



April 21st 2024

4th

Sunday of Easter (Vocation Sunday) Year B
John 10: 11 – 18

¹⁰⁻¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition. ➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).
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In this week's Gospel we read of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus describes himself not as a King or great leader but as a Good Shepherd. He is the humble caretaker of the flock that depend on him for survival. The Good Shepherd is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. He is at the service of his sheep. To be a good shepherd we must go out from our comfort zone in order to reach all people. To be of service to people we must not remain indoors, watching from a distance hoping all will be ok. We must be out among the people in order to help and protect them. What kind of shepherds are we? Do we trust in the power of Christ who is working to help us sow the seeds of God's Kingdom?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for all who give themselves to the service of your people as their good shepherds. .

Forgive us Lord for the times we failed to leave our comfort zones, staying indoors rather than mixing with the sheep and as Pope Francis said " being shepherds with the smell of sheep".

Lord help us to show some of the characteristics and traits of our Father in heaven by thinking and acting in a God like manner.

