

April 26, 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the third reading today is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of St. John, in which Jesus uses the image of the Shepherd to refer to himself.

While it is quite unlikely that we will encounter true and real shepherds in our everyday lives, we are still familiar with passages of Scripture that lead us to give praise to the Lord our Shepherd. Often patients in hospitals or those sick at home when asked what they would like to pray from Scriptures most would suggest Psalm 23, the Shepherd Psalm. The psalm recounts God's protection, care and guidance. Children still love to make little sheep with cotton balls to use during First Penance services to symbolize the Lord going off in search for the lost sheep.

We hear a couple of DYNAMIC aspects of shepherding in the Gospel today. The first is that the **sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd**. The Good shepherd's greatest strength is neither his muscle nor intelligence, but his voice. In some ways the sheep come to trust the shepherd. He knows each of his sheep and cares for each of them, and so when he calls, his sheep respond. There is something innately a part of a Christian's soul that wants to respond to Christ.

We have come to trust the Shepherd and realize that He knows each of us and cares for each of us, and so when Christ calls, we respond.

The second aspect of shepherding brought out in Scriptures today is the **close bond between a shepherd and his sheep**. The shepherd would lead the way for the sheep, whether it is in dark valleys or peaceful places. There is no place that the sheep are led to that the shepherd has not first experienced. When the shepherd sleeps, he lays down at the gate of the pen so that no sheep can get out and nothing gets in to harm the sheep.

The third image presents Jesus as the **gate of the sheep-fold**. Whoever goes in and out through him will be safe and find pasture. Gates serve the same function as doors. Doors are important: they let us in our homes where we find safety and family. They let us go out so we can meet friends or make a living or buy things we need etc. They protect us from outside elements.

Jesus tells us that just as doors and gates are important, so is he. When he is part of our comings and goings, when we make him central in our lives, when we call upon him for blessings on all our activities, our lives will be secure and our happiness ensured.

Jesus proclaims that he is shepherd and sheep-gate for his followers.

CUARTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA

EL BUEN PASTOR

Tradicionalmente, este Cuarto Domingo de Pascua es llamado "Domingo del Buen Pastor" porque la tercera lectura de ese día es tomado del décimo capítulo del Evangelio de San Juan, en el que Jesús usa la imagen del Pastor para referirse a sí mismo.

Aunque es bastante improbable que nos encontremos con Pastores verdaderos y reales en nuestra vida cotidiana, seguimos familiarizados con pasajes de las escrituras que nos llevan a alabar al Señor nuestro Pastor. A menudo los pacientes en el hospital o el enfermo en su casa cuando se le pregunta qué le gustaría orar de las escrituras, el Salmo 23 es el más pedido, el Salmo del Pastor. El Salmo narra la protección, atención y consejo de Dios. A los niños les encanta hacer ovejitas con bolas de algodón para usar durante el servicio de la Primera Penitencia para simbolizar el Señor yendo en busca de la oveja perdida.

Escuchamos un par de aspectos DINÁMICOS del pastoreo en el Evangelio de hoy. La primera es **que las ovejas reconocen la voz de su pastor**. La fortaleza mayor del buen pastor no es su músculo o inteligencia, pero su voz. De cierto modo las ovejas llegan a confiar en el Pastor. El pastor conoce cada una de sus ovejas y cuida de ellos, y entonces cuando llama, sus ovejas responden. Hay algo innatamente parte del alma de un Cristiano que quiere responder a Cristo.

Hemos llegado a confiar en el Pastor y darnos cuenta que conoce a cada uno de nosotros y cuida de cada uno de nosotros, y entonces cuando Cristo llama, nosotros respondemos.

El segundo aspecto del pastoreo revelado en las Escrituras de hoy es el del **estrecho vínculo entre un pastor y sus ovejas**. El pastor guía el camino para las ovejas, ya sea en valles oscuros o lugares pacíficos. No hay lugar al que las ovejas son dirigidas que el pastor no ha experimentado antes. Cuando el pastor duerme, se acuesta en la puerta del redil para que no puedan salir las ovejas y nada entre a dañarlas.

La tercera imagen presenta a Jesús como la **puerta del redil**. Quien entra y sale a través de Él será salvo y encontrará pastos. Los portones sirven para la misma función que puertas. Las puertas son importantes: nos dejan entrar a nuestros hogares donde encontramos seguridad y familia. Nos dejan salir para encontrarnos con amigos o ganarnos la vida o comprar cosas que necesitamos etc.. Nos protegen de elementos exteriores.

Jesús nos dice, así o igual como las puertas y los portones son importantes, así es Él. Cuando Él es parte de nuestras idas y venidas, cuando lo hacemos parte central de nuestras vidas, cuando lo llamamos por bendiciones en todas nuestras actividades, nuestras vidas y felicidad serán aseguradas.

Jesús proclama que El es pastor y puerta de las ovejas para sus seguidores.





MOTHERS' DAY NOVENAS

You are invited to join us in praying the Mother's Day Novenas at the 9:00am Masses for all mothers.

The Mothers' Day Novenas will begin on Friday, May 1st and will continue until Saturday, May 9th.

We invite you to pray and offer Masses for Mother's Day intentions. If you wish to pick up Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet Mass Cards, you may drop by the Parish office from Monday to Friday.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

April 18 – 19, 2026

Weekday Masses Offerings.....\$ 227.00

Weekend Mass Offerings.....\$2,165.51

UPCOMING 2nd COLLECTIONS

April 26: Catholic Home Missions

May 3: Reserve Fund

May 10: Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

We urge you to help us meet our goal:

Parish Assessment:	\$32,295.00
YTD we paid:	\$ 5,402.65
Balance we owe:	\$26,892.35
Pledges Balance	\$ 2,095.00

Thank you for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 18 TO MAY 2

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
April 25, 2026	April 26, 2026	April 27, 2026	April 28, 2026	April 29, 2026
<p>9:00am Young Men's Institute</p>	<p>8:00m ✠ Priscilla Calacal</p>	<p>9:00am Amelia C. Bercasio ☩ ✠ Ana Cepeda Bordallo</p>	<p>9:00am ✠ Eufrone Tobes ✠ Ana Cepeda Bordallo</p>	<p>9:00am ✠ Pedro Mendoza, Sr. ☩ ✠ Ana Cepeda Bordallo</p>
<p>4:30pm Parish of St. John</p>	<p>10:00am ✠ Enrique Berry ✠ Deceased Members of the Galang Family Ursuline Alumni Association</p>	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		April 30, 2026	May 1, 2026	May 2, 2026
	<p>12:00pm ✠ Luisa Campo ✠ Bacilisa, Cristin & Ernesto Ramirez ✠ Narma Valerio</p>	<p>9:00am Aizen Recio Santiago ☩ ✠ Ana Cepeda Bordallo ✠ Fr. Tom Seagrave</p>	<p>9:00am Gerard Redublado ☩ ✠ Emy Santos ✠ Ana Cepeda Bordallo All Mothers 🌸 Living & Deceased</p>	<p>9:00am ✠ Fr. Piers Lahey ☩</p> <p>4:30pm All Mothers 🌸 Living & Deceased</p>

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