

Third Sunday of Easter

Parish Update: April 19th, 2026



“Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn with love when you speak.”
(Luke 24.32)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK APRIL 20TH TO APRIL 26TH

Monday, 20th	<i>Ferial</i>	
	Office Closed	No Mass
Tuesday, 21st	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	No Mass – Fr. Richard is attending the CWL Diocesan Annual Meeting	
Wednesday, 22nd	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	+Marie Bunn (J&V Hawkes)	
	Liv. & Dec. Members of the Abreu, Botelho & Pereira Families (L Abreau)	
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday, 23rd	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	+Carolyn Collins-Bennett (J&V Hawkes)	
	Sp. Int. of Anne Kranics (S Coorssen)	
6:45-8:15 p.m.	Choir Practice, Church	
Friday, 24th	<i>Ferial</i>	
9:00 a.m.	Sp. Int. Marcel Dionne (Y Mondragon)	
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday, 25th		
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Confession	
5:00 p.m.	+Nicholas & +Pearl Bihun (N Lorenzi)	
	Sp. Int. of Paola Landim (D&E Silveira)	
Sunday, 26th	4th Sunday of Easter	
9:00 a.m.	+Betty Lou McNulty (CWL)	
11:00 a.m.	+Robert Hancock (CWL)	

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends: Firstly, I wish to thank the many who have signed up for their photo session for our parish directory. If you

have not already done so, please make the move now! To be part of Star of the Sea Parish Community is a great thing, something for which I, as your shepherd, regularly express my gratitude to our Lord. Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Pray for Us!

Next, you will find in this week's bulletin a poster advertising the first annual diocesan campaign. As I have been communicating in my columns over the past many weeks, annual Appeals are neither new nor rare in Catholic dioceses across North America. You may recall that I had shared about my experience of the annual campaign in Thunder Bay when I worked there over a 13 year period –how the goal of that one was nearly \$500,000 and had been initiated by Bishop John O'Mara somewhere in the 1990's to make up for the shortfall caused by the declining attendance the Church had seen over many years, among other factors. In the case of our diocese, each parish has been assessed at a mere 2% of annual revenue. You will see in next week's bulletin, our annual parish financial statement that Star of the Sea has an annual revenue of just over \$300,000. Our portion to the diocese is thus, a bit over \$6,000. Considering that I used to have to collect \$44,000 each year in Thunder Bay, having been assessed at 10%, this is very modest. But, what is the reason for it?

You have probably heard me use the expression, “We are going to do something good for Jesus, and YOU are going to pay for it,” when speaking about how some people like to make their charity yours. This is NOT that, but rather, “WE are doing some good work for and with Jesus, and WE are going to provide for it.” The diocesan pastoral plan, which is anything but “another program,” is to systematically move all the faithful into MISSION mode, where each of us revisits what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Simply put, a disciple is one who follows Christ, seeking to build His Kingdom each and every day. A disciple MAKES other disciples and that does not happen automatically, but rather, intentionally, through good example, invitation, prayer and accompaniment.

The funds collected through the annual Appeal enables new trained, dedicated staff to equip and support our parishes to meet the demands of the growing hunger for Christ which is emerging before our eyes. After an extended dry spell which has been tough on all of us and unworkable for some, it is becoming increasingly evident that the Holy Spirit is “making all things new” Rev: 21:5 yet again in the Church's long history! The big question is, can we all be shaken from “maintenance to mission?” In all honesty, it took me the last couple of years to really begin to catch the spark, so I am not expecting any overnight explosive fervour among our good people who may have gotten used to just keeping the ship afloat. Could I please ask you to pray in earnest for a MISSION outlook for yourself and for our fellow parishioners? If you have ever marveled at the enthusiasm you may have witnessed in the Christian community of Evangelicals, well, it's high time we took on more of that in our Catholic Christian communities. After all, we are the Church begun by Christ, founded on Peter the Rock for the one purpose of sharing the message of Salvation throughout the whole world. Together, led by the Holy Spirit, we will do this with a vigour not seen in awhile! *Fr. Richard*

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HOLY HOUR to PRAY for VOCATIONS: The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. On Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 3:00pm, at the Cathedral (3 Lyman Street, St. Catharines), join with your diocesan family, under the leadership of Bishop Bergie, to pray for vocations to the priesthood, especially from and for our diocese, for vocations to the diaconate and for vocations to religious life. May the Lord touch the hearts of many young men and women to consecrate themselves completely and exclusively to Christ and the service of His holy people. May the Lord bless all married and single persons in their vocations.



Geranium Plant Sale! Our Annual Geranium Plant Sale is HERE! Orders with payment to the church will take place over 2 weekends (April 18/19 & April 25/26). The deadline to **return** your **Order forms** with payment is **before April 26, 2026**. 4" pots in 5 colours to start your Spring Garden! This is a CWL event!

Star of the Sea Vacation Bible School–June 29 to July 3, 2026: registration forms are now ready and available at the back of the church. This year's theme *Wilderness Adventure, Through the Sacraments!* Don't miss out on the fun!!

Some appointments for our **Parish Photo Directory** are still available. Please use this link to make your appointment: <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/d7b3y55k/> We look forward to having all our parishioners take part in this project! Contact Jayne.evans98@gmail.com for inquiries.



Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekends in the Diocese of St. Catharines will be at the [Jericho Retreat Centre](#) in Wainfleet, Ontario. Please arrive Friday evening by 6:30 pm to settle in, so that we can start promptly at 7:00 pm. The program completes on Sunday around 2:30 pm. Couples are expected to be free of other commitments and remain at the Jericho Retreat Centre for the entire weekend. **Register** by completing the form: https://ceecanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/CATHOLIC-ENGAGED-ENCOUNTER_Niagara-Registration-Form-2026.pdf **In-Person Weekends** at the Jericho Retreat Centre are now available. **May 1st – 3rd, 2026 and Oct. 2nd – 4th, 2026. Cost \$575** Includes 2 nights' accommodation and five meals (Saturday breakfast, lunch, supper; Sunday breakfast, lunch). Please send completed forms to ceeniagara@gmail.com

PRAYER ANGELS Our ministry is set up to pray for the parish's intentions. Please send by email or phone your concerns or cares and they will be passed on to the members of this group who will daily offer up your intentions to the Lord. Prayer is powerful. Let us help ease

your troubles or shower the Lord with praises. Please call or email Marg 289-214-6679 mgmartin113@gmail.com

'He who prays most receives most.'
St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori



CWL CORNER
(Catholic Women's League)
“Blessed are the Poor”

E-transfer payments for CWL may be made to cwlstarofthesea@gmail.com. Please remember to indicate which event in the subject line.

Next Sunday, April 26, we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. She is the Patroness of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. **All parishioners** are invited to coffee and sweets in our parish hall after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Mass! Our CWL members are hosting!

The Choose Life Diaper Drive continues until May 6th. Please drop off your donations of diapers, baby wipes and any other important essentials for these precious babies. Their mothers thank you!

Please join us in prayer and reflection on Wednesday, May 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p. m. Our 12 Hours of Prayer for **Palliative Care Day** is an important, annual event. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.



April 25//26	5 P.M.	9 A.M.	11 A.M.
Ministers of Holy Communion	Dn Maurice	Dn Maurice	Dn Maurice
Lector	P Waters	CWL	CWL
Hospitality Ministers	R&A Hancock C Tracey	CWL	CWL

WEEKLY COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:

April 12 th , 2026	
Parishioner Envelopes	\$ 4,377.00
Loose Collection	CAD \$ 423.00
	USD \$ 26.00
Development & Peace (collection)	\$ 25.00
Development & Peace (mailed directly to)	\$ 0.00
Good Friday Collection	\$ 20.00
Easter	\$ 80.00
Total Offertory Collection:	\$ 4,951.00
Aprils Monthly Automated Fund Transfer	\$ 930.00
Our Special Needs	\$ 170.00

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU