

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."*

### Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday, April 27, 5:00 p.m. Mass + For the Souls of Maria and Anton by Anna Nguyen

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

Sunday, April 28, 9:30 a.m. Mass + For the Soul of Penato Goyo Jr. by Lorra Goyo

+ For the Soul of John Carroll by his Family

11:00 a.m. – Enrollment Mass for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation

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

1:30 p.m. Mass – Nigerian Community

Monday of Easter, April 29, No Mass - Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor

Tuesday of Easter, April 30 - No Mass – Memorial of St. Marie De L'Incarnation, Religious

Wednesday of Easter, May 1, 8:30 a.m. Mass - International Workers' Day

Thursday of Easter, May 2, 8:30 a.m. Mass – Memorial of St. Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor

First Friday of Easter, May 3, 8:00 a.m. Mass – Feast of St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

Holy Hour Eucharistic Adoration from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

First Saturday of Easter, May 4, 5:00 p. m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's

Sunday, May 5, Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. Mass + For the Soul of John Carroll by his Family

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER REFLECTION:** This Fifth Sunday of Easter, as the Easter season progresses our Sunday gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of John, which provides us with rich material for reflection on what Christ has done for us through his death and resurrection. We encounter this Sunday another image which Jesus uses to describe himself and his relationship with his disciples. Jesus is the true vine. The symbol of the vine is found frequently in the Old Testament. The people of Israel are compared to a vine, which is supposed to bear abundant fruit. Jesus adopts the image to speak of the way in which he provides life for those who believe and follow him. He himself is the vine, and his followers are the branches. The process of growth and of bearing fruit is watched over by the Father, to whom the vine belongs. The image of the vine is particularly effective because the branches cannot live without their attachment to the vine, neither can they be fruitful without the goodness provided by the vine. To live with Christ is to bear fruit. It is in drawing strength from Jesus that Christians can bear fruit in faith and good works. The image also has its negative side. Branches which do not bear fruit are removed by the vinedresser and they are burnt. This development of the image invites us to consider the consequences of a refusal to be nourished by the kindness of God. In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear of Paul's attempts to join the Christian community after his conversion. It is only in connection with the people of Christ that we can truly be part of the vine. Through his resurrection Christ gives life to a new people. How can we derive more strength from the vine which is Christ? How important do we consider it is to belong to the vine of Christ? We pray for those who see faith as an individual pursuit. We pray for a deeper sense of belonging in Christ.

**St Peter's Parish Diaper Drive** will be held next weekend May 4 th, and 5 th at all masses. We are asking for diaper donations, all sizes/brands, in support of mothers and babes in need. Diaper assistance is not provided through the St Vincent De Paul home visit initiative. With your support, we hope to offer a little more help for the youngest among us as Mother's Day approaches. Please note we can not accept loose diapers/opened packages for health reasons. God's blessings, through Christ may we continue to serve the poor in all possible ways.

**Collection – April 20 and 21, 2024:** Envelopes: \$735.00, Loose: \$379.15; St. Vincent de Paul: \$147.00; Vigil Lights: \$66.55; Vocation Works: \$215.00; Clergy Support: \$20.00; Grand Total: \$1,562.70. THANK YOU for your generosity and support.

**2024: PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IS NOW OPEN.** The Sacramental preparation retreat classes for all the Sacraments will be led by the Queenship of Mary Sisters, next Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. here at the church.

**GENESIS: AN ART SHOW:** On April 28, 11am-5pm, come explore and celebrate Earth Day through art the beauty of God, the Creator, and his creation at Genesis: The Palette of Creation. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall at the Café Des Tours, Notre Dame Cathedral, 385 Sussex Dr.

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2024:** This is a week (May 5-10) specially set aside to celebrate our Catholic schools and why the triple connection of home, school and parish is an important and integral part of Catholic education. This triad emphasizes for our children, the reality of our wider Catholic community that collaborates on their faith formation and education. This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "We are called to love." This week we continue to celebrate a school system, which celebrates and defines itself on faith and mercy, and embraces the message of salvation preached by Jesus for all peoples.

**NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE:** Join the biggest pro-life gathering in Canada from May 7- 10 Songs for Life Coffee House, 7pm, St. Mary's Church Hall. Free admission but free will offering, Baby item drive. May 8 - Candlelight Vigil, 9:00 pm Human Right's Monument, Mass at 7:30 pm, St. Theresa's Parish May 9 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/2024-week-at-a-glance/>

**NATIONAL FAMILY AND LIFE WEEK:** The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) warmly invites the Catholic faithful to celebrate National Family and Life Week 2024 (NFLW), which will take place from May 13-19. This year's theme, "Love hopes all things," is inspired by the words of St. Paul, the Apostle: "[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:7). This theme, linked to Amoris Laetitia, a discourse on love by Pope Francis, guides us towards hope, a theological virtue that renews our relationship with God and others.

**THE VINE & THE BRANCHES:** In today's gospel, Jesus relates himself to that of a vine, and the Father as the vine grower. He makes it clear that the branches are useless and unable to produce good fruit unless they are on the vine. Those who choose to remain in Him will bear good fruit, while those who do not will be thrown out. Probably at the orchards we go to, if a tree is not producing good fruit then it is thrown out as well. And so it seems as though each of us has a choice: remain in Christ and bear good fruit, or try and go it alone and be "thrown out" in the end. Seems like a no brainer, but sadly many people choose the later. For those who choose to remain in Christ, there is something that we should keep in mind. Jesus said, "He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." I would imagine that if a tree or vine could feel pain, the pruning process would be awfully painful, but it is a necessary step for the plant. So too it is necessary for us when we go through challenges and difficulties, even though they may be hard and not feel good, it is necessary so that we too can bear more fruit.