

# Living the Gospel

ShareLife Sunday Collection: April 27/28

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 **ShareLife**

## St. Joseph The Worker Parish

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**GOSPEL REFLECTION: THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

*A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)*

This familiar passage about the good shepherd calls to mind soothing images from children’s books that portray Jesus as a gentle shepherd carrying a lamb on his shoulders. But Jesus paints a much more powerful picture. His good shepherd is a protector; he watches over and guards his sheep. He doesn’t sit by passively when predators approach; he acts swiftly to keep his flock safe. He doesn’t flee or abandon them; he stands his ground and defends them (John 10:12). He even “lays down his life for the sheep” (10:11).

We know, of course, that Jesus is talking about himself. He is a shepherd unlike the “shepherds” of Israel. In the previous chapter of John’s Gospel, the Jewish leaders responded to Jesus’ miraculous healing by casting out the formerly blind man from the synagogue (9:34). Jesus offered healing and revelation to God’s people, yet these shepherds both rejected him themselves and prevented their “sheep” from receiving the abundant life that Jesus came to give them (10:10). In contrast, Jesus sought out the healed man, comforted him, and led him to faith (9:35-38). This is what a good shepherd does.

Jesus is not just “the” good shepherd; he is *your* good shepherd! Unlike a hired hand who works only for pay, Jesus is moved by a deep love for you. His love is so fierce that he freely, gladly offered his life on the cross for his sheep. For us. For you.

Today, rejoice that your good shepherd is guarding and protecting you. He is leading you securely along the perilous paths of life. He is defending you against the wolves and thieves that seek to “steal and slaughter and destroy” you (John 10:10). He is giving you new life that he won by laying down his life and taking it up again in his resurrection (10:18). He will never forsake you.

*“Thank you, Jesus, for being my strong good shepherd!”*

**MASS READINGS**

**First Reading:** Acts 4.7-12

**Second Reading:** 1 John 3.1-2

**Gospel:** John 10.11-18

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Sunday 21 April, 9:00 AM (Italian)**  
+ Pietro Mirenzi

**Sunday 21 April, 10:30 AM**  
For all Parishioners

**Sunday 21 April, 12:00 PM**  
Thanksgiving from Catherine Emile & Antony Aruldoss

**Tuesday 23 April, 9:00 AM**  
For all Parishioners

**Wednesday 24 April, 7:00 PM**  
+ Fiorella & Enzo Quattrini,  
+ Assunta & Serafino Ortino,  
Blessings for Alexander & Ian Guthrie  
Birthday Blessing for Idris Casmiro

**Thursday 25 April, 9:00 AM**  
+ John Baptist Noronha

**Friday 26 April, 7:00 PM**  
+ Raffaele & Teresa Spataro  
+ Fortunato & Girolina Spataro  
+ Antonio & Stella Masso  
+ Maria Grossi  
+ Attilio, Anna & Aldo Lio

**Saturday 27 April, 9:00 AM**  
+ Vincenzo Schirripa

**Saturday 27 April, 5:00 PM**  
+ Flora Sanchioni

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS**

This weekend and the next, at our 5pm and 12noon Masses, some of our children will be receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. On behalf of the entire parish I congratulate them and their families, together with their teachers, for this important milestone in their lives. Having been baptized, these little ones now advance in their sacrament of initiation into the life of Christ, nurtured by He who is the bread of life. May they be sustained by him. Many thanks to the teachers who worked assiduously to help them prepare for this great sacrament. May Jesus, the good shepherd, nurture us all unto eternal life.

## SHARELIFE 2024

The ShareLife campaign for this year 2024 is still ongoing. This campaign is more than a collection of funds; it is a way we as a Catholic community put our faith into action through the work of several agencies. It is one massive way by which we evangelize, and the Archdiocese of Toronto reaches out to our diverse community, near and global. We look forward to continuing to provide for our agencies as they carry out their efforts, reflecting the message of the Gospel to love one another. By supporting agencies that serve those who are poor, vulnerable and marginalize, and that operate in line with the values of our faith, we bring the hands of Christ to people in need. Our next ShareLife Sunday Collections will be held on next weekend April 28, and June 2

## CWL BAKE SALE

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) is holding a bake sale on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> after all the masses in the church basement lobby. Proceeds from the sale support the needs of our parish and charitable organizations. Donations of baked goods for the sale are most welcome. Please deliver these to the parish office on Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> or Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> in the morning. Thank you for supporting the CWL.

## VESPERS CELEBRATING ST. GREGORY OF NAREK AS 'ABBOT AND DOCTOR OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'

St. Gregory of Narek, widely revered as one of the greatest figures of medieval Armenian religious thought and literature, and a saint in the Oriental Orthodox Church, has recently come into our Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. Join Archbishop Francis Leo and Bishop Abgar Hovakimyan (Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Canada) who will co-preside at a jointly prepared Armenian Vespers to celebrate this remarkable event on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 6 pm, hosted at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church on 920 Progress Ave., This event will also feature an ecumenical exchange of gifts. Liturgical vessels entrusted to us from Armenians fleeing Genocide during the last century will be returned and an icon of St. Gregory of Narek will be received. Thank you for your continued support and promotion of Christian Unity in the Archdiocese of Toronto.



## SHARELIFE SPEAKER SERIES

In his message for the 61<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis beautifully articulates this call as an invitation to sow seeds of hope and foster peace.

Reflecting on this, Sharelife invites you to gain a deeper understanding of the current landscape of vocations within our Archdiocese and the role we each play in supporting our future priests.

**Join us in the ShareLife Speaker Series event, "Sowing Seeds of Hope: Investing in our Future Priests," on Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.** This special gathering of prayer and conversation will feature **Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Director of the Office of Vocations at the Archdiocese of Toronto.** Fr. Matthew will guide us in exploring the profound significance of vocations and our collective responsibility to nurture them within our faith community.

Sign up with this link: [bit.ly/sharelife-webinar-sowing-seeds-of-hope](https://bit.ly/sharelife-webinar-sowing-seeds-of-hope)

For any questions, registration concerns, please contact:

Jenn Lazo | [jlazo@archtoronto.org](mailto:jlazo@archtoronto.org)

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Come and join us in learning more about the women of the Bible. Have you often wondered who are some of the women in the Bible that really had an impact? Can we as women in our modern world relate to any of these stories or experiences in our lives. Join us on Wednesday, April 24 at 7:30 pm sharp. There will be fellowship, Bible reading, and sharing of ideas. If you are 18+ we look forward to seeing you, feel free to invite a friend! Please bring a notebook and a bible.

## City of Vaughan Volunteer Recognition Award

During a recent city of Vaughan's 2024 Volunteer Recognition Awards, our Parish was blessed to have one of us recognized for her diligent volunteer work in the parish. Congratulations to Cecilia Ferreira for this honor. May God bless you and family, and all our volunteers who do an amazing job volunteering for the good of our Parish community.

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