

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
April 25, 2021**

THE GOOD SHEPHERD



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd." However, Jesus' description of what makes a good shepherd is hardly gentle and passive. The shepherd he describes is not only caring but also active and courageous and ready to sacrifice for the sake of those in his charge. Jesus says, "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

We learn about the life of a good shepherd when we read how David, the future king of Israel, described

to King Saul how he would tend the sheep of his father Jesse.

David said, "Your servant used to tend his father's sheep, and whenever a lion or bear came to carry off a sheep from the flock, I would chase after it, attack it, and snatch the prey from its mouth. If it attacked me, I would seize it by the throat, strike it, and kill it. Your servant has killed both a lion and a bear."

Jesus is that type of good shepherd. He seeks to keep his sheep from straying into the dark valley of evil and sin. He even sacrifices his life on the cross for the sake of his sheep. By his passion, death, and resurrection, our good shepherd saves us from the ultimate "wolf." He saves us from the Evil One who seeks to ravage and destroy us.

Jesus is no passive shepherd who only watches from the hillside. He is the shepherd who "lays down his life for his sheep" and opens for us the way to the green pastures of eternal life.

May the Risen Lord bless us with his presence and peace during this Easter Season,

Father John Carlos