

Good Shepherd Sunday 2023: We see Peter, our first Pope, stepping up today. When people asked what must they do to be saved St. Peter responds, *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”* Peter reminds us that the early church, in welcoming and accompanying others to the Christian faith, desired to bring people out of their darkness and sin and into the light. “So we could experience the fullness of who we were created to become in God’s Image and Likeness.” We are challenged not to remain where we are in our confusion and sin.

Evangelization in the persecuted early church was successful because the Christians weren’t doing what their pagan neighbors were doing. They were living Christian moral lives in freedom, in charity and with joy. They took care of one another. The pagans (people) converted because they wanted what the Christians had.

Peter goes on to say - *“For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.”*

How to return to the Lord when we have strayed? St. Peter tells us the simple answer: “Repent and be Baptized.”

St. John reminds us that we should be able to hear the authentic voice of the Good Shepherd. When we live our lives following the Commandments in Holy Obedience, and out of love of God, then we begin to understand “what things of the world” are compatible with our faith, and what worldly behaviors and ideologies to stay away from because they are incompatible with our Christian faith and life; thus, are actually harmful for us. When we do this out of love we begin to be filled with joy. Then our neighbors begin to see that we are different in some ways, and eventually some will desire to want what we have. A GREAT RESOURCE TO LEARN OUR FAITH IN 2023 IS FOLLOWING (ASCENSION PRESS: FR. MIKE SCHMITZ PODCAST “THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR.”)

Remember this: “It is crucial to recall that God never abandons anyone; God’s only desire, for even the worst sinner, is that we repent and return. Return to the Lord so He may give you rest. It’s nice to be free. Only Jesus has the power to set us free.”

Also on Monday, May 1st: The Church celebrates the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker.

While St. Joseph's primary feast day is March 19th, in 1955, Pope Pius XII added a second day on May 1st, celebrated as the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker. As a carpenter, St. Joseph worked very hard. His manual labor was difficult, and he is a great example to all of us in our daily work. In addition, he is a powerful intercessor for those who are seeking employment.

[This link takes you to: \(a special page dedicated to the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. \)](#) EWTN answer questions such as:

- Why is St. Joseph the Worker on May 1st?
- What can we learn from St. Joseph?
- Why is St. Joseph the sleeping saint?

Thank you EWTN.

I will end with a Bishop Annual Appeal (BAA UPDATE):

**IOP BAA: 4.24.23: Committed (promised): 80,784 (66%):
Received 72,386 (60%).**

Thank you to all who have given so far. Without us, Ross Williams may not have been able to pursue his vocation to the priesthood, and the many other programs offered for those in need may not have been possible.

Vivat Jesus

Father Vic Gournas