



# faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 33 // APR. 27, 2023

## *In the Beginning...*

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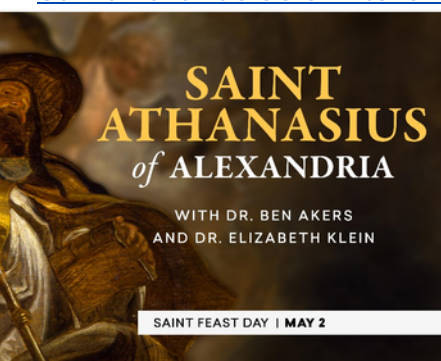
May 2 is the feast day of St. Athanasius of Alexandria. Don't worry if your first response is "Who?". But I really encourage you to dig into this Doctor of the Church. His writings, teachings and example are important for us, especially in today's world.

Athanasius fought against heresies, especially Arianism. As heresies infiltrated the Church he remained loyal to the truth even as others around him, even other bishops, tried to "change" those truths.

While doctrines can develop over time as the Church more fully understands revealed truths, doctrines and truths can never change to become something opposite of what they once were. The Catholic Church remains steadfast in upholding God's truths for nearly 2000 years.

In this age of relativism where everyone seems to have their own "truth" and those "truths" often conflict with others' "truths" and even with reality and common sense, it's important that we recognize that the work of the evil one has not subsided. Satan strives to work against God on many fronts. He entices us daily to eat from the same tree that our first parents ate from so that we too may become like gods and define our own truths.

Check out this information presentation on Formed.org!  
[Saint Athanasius of Alexandria](#)



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THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
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### Saint Athanasius of Alexandria | Catholic Saints

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein as they discuss the early Church Father, St. Athanasius. A bishop and Doctor of the Church, St. Athanasius is remembered as the great defender of the Nicene Creed. He was exiled five times from his own diocese under four different emperors. A great teacher, his writings are accessible to both beginners and experts in theology, writing works that serve different needs in the Church.

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## Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM  
Also, by appointment

## Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM  
Thursday: 8:30AM  
Friday: 8:30AM

## Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM  
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION PREP

## THURSDAY APRIL 27, 6:30pm

An inspiring Reconciliation Service with personal confessions has been planned for this evening. At least one parent should be in attendance with their child.

Please have your child dress in their Sunday best clothing. Remind your child that going to reconciliation is an opportunity to talk to God about the times they have messed up, made poor choices, or turned their back on God and his wonderful plans for them. Reconciliation is an opportunity for them to say sorry to God and ask for forgiveness. It is also an opportunity for Father Ayub to share some ideas about how you can do better in the future.

## THURSDAY MAY 4, 6:30pm

We will be meeting in the church for first communion practice on Thursday, May 4 at 6:30pm. Parents please plan on staying for this practice.

## SUNDAY MAY 7, 10:30am

Children will receive their First Holy Communion at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, May 7. Please note: we will be photographing the children as they receive their First Communion. Images will be loaded to a Google Drive for you to download at your convenience.

Signs of Grace  
"You Are Loved"  
(about the Eucharist)

[Episode 1](#)

[Episode 2](#)

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[Episode 4](#)

[Episode 5](#)

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[Presence for Children](#)

Signs of Grace  
"You Are Forgiven"  
(about Reconciliation)

[Episode 1](#)

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[How to Make a Great  
Confession](#)

Forgiven

[Session 1](#)

[Session 2](#)

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[Preparing Your Child  
for First Confession](#)

[Answering Common Questions  
about Confession](#)

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute" (CCC 2221).

Although the parish helps to form our children in the faith, no one can take the place of the parents' role in forming holy individuals. As parents, we should be well equipped to answer questions and to act, not only as the first teachers, but as the first witnesses of faith. This page is intended to help you in the journey as we work together to prepare your children for this special moment in their lives!

# SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Acts 2:14, 36–41](#)

[Psalm 23:1–6](#)

[1 Peter 2:20–25](#)

[John 10:1–10](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Easter's empty tomb is a call to conversion.

By this tomb, we should know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah, as Peter preaches in today's First Reading.

He is the "Lord," the divine Son that David foresaw at God's right hand (see [Psalms 110:1, 3; 132:10–11; Acts 2:34](#)). And He is the Messiah that God had promised to shepherd the scattered flock of the house of Israel (see [Ezekiel 34:11–14, 23; 37:24](#)).

As we hear in today's Gospel, Jesus is that Good Shepherd, sent to a people who were like sheep without a shepherd (see [Mark 6:34; Numbers 27:16–17](#)). He calls not only to the children of Israel but to all those far off from Him—to whomever the Lord wishes to hear His voice.

The call of the Good Shepherd leads to the restful waters of Baptism, to the anointing oil of Confirmation, and to the table and overflowing cup of the Eucharist, as we sing in today's Psalm.

Again on this Sunday in Easter, we hear His voice calling us His own. He should awaken in us the response of those who heard Peter's preaching. "What are we to do?" they cried.

We have been baptized. But each of us goes astray like sheep, as we hear in today's Epistle. We still need daily to repent, to seek forgiveness of our sins, to separate ourselves further from this corrupt generation.

We are called to follow in the footsteps of the Shepherd of our souls. By His suffering He bore our sins in His body to free us from sin. But His suffering is also an example for us. From Him we should learn patience in our afflictions, to hand ourselves over to the will of God.

Jesus has gone ahead, has driven us through the dark valley of evil and death. His Cross has become the narrow gate through which we must pass to reach His empty tomb—the verdant pastures of life abundant.



"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; 2 but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

JOHN 10:1-6

# The Gospel at Home

## 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Gospel Reading:

*John 10:1-10*

Jesus is the gate for his sheep.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

### Family Connection

Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. Psalm 23 remains a popular and favorite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

As your family gathers, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd; they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger. The shepherd's job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child. Read together this Sunday's Gospel, John 10:1-10. Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and by praying today's psalm, Psalm 23.

*"So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. 9 I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."*

JOHN 10:7-10



# Did You Know?

## Sheep really do recognize their shepherd's voice.

According to the Gospel of John, chapter 10, Jesus proclaims that he is the gate for the sheep, the good shepherd. My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Now all of this would have made a great deal of sense to the people Jesus spoke to directly. They knew all about sheep. For those of us who live in a world of minivans, suburban cul-de-sacs, grocery stores and the internet, the closest most of us come to sheep is buying a new sweater at the mall. A little knowledge of sheep will help clarify what Jesus is really telling us.

First, sheep are completely defenseless. They can't run fast, nor can they fight predators. A shepherd and a sheep dog are necessary to keep predators away.

Sheep are also naturally social. They like being around each other and around people, so long as they are well treated. Sheep cannot thrive in isolation.

Sheep are followers. The sheep that starts walking first is the leader – not necessarily because it's the strongest or smartest, but because it started to walk first. Sheep – sometimes to their peril – follow.

Sheep like the predictable and they scare rather easily. A good shepherd is gentle, firm and keeps the sheep calm.

Sheep have a reputation for being, well, rather ... dumb. Of course, they are not rational beings, with the ability to make decisions based on facts, past experiences, the advice of others, etc. They simply do sheep things.

With all this in mind, Jesus as the Good Shepherd perhaps will be more meaningful. He is saying to us that He will defend us against evil. He is telling us that He knows we do not thrive in isolation; His church, his flock, must depend on each other in order to thrive as we seek His will.

Jesus knows we human beings are followers. We warn our tweens and teens about peer pressure, but we can all fail prey to it. We need to know that we follow Christ. While humans are not dumb, we do dumb things. We don't always do what we know is best. We make stupid, hurtful decisions. We sin. Jesus knows this about us. And He wants better for us, so He asks us to follow Him. He will not lead us astray. The hymn, *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*, has this lovely verse:

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed//but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,//and home, rejoicing, brought me.

We are led astray, but Christ is gentle and loving. He seeks out His sheep, and brings us home.



[click here](#)



[click here](#)

Source:  
[Diocesan.com](http://Diocesan.com)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Opportunities to Grow in Faith

### Sunday, April 30:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass with Children's Liturgy

### Monday, May 1:

7:30pm - Bible Study on the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary in the Kelly Conference Room.

### Tuesday, May 2:

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room.

### Wednesday, May 3:


7:00pm - Mass for Faith, Hope & Healing (Healing Mass) in the church.

### Thursday, May 4:

6:30pm - First Communion PRACTICE for students receiving First Communion on May 7.

"Jesus replied, 'The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30



**BIBLE STUDY**

# The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

**FORMEDNOW**

*faith* **FORMATION**  
ST. JUDE PARISH

A 5-week study:	May 15
May 1	May 22
May 8	June 5

All are welcome to join us Monday nights  
7:30pm - 8:30pm in the Kelly Conference Room

Contact Marty Smith for more information:  
[msmith@stjudes.net](mailto:msmith@stjudes.net)

### Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM  
Also, by appointment

### Daily Mass

Tuesday: 8:30AM  
Thursday: 8:30AM  
Friday: 8:30AM

### Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM  
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM



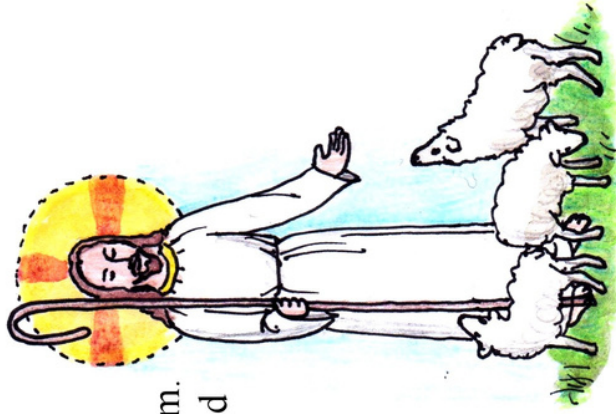
# The Good Shepherd

The readings in today's Mass talk about Jesus the Good Shepherd. In Jesus' time, and still in some parts of the world today, there would be flocks of sheep grazing in the pastures. The shepherds were the people who looked after the flocks and made sure none of the sheep got lost or hurt or attacked by wild animals.



The Church is the flock of Jesus, and He is the Good Shepherd. He guides the people in the Church so that their souls will not be hungry- He gives us grace, just like a shepherd makes sure his sheep have lots of grass to eat!

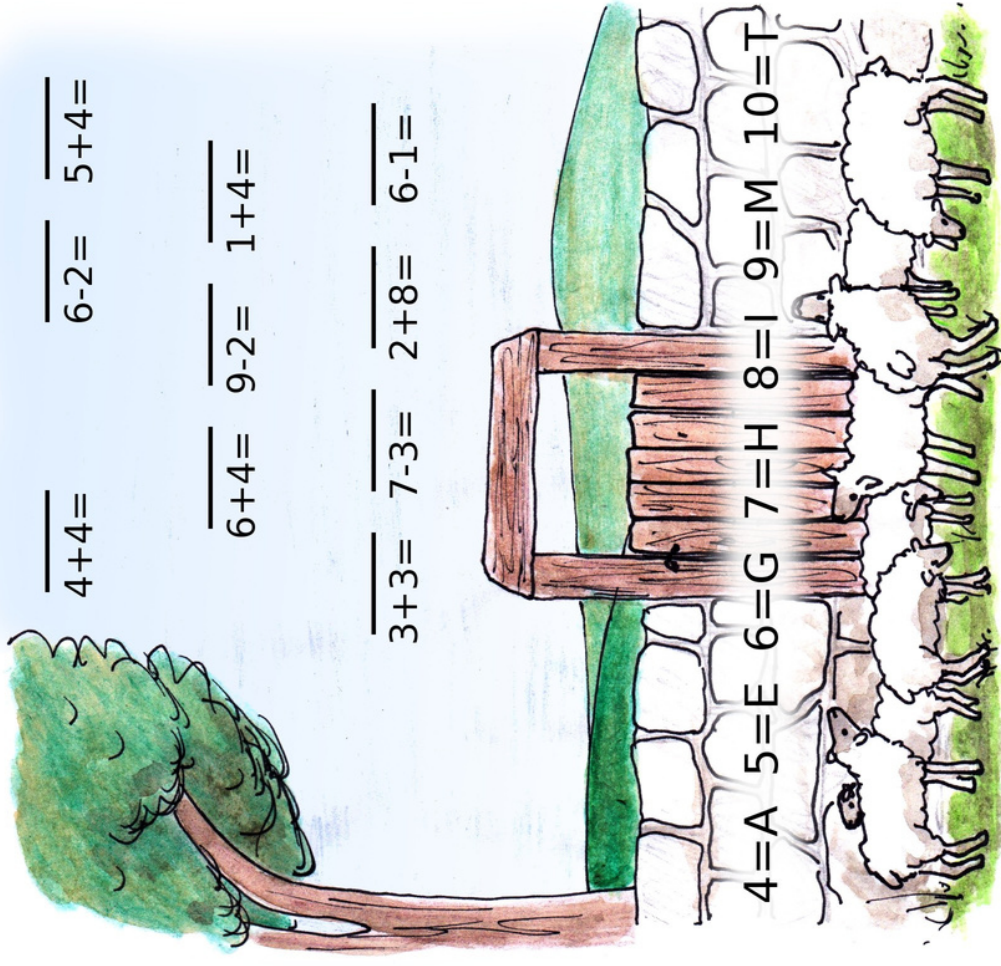
Like the shepherd protects the sheep from danger, Our Lord also protects us from harm. In the "Our Father" we ask God to deliver us from evil. When our souls are hurt by sin, the Good Shepherd heals us with forgiveness in Confession.



Answer to puzzle on front page:  
I am the gate.  
Answer to Fill-in-the-blanks:  
know his voice.

# The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 30th, 2023



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 4+4= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 6-2= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 5+4= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 6+4= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 9-2= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 1+4= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 3+3= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 7-3= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 2+8= \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{---} \\ 6-1= \end{array}$$

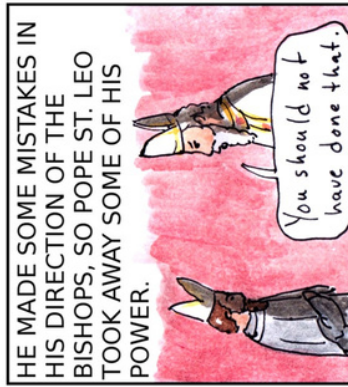
4=A 5=E 6=G 7=H 8=I 9=M 10=T

What did Jesus say about the sheepfold?  
Figure out the math questions  
and then fill in the blanks  
with the letters the numbers represent.



# Saint Hilary of Arles

## May 5



SAINT HILARY OF ARLES IS AN EXAMPLE TO US THAT GOD SOMETIMES WANTS YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE IMPORTANT JOBS. SAINT HILARY WAS YOUNGER THAN THE BISHOPS HE WAS IN CHARGE OF BUT HE WAS HUMBLE ENOUGH TO RULE THEM WELL. ALSO, WHEN HE MADE MISTAKES HE ACCEPTED THE CONSEQUENCES.

# Fill-in-the-Blanks

The letters in squares fit into the spaces at the bottom.

GATEKEEPER	HIS	THIEF
REALIZE	WILL	DRIVEN
SPEECH	YOU	CLIMBS
ENTERS	AMEN	VOICE



Jesus said: "Amen, <sup>12</sup> I say to <sup>9</sup> whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but <sup>11</sup> over elsewhere is a <sup>5</sup> and a robber. But whoever <sup>2</sup> through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The <sup>1</sup> opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls <sup>10</sup> own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has <sup>8</sup> out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his <sup>3</sup>. But they will not follow a stranger; they <sup>4</sup> run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of <sup>7</sup>, the Pharisees did not <sup>6</sup> what he was trying to tell them.

The sheep 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12