

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

The mercy of the Lord fills the earth!

## Masses For The Week

### Sun 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

09:00 am +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)  
+Yolanda Zamora (Mancha Family)  
+Jesse Adami (Patricia Adami)

### Thr 30 Easter Weekday

12:05 pm +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

*Peter stands up with the Eleven and preaches about Jesus, our "Lord and Christ." When the people hear that it is by Christ's wounds that they have been healed, they themselves are "cut to the heart." They beg, "What are we to do, brothers?" They have found in the witness of the apostles an authority they are eager to follow. This is what Jesus means when he says that the Good Shepherd walks ahead of his sheep, and that the sheep follow him "because they recognize his voice." Good Shepherd Sunday celebrates the fulfillment of "the promise made to us" that God will send a Shepherd who will give us life "more abundantly."*

### The Sanctuary Candle



This Week will be Burning for  
+All Souls in Purgatory (Sandra Leyendecker)

# Good News!

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 2:14a, 36–41 / 1 Peter 2:20b–25 /  
John 10:1–10

MIGUEL DULICK

It is "Good Shepherd Sunday," and the gospel quotes Jesus: "I am the gate for the sheep." It seems the odd-est of Jesus' "I am" identities, until you realize that the shepherd himself was often the literal gate of the sheep's pen, as he would lay his own body across the entrance to keep the sheep secure and safe from any predators. Actually, the predators that worry Jesus the most are other shepherds—"strangers" who came before him, all of whom Jesus flatly denounces as "thieves and robbers."

Does that scare us today? Are we vulnerable to attacks, even from those supposedly in charge of our care? When Jesus opens the gate, we go in and out through him, through Jesus, to find pasture. We follow him because we recognize "his voice." In the synodal Church that Pope Francis called us to, and to which we continue to be called by Pope Leo XIV, every voice is welcome and needed so that the Holy Spirit will fill the whole Church with truth.

Here in Honduras, where I live, folks with little education can offer profound witness to the love of God. It comes from their own intimacy with Jesus, recognizing his voice in their daily life. They are often the poor victims of widespread corruption, like "a thief [who] comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy." Here in Honduras, we take refuge in Jesus, that we "might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). ●

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### LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Cristina Zarate, Mina Aldaco, Ramona Alaniz, Edna Flores, Ana Maria Finley, Mary G. Finley, Margarita Inocencio, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cassiano, Dotty Guffey, Rodrigo Medina, Armando Colchado, Elida Aldaco and Michelle Angela Nelson.

### MOTHER'S DAY MASS REMEMBRANCE



Pick up your *Mother's Day Mass Remembrance* envelopes located in the entrances of the church. Please deposit them in the collection basket. Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, May 10, 2026. Remember to include living and/or deceased.

The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep

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### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Did you know...Child abuse can occur in every culture and every socio-economic demographic. Peer reviewed research, especially that of the past 30 years, repeatedly shows this to be true. This same research indicates that most of child abuse occurs at the hands of someone known to the victim. Those who seek to do harm to children will pursue opportunities that provide access to children and may even ingratiate themselves into the home. You can protect children by respecting the safe environment protocols established at youth serving organizations. More importantly, you can implement many of these protocols in your home and be ever observant and vigilant in all public and private settings.

The Lord is our Good Shepherd

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Last Sunday's Collection

Envelopes: \$ 1,133.00

Loose: \$ 30.00

Children's Envelopes: \$ 5.00

Total Sunday Collection: \$ 1,168.00

Total Expenses Last Week: \$ 1,645.38

# Dear Padre

April 26, 2026

**Should Christians avoid practicing qi gong or tai chi? Or even meditation in which you empty your mind? Thank you.**

This is one of those questions that has been debated for a long time. Social media offers many so-called experts with vastly different opinions. It can be very confusing, particularly if you are looking for a black-and-white answer, a yes or a no.

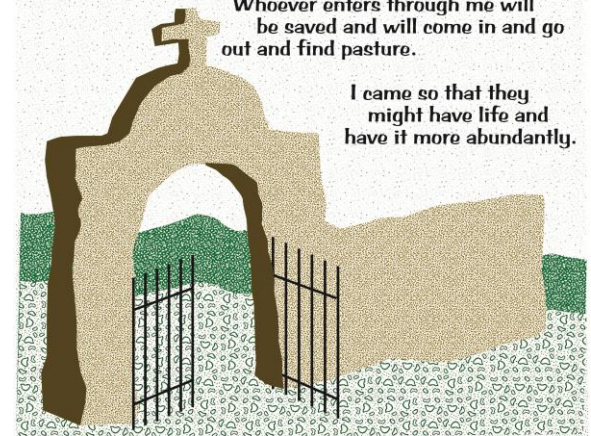
The pope who provides us with the most helpful direction to answer this question is Pope Benedict XVI. He did not forbid Eastern spiritual practices entirely but warned against their integration into Christian life without proper discernment. His perspective was rooted in a theological understanding that Christian spirituality is a unique path focused on a relationship with Christ. He emphasized that our Catholic spiritual tradition is distinct from the goals and methods of non-Christian traditions. He believed the practice of such non-Christian traditions, without preparation and without awareness of the challenge they present, could lead to spiritual error if not approached with caution and discernment.

So, the answer is nuanced. If you are using the practice as a spiritual practice, you should proceed with the utmost caution. If, on the other hand, you are using these practices for the more common physical or psychological—not spiritual—reasons, then it is permissible. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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I am the gate for the sheep.  
Whoever enters through me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.



I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

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