

# Welcome to The Church of the Sacred Heart

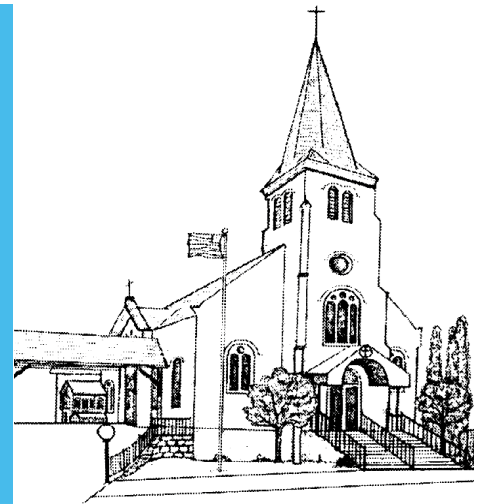
The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

Parish Office / Mailing Address:  
415 West 5th Street

PO Box 45 Rush City, MN 55069

Phone: 320.358.4370 Fax: 866.779.1580 Wey Hall: 320.358.3145

Email: shc415@hotmail.com Website: sacredheartcmn.org



## Weekend & Weekday Masses

Saturday-Temporarily Suspended  
Sunday 9:00 am  
Wednesday 9:00 am

## Private Prayers:

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays-  
8:30-Noon

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Wednesday after 9:00 am Mass  
until Noon

## Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions will be heard by request  
after mass on Wednesdays or  
by appointment.

## Clergy

### Pastor:

Fr. Shane Stoppel-Wasinger

### Assisting Priest:

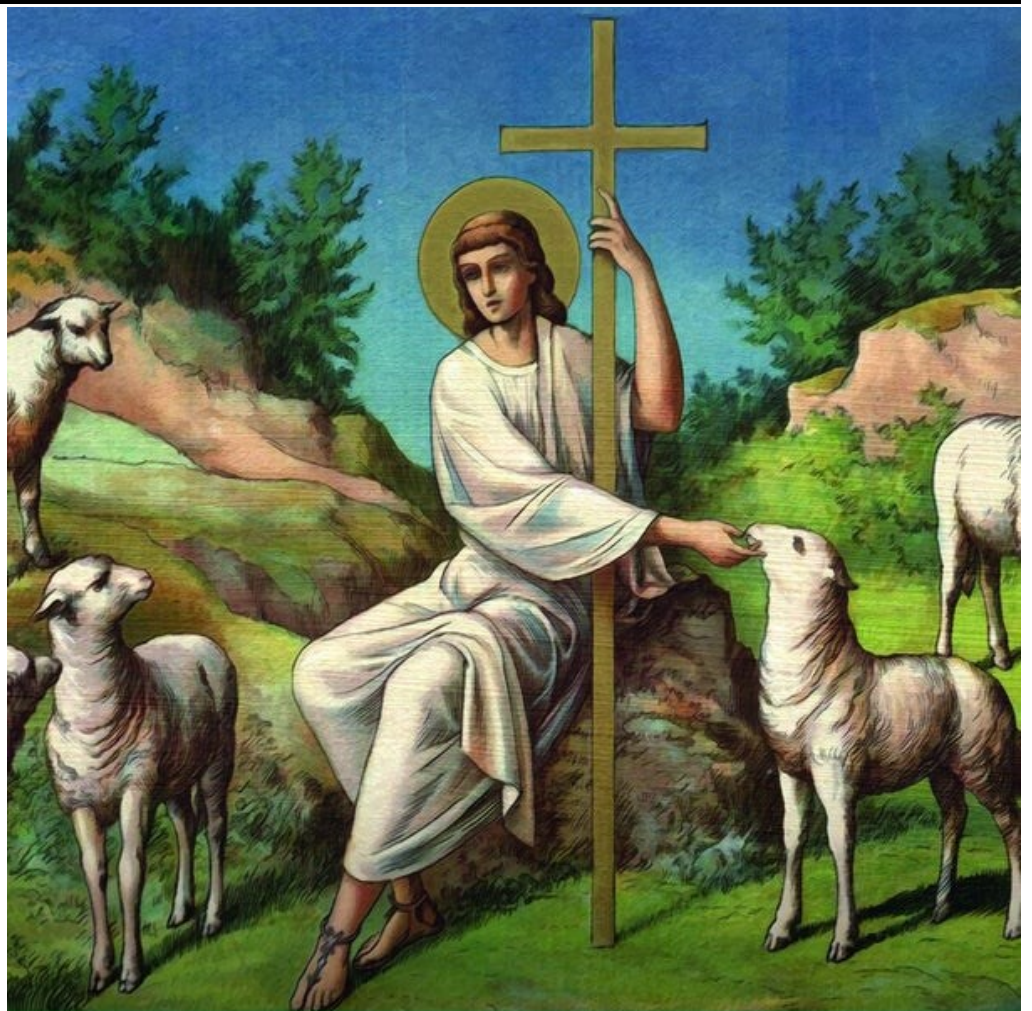
Fr. Chuck Brambilla  
Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald

## Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
8:00 am. - 12:00 pm.

## Parish Staff Contacts

Admin Asst: Marsha Marcussen  
Bookkeeper/ Music: Steve Yurick  
Faith Formation: Claire Kind  
651-674-7382



## 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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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# Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, 2021

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” [John 10:27](#)**

Jesus offers a clear contrast among shepherds. This would apply to priests, parents and all of us in our own unique way. The contrast He offers is between the ones who care deeply for those entrusted to their care, and those who are just going through the motions and are more motivated by selfishness than sacrificial love.

Jesus perfectly manifested sacrificial love as the Divine Shepherd. He was willing to go all the way for us, His sheep. He was willing to sacrifice everything. He did not let suffering, persecution, rejection and the like deter Him from His responsibility of caring for us in a total and complete way. It should inspire us, console us and encourage us to know how deep His love for us really is.

This love is seen, also, in the unwavering love of a parent, sibling, or dear friend. When the love one offers us is unwavering, especially in difficult times, this is a great support. And love offered to another like this forges a deep spiritual bond that is stronger than any hardship we may face. No matter what “wolf” comes our way, we must know of the unwavering support of the Divine Shepherd. And when we can see that love made manifest in the unwavering support of others, we are doubly blessed.

But the contrast should not be ignored either. Jesus gives the example of “a hired man who is not a shepherd” who sees the wolf coming and runs. It’s important to point out how damaging this man is to

the people of God. When he runs from his responsibility and gives into selfish motivation, he leaves the flock untended and vulnerable to attack.

We should see in this hired man the temptation we all inevitably face in life. It’s hard to stick with it through the hard times. It’s hard to be there for those who need us when they need us. It’s hard to be faithful in all things and to never shy away in the face of the temptation of fear.

Jesus offers His unwavering love and support to us as our Shepherd, but He also wants us to return this gift to Him by offering this same unwavering commitment to one another.

Reflect, today, how well you imitate the Good Shepherd. Where you are lacking, let Him shepherd you so that you may shepherd others. Run to the Good Shepherd and trust in His perfect love for you.

*Lord, I thank You for Your unwavering support of me as my Shepherd. And I thank You for those who act as Your instruments of this deep love and commitment. Help me to fulfill my role of shepherding Your people, the people You have placed in my life. May I never run from the glorious responsibility You have called me to. Jesus, I trust in You.*



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life’s questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person’s life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God’s help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

St. Gregory's will have an opening for a bookkeeper this summer. If you or someone you know has bookkeeping experience and would like to work part time, generally one day per week. Please contact Fr. Shane in the parish office.

### **Communion for the homebound**

Dave Prickett is available to bring Communion to those who would like it on Sunday's after mass. Call the office at least 2-3 days prior to the Sunday if you would like communion brought to your home.

### **Catholic Charities Food Distribution**

May 20th will be the next drive up food distribution from 10:00 am until 11:30 am here at Sacred Heart for 60 and older. Further questions please contact the Parish office.

If you or a loved one are ill in any way and would like to have your name included on the Prayer Chain, the Sunday Prayers of the Faithful and/or the bulletin contact the Parish office. Permission from the individual must be given before we can list their name in the Prayers of the Faithful or the bulletin.

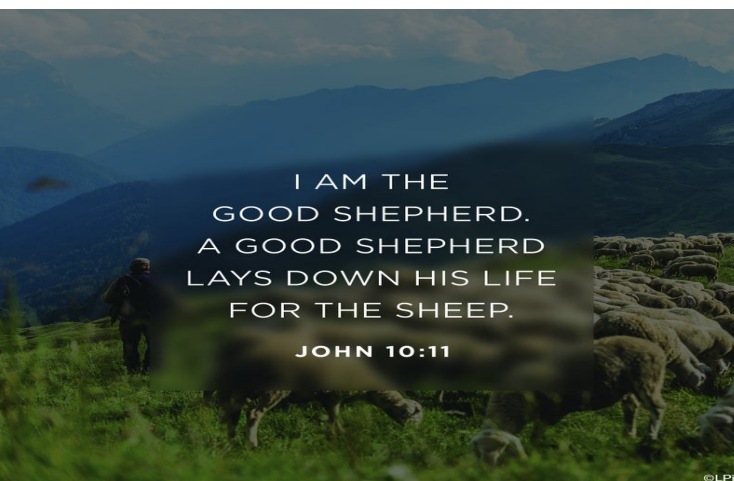
Prayer, at its heart, is an act of faith, asking God to step in and believing that He is both willing and able to listen to us. There is no prayer intention too large or too small — you can ask for God's help with every need.

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Almighty God, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that you would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. Amen.

#### **Continued prayers for:**

Sue Roth, Gerald Mollberg,  
Jim Thorn, Judy Strandmark, Shirley Kirchberg, Joseph &  
Grace Schwaab, Erin Hestbeck Mielke, Cecilia Shinler,  
Bret Van Tassel, Ron Schleicher, Janet Yurick, Dave  
Prickett, Diane Anderson



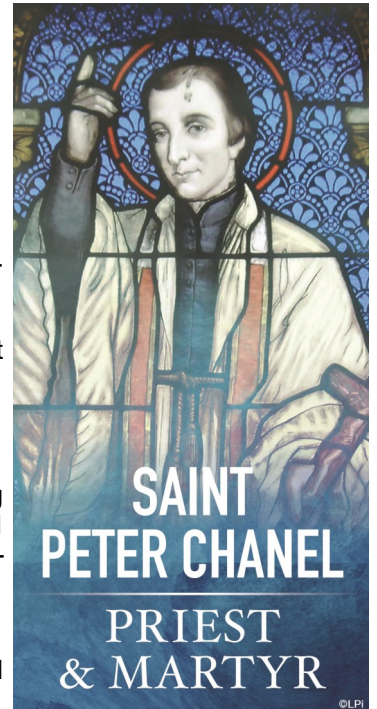
**First Communion**  
**Sidney Anderson**  
**Aiden Dahl**  
**Addison Tacheny**

*May this life-giving Bread always feed your soul  
and nourish your spirit. Congratulations as you re-  
ceive the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first  
time.*

### **Saint Peter Chanel's Story**

Anyone who has worked in loneliness, with great adaptation required and with little apparent success, will find a kindred spirit in Peter Chanel.

Born in France, Peter's interest in the missions began in school, when he read letters missionaries to America sent back home. As a young priest, Peter revived a parish in a "bad" district by the simple method of showing great devotion to the sick. Wanting to be a missionary, he joined the Society of Mary, the Marists, at 28. Obediently, he taught in the seminary for five years. Then, as superior of seven Marists, he traveled to Western Oceania. The bishop accompanying the missionaries left Peter and a brother on Futuna Island north-east of Fiji, promising to return in six months. He was gone five years.



Meanwhile, Peter struggled with this new language and mastered it, making the difficult adjustment to life with whalers, traders, and warring natives. Despite little apparent success and severe want, he maintained a serene and gentle spirit, plus endless patience and courage. A few natives had been baptized, a few more were being instructed. When the chieftain's son asked to be baptized, persecution by the chieftain reached a climax. Father Chanel was clubbed to death.

Within two years after his death, the whole island became Catholic and has remained so. He was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1954. Peter Chanel is the first martyr of Oceania and its patron.