

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

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Fr. John N. Burchat, *Parish Priest*

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Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
613-756-2037



✠ Fourth Sunday of Easter ✠

April 21, 2024

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, Catholics 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.

ANNUAL MAY 1st MEN'S PILGRIMAGE TO ST. JOSEPH'S ORATORY: Every year for the past 40 years, we bundle up all our cares and the needs of our families, sling them across our shoulders as fathers and as young men (13+), and take them to the feet of St. Joseph patron of father's and workers. Along the way we stop to visit St. Kateri's shrine in Kahnawake. An itinerary is posted at <https://tinyurl.com/stj-pilgrimage> Please contact Anton Casta at arc3@stmaxmedia.com or 613-756-6410 to register.

RESURRECTION FAITH AND HUMAN TOMBS: To believe in the resurrection is not just to believe in resurrected bodies at the end of time, but to believe that no grave can hold us, on either side of eternity. The resurrection is a promise to be freed from the hopeless tombs of despair which can trap us in this life – existential despair regarding our lives (addictions, bitterness, jealousies, mediocrity) and life in general (a cynical belief that people never change or that nothing is ever going to change). To believe in the resurrection is to believe that God has the power to make all things possible, even now. God has the power to radically affect my life and to make old things within me young and new again.

The Good Shepherd is Risen!

Fourth Week of Easter

April 22 - 27

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + David Stamplecoskie by *Eric & Susan Coulas*
Friday 9:00 a.m. + John David Pastway by *Marie Villeneuve*
Intentions of Carmel Rumleskie by *Stephen Rumleskie*

+ Fifth Sunday of Easter +

April 28, 2024

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased C.W.L. Members & Spiritual Advisors
by *Catholic Women's League*
Intentions of Fr. John Burchat (May 1, Anniversary Ordination)
by *David & Mary Yantha*
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	April 27	April 28
Readings	<i>Susan Coulas</i>	<i>Judy Filion</i>
Communion	<i>Neil O'Reilly</i>	<i>Pierre-Paul Filion</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Richard Luckasavitch</i>	<i>Jamie Prince</i>

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. in sacristy.
Weekdays – before weekday Masses in sacristy or by appointment during office hours.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- that we may be joyful witnesses to the New Life caused by Christ's Resurrection.
- that the Lord Jesus would anoint with the gift of the Holy Spirit the process of calling forth a new bishop to shepherd our diocese.
- for parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Carmel Rumleskie*.
- for those who have died, especially: *Beverly Hare, Basil Gutoskie; Marie Nicholas; Mary Davis*.

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Tuesday - St. George, martyr and St. Adalbert, bishop, martyr
Wednesday - St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest, martyr
Thursday - St. Mark, evangelist
Friday - Our Lady of Good Counsel

THE GOOD SHEPHERD: This day, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, called “Good Shepherd Sunday”, invites us each year to rediscover, with ever new astonishment, how Jesus defined himself, reading it again in the light of his passion, death and resurrection. “The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (Jn 10:11): these words are wholly fulfilled when Christ, freely obeying the will of the Father, is immolated on the Cross. The significance that He is “the Good Shepherd” thus becomes completely clear: He gives life, He offered his life in sacrifice for us all: for you, for you, for you, for me, for everyone! And for this reason, He is the Good Shepherd!

Christ is the true shepherd, who fulfils the loftiest model of love for the flock: He freely lays down his own life, no one takes it from Him (cf. v. 18), but He gives it for the sheep (v. 17). In open opposition to false shepherds, Jesus presents himself as the one true shepherd of the people. A bad pastor thinks of himself and exploits the sheep; a good shepherd thinks of the sheep and gives himself. Unlike the mercenary, Christ the pastor is a careful guide who participates in the life of his flock, does not seek other interests, has no ambition other than guiding, feeding and protecting his sheep. All of this at the highest price, that of sacrificing his own life.

In the figure of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we contemplate the Providence of God, his paternal solicitude for each one of us. He does not leave us on our own! The result of this contemplation of Jesus the true and good Shepherd, is the exclamation of poignant astonishment that we find in the Second Reading of the day’s Liturgy: “See what love the Father has given us...” (1 Jn 3:1). It is truly a surprising and mysterious love, for by giving us Jesus as the Shepherd who gives his life for us, the Father has given us all of the greatest and most precious that He could give us. It is the purest and most sublime love, for it is not motivated by necessity, is not conditioned on accounting, is not attracted by a self-interested desire for exchange. Before this love of God, we feel immense joy and we open ourselves to recognizing how much we have freely received.

But it is not enough to contemplate and give thanks. It is also necessary to follow the Good Shepherd. In particular, those whose mission is to be a guide in the Church — priests, bishops, popes — are called to take on not the mentality of manager but that of servant, in imitation of Jesus who, in emptying himself, saved us with his mercy.

May Mary Most Holy obtain for me, for the bishops and for the priests of the entire world, the grace to serve the holy People of God through joyous preaching of the Gospel, heartfelt celebration of the Sacraments, and patient and gentle pastoral guidance. *From an Angelus Address by Pope Francis; April 26, 2015*

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD! ALLELUIA! These words are not simply an acknowledgement of Christ’s bodily resurrection from the dead, but the joyful expression that the Risen Christ has power to change our lives and is doing so with *my* life. The grace of Easter is ever new as Christ bestows life upon all who are in “the tomb.”

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,768.00; (Envelopes: \$2,152.00; Loose: \$136.00; Visitors: \$85.00; Share Lent: \$70.00; Easter Offering: \$275.00; Easter Flowers: \$10.00; Building Fund: \$40.00) [People at Mass: 4:00 p.m./90; 10:30 a.m./112]

ROSARY will be recited a half hour before weekend masses in May, the Month of Mary by the Catholic Women's League.

EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall.

GOSPEL OF MARK STUDY: This study continues on **Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole Church Hall.** For more information, please contact John Morris, 613 729-6647. Feel free to drop-in as you can.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD: Reverend Mr. Lukas Časta will receive Sacred Ordination to the Priesthood on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Saturday, June 29, 2024, at the Cathedral of St. Columbkille at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

POLISH BRUNCH: St. Hedwig's Church in the Parish Hall on Sunday, May 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 for adults, children 12 and under \$8.00. Menu: Pierogies, baked beans, fried bologna, sausage & sauerkraut, pickled eggs & cake for dessert. Take-out available.

MADAWASKA UNITED SOCCER LEAGUE: A 7v7 Co-Ed Summer League on Thursdays from May 2 to the end of August. Summer registration for players 18+ is \$60 until April 25th and \$70 afterwards. Youth 13-17 are \$50 but must tryout May 2nd/9th and be chosen by a team captain. Visiting players are welcome for a \$10 fee per game. All games are held at MVDHS. Join us! <https://madawaskaunited.com/>

DIOCESAN WEEKLY BULLETIN: There are various diocesan events scheduled for youth and young adults at <https://pembrokediocese.com/weekly-bulletin/> Be sure to check it out!

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, PATRONESS OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE on Friday, April 26th. Our Catholic Women's League Council will celebrate the Feast at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 27th beginning with the Rosary at 3:30 p.m. CWL members are invited to be in the choir for music ministry. In honour of our patroness, National Catholic Women's League is also sponsoring the Mass on Vision TV on Friday, April 26th.