

Living the Gospel



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4th Sunday of Easter

April 21st, 2024

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

This familiar passage about the good shepherd calls to mind soothing images from children's books that portray Jesus as a gentle shepherd carrying a lamb on his shoulders. But Jesus

paints a much more powerful picture. His good shepherd is a protector; he watches over and guards his sheep. He doesn't sit by passively when predators approach; he acts swiftly to keep his flock safe. He doesn't flee or abandon them; he stands his ground and defends them (John 10:12). He even "lays down his life for the sheep" (10:11).

We know, of course, that Jesus is talking about himself. He is a shepherd unlike the "shepherds" of Israel. In the previous chapter of John's Gospel, the Jewish leaders responded to Jesus' miraculous healing by casting out the formerly blind man from the synagogue (9:34). Jesus offered healing and revelation to God's people, yet these shepherds both rejected him themselves and prevented their "sheep" from receiving the abundant life that Jesus came to give them (10:10). In contrast, Jesus sought out the healed man, comforted him, and led him to faith (9:35-38). This is what a good shepherd does.

Jesus is not just "the" good shepherd; he is *your* good shepherd! Unlike a hired hand who works only for pay, Jesus is moved by a deep love for you. His love is so fierce that he freely, gladly offered his life on the cross for his sheep. For us. For you.

Today, rejoice that your good shepherd is guarding and protecting you. He is leading you securely along the perilous paths of life. He is defending you against the wolves and thieves that seek to "steal and slaughter and destroy" you (John 10:10). He is giving you new life that he won by laying down his life and taking it up again in his resurrection (10:18). He will never forsake you.

"Thank you, Jesus, for being my strong good shepherd!"
(Excerpt from The **WORD** Among Us)



Collective Memorial Mass

We would like to invite our parishioners to the Collective Memorial Masses on the Last

Friday of the month at 7 p.m. on the following dates: **April 26, May 31, June 28, September 27, October 25 and November 29, 2024.** To register the names of your loved ones, please send us an email or contact our office a week before the Mass date.

MASS INTENTIONS

April 22nd to April 27th

Mon., April 22nd, St. Leonidas, St. Opportuna

Antonio & Maria Meffe & Perrino & Meffe Families

Danny Partenio

Adelina Toscano & Family

Tue., April 23rd, St. George, St. Adalbert

Philip Di Gregorio

Raffaella & Nicola Aversa

Bruna Di Palma & Concetta Capone

Wed., April 24th, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen

Angela Maria Calvi

Alfonso Gallucci

Amelio Colalillo

Thur., April 25th, St. Mark, Evangelist

Giacomo, Vincenzo & Angela Cappiello

Helen & Joe Franczak

Gerry Mamone

Fri., April 26th, O.L. of Good Counsel, St. Alda

Giacomino Comella

Agata Cosentino

In Thanksgiving: Grace & Fernando Fanzutti & Family

Sat., April 27th, St. Zita of Lucca

John & Ivanka Bancic

Dorothy Lilian Lowry

Pjeter & Lize Perdeda



On May 4 and 5 after all Masses, the **Knights of Columbus** will be giving out **Roses for Life to support Right to Life.**

Donations are welcome.



The Lord is Risen Alleluia!

Resurrection and Salvation will be the topics for the month of April on

radiomaria.ca Every Thursday

at 9pm or Saturday at 2pm

Please click On Air Live / English Canada.

Join parishioners Mariangela & Nick for **Jesus with Us: Reflections of Joy.** An inspirational hour discussing the Power or the Resurrection and the Graces God shares with us for the salvation of our souls to be with Jesus in eternity. A time to deepen our faith with Bible passages and reflections on the resurrection.



Our Lady of Pompei - Committee of Toronto

Our Lady of Pompei Committee invites all parishioners to join them for Holy Mass, Rosary and Supplication to Our Lady of Pompei on **Wednesday**

May 8th, 2024. The Recitation of the Holy Rosary begins at **6:30 pm** followed by Holy Mass at **7:00 pm.**

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