29	Steve Schmidt	Apr 30	Leo Schmitz
May 6	Kathy Blubaugh	May 7	Mark Schmidt
May 13	Chris Blubaugh	May 14	Eric Eaton
May 20	Betsy Klingman	May 21	Don Schmitz
May 27	Steve Schmidt	May 28	Leo Schmitz

LECTORS

Apr 29	Shawna Schneider	Apr 30	Brandi Bandy
May 6	Cheryl Warner	May 7	Eric Eaton
May 13	Woody Barnes	May 14	Leo Schmitz
May 20	Marion Metzinger	May 21	Linc Crampton
May 27	Shawna Schneider	May 28	Brandi Bandy

OFFERTORY

Apr 30	Larry & Louise Lee family
May 7	Shane & Staci Schmidt family
May 14	Eric & Nicole Eaton family
May 21	Linc & Raline Crampton family
May 28	Larry & Louise Lee family

ALTAR SERVERS

Apr 30	Cord & Jhett
May 7	Colt & Harper
May 14	Gabe & Jhett
May 21	Keelen & Asher
May 28	Laila & Cooper

SCOTT HAHN'S REFLECTION

Easter's empty tomb is a call to conversion.

By this tomb, we should know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah, as Peter preaches in today's First Reading.

He is the "Lord," the divine Son that David foresaw at God's right hand (see Psalms 3; 110:1; 132:10-11; and Acts 2:34). And He is the Messiah that God had promised to shepherd the scattered flock of the house of Israel (see Ezekiel 34:11-14, 23; 37:24).

As we hear in today's Gospel, Jesus is that Good Shepherd, sent to a people who were like sheep without a shepherd (see Mark 6:34; Numbers 27:16-17). He calls not only to the children of Israel, but to all those far off from Him—to whomever the Lord wishes to hear His voice.

The call of the Good Shepherd leads to the restful waters of Baptism, to the anointing oil of Confirmation, and to the table and overflowing cup of the Eucharist, as we sing in today's Psalm.

Again on this Sunday in Easter, we hear His voice calling us His own. He should awaken in us the response of those who heard Peter's preaching. "What are we to do?" they cried.

We have been baptized. But each of us goes astray like sheep, as we hear in today's Epistle. We still need daily to repent, to seek forgiveness of our sins, to separate ourselves further from this corrupt generation.

We are called to follow in the footsteps of the Shepherd of our souls. By His suffering He bore our sins in His body to free us from sin. But His suffering is also an example for us. From Him we should learn patience in our afflictions, to hand ourselves over to the will of God.

Jesus has gone ahead, driven us through the dark valley of evil and death. His Cross has become the narrow gate through which we must pass to reach His empty tomb—the verdant pastures of life abundant.