



Academy of Our Lady of Grace

400 Kamena Street, Fairview, NJ 07022
Telephone: 201-945-8300 Fax: 201-945-4580
Website: www.aolgfairview.org

April 22, 2018

Dear Parents,

The Good Shepherd

This beautiful passage where Jesus reveals himself as the Good Shepherd is found in St. John's Gospel before the Passion, Death and Resurrection. It is used as the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter because it is such a powerful metaphor for the Paschal Mystery. Just as a good shepherd cares for his sheep enough to lay down his life, so Jesus, the supreme Good Shepherd, has laid down his life for us – and not just for us Catholics. Jesus says, "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead ..."

Sheep are defenseless. They tend to roam around and can easily get into trouble, becoming the prey of other animals. We can be that way too. We tend to live on the surface of life, not very mindful or centered. We can become prey to our desires, to what we think others expect of us, prey to the lure of advertising swaying us to buy something, do something, be something we really don't need to buy, do or be.

Yet Jesus, the Good Shepherd, tells us that we are his. He knows us and loves us just as we are. And because he loves and gave up his life for us, we have the ability to know and love him. I think we are being asked to take the time to regularly experience that deep knowledge of Jesus and his love for us. If we experience this intimate relationship with Jesus regularly, think how different our lives as Christians will be!

It's pretty comforting when you think about it: The Good Shepherd's love is universal, extending beyond the bounds of denominational differences. He knows us and wants us to know him intimately.

Fr. Peter