

# St. Theresa's Parish

## Shrine of the Little Flower

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*Pastor: Rev. Fr. Bienvenido P. Ebcas*

*Deacon: Rev. Mr. Peter Lovrick*

*Secretary: Maria Cielá Sarmiento*



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Monday, April 26 (Private Mass)

† Carmen Tiongson (*Maylu Tiongson*)

### Tuesday, April 27 (Livestreamed)

7:00 pm Healing for Camillus John Pulle  
(*Mary Tisseverasinghe*)

### Wednesday, April 28 (Private Mass)

For the People

### Thursday, April 29 (Private Mass)

#### Saint Catherine of Siena

† Brigida Salas (*Lysle Kintanar*)

### Friday, April 30 (Livestreamed)

#### Saint Marie of the Incarnation

7:00 pm † Pedrine Fernandes (*Yvonne Dsouza*)

† Dolores Mayo (*Ivy de los Reyes*)

### Saturday, May 1 (Livestreamed)

#### 10:00 am Feast of Saint Joseph

Thanksgiving to Padre Pio by Mildred Halder

### Sunday, May 2 (Livestreamed)

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 am Birthday Blessings for Virginia Lagamon  
Special Intentions for Paul John & Patricia  
Kintanar

**PUBLIC MASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE. MASS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT  
TO CHANGE**

**Thank you to the Sponsors  
of this week's livestreaming of Mass**



Dcn Peter & Theresa Lovrick  
Judy Romero

### Confessions

By Appointment Only

### Baptisms

Every Fourth Sunday of the month  
Preparation Class – By appointment only

### Weddings

Couples planning to be married should contact  
the priest one year in advance.  
A marriage preparation course is mandatory.

### Parish Schools

St. Theresa's Shrine School – (416) 393-5248  
St. John Henry Newman Catholic School (416) 393-5519  
TCDSB – (416) 222-8282 ext. 5314

### Archdiocese of Toronto

(416) 934-0606 • [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

Parish Outreach

### Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

(416) 261-7498 ext. 4



### Let Us Pray for Our Sick

Sophy McDonald, Bobby Melchers, Gail MacEachern, Jolanta Mirkowski-Paszal, Rene Romero, Jane Frias Eigo, , Emerson Villarante, Delio Pellicione, Madeleine Franco, Pat Savella, Elizabeth Callaghan, James Halder, Phyllis Randolph, Karen Pinder, Jean & Caroline Maiden, Karlos Ebcas, Danny Gomes, Margaret David, Stephen Callaghan, Ofelia Dollete

### For the Dead

Catherina Filazzola, Sierra Schaefer, Basilisa Ebcas,  
Jeffery and Nelson Dollete, Carmen Prezioso,  
John King

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 25, 2021

### First Reading

*Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12*

Peter announces an act of healing in the name of Jesus Christ.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,28,29*

A prayer of thanksgiving to God for his kindness

### Second Reading

*1 John 3:1-2*

God revealed his love for us by calling us children of God.

### Gospel Reading

*John 10:11-18*

Jesus says that he is the good shepherd who knows his sheep.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep.

*Continue to next page*

## The Shepherd's Voice: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fourth Sunday of Easter



Jesus, in today's Gospel, says that He is the good shepherd the prophets had promised to Israel.

He is the shepherd-prince, the new David—who frees people from bondage to sin and gathers them into one flock, the Church, under a new covenant, made in His blood (see [Ezekiel 34:10–13, 23–31](#)).

His flock includes other sheep, He says, far more than the dispersed children of Israel (see [Isaiah 56:8](#); [John 11:52](#)). And He gave His Church the mission of shepherding all peoples to the Father.

In today's First Reading, we see the beginnings of that mission in the testimony of Peter, whom the Lord appointed shepherd of His Church (see [John 21:15–17](#)).

Peter tells Israel's leaders that the Psalm we sing today is a prophecy of their rejection and crucifixion of Christ. He tells the "builders" of Israel's temple that God has made the stone they rejected the cornerstone of a new spiritual temple, the Church (see [Mark 12:10–13](#); [1 Peter 2:4–7](#)).

Through the ministry of the Church, the shepherd still speaks (see [Luke 10:16](#)), and forgives sins (see [John 20:23](#)), and makes His body and blood present, that all may know Him in the breaking of the bread (see [Luke 24:35](#)). It is a mission that will continue until all the world is one flock under the one shepherd.

In laying down His life and taking it up again, Jesus made it possible for us to know God as He did—as sons and daughters of the Father who loves us. As we hear in today's Epistle, He calls us His children, as He called Israel His son when He led them out of Egypt and made His covenant with them (see [Exodus 4:22–23](#); [Revelation 21:7](#)).

Today, let us listen for His voice as He speaks to us in the Scriptures, and vow again to be more faithful followers. And let us give thanks for the blessings He bestows from His altar. ([stpaulcenter.com](#))

## COMMUNION SERVICE DURING LOCKDOWN

On Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, churches were mandated to **restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people**, including priests, deacon, lector and a volunteer to monitor capacity restrictions. Due to these measures, public Masses were temporarily cancelled. Priests will celebrate private Mass daily for the intentions of parishioners and for those suffering from Covid-19.

**Our parish will continue to livestream Mass on Sunday (10 am) on Tuesday (Mass at 7pm followed by Novena to St Therese), and Friday (Novena to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus starts at 6:45pm, followed by Mass at 7pm).**

This Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, our parish starts to offer Communion Services for those who wish to receive Holy Communion. Registration is through **EventBrite** or by calling the parish office. **Click [here](#) to register:**

### SCHEDULE OF COMMUNION SERVICE

**Sunday, 11:30 AM; 12:30 PM; 01:30 PM**

**The Archdiocese of Toronto strongly encourages those who are at an increased risk of COVID-19 to stay at home.** Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, continues his dispensation of the faithful's Sunday obligation at this time.

### *Continuation...*

This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires. (*Loyolapress.com*)

## ATTENTION PARENTS AND CANDIDATES FOR THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

**First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmations are postponed until further notice. Online classes will continue as scheduled.**

### **CONFIRMATION ONLINE CLASS**

*Lesson #3: The Rite of Confirmation  
Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am – 12 noon*

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ONLINE CLASS**

*Lesson #5: God Gives You Life & Love  
Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am– 12:30 pm*

## THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if you were already there,  
and I unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
(*Saint Alphonsus Liguori*)

At Your feet, O my Jesus,  
I prostrate myself and I offer You  
repentance of my contrite heart,  
which is humbled in its nothingness  
and in Your holy presence.  
I adore You in the Sacrament of Your love,  
the ineffable Eucharist.  
I desire to receive You  
into the poor dwelling that my heart offers You.  
While waiting for the happiness of sacramental  
communion,  
I wish to possess You in spirit.  
Come to me, O my Jesus,  
since I, for my part, am coming to You!  
May Your love embrace my whole being in life and in  
death.  
I believe in You,  
I hope in You,  
I love You. Amen.  
(*Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val*)

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 25, 2021



The world needs leaders with courage and integrity. The Church needs good leaders as well, leaders who will unselfishly care for the needs of God's people and minister to them. If you feel God is calling you to priesthood, religious life or deaconate, call **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.**

A MOMENT TO REFLECT.

# PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, St. Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God forever and ever.  
Amen.

## Songs from the Seminary An Evening of Music in Honour of Our Blessed Mother

St Augustine's Seminary is delighted to share The Songs from the Seminary and thank you for participating in their premiere on April 15<sup>th</sup>. It is their great hope that during this time of isolation, they continue to be able to connect with you -- at least virtually.

**Please download [the Program Book](#), watch [the concert video](#) again, and share it with others.**

For more information about this concert, please contact St. Augustine's Seminary at 416-261-7207.



**Thank you very much for supporting the campaign. Thus far we have raised \$ 8, 605.00 toward our goal of \$36,400.00.**

ShareLife supports vocations. Your gift to ShareLife is investing in our Church's future by supporting 54 seminarians at St. Augustine's Seminary and Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary in the current academic year.

**Today is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. With your generous support of ShareLife, we can continue to invest in the education of our future clergy.**

## Pope's prayer intention for April: FOR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

**We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.**

The full text of the Pope's prayer intention is below:

*Defending fundamental human rights demands courage and determination.  
I'm referring to actively combatting poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land and housing, and the denial of social and labor rights.  
Often, in practice, fundamental human rights are not equal for all.  
There are first-, second-, and third-class people, and those who are disposable.  
No. They must be equal for all.  
In some places, defending people's dignity can mean going to prison, even without a trial. Or it might mean slander. Every human being has the right to develop fully, and this fundamental right cannot be denied by any country.  
Let us pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis, that they may see their sacrifice and their work bear abundant fruit.*

<https://www.vaticannews.va/>

## Pope urges Catholics to pray in May for end to Covid-19 pandemic

**Pope Francis invites Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**By Devin Watkins**

Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic.

The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization announced the news with a press release on Wednesday afternoon.

It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).

### ***Prayer initiative***

"The initiative will involve all the Shrines of the world in a special way, so that they might encourage the faithful, families, and communities to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic," read the statement.

Pope Francis will open the Marian month of prayer on 1 May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media's platforms.

Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 PM Rome time from the various Shines taking part in the initiative.

The Pope will also close the initiative on 31 May with another specially-broadcast Rosary.

### ***End to the pandemic***

This year's dedication of May to pandemic-related prayer recalls a similar occurrence during the first wave in March 2020. (Vatican News)

Pope Francis led the world in prayer during that confusing and difficult time, celebrating a live-streamed, daily Mass in the Casa Santa Marta.

After more than a year, and with the world still in the grips of the pandemic, the Pope and the Church around the world are once again leading the way in imploring God for an end to the suffering which so many people are forced to bear. (Vatican News)

## Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker May 1, 2021



Our parish will celebrate the Feast of St Joseph the Worker on Saturday at 10 am.

Mass will be livestreamed.

Saint Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, has several feast days. One of them is the **Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker observed on May 1**. It is an optional memorial in the Roman Catholic Calendar. However, it is considered a public holiday in Vatican City.

The gospels describe Mary's husband as "tekton". This word has been conventionally translated as "carpenter", but it is in fact a common term for an artisan in general. That is why Saint Joseph is venerated as a patron saint of working people and sometimes referred to as Joseph the Worker.

The Feast of Joseph the Worker was established in 1955 by Pope Pius XII. It was intended to counteract May Day, which is celebrated as International Worker's Day ([Labor Day](#)) in many countries. Basically, Pius XII filled the already existing secular holiday with new religious meaning.

On this day, Catholic reflect upon Joseph's hard work, persistence, patience and courage. (*Anydayguide.com*)

### **Get involved!**

Have you thought about serving your parish as an usher, a cleaner, a lector, a catechist, or a member of another ministry? St. Theresa's has volunteer roles that make our parish life truly vibrant.

Visit our "[Parish Life](#)" and "[Get Involved](#)" sections in our parish website to see the opportunities available in our parish. Contact the [parish office](#) if you'd like to get started in one of our opportunities soon.

### **Thank You for Your Offering**

**April 1-18, 2021**

 **Offertory: \$ 3784 Renovation: \$ 685**

St. Theresa's Parish is always grateful and appreciates your generosity and continuing support.