

### **THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK**

Indoor faith gatherings are now allowed up to 50% of the building capacity. This means that 125 people may now come for Mass at our church..... In late January of this year, Pope Francis announced he is establishing the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. It is to be celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus' grandparents. So, that would be next Sunday, July 25. The theme for the 1<sup>st</sup> World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is: I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS – a text taken from the Gospel of Matthew (28:20). The announcement from the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life says that the theme is especially appropriate in these challenging pandemic times. It adds, “‘I am with you always’ is also a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share. Not only are grandchildren and young people called upon to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith.” ..... Grandparents and all seniors will be invited to come up in front of the altar at the end of each Mass on Sunday to receive a special blessing.