

Very often, when we picture the Good Shepherd, we imagine him carrying a single stray sheep on His shoulders. That's definitely a consoling image for us when we're preparing for Confession. But when Jesus as the Good Shepherd takes us upon His shoulders, where does He carry us back to? When Jesus returns us "home" through the gate that He Himself is, what is this "home"?



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. Among the flock of the Church is where God teaches us to mingle our love of Him with our love of neighbor.

Here we see better the importance of the gate. The gate is an entrance into the life of God's people, not just into divine life. That is, the Gate who is Jesus leads not just to deification, but to deification through the Mystical Body of Christ. 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.

Let us pray that Jesus may guide us so that we may always pass through the right door. Like the sheep, may we listen and be able to recognize His voice. Moreover, may we learn to be obedient to Him as He leads us to pasture. Amen.



April 30th, 2023
4th Sunday of Easter

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
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Luis Hernandez, Hispanic Ministry (417) 496-5622
Joanie DeLisle, Bookkeeper/Secretary
Vanessa Cowart, PSR Director (561) 351-1380
Magda Cazares, Youth Group Director

Fr. David's Parish Office Hours:
Kennett: Monday and Wednesday 10-4, Portageville: Thursday and Friday 10-4
Fr. David is available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Adoration or by appointment.

Holy Mass Schedule
Monday and Wednesday: Adoration at 5PM: Mass at 6PM
Sunday Masses: 10:30AM Mass in English; 10:05AM Rosary;
1PM Mass in Spanish

Please pray for /Oramos para:
Dave Vrooman, Barbara Vrooman, +Lynette Anderson, +Pedro Orocio, The Melendez Family, James Hargett, +Sandy DeLisle, +Bill Anderson, Polly McAtee, Bob and Sharon Hines, Vera Gleuck, and Kathy Larsen.

Mass Intentions
Apr 30 +Greg Bradley
May 1 +Rose Saracini
May 3 Grandparents of Father David
May 7 +Gerald Kee Wee

Collections for April 23: \$892.00

Father David will be attending Clergy Day May 1st & 2nd. There will be **no mass or adoration Monday May 1st.**

Next week, we will be conducting the 2023 **Diocesan Development Fund** appeal. We need your help in order to be successful. Please pray about your participation and be prepared to generously respond next week.

April 30th, World Day of Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, from eternity You appointed Your only begotten Son to be the High Priest of the human race. Pour forth, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit upon our families, that vocations to the priesthood may be multiplied. Lord Jesus, give us holy priests: To offer up the sacrifice of the Mass; To lead the little ones to You; To strengthen the faith of believers; To preach the Gospel to all peoples; To bring forgiveness to sinners; To feed souls the Bread of Life; To comfort the suffering & dying, and To spread Your Kingdom in our midst. Mary, Mother of our High Priest, pray for us and obtain for us an increase of holy priests. Amen.

Letter From Secretary/Bookkeeper

It has been a pleasure to work with Father David and the people of both St. Cecilia and St. Eustachius parishes. I have accepted a new full-time position with a medical clinic laboratory, which is my area of expertise and my long-term field of employment before I took this secretary/bookkeeping position. I will continue to work at both churches through the month of May before moving on to my next venture. Thank you for helping me adjust over the last year. Your kindness was much appreciated.

Joanie DeLisle

The Hispanic committee will conduct a **Loteria game** on June 3rd, 2023 to fund raise money for the parish. We are asking for monetary or prize donations. If you would like to donate, please contact Thania Abmeyer, president of the Hispanic committee, at 573-888-7077.

Colectas para el 23 de abril: \$892.00

El Padre David asistirá al Día del Clero el 1 y 2 de mayo. No habrá misa ni adoración el lunes 1 de mayo.

La semana próxima se llevará a cabo la campaña 2023 para recaudar fondos para El Fondo de Desarrollo Diocesano (**DDF**). Necesitamos su ayuda para poder tener éxito. Por favor pidan en sus oraciones sobre su participación y estén preparados para ser generosos en su apoyo la próxima semana.

30 de abril, Jornada Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones

Dios Padre nuestro, desde la eternidad Tú nombraste a Tu Hijo unigénito para ser el Sumo Sacerdote de la raza humana. Derrama te suplicamos, Tu Espíritu Santo sobre nuestras familias, que las vocaciones al sacerdocio se multipliquen. Señor Jesús, danos sacerdotes santos: Para ofrecer el sacrificio de la Misa; Para guiar a los pequeños hacia Ti; Fortalecer la fe de los creyentes; Predicar el Evangelio a todos los pueblos; Para traer perdón a los pecadores; Alimentar a las almas con el Pan de Vida; Para consolar a los que sufren y mueren, y para difundir Tu Reino en medio de nosotros. María, Madre de nuestro Sumo Sacerdote, ruega por nosotros y obtén para nosotros un aumento de sacerdotes santos. Amén.

Carta del Secretario/Tenedor de Libros

Ha sido un placer trabajar con el Padre David y la gente de las parroquias de Santa Cecilia y San Eustaquio. He aceptado un nuevo puesto de tiempo completo con un laboratorio de clínica médica, que es mi área de especialización y mi campo de empleo a largo plazo antes de asumir este puesto de secretaria / contabilidad. Continuaré trabajando en ambas iglesias durante el mes de mayo antes de pasar a mi próxima aventura. Gracias por ayudarme a adaptarme durante el último año. Su amabilidad fue muy apreciada.

Joanie DeLisle

El comité Hispano llevará a cabo un juego de lotería el día 03 de Junio de 2023 para recudar fondos para la parroquia. Estamos solicitando donaciones de premios o económicas para comprar los premios. Si usted está interesado en donar, por favor comuníquese con Thania Abmeyer, presidenta del comité hispano, al teléfono 573-888-7077.