



Sat. March 31

7:45pm +**For the People of the Parish**

Sun. April 1

9:15am +**Carina Drilon**

10:30am +**John De Cotis**

12:00 noon +**Sancho & Macaria Amahan**

Wed. April 4

7:00pm +**Lisa Faiella, In Thanksgiving**

Thurs. Apr, 5

7:00pm +**Graziano Nardolillo**

Fri. Apr. 6

9:00am +**Samira Asal**

7:00pm +**Patricia St. Amand**

**Easter Sunday:** is the greatest day of the Christian year. We praise God for all his wonderful works of creation and salvation, but especially for raising Jesus from the dead, and declaring him Lord. Jesus is the Saviour, the centre of world history. We rejoice today with all Christians for our heavenly Father has made us sharers in the grace of his Son. By baptism we die with him, are buried with him in death, and are raised with him. We share in his victory and his life.

**Easter Week:** We continue our rejoicing over the resurrection of our Lord and his victory over sin and death. The daily Gospel readings this week describe the different occasions on which the Risen Jesus appeared to his followers.

**Easter Season:** Fifty days of Easter joy will bring us to Pentecost; then God's gift of life will be complete in the Holy Spirit.

**Easter Celebrations in our Schools**

St. Padre Pio – Tues. Apr. 3 @ 10:30am

Pope Francis – Tues. Apr. 3 @ 1:00pm

St. Andrew – Wed. Apr. 4 @10:30am

St. Stephen – Wed. Apr. 4 @1:00pm

**ShareLife - Living the Gospel by evangelizing our faith in the greater world**

Gia Lao Parish resides in the mountainous Diocese of Xuan Loc in Vietnam. Its parishioners, mostly poor, work on the hillside farms. The Pastoral Mission Fund, with the support of ShareLife, provided a one-time grant so the parish could acquire resources it could not otherwise provide. This includes bibles and hymnals, along with training for 60 catechists, who lead marriage preparation and catechism classes. With your support, Gia Lao Church is bringing faith to a community in the greater world.

**April 22 is the next ShareLife Sunday.**

**RCIA** – At the Easter Vigil, our catechumens,

**John (Runxiang) Dai**

**Chloe Dai** (child of John Dai)

**Liam Dai** (child of John Dai)

**Cindy (Jin) Xin**

**Han Liu**

**Vincent Liu** (child of Cindy and Han)

**Stacy Tapp**

**Blair Walker**

**Isabella Walker** (child of Blair Walker)

**Sophia (Wen Ru) Wang**

**Ryan Shen** (child of Sophia Wang)

**John (Xiaotao) Zhang**

**Lincie Zhang** (child of John Zhang)

**Sophia Zhang** (child of John Zhang)

**Callie Zhang** (child of John Zhang)

were baptized and also received their First

Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We welcome all of them as members of our Parish Community. Next Sunday at the 10:30Mass, the newly baptized will go through the ceremony of the Laying Aside of the White Robes, the robe they received when they were baptized at the Easter Vigil.

**New Eucharistic Ministers** – We offer our congratulations to the New Eucharistic Ministers who were installed Holy Thursday:

**Sam Kharouba**

**Franca Lisella**

**Kate McMaster**

**Rosanna Nicolucci**

**Nick Siraco**

**Aleck Vasiliou**

**Mike Venneri**

**Michelle Wright**

**First Communions** – All First Communions will be celebrated in the church at 2:30pm on the following dates:

Sun. Apr. 15 – Public & Private Schools

Sun. Apr. 22 – St. Andrew School

Sun. Apr. 29 – St. Padre Pio School

Sun. May 6 – St. Stephen School

Sun. May 27 – Pope Francis School

**Stations of the Resurrection** -This Wednesday, April 4, we will celebrate the Stations of the Resurrection, beginning at 7:45pm, after the 7:00pm Mass. It is similar to the Via Crucis, the Way of the Cross and is called in Latin, the Via Lucis, the Way of Light. This celebration is based on 'encountering' the Risen Christ as he encountered his disciples in the Easter accounts found in the Gospels. It takes the form of an Easter Procession with 'encounters' depicted in holy icons. These icons focus on the disciples and their experience of the Risen Christ. They invite us to enter more

## SUNDAY

---

deeply into the mysteries of our redemption, as we walk the way of the Resurrection, the Way of Light. A reception with refreshments will follow the celebration. Because of this special celebration, there WILL NOT be a Prayer Meeting this week.

**Divine Mercy Celebration** - Sunday, April 8 is the Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. We will have a Divine Mercy Celebration beginning at 2:30pm on Sunday afternoon. There will be Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, readings from scripture and the Diary of St. Faustina, as well as a sung version of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

**St. Padre Pio Youth Group** –for all young people aged 11-17. The Youth Group meets twice a month on Friday at St. Andrew School at 8:15am. Upcoming events:  
Apr. 6 – Mass –Talent Sign up  
Apr. 20 – Youth Group’s Got Talent  
May 4<sup>th</sup> – Rosary Making  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – Rosary Walk

**Longo Gift Cards** – are available. You can purchase the cards from the parish store in denominations of \$100, \$50, and \$25. For each purchase, Longo’s will donate back to our Mortgage Fund. These make excellent gifts for your family, friends or employees. If your company wishes to purchase Longo cards for your employees as a gift, please contact Maria at 905-893-7879 ext. 201. Thank you to Longo’s for their generous donation of all of our Easter flowers.

### Items for Completion of the Church

Church: Stained-glass windows  
Narthex: Acoustical Ceiling Panels  
Back Sacristy: Upper Storage Room with stairs  
Basement: Meeting Rooms and Kitchenette  
Washrooms  
Hall and Stage  
Kitchen  
Storage  
Outside: Outdoor amphitheatre at rear of church  
Top coat for paving  
Two wells at sides of church – rocks  
Landscaping (trees, shrubs, plants, flowers)

If you or someone you know would like to assist in any way with these projects, please contact the Parish Office at 905-893- 7879.

**Stained Glass Windows** – There are now only two large windows available, based on the life of Christ. They are:

Teaching the Multitudes -57 portions available  
Feeding the 5,000 – 9 portions  
Each window will be sold in 10 portions at a cost of \$6,500 per portion. The entire window is \$65,000. A plaque will be placed below the window, once your portion has been paid in full. This is a wonderful way to honour those who are still living or to remember those who have died. For more information, please contact the office at 905-893-7879. There are still 2 portions of the Powers and Principalities window available for purchase in the Chapel. Each portion is \$5,000 and can be paid over a five year period.

### Easter Symbols and Customs

Easter Tree – An Easter tradition of European origin, the Easter tree symbolized the joyous season of rebirth. European children celebrated Easter by parading with pussywillows and birch branches laden with catkins. Originally, Easter trees were spring-blooming branches, brought indoors and placed in a vase of warm water. The warm temperatures and warm water ‘forced’ spring blossoms. Breaking of the buds symbolized the renewal of life and was a symbol of the Resurrection. Easter trees, in contemporary times, can be a natural branch, a living tree, peg rack trees, artificial trees such as the forsythia, or small replicas which beautifully display a selection of hanging eggs and other ornaments.

Easter Candle – At the Easter Vigil, a large candle, which represents the Risen Christ, is blessed. The Gospel tells us that Jesus is the Light of the World. The flame of the candle is a reminder of this and it is a symbol of Jesus showing himself to His disciples during the forty days after His Resurrection. From Easter to Pentecost the candle has a special place of honour in the sanctuary standing either near the altar or near the lectern. After the Easter season it is placed near the Baptismal font and is also used in the celebration of funerals. Many families use a small white Easter candle at home that is lit during the family meals all through the Easter season.

**Mortgage Fund Collection** will be taken up at all Masses next weekend.

**Parish Office** will be closed on Monday, April 2nd during the day and will open at 5:30pm. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00pm.

Deacon Curtis, Deacon Gary and I would like to wish all of you a very happy and holy Easter.