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 (phone office for appointment)
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**The Diocese of St. Catharines
 60th Anniversary—1958-2018**
*“Put out into the deep water and let down your
 nets.” (Lk 5:4)*
Sunday, April 22nd, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Easter

“I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.” — Jn 10:16-17

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

Sat. April 21	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Deceased Members of the Plesko Family (Frank & Ivanka Plesko)
Sun. April 22	9:30am	Missa Pro Populo
	11:00am	✠ Kate Murrell (Karen & Michael)
Mon. April 23	9:30am	✠ Wally & Sophie Paterak (Chris Meyo & Family)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. April 24	9:30am	✠ David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Wed. April 25	9:30am	Intentions of Ray Dalio (Walters Family)
Thurs. April 26	9:30am	Intentions of Shamara Newsome (Walters Family)
Fri. April 27	9:30am	Intentions of Joe Cavers (Walters Family)
Sat. April 28	9-10am	Reconciliation
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Intentions of Kevin Mullin (Walters Family)
Sun. April 29	9:30am	For the old and the sick, the abandoned & destitute who have no one to care for them. (Dn. Jim & Judy McLaughlin)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.
Offertory April 14th & 15th, 2018

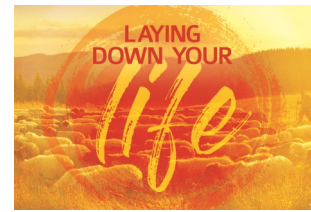
45 Envelopes	\$1, 235.00
Loose Collection	\$ 158.05
Total Offertory	\$1, 393.05

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and halleluiah is our song. —St. John Paul II

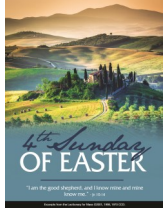
Fourth Sunday of Easter

“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)

Today’s Gospel occurs in the middle of Jesus’ ministry. At first, Jesus’ words seem to be about the value of self-sacrifice in a leader. *“I am the Good Shepherd ... I will lay down my life for the sheep.”* The Apostles likely would have accepted these words easily enough. But then comes something more strange. *“I lay down my life in order to take it up again ... I have power to lay it down and power to take it up again.”* Only later, when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them after his Resurrection, would the Apostles understand his words. Only then would they understand why such an act was necessary for the salvation of the world.



Even now, we may struggle with the necessity of Holy Week. How often do we hear complaints against the silence of God, as if He is the *“hired man”* who *“runs away”* from suffering? Jesus’ life, death, and Resurrection is our redemption in fact. God himself bears the full weight of sin’s consequences. The Paschal Mystery happens in full view of the human experience. We have seen Jesus lay down his life. We have seen him accompany others. *“I know mine and mine know me.”* We have seen him reach those outside the traditional flock, *“sheep not of this fold.”* Jesus is the Good Shepherd, not only in Scripture but in our daily lives.



While we can’t experience physically walking alongside him like the Apostles did, the grace of our redemption continues through the Church. We are shepherded by the sacraments, by faith formation, by good mentors. At the same time, we are not only the sheep. In imitating Jesus, we, too, are invited to lay down our lives for others. We can be the hands, feet, and shepherd’s crook of Christ.

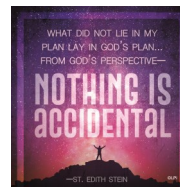
Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the luncheon for the seasonal agricultural workers last Sunday following the Spanish Mass. It was wonderful to be able to provide a hot meal to all the men and welcome them to our community as they begin their working season in Canada. We had a total of 18 men in attendance and they all very much appreciated the hospitality. We hope to be able to offer this again on May 20th, the date of the next Spanish Mass. If you know of anyone who is interested in contributing to future meals, please let us know. We will welcome anyone who wants to help out! There is still a need for new or gently used items; sweaters, light coats, socks, work gloves, new toiletries. Please contact the office.

Also, everyone is welcome to attend the Spanish Masses. From June—November, they will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at 1pm.
Co-ordinator for this ministry needed: Please phone the office if you might consider this as a volunteer opportunity for outreach in our parish community. We can provide more details of the position requirements.

WANTED! Young Adults, ages 18-35, to explore and share faith together. Come out to the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold on either **April 29/18** (4:30-6:30pm) or **May 4/18** (5:30-7:30pm) for fellowship, a light supper and a brainstorming session focussed on growing this ministry in our Diocese. Contact Terri Pauco for more information and to register by email: fami-lyandyouth@saintcd.com; text: 905-351-9107 or phone: 905-684-0154 #209.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations— April 22nd. The Fourth Sunday of Easter, Christians are invited to reflect on the meaning of God’s call and to pray for vocations. Christ the Good Shepherd, continues to lead his people through His Bishops, Priests and Deacons and calls many to follow Him in this way. Priestly, diaconal and religious vocations should be a constant concern in the hearts of God’s people.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED
Question: Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it apply to religious life?

Answer: A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one’s life. It is a realization of what one’s part in God’s plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul’s, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God’s voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the Church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God’s plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit, and God’s grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.

Sunday, April 22, 3:00pm HOLY HOUR to PRAY for VOCATIONS, Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Sunday, April 22 is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We will gather, under the leadership of Bishop Bergie, from all over the diocese, to pray for vocations to the priesthood, especially from and for our diocese and for vocations to the diaconate. And we shall intercede for vocations to the religious life. May the Lord touch the hearts of many young men and women to consecrate themselves completely and exclusively to Christ and the service of His holy people. May the Lord bless all married and single persons in their vocations.

Confirmation Meeting

As we approach the end of the school year, we are looking ahead to the fall of this year when the Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered to our Grade 7 students who will begin Grade 8 in September. A registration meeting will take place in the parish hall on **Tuesday April 24th at 6:30pm for parents/guardians and students.** The school and parish will be using the Chosen preparation program which is comprised of 24 lessons that provide everything the student needs, both intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to become lifelong disciples of Christ. The program is relevant and interactive, using videos, student workbooks, small group discussions and independent activities to make the journey personal and meaningful. **Registration forms and a letter were given to the Grade 7 students at St. Ann School on April 13th. Please bring the completed registration form and fee (to cover cost of books) with you for the meeting. If your child does not attend St. Ann School and will be receiving the Sacrament, please phone the office as soon as possible. Thank you.**

Parish Calendar

- April.....**
April 22nd.... World Day of Prayer for Vocations
April 24th.... Confirmation Registration meeting 6:30pm
April 24th.... Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee Meeting, Lions Club Fenwick, 7pm
- May.....**
May 1st..... Strawberry Fair meeting 6:30pm
May 4th..... Bingo Lookout Ridge (Youth Ministry)
May 4th..... First Friday Holy Communion to sick and Homebound. Phone the office to arrange a visit.
May 6th..... First Communion 2pm
May 6th..... Special Collection—Pope’s Pastoral Works
May 6-11..... Catholic Education Week
May 9th..... Catholic Education Week School Mass
May 13th..... Ascension of the Lord
May 13th.... Mother’s Day
May 15-25..... WEEKDAY Masses cancelled
May 20th..... Pentecost Sunday
May 20th..... Spanish Mass 1pm
May 27th..... The Most Holy Trinity

Strawberry Fair First Planning Meeting: Tuesday, May 1st at 6:30pm. Volunteers are needed to plan, organize and assist the day of the event. Please plan to join us for this meeting. **The date of the event will be June 10th.** If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to assist in any way, please phone or email the office. This event has been a part of our social activity in the parish for many years. A great way to begin the summer season ahead. Your assistance is most appreciated! Thank you!

Join us for a night of faith, food, music & fellowship as Branches presents **Faith on Tapas* with Father Ronald Angervil, Friday, April 27th, 2018 7:00 to 9:30 pm** (Doors open at 6:30 pm; tapas ordered by 7:15 pm) Branches Catholic Books & Gifts 43 Maywood Avenue, St. Catharines. Limited seating; to reserve your seat contact gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org or call 905-685-7000. *cost is for Tapas only from Huong’s Kitchen should you like to order food.

World Youth Day 2019: Panama City, Panama Jan. 18 – 26, 2019 OR Jan. 22 - 28, 2019 : Calling all young adults, 18-30 years of age! Come learn more about the pilgrimage to WYD 2019 in Panama. Those interested are asked to attend an Information Session at 7:00 pm at the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville, Thorold on **Thursday, May 17, 2018** Questions? Contact Raoul Masseur (wypanama2019saintcd@gmail.com) or Terri Pauco, Family and Youth Office at 905-684-0154, or familyandyouth@saintcd.com.

This summer St. Ann Parish will be hosting their 3rd Annual Vacation Bible School from August 13th to August 17th. Registration is now open. Forms are at the back of the church or phone the office. All children from ELKP to Grade 6 can participate. Older students in Grades 7-12 can volunteer as Junior Leaders. Spots fill up quickly, so plan to register soon. Please note that Junior Leaders 14 years of age or older are required to complete the Police Record Check. As this process can take as long as 6 weeks to complete, we recommend that you contact us soon if you want to be involved.

Marian Day, Saturday, May 5th, 2018, Gethsemane Ministries, 8400 Wellandport Rd.. Join us for a Marian Day Celebration and respond to Virgin Mary’s request to the three young children of Fatima: Prayer, penance and Conversion for peace in the world. Outdoor procession to the grotto. Refreshments will be provided. Free event, everyone is welcome.

