



Good Shepherd

April 26

What is the Feast Day of Good Shepherd?

The Feast Day of Good Shepherd is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Easter in the Christian liturgical calendar. This day is dedicated to honouring Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd, a title and metaphor found in the Bible, particularly in the Gospel of John (John 10:11-18). The Good Shepherd is recognized for his sacrificial love, guidance and protection of his flock.

The history of the Feast Day of the Good Shepherd dates back to early Christian traditions, in which the image of Jesus as the shepherd was embraced as a powerful symbol of care and leadership. The title "Good Shepherd" emphasizes the intimate relationship between Jesus and his followers, depicting him as the one who lays down his life for the sheep.

The importance of the Good Shepherd lies in the profound theological message it conveys. It underscores Jesus' role as the compassionate and selfless leader who cares for his people, guiding them through life's challenges and ultimately sacrificing himself for their salvation. The imagery of the Good Shepherd reflects the love, protection and nurturing qualities attributed to Jesus in Christian theology.

The Feast Day serves as a moment of reflection and celebration of Jesus' role as the Good Shepherd. Believers express gratitude for the care and guidance they receive from Christ. The liturgical readings and prayers on this day often center on the themes of shepherdhood, sacrifice, and the resurrection.

Celebrations may include special church services, prayers, and hymns that highlight Jesus's role as the Good Shepherd. Additionally, some communities engage in acts of kindness and charity, reflecting the loving and caring nature associated with the Good Shepherd. The Feast Day provides an opportunity for believers to deepen their understanding of Christ's compassionate and sacrificial love and to renew their commitment to following him.

An interesting fact is that the concept of the Good Shepherd is not exclusive to Christianity; similar imagery is found in other religious traditions, emphasizing the universal themes of care, guidance and protection that resonate across cultures and faiths. This universal appeal contributes to the enduring significance of the Good Shepherd in the hearts and minds of believers.

[Good Shepherd CES Website](#)

[St. Elizabeth Seton Parish Website](#)



Quotes

"Christ, the Good Shepherd, leads us with love, guides us with wisdom, and protects us with strength. On this Feast Day, let us rejoice in His eternal care."

- Unknown

"The Good Shepherd never leaves his flock untended. He knows each of us by name and calls us into his loving embrace."

- Unknown

"Let us dwell on the goodness of our Shepherd, who not only knows us but laid down His life for us. May our lives reflect the love and sacrifice of the Good Shepherd on this special day."

- Unknown

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Gracious and Loving God,

On this Feast Day dedicated to the Good Shepherd, we gather in gratitude for the abundant love and care you shower upon us. We thank you for the gift of Jesus, our Shepherd, who leads us with compassion, protects us with strength and guides us with unwavering love.

As we reflect on the imagery of the Good Shepherd laying down His life for the sheep, we are humbled by the depth of sacrifice and love demonstrated on the cross. May this realization strengthen our faith, deepen our commitment and inspire us to follow in the footsteps of our Good Shepherd.

On this special day, we lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving. We ask for the grace to hear and recognize the voice of our Shepherd amidst the noise of the world. Grant us the courage to follow where He leads, trusting in the path He has laid out for us.

Lord, we pray for those who may feel lost or distant from your flock. May the Good Shepherd seek them out, drawing them into the fold of your love and grace. Bless our communities, families and friends with the unity that comes from being part of your flock.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Good Shepherd, may our lives be a reflection of His love. May we, too, be good shepherds to those entrusted to our care, showing kindness, mercy and selflessness.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.





York Catholic District School Board



FEAST DAY:

April 26

SCHOOL LOCATION:

Holland Landing, ON

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