

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Fr. Ranjan D'Sa OCD

When I went to Bethlehem, I waited near the fields, not very far away from the Church of Nativity, where I heard sometimes the shepherds would bring their sheep for grazing. The guide explained that the shepherds, even today, would use the similar techniques described in the scriptures. We waited for quite a long time but did not have the pleasure of meeting a traditional shepherd.

In today's scripture, Jesus uses one of the common imageries from the Israelites' mundane life. Predominantly, Israelites were viticulturists and/ or shepherds. Jesus refers to Himself as a Good Shepherd. The Guide in Bethlehem was explaining to us what it meant to be a shepherd in Biblical times. The shepherds had a reputation of being dishonest and untrustworthy. They were seen as strong, violent, weather-beaten, uncultured people who were rough and tough. Because they were regarded as impure, dishonest and deceitful, the courts refused to accept their evidence. In this background, when Jesus uses 'GOOD' to qualify His role as a shepherd, already an idea of his role as a leader is presented. The rest of the parable explains why Jesus is a GOOD Shepherd.

In today's scripture Jesus tells us that 'He is the gate or door to the sheepfold'. No one can enter in or move out from the sheep without His approval. For Jesus, His sheep are very precious to Him. There is a relationship between Him and His sheep. They all belong to Him. He knows every

one of them by name. His sheep recognize His voice and follow Him alone.

How do we belong to the sheepfold of Jesus? It is quite simple: we have to familiarize ourselves to the voice of Jesus and allow Him to be our true shepherd by modeling our entire life — our thoughts, words and deeds — to the teachings of Jesus. We see Peter's profession of faith in the first reading, where he explains how Jesus laid down His life for the sake of His sheep. For Peter, our response to Jesus' call consists in three steps — turning away from our past errors, totally committing our lives to Jesus (receiving baptism) and allowing ourselves to be guided by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This week, we pray for the vocations in the church. We need to remember that there is only one Shepherd – Jesus. We all are his flock, but Jesus chooses some people to shepherd His flock. We pray that God may grant us leaders with the heart of Jesus, who are willing to lay down their lives for the sake of Christ's flock. –



#### PARISH LITURGIES

-FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER-

April 30 - May 6

Monday, May 01 - Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

-No Mass-

Tuesday, May 02 - St. Athanasius

8:30 am

+ Denise Snowdon

Wednesday, May 03 - Sts. Philip and James

8:30 am

+ Alexander Thomas

Thursday, May 04 - Bl. Marie-Léonie Paradis

8:30 am

+ Karl Wulff

Friday, May 05 - Bl. Edmund Ignatius Rice

8:30 am

+ Bonifacia Casuga

-FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER-

Saturday, May 06 - St. François de Laval

4:00 - 4:30 pm

Reconciliation

5:00 pm

For:

+ Ela Pahulje, + Jerry & Edith Bonett, + Deacon Earl Johnson, + Tony Jelenec, + Colin Smith, + Doreen Zabloski, + Jim Fahey

Sunday, May 07

9:00 am

For our

11:00 am

Parish



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED!



**Charlie Royce** 

Parents: Alexander & Melissa Royce Godparents: Andrew & Shannon Kells



**Rowan Waller** 

Parents: Ryan & Caleigh Waller Godparents: Clara Jordan



Vienna Quattrociocchi

Parents: Anthony & Kayla Quattrociocchi Godparents: Eric & Angela Cardillo

"I am the gate for the sheep."

#### **CONQUEST AND CHALLENGE**

There will be a Conquest and Challenge meeting this Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023 at 6:30 pm, in the parish cen-



### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

Our Sanctuary lamp will be lit this week for the Intentions of Rita McGill



**Neal Karthikeyan** 

Parents: Karthikeyan Ramachandran & Greystina D'Silva Godparents: Rohan Pereira & Lancia Miranda



**Lukas Kvesic** 

Parents: Nikola & Zeljka Kvesic Godparents: Toni & Jovana Urbat



#### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY ASSISTANTS NEEDED**

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Children's liturgy program that takes place during the Sunday 11:00 am Mass. High school students who would like to be assistants for this program, you will receive community hours that you can put toward your high school community hours requirement. If you would like to help either as a leader or an assistant, please contact the parish office.

#### **ORDER OF HOLY GARDENERS - OHG**

Volunteers of all ages are needed to join this important summer crusade. We need your help!



The OHG will meet regularly, beginning in May, to carry out the important mission of parish beautification. Bring your gloves, hats, & ENERGY and join this august body as we get down in the dirt to combat

the weeds and plant perennials. If you are interested in helping and adopting a section, please contact Peter at ohg@saintdominic.ca

#### **CWL UPDATE**

<u>Household Goods Collection</u> – If you are doing your spring clean up, please remember our collection of household goods in aid of the Good Shepherd Venture Centre. It will be taking place this weekend, Saturday, April  $29^{th}$  (from 1:00 - 5:00 pm) and Sunday, April 30th (from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm).

<u>General Meeting</u> – There will be a CWL General Meeting this Monday, May 1st at 7pm in the parish centre. All are welcome.

Mother's Day Sale of Roses – Mother's Day is on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. As our tradition, the ladies of the CWL will be selling roses after the Masses on Mother's Day weekend May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Bring your loonies and toonies, and treat you Mom. You will be helping the CWL support charities that celebrate motherhood.

HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER CALENDAR	
Monday, May 1	Rev. Joe Selvanayagam International Workers Day
Tuesday, May 2	Rev. William Foote
Wednesday, May 3	Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (S.S.M.I.)
Thursday, May 4	Rev. Terrence Sehl
Friday, May 5	Rev. Scott Whitfield
Saturday, May 6	St. Francois De Laval, Patron of the Bishops of Canada

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

#### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God, the source of creation and love, you invite each of us to serve you through life, which is your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the Church as priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.

#### YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT

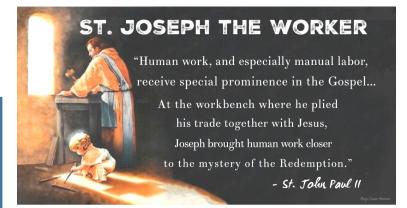
Holy Hour, Fellowship & Praise

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Saturday May 6th, 2023

Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church & Chaplaincy
1349 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

hamiltondiocese.com/vocations



#### SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

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Pastor: Reverend Ranjan D'Sa OCD rdsa@hamiltondiocese.com

Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister: Michael Aguiar

michael@saintdominic.ca

Deacon: Reverend Mr. Terry Murphy

Parish Accountant: Brian Thornton
Secretary: Mary Evans
Sacristan: Judi Kingry
Custodian: Peter Coffey

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Closed from noon to 1:00 pm).

Follow us on social media!

Facebook: @saintdominicoakville & @saintdominicym

Instagram: @saintdominicym



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