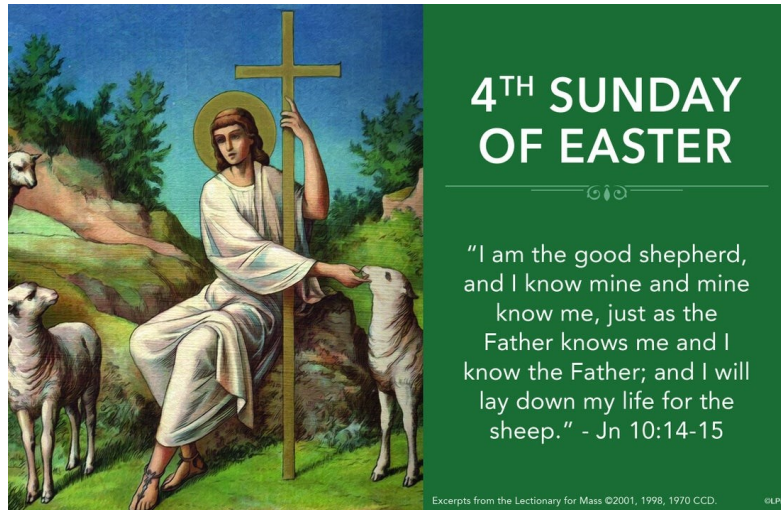


Rev. Jacek Kryn, S.A.C.
Pastor

Liliana Haynes
Office Administrator



Sunday, April 21st, 2024



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." - Jn 10:14-15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. April 20	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo)
Sun. April 21	9:30am	✠ William & Dierk Brueske & Joe Luchyshyn (Chris & Emily Brueske)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
Mon. April 22		No Mass
Tues. April 23	9:30am	✠ Wally & Sophie Paterak (Chris Meyo & Family)
	7-8pm	HOLY HOUR & Confessions
Wed. April 24	9:30am	✠ Wladyslaw Rajda & wife Emilia & Son Leszek (Danuta Mazur)
		✠ Wladyslaw & Genowefa Fiedorek (Stanislaw Fiedorek)
		✠ Stefan & Kristina Hozjan (Maria Hozjan & Family)
Thurs. April 25	9:30am	✠ Alfonso DeMichele (Ferrara Family)
Fri. April 26	9:30am	✠ Ralph Biancaniello & Gerrard Gosselin (Vince Addario)
		✠ Todd (Horton Family)
		✠ Adrian Mastracci (Annette Mastracci & Family)
Sat. April 27	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
	5:00pm	Ava Lostracco (Katherine Lostracco)
Sun. April 28	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Franco Silvestri (Andreolo Family)

Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses.

On Sunday, May 5th, the Grade 2 students of St. Ann School as well as three other young parishioners from our parish, will receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Recently I was with my little dog Libby at a retreat center in the Arizona desert. I sat in a chair near a ravine filled with shrubs. Unbeknownst to me, Libby wandered down there and disappeared. Suddenly an animal's wild shriek erupted from the area. Without thinking, I bolted down into the ravine fully expecting to see coyotes, javelinas, or rattlesnakes. I didn't care. I desperately wanted to get Libby out of there, without any self-regard. Before I could face whatever danger lay hidden, my dog blissfully trotted out from an entirely different area, utterly unaware that I had (quite heroically) just placed my life on the line.

When the adrenaline wore off, I thought to myself: how far would I have been willing to go to save her? I don't know. But I do know, if I had literally died, my friends and family would have certainly thought me insane for dying for a dog. No offense, Libby.

How passionately Jesus wants us to know him and his willingness to die for us! This week he says, "I know my own and my own know me," and "I lay down my life for the sheep." Here we encounter an insanely excessive love for us. Christianity is a relationship and not simply a religion or ethical code. In Jesus, God rescues and saves us. He laid down his life for you and me — and he has taken it up again. So often we are like Libby — blissfully ignorant of the reality of both our spiritual danger and his saving love. This Easter season, the risen Jesus calls us to be more conscious than ever before about his love. He never ceases to lay down his life for us.



Today, April 21st, we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday and The World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There will be a Holy Hour at the Cathedral at 3:00pm on that day. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. We are grateful to all of those who promote vocations in our diocese, especially the Serra Club.

Please support the Serra Club, which is an organization of men and women who pray for and encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Please continue to pray for and promote vocations in our diocese and plan to attend the Holy Hour at the Cathedral if you can. We sincerely thank Fr. Greg Schmidt for his efforts to promote vocations and for his support of our seminarians.

Prayer of the Good Shepherd: Dear Lord, You are my Shepherd, a Good Shepherd, who leads in ways beyond my understanding. Guide me in the paths You would have me go. Amen.

On May 8th of this year, Fr. Jacek will be celebrating his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. We would like to acknowledge this milestone in his life with a reception in the parish hall on **Sunday, May 12th following the 11am Mass.** This celebration will include refreshments and light foods/desserts. If you would like to contribute to the food table, we would appreciate finger food items such as, cheese/crackers, fruit/veggie trays, dessert bites, small sandwiches etc. Phone or email the office to let us know what you will be bringing so that we can plan for what will be available that day.

At some point soon, we will have a card available for signing after Masses.

Pope's Prayer Intention May: For the formation of religious and seminarians— We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

Offertory April 7th, 2024- \$1, 655.00

Offertory April 14th, 2024- \$925.50

Maintenance- \$404.00

Reno Donations- \$1,200.00

Sunday, April 28th, 2024



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Mon. April 29		No Mass
Tues. April 30	9:30am	✠ Nora DeLuca (Ersilia Ferrara)
	7-8pm	HOLY HOUR & Confessions
Wed. May 1	9:30am	✠ Neil Coles (Annette Mastracci & Family)
		✠ Mireille Montpetit (Douglas & Alexandra Martin)
		✠ Marianne Myszczyzyn (Gloria Egert)
Thurs. May 2	9:30am	Blessings & Health for Gertrude Miszk (Jane, Randy & Maryla Carnegie)
Fri. May 3	9:30am	✠ Cecil Shannon (Racz Family)
		Blessings & Health for Stanislaw Fiedorek (Carnegie Family)
		Candace, Adrian, Michael & Kia Mastracci & Living & Deceased Members of Mastracci Family (Annette Mastracci & Family)
		Holy Hour & Confessions
		Mass
Sat. May 4	6:00pm	Holy Hour & Confessions
	7:00pm	Mass
	8:00am	Holy Hour & Confessions
	9:00am	Mass
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
	5:00pm	Katherine Lostracco (Katherine Lostracco)
Sun. May 5	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Stefan & Kristina Hozjan (Maria Hozjan & Family)
	2:00pm	First Communion
		Confessions from 9-9:25am before all weekday Masses



The month of May is the "month which the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the [Month of May](#), no. 1).

Fifth Sunday of Easter

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighbourhood who wrote, "Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you."

I suspect that the neighbour was not familiar with this week's Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, "He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit" (John 15:2) I don't mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I'd wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God's love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn't it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it's not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ's body. Jesus' rising is the brand-new growth. It is God's promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.



St. Ann's CWL Mother's Day Purse Project: The CWL thanks you for your donations! Items most

needed at this time include smaller bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body lotion, small packs of Kleenex, Q-Tips, Band Aids, feminine paper products, deodorant, lip gloss, hair elastics. Monetary donations are welcome and will be used to purchase some bulk items. Baskets will be placed at the church entrance. **It would be appreciated if donations of purses and personal care items could be brought to the church by the weekend of April 27/28 at the latest. This will give the CWL time to prepare everything on May 2nd and present the items to representatives of the local women's shelters before Mother's Day.**

The next CWL meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 9th at 6:30pm. All ladies of the parish are welcome!

Confirmation Registration 2024: As we approach the end of the 2023/24 school year, we are looking forward to the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be celebrated in our parish on November 9th, 2024 at 5pm. All youth who are interested in receiving this Sacrament are required to attend a meeting, along with their parents, at St. Ann parish on **Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 @ 5:30pm.** Forms have been emailed to families and hard copies were sent home. Please fill out the form and bring it with you to the meeting or email it to the parish office in advance of the meeting to stannsfenwick@cogeco.net. Thank you for taking the time to attend this important meeting. **If your child does not attend St. Ann School and would like to receive the Sacrament, please let us know soon.**

International Worker's Day— May 1st: Today, International Workers' Day is celebrated in many countries. This can be a day to recognize the value of human work, defend the dignity of working people, encourage all to be responsible in their work and celebrate the role that human work has in God's plan for creation.

Serra Club of St. Catharines Trivia Night, May 30th, 2024. St. Alfred Church, 272 Vine St., St. Catharines. Bookings & enquiries Kate 905-407-3994 or online serrasc.ca/trivia2024/

