

Jesus is the Gate for the Sheep



St. Charles Catholic Church
Liturgy of the Word with Children
Family Reflection for
April 30, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Family Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for being our Good Shepherd. You know us by name, and you love and care for us. Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

Find abundant life

Reflection:

The fourth Sunday of Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. Just as a shepherd loves and cares for his sheep and leads them to safety, Jesus loves and cares for us, and we follow him to God our Father.

In today's Gospel Jesus says, "I am the gate, all who come in through me will be saved." "A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. Jesus came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

We need to stay connected with Jesus in order to recognize his voice. We can trust in Jesus' words and follow his teachings so that our actions reflect kindness, love, and justice. We can also recognize Jesus in others when they do kind, loving, and fair things. Following the way of Jesus leads us to happiness.

Discuss these questions as a family:

*If you were a gate, what would your purpose be?

What would you keep out? What would you allow in?
(Example: If I was a gate, I'd keep out evil and temptations. I would let in love.)

*What does a shepherd do for his sheep? How does Jesus do these things for us?

(Provide food and nourishment, give water, call them by name, give them rest and recreation, protect them from danger, heal them, search for them when lost, guide them and love them.)

*Describe the relationship between a shepherd and the sheep?

*Do you spend enough time with Jesus to recognize his voice? (Even though we don't hear Jesus' physical voice, when we read the Bible and listen to the Word of God at Mass, it is like listening to Jesus' voice.)

Family Activities:

*Who Will Pass Through the Gate?

Choose one family member to be the "gate." The remaining family members will be the 'sheep.' With arms stretched out, the gatekeeper will stand in front of an open area and ask, "Who wishes to enter here?" Each sheep, one by one, should tell the gate one thing he or she can do to follow Jesus. Each answer must be unique. Each time a sheep gives an acceptable answer, the gate will open to the side so that the sheep can enter the open area. Once every family member is on the other side of the gate, the gatekeeper can share a favorite response.

*As a family, pray with Psalm 23. Choose one person to read the Psalm. Family members respond with "The Lord is my shepherd," after each verse.

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The gate for the sheep

John 10:1-10

Sheep
Gate
Pharisees
Thief
Robber
Shepherd
Gatekeeper
Voice
Name
Stranger
Jesus
Pasture
Life

Find the hidden words

I am the gate;
whoever enters
through me
will be saved.