**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

 **I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through me, will be saved**

 **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, April 29, 5:00 p.m. Mass – Prayers, Blessings and Thanksgiving for Catherine Dusseault on her 92 nd, Birthday by Dolores Doody**

**Sunday, April 30, 9:30 a.m. Mass – Pro –populo**

**11:00 a.m. Mass For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**1:30 p.m. Nigerian Community Mass**

**Monday, May 1, No Mass**

**Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. - Healing Mass …. Memorial of St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor**

**Wednesday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. Mass …. Feast of St. Philip and St. James, Apostles**

**Thursday, May 4, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**First Friday, May 5, 8:00 a.m. Mass**

**Holy Hour Eucharistic, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

**First Saturday, May 6, 5:00 p.m. Mass – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, May 7, 9:30 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**11:00 a.m. Mass – Pro - populo**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER REFLECTION: On most of the days of the Easter season, which goes from Easter Sunday until Pentecost, the gospel passage set down to be read at Mass is from the Gospel of John. This gospel, also known as the Fourth Gospel, contains rich teaching and new understandings of Jesus which supplement what is found in the other gospels. Our reading this Sunday is from the tenth chapter of John, in which we are presented with the image of Jesus as the good shepherd. In the verses read this year there is an additional focus. While Jesus contrasts the shepherd of the sheep with the 'brigand' and the 'stranger', he goes on to refer to himself as 'the gate of the sheepfold'. Not only does Jesus lead his people, but he is also the way through which they enter to reach life. The Risen Lord is 'the way, the truth and the life' (John 14:6). Jesus comes 'so that we may have life and have it to the full' (verse 10). The Easter season is a prolonged celebration of the gift of life which we receive from the moment of Baptism, and the anticipation of our full sharing in it in the life to come. The second reading also celebrates the new life of baptism. The image of the shepherd is found here too, as Jesus is called the 'shepherd and guardian of our souls'. How effective is the image of Jesus as the 'good shepherd'? Does the evangelist's use of images confuse or enlighten us? Pray Psalm 22 (23) and ask for a deeper awareness that 'the Lord is my shepherd'. We support by our prayer all those called to priesthood and the religious life.**

 **CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD: Children’s Liturgy of the Word is back! Please join us at 9:30 a.m. Mass every Sunday. Parents are welcome to participate with their young children. We ask that masks be worn at this time.**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: This Sunday the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women to respond to God’s call.**

 **CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2023: begins on Sunday, April 30, 2023.**

 **Please join the Ottawa Catholic School Board community as we celebrate Catholic Education Week, Sunday, April 30 - Friday, May 5. This year our board’s spiritual theme is Gratitude, Rooted in Joy, Fill us with Hope and our provincial theme is We are Many, We are One. Mass will be held at Notre Dame Cathedral on Tuesday, May 2, at 7:30pm. All are welcome!**

**Confirmation: All are invited to the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 14th, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Our presider will be his Grace, Marcel Damphousse., Archbishop of Ottawa – Cornwall Diocese.**

 **ARCHDIOCESE’S NEW WEBSITE:** **The Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall has launched its brand-new site and created a new opportunity for parishes to promote their events. Though the Friday Facts will be ending soon, this site will promote events in the diocese to the public. Click the link to visit the Events page to see what is happening in the diocese: https:// ottawacornwall.ca/allevents/. For national or international groups and movements, visit our Resources page: https:// ottawacornwall.ca/resources/ or Opportunities to Meet Christ: https://ottawacornwall.ca/opportunities-to-meetchrist/.**

**NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE: PRO – LIFE WEEK SCHEDULE 2023 :** **May 8 - Songs for Life Coffee House, 7:30 pm St. Theresa’s Parish, Free admission, Baby item drive.**

 **May 10 - Candlelight Vigil, 9:00 pm Human Right’s Monument, Mass at 7:30 pm, St. Theresa’s Parish**

 **May 11 10:00 am—Pro-Life Mass, Notre Dame Cathedral 10:00 am—Pro-Life Mass, St. Patrick’s Basilica 12:30 pm—Rally on Parliament Hill 1:30 pm—March through downtown Ottawa**

 **See full Ottawa schedule: https://marchforlife.ca/event/rallymarch-2023/ For additional information on Pro-Life Week or clarification go to: https://marchforlife.ca/ or call 613-729-0379, email Chris (chris@clife.ca) or Debbie (****Debbie@clife.ca****)**

 **SACRAMENTS: Preparation Classes for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation started last weekend and will continue this Saturday and Sunday, at the parish. If you missed the sign up registration date and would like your child to received sacraments. Please contact the parish asap.**

 **Our Vocation:** **Each of us is unique, and we can respond to the Lord’s call as free individuals, using our talents as no one else can. However we live our answer, it should be in faith, working together to build up one another in Christ. This is the first vocation, Baptism: to be a witness to Christ.**

**MAY DEVOTIONS…. May is the month of Mary;** **devotion to the Blessed Mother throughout May originated in Rome in the 18th century to counter immorality and infidelity among students at a college there. It has now spread through most of the Latin Church. Since the North American observance of Mother’s Day falls in May, Catholics take this time to pray, recall and attempt to emulate Mary’s role as mother. Therefore devotion to Mary in the month of May focuses both on Mary as a role model for Christian mothers, and Mary’s ever lasting chastity and purity, and her fidelity to God’s will.**

 **The Shepherd’s Voice**: **Today often is called ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’ because of the powerful image of Christ’s dedicated love that comes across to us as he speaks of himself as the shepherd who will lay down his life for his sheep. Hearing his voice, we are to follow it. It will lead us to his power, his protection and the fullness of life. To be able to recognize his voice, especially when there are so many others clamouring for our attention, we have to practice being like him. Jesus prayed; so must we. He showed God’s mercy to others; so must we. He made his decisions as conscious acts of unity with the Father; we must attempt the same. In this way, we allow his voice to be loud and clear in our ears and in our hearts. His voice will be like a radar beacon, a sure guide and a source of hope in our life journey.**

 **Pancake Breakfast held by the Knights of Columbus of St. Ignatius Parish**

 **May 7 @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm : The menu includes sausages, pancakes, beans and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be door prizes and a draw for a Mother’s Day basket valued at $150.00. One meal ticket: $15.00, a meal for two: $25.00 and a family meal is $35.00. Tickets for the Mother’s Day basket are $5.00 a ticket or three for $10.00. All proceeds will go toward the maintenance of St. Ignatius. Kindly reach the office or email the parish to make your reservation.****613-745-3961stignatiusottawa@gmail.com**

 **NATIONAL FAMILY AND LIFE WEEK**: **National Family and Life Week (May 7-14) is an opportunity to celebrate the joy and beauty of family and life in faith. The official theme is Jesus’ words: “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another”. (John 13:34) Charity is what holds together our Church, a family of families. Together, faith, hope, and charity are all gifts from God that we receive and practice through prayer, concrete acts of generosity and care, and the Sacraments. Click here for Catechesis for Families and Parishes prepared by the Office of Family and Life of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Also, this year the March for Life returns to Parliament Hill on Thursday, May 11 from 12:30pm-4:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend.**

 **WHY CALL ME A SHEEP?** **Why are Christ’s people called sheep? Sheep love to be together; as Christ has called us to unity. Sheep are little creatures, just as Christ’s people are little in the eyes of the world, and should be even less in their own eyes. Sheep are looked upon to be the most harmless, quiet creatures just as we should do no harm to God’s children here on earth. And the meekness of sheep reminds us of our dear Lord, who said: ‘Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart.’ Sadly too, sheep out of all creatures in the world, are the most apt to stray and be lost. Turn out a horse, or a dog, and they will find their way home, but sheep wander about; bleating here and there, waiting to be found by the shepherd. When He finds us may we follow where he leads.**

 **PRAYER FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK:** **“God of Grace, help us to rediscover how to be side by side in rebuilding our communities of faith and learning. Help us restore harmony and balance in our relationships, and renew our desire to approach challenges confidently and with peaceful hearts. May we always rejoice in recognizing the blessings our lives hold.” Amen.**