

Divine Savior & Our Lady of the Lakes Sunday Prayer Reflection

Start by the sign of the cross: +

Place yourself before the presence of God by being still.

Sunday Readings:

1st Samuel 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13 A

Psalm 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

Letter to Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel of John 9:1-41

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/032220.cfm>

You can get the readings on: The Daily Bread Booklet, Missalettes etc.

Fr. Gideon's Reflection: The Lord is Our Shepherd

Our First reading is taken from the book of Samuel. At the heart of the story is God choosing David to be the King of Israel. It is interesting that David is the last one to be presented to the prophet because even his father does not think of him as a viable consideration. He is considered too young and immature to be part of the pool of the potential candidates. But the reading reminds us that, God's ways are not our ways. While we—humans—judge by appearance, God looks at the heart and there He finds the real person. God saw in David—the insignificant shepherd—the potential of being the chief shepherd of his people. With this story, God is inviting us to ask ourselves: what are the criteria we use to judge our brothers and sisters? Do our eyes go beyond the immediate appearance? Do we push ourselves to look into the heart of the other?

The psalm's refrain for this Sunday is—***The Lord is My Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*** It is such a beautiful and reassuring theme in these times of uncertainties. One thing that is clearly stated in the psalm is the role of the shepherd which includes; to console, to protect, to encourage, to guide to righteousness and to sustain the flock. It is important to note that, by the psalmist characterizing the Lord—God as The Shepherd, is a sign of deep trust that God does fulfil His role as the Shepherd.

Today, as one family, we are being called to trust in God as our Shepherd. In the midst of our uncertainties, anxieties, questions that we carry in our hearts as we face all kinds of crises, let's rest assured that God is our Shepherd. God has guided us before, protected us from all that would have harmed us, and sustained us with new life every day. God is faithful and we can put our total trust in Him. So, my dear brothers and sisters, let's trust and have faith in our Shepherd. Amen.

Creed: Pray the Creed

Intentions: Offer the prayers that you have (i.e. pray for your family, parish community, for civic leaders, those afflicted by the Coronavirus etc).

Conclude the prayers with a Hail Mary

Pray the Lord's Prayer

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Conclude with the sign of the cross: +

A few things to keep in mind:

-If you want to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation please email or call Fr. Gideon to set an appointment.

-Please make some time and fill out the Discipleship Maker Index survey if you haven't done so.

-Note that a Mass is offered every day for our intentions.

-Parish staff and leadership team are working to see how we can keep our families more engaged spiritually i.e. streaming live our masses on Facebook etc. We will keep you updated.