

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 7-8, 2022**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 51)**

Jn 10:27-30

Jesus said:
“My sheep hear my voice;
I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.
No one can take them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,
and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand.
The Father and I are one.”

**Intercession**

For our Annual Diocesan Appeal, that renewed in our belief that we hear Christ’s voice in our local Church, we might respond to this important need.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

How do we hear Jesus’s voice today? Certainly through Scripture, especially the Gospel proclaimed at Mass. We can also say that we hear Jesus’s voice in times of silent prayer, or maybe echoing through the witnesses of the saints or the cries of the poor.

One other way that we hear Christ’s voice is in the Church, the community of believers who make up Jesus’s body. If it’s true that Christ is present where “two or three are gathered in my name,” then the Church is an important place where we can encounter Christ’s voice in our own lives. This can transform the way we look at our Church—and how we respond to the Church community and our leaders.

How, for instance, does the fact that Christ speaks through His Church change the way we think about our Annual Diocesan Appeal? It’s easy to think of the Church as just another non-profit, and the Appeal as just another fundraiser. But it’s not. It’s a request from the Body of Christ to all the faithful to aid in our important work of building the Kingdom of God, here in our local community. Ask for the grace to hear Christ’s voice in our Annual Diocesan Appeal, and see how He moves you to give.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Christ speaks to us through the Church. And one of the needs of our local Church is to support the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Please take some time to discern Christ’s voice in this request, and see how He moves you to give.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Sunlight coming through stained glass windows.

Copy: Jesus speaks to each of us in times of silent prayer, cries from the poor, and through His Church. The Annual Diocesan Appeal reminds us that when we are called to come together to spread the Good News of the Lord and respond to those in need great things can happen. Take some time to discern Christ’s voice in this request, and see how He moves you to give.