

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CARES FOR ALL!

Written in the Gospel OF Matthew 18:12, it states; “IF A MAN HAS 100 SHEEP AND ONE GOES ASTRAY, DOES HE NOT LEAVE THE 99 TO SEEK THE ONE THAT IS LOST!” Just as the icon on today’s bulletin depicts, he is referring to our Lord as the GOOD SHEPHERD.

Artists often give the impression that the life of a shepherd is a peaceful and idyllic one. In reality, it was a grim struggle for survival that he experienced on a daily basis. In the rugged and rough hills of Judea, a shepherd had to be a companion, leader, defender and provider for his flock. Indeed a flock’s very existence depended upon their shepherd. To the shepherd, EVERY MEMBER OF HIS FLOCK was important. He would seek out the sheep who would stray from the rest and he would give special attention to the weak and injured entrusted to his care.

It is no wonder, then, that Christ would proclaim: ‘I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND I KNOW MY SHEEP, AND AM KNOWN BY MY OWN.’ (John 10:14) Yes, our Saviour takes the role of a shepherd to the ultimate level. He protects His flock from their enemies. He feeds them with his own Body and Blood. He knows His sheep from within, dwelling in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. He love His sheep – loves them so much that He would willingly give up is life for them.

Christ clearly points out the reward that waits His chosen flock: “I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH.” (JOHN 10:28)