



# Building Faith@HOME

1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12  
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29  
Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-2  
Gospel: Jn 10:11-18

The 4th Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, Year B, brings together themes that are central to understanding our relationship with Jesus and our identity as Christians. Here are the key themes based on the readings:

**+Jesus as the Good Shepherd:** The Gospel clearly portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep, indicating His sacrificial love and commitment to us.

**+Salvation Through Jesus:** Peter's speech in Acts underscores that salvation is exclusively found in Jesus Christ, emphasizing His role as the cornerstone of our faith.

**+Our Identity as Children of God:** The letter from John reminds us that we are deeply loved children of God, an identity that the world might not recognize but is foundational to our Christian life.

**+The Universality of Christ's Call:** Jesus mentions He has other sheep not of this flock, highlighting the inclusive nature of His mission and the universal call to be part of one flock under one shepherd.

**+Voluntary Sacrifice and Authority of Christ:** Jesus' assertion that He lays down His life voluntarily and has the authority to take it up again speaks to His divine authority and the voluntary nature of His sacrifice for us.

**+The Role of Faith in Understanding Our Identity and Mission:** The readings together invite us to reflect on how faith in Jesus as the Good Shepherd and cornerstone helps us understand our identity as God's children and our mission in the world.

These themes invite us to reflect on the depth of Jesus' love and sacrifice, our identity as beloved children of God, and the call to unity and mission in the vast flock of Christ. *Young Catholics*

### Family Table Talk

**Children:** Jesus tells us he is the Good Shepherd, but how do you experience God guiding and protecting you?

**Youth:** How do you feel about Jesus' being your shepherd? What does it mean to you that he lays down his life for you?

**Adults:** What qualities of God does the image of the Good Shepherd suggest? How do you experience God in this way?

### Catholic Kids Media

4th Sunday of Easter Cycle B



[bit.ly/4th-Sunday-Easter](https://bit.ly/4th-Sunday-Easter)

**We call Jesus our Good Shepherd. A shepherd is someone who takes care of sheep and keeps them safe. We are like the sheep, and Jesus is our shepherd!**

### World Day of Prayer for Vocations

★ Play the Vocation Memory Match Game

[bit.ly/Vocation-Match-Game](https://bit.ly/Vocation-Match-Game)



★ Color and send a postcard or coloring sheet to a seminarian using the free downloads here, or create your own card. Visit:

[bit.ly/Pray-for-vocations](https://bit.ly/Pray-for-vocations)



### Learn to draw this cute lamb!

Follow step by step with Lacy from Catholic Icing...



[bit.ly/Draw-a-lamb](https://bit.ly/Draw-a-lamb)



### APRIL DEVOTION: Holy Eucharist



What He promises in the Gospel He fulfills in the Eucharist. In the Gospel He says, "I am the Good Shepherd"—in the Eucharistic Sacrifice the Good Shepherd becomes present. In the Gospel He proclaims, "I lay down My life for My sheep"—in the Eucharistic Sacrifice He pours His life into our souls. In the Gospel He says, "Other sheep I have ... them also must I bring"—through the Eucharistic Sacrifice He builds up His flock, gathering stray sheep into the fold.

### Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[chausa.org](https://chausa.org) - Earth Day Prayer for April 21, 2021- (Family Faith Builder)

[Youtube.com](https://youtube.com) - Laudato Si Care for the Earth, Animation for Children (Children's Faith Builder)

[Vatican.va](https://vatican.va) - Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 61st World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Adult Faith Builder)

[catholicblogger1.blogspot.com](https://catholicblogger1.blogspot.com) - Good Shepherd: Sheep Memory Game (Kids Faith Builder)

This resource is meant to be used in a digital format with hyperlinks,

Digital Format can found at:

[syracusediocese.org/partnering-with-families](https://syracusediocese.org/partnering-with-families)



April 21, 2024

2024 - A Year of Prayer

'Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." - Luke 11:1



# Prayer@HOME

Cut & Pray!



From now until Pentecost, practice the prayer to the Holy Spirit.

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,  
and you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit  
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.  
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right  
and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Scripture Verse of the Week From Sunday's Mass



Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God... Beloved, we are God's children now.

-1 John:1-2

Know that you are special and loved... you are a child of God!



## Earth Day is April 22!



During the Easter season we celebrate a new life with God, our Creator. Pope Francis reminds us of our responsibilities in being good stewards of all of creation.

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored. (USCCB)

## Building Prayer Time @ Home

This will be a series of family activities to try as your families start or strengthen prayer time.

Genesis 1:1-31

God made the heavens and the earth and it was good.

Genesis 2:15

Humans are commanded to care for God's creation.

Leviticus 25:1-7

The land itself must be given a rest and not abused.

Deuteronomy 10:14

All of heaven and earth belong to the Lord.

Psalms 24:1-2

All the earth is the Lord's.

Daniel 3:56-82

Creation proclaims the glory of God.

Matthew 6:25-34

God loves and cares for all of creation.

Romans 1:20

Creation reveals the nature of God.



Celebrate the glory of God's Creation as a Family!

Here are some suggestions:

1. Pray one of the scriptures verses listed here each day. Carry the scripture verse in your pocket to remind you of God's gift of Creation to us. Talk as a family: what the Scripture means to each and how they felt at the end of the day when carrying the Scripture verse with them.
2. Think of ways you can participate in this year's Earth Day theme, "Plastics vs Planet". See: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>
3. Consider participating as a family for the Diocese of Syracuse Green Apple Challenge (Awards are given to all who participate! See [bit.ly/Green-Apple-Challenge](http://bit.ly/Green-Apple-Challenge)