



# Fourth Sunday of EASTER

26 April 2026 | Sunday



*I am the gate...*

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

*As we gather, let us remember and pray for . . .*

## **Monday, April 27**

*(8:25 a.m. rosary)*

9:00 a.m. †Anna Vergalito

## **Tuesday, April 28**

*(8:25 a.m. rosary)*

*St. Peter Chanel & St. Louis Grignon*

9:00 a.m. †Juan Europa

## **Wednesday, April 29**

*(8:25 a.m. rosary)*

*St. Catherine of Siena*

9:00 a.m. †Alvin Phillips

## **Thursday, April 30**

*(8:25 a.m. rosary)*

*St. Pius V*

9:00 a.m. †Mike Cocucci

## **Friday, May 1**

*(8:25 a.m. rosary)*

*St. Joseph the Worker*

9:00 a.m. †Walter & Fatima Rodrigues

## **Saturday, May 2**

4:30 p.m.

*St. Athanasius*

†In Memoriam

## **Sunday, May 3**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

9:00 a.m. ♦ People of the parish

11:00 a.m. †Sr. Clarissa

5:00 p.m. †Edgardo Rabino

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.



**MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!**

Sunday Collection April 19 - \$5,808

### **Prayer Intention for the Month of April:**

*For priests in crisis*

*Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.*

## CONFIRMATION

Bishop Gerard Bergie will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to eligible candidates

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL,**

Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 am

**LORETTO,** Saturday, May 2 at 2:00 pm

Please pray for our young candidates the Spirit will fill them with His gifts and make them credible witnesses of Christ in the world



## LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is an international Catholic Lay Organisation founded in 1921. We meet weekly for prayer, religious instruction and to carry out good works on behalf of the Parish.

The Legion is open to Catholic men and women and meets every Wednesday in the Church at 5:00pm. If you want more information you are welcome to come to a weekly meeting or contact Sinead Graham at [sineadg065@gmail.com](mailto:sineadg065@gmail.com)



## CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

**A Wedding is a Day....A Marriage is a Lifetime  
CEE Niagara Community**

In-person Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend:

**2026 Dates:** May 1-2-3 or October 2-3-4, 2026

Location: Jericho House, 10845 Rathfon Rd, Port Colborne, ON L3K 5V4

To Register: please visit <https://ceecanada.ca/niagara-stcatharines/>.

Contact: Celine or Marc at [ceeniagara@gmail.com](mailto:ceeniagara@gmail.com) or call Céline (289-241-4390) or Marc (289-407-9164)

## VIRTUAL CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS:

The CEE Weekend is best experienced as an In-Person Weekend. However, if you and your fiancé/e are separated by distance, please consider attending one of our virtual CEE Weekends. To register, please visit: <https://ceecanada.ca/> and choose 'Online Option: Virtual Weekends' on the 'Find Locations' page.

The registrar for virtual Engaged Encounter Weekends is Ginette Charbonneau — [ceecanada@gmail.com](mailto:ceecanada@gmail.com)

For more information about Catholic Engaged Encounter please visit: <https://ceecanada.ca/>



## BINGO! BINGO! BINGO!

Please come out and support St. Thomas More Bingo May 20. Delta Monte Carlo Bingo Hall  
4735 Drummond Rd.

Your support is greatly appreciated!  
THANK YOU!



## THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Will be holding a Mother's Day Basket Sale after all Masses on April 25-26 and May 2-3 to support our council's initiatives, including graduation scholarships for students in our feeder schools. Tickets are 3 for \$5 or 10 for \$10. The draw will take place on Sunday, May 3rd after the 5 p.m. Mass. Thank you for your generous support.

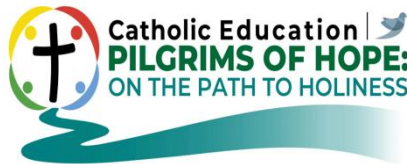
"For the first time, our Diocese is launching the **BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: HEARTS ON FIRE**. Through this appeal, our Diocese is seeking to strengthen vital ministries, especially in youth and young adult outreach, and in evangelization and faith formation for people of every age and stage of life.

So many today are searching for meaning, belonging, and hope. As a Church, we are called to walk with them just as Jesus walked with the disciples and help them encounter the living Christ.

As a Diocese, we have a united goal of \$400,000. In the coming weeks, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you may be called to support this mission. Together, we can help set hearts on fire with the love of Christ in our Diocese."

Thank you so much for your support and cooperation. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have!

United in mission, Emma Mete, Manager of Stewardship and Engagement



**MAY 3 – MAY 8, 2026**

"As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves." 1 Peter 1:15-16

## MASS IN MEMORIAM May 2

For those who have died in the past three months and whose funerals were celebrated here. The following will be remembered in the Prayer of the Faithful and Eucharistic Prayer...



Ernst Frey

Elsie Stokoe

Frank Girhiny

Olinda Mastroianni

*Behold, I will send you my angel who shall go before you and protect you on your journey and bring you to the place I have prepared. -- Exodus 23:20*

*"Do not be satisfied with little things, because God wants great things!."*

*-St. Catherine of Siena.*