

## 4th Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2026

### Intentions:

April 26 - in loving memory of **Clarence Cassidy**, requested by Linda Cassidy and family.  
Mass Intentions: \$15.00

### Offertory Collection:

April 19 - \$1,127.15 Thank You.

### April 26

**Our Lady of Good Counsel:** This title honouring Mary appears early in Christian history. In return for financial assistance in renovating the church of Saint Mary Major in Rome, Pope Sixtus III (432-440) granted land to the people of Genazzano, Italy. Eventually, a church consecrated to Our Lady of Good Counsel was built there and entrusted to the care of the Augustinian Order.

Mysteriously, an Albanian icon, Our Lady of Shkodra (Good Counsel), arrived at this church in April 1467. The image depicts Mary and the Christ Child. Numerous healings and miracles have been attributed to the intervention of Our Lady of Good Counsel. She is a patron of many women's groups including the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

### April 29

**Saint Catherine of Siena:** One of four women honoured with the title of Doctor of the Church. Catherine was born in Siena, Italy, in 1347, her parents' twenty-fifth and youngest child. At the age of seven, following a vision of Christ in glory, she is reported to have vowed her virginity to God. She joined the Dominicans Third Order in 1365, spending years in seclusion from the world, fasting and praying. In 1368, after a vision where Christ accepted her as his "bride,": she felt called to carry this love to others. She cared for the poor and tended the sick: she corresponded with people from all walks of life, even counseling princes and popes; she was renowned as a peacemaker. She is especially remembered for her spiritual reflections.

She died in Rome in 1380. This great Christian mystic was canonized in 1461, became a patron of Italy in 1939, and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. With St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, she is co-patron of Europe.

**Pope's Intentions 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.

**Reflection:** Jesus is the gate, the only entrance to the fold. The image of the gate directs our attention to Jesus the Risen One who always recognizes us and cares for us, to Jesus our Shepherd. This is where resurrection faith leads us so "that we might have life and have it more abundantly." Christ is truly here for us, calls us by name and leads us to life. (*Living Liturgy, p.130*)

**Vincentian Meditation:** "Surely, the great secret of the spiritual life is to abandon all we love to him by abandoning ourselves to all God wishes in perfect confidence that all will be for the best...He will take the place of father and mother for you. He will be your consolation, your virtue, and in the end the recompense of your love." -St. Vincent de Paul (*McKenna, Praying with Vincent, p. 30*)



**Prayers for the Sick.** Please pray for the sick among our families and friends, especially for Roy Campbell, Linda Cassidy, Patricia Cassidy, Suzanne Lafontaine, Priscilla Rowley and Lorraine Stafford. *The names will remain on the list until we are otherwise advised.*

**"Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire."**  
~ Saint Catherine of Siena ~

## Administrator's Corner

### LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD

This weekend's liturgy gathers us around one image: The Shepherd. In the Gospel, Jesus says, "The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice"(Jn 10:3-4). In Acts, Peter stands up on Pentecost and his voice, filled with the Spirit, pierces the crowd: "Repent and be baptized and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). And Peter reminds us in his letter that we "were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls"(1 Pt 2:25). The whole of Christian life is learning to recognize that Voice in the noise of the world.



The Shepherd Speaks through His Word and His Church: When Peter preached in Acts 2, many were "cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37). Why? Because, the Shepherd was speaking through him. The voice of Christ continues today in Sacred Scripture and in the Church He founded.

St. Augustine said it plainly: "The Church is the mouth through which Christ speaks today." To listen to the Shepherd is to be docile to His Word proclaimed and explained in the community of faith.

The Voice of the Shepherd Leads to the Sheepfold, Not Away From It

Jesus warns "He who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber"(Jn 10:1). There are many voices competing for our trust: fear, ambition, ideology, sin disguised as freedom.

St. Gregory the Great warns pastors and faithful alike: "The proof of love is in the deeds. Where it exists, it does great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." The Shepherd's voice always leads to action - repentance, baptism, endurance in suffering as 1 Peter 2:20-21 shows. A voice that excuses us from conversion is not His.

We Recognize His Voice by Staying Close: Sheep know the shepherd's voice because they live with him daily. We learn Christ's tone through prayer, the Sacraments, and obedience in small things.

Pope St. John Paul II taught: "It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you." If we rarely sit in silence, rarely open Scripture, rarely examine our conscience, we will confuse His voice with strangers'.

The Shepherd's Voice Wounds in Order to Heal: Acts 2 shows that listening first hurts: "cut to the heart." 1 Peter 2 tells us Christ suffered for us, leaving an example. The true Shepherd does not only comfort; He calls to repentance and the cross. St. John Chrysostom puts it sharply: "The sheep that are outside the fold are exposed to wolves, but those within hear the Shepherd's voice and are safe, even if the path is hard.

The Promise for Those Who Listen is Life in Abundance: Jesus promises is the heart of the matter "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10). Listening is not restriction. It is entrance into pasture. Pope Benedict XVI echoed this at the start of his pontificate: "If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation."

This weekend we pray for all those in leadership positions both civil and ecclesiastical, that they may listen to the Good Shepherd always and lead God's people alright. We pray for vocations to the priesthood and permanent deacons.

## Pastoral Directory

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Mass Intentions & Bulletin:	Marilyn Deslauriers	222-3762
Pastoral Care:	Father Anthony Nwaohiri	623-3419
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**EMERGENCY:** [anwaohiri@gmail.com](mailto:anwaohiri@gmail.com) For emergencies, email this address with EMERGENCY in the subject or call the church office at 613-623-3419.

**Lost and Found:** Periodically, please check the lost and found basket at the church entrance for articles you may have left behind.

**Sts Michael and Gabriel helpinghand ministry:** Her objective is to serve needy families periodically in a timely and confidential manner. More details will be announced soon. The administrators can be reached at [stmichaelshelpinghands@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelshelpinghands@gmail.com) or (613) 623-3419.

**West Carleton Food Access Centre: (WCFAC)** Please remember our local Food Bank each week by donating items to St. Gabriel's grocery cart. Cash donations of \$20.00 and over will receive a tax receipt. Please include your name and address on the envelope. See Suzanne Lee if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.



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## St. Gabriel's

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# All Welcome



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### Weekly Eucharist

**St. Gabriel's** (Constance Bay) **St. Michael's** (Fitzroy Harbour)

Sunday 11:00 am Mass

Saturday 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday 9:00 am Mass

Wednesday 8:00 am adoration/confession, 9am mass

Thursday 8:30 confession, 9am mass

Friday 8:30 confession, 9am mass

live streaming link on YouTube St. Michael's Mass at 9 am Sunday

### StMStG-Live

Confessions and Sacrament Of the Sick are also available by request.

Please contact Fr. Anthony directly to book an appointment.

Pastoral Directory on inside flap

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