



Sat. April 7

7:45pm +**Giuseppe De Cicco**

Sun. April 8

9:15am **For the People of the Parish**

10:30am +**Sam & Loretta Sammut**

12:00 noon +**Concisa Garcia**

Mon. April 9

7:00pm +**Pina Cornacchione**

Wed. April 10

7:00pm **Intentions of Gabriele DiPede**

Thurs. Apr. 11

7:00pm +**Patricia, Antonio & Isabella Virgilio & deceased members of the Romanelli family**

Fri. Apr. 13

9:00am +**Gregorio Costa**

Feast Days This Week

Mon. Apr. 9 – **The Annunciation of the Lord**

Wed. Apr. 11 – **St. Stanislaus**, bishop, martyr

Fri. Apr. 13 – **St. Martin I**, pope, martyr

Divine Mercy Sunday – The origins of this feast are found in the apparitions of Jesus to a Polish nun, called Sister Faustina. She was born in 1905 in Glogowiec near Lodz, Poland, to a large peasant family. After a few years of service with affluent families, she entered the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. In the convent she zealously discharged the duties of cook, gardener and doorkeeper. She led an extraordinary rich, spiritual life, which abounded in a variety of mystical gifts. Her mission consisted in reminding the world of the truth of God's merciful love, transmitting new forms of devotion to the Divine Mercy, and inspiring a religious renewal in the spirit of that devotion. She died in Krakow in 1938 and was canonized a saint in April 2000. She left behind a spiritual diary, which is numbered among the outstanding works of mystical literature. In various apparitions, Jesus asked St. Faustina to celebrate God's Divine Mercy. In response to that, Pope John Paul II, in 2001, declared the second Sunday at Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Divine Mercy Sunday - Sunday, April 8 is the Second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday. We will have a Divine Mercy Celebration 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.

Laying Aside of the White Robe – This Sunday, the newly baptized, now called Neophytes, go through the ceremony of the Laying Aside of the White Robe. At the Easter Vigil, the Neophytes received a white robe which they wore as a symbol of becoming a new creation and being clothed in Christ. In the early Church, the Neophytes proudly wore this robe for an entire week and on the Sunday after Easter, at the end of Mass; they went through this ancient ceremony. Today, our Neophytes, **John Dai, Cindy Xin, Han Liu, Stacy Tapp, Blair Walker, Sophia Wang, and John Zhang** lay aside their white robes and are given a figure of the Lamb of God, an Easter symbol of Jesus.

The Bible Study resumes next Saturday at 9:30am in the Chapel.

Knights of Columbus will have their General Meeting this Monday, April 9 at 7:45pm at St. Andrew School.

The CWL will have their General Meeting this Monday, April 9 at 7:45pm, at the church. All ladies are welcome to attend. Memberships for 2018 will be accepted as well.

Baptism will be celebrated Saturday, April 14 at 12 noon. Family and friends should be here by 11:45am.

ShareLife - Living the Gospel through immediate mental health services

Mental health problems can escalate if not addressed quickly. That's why the five Catholic Family Services agencies in the Archdiocese of Toronto now offer walk-in counselling. This initiative can often meet clients' need without requiring longer term counselling. Clients report a clinically significant increase in confidence that they can tackle their problems. By supporting ShareLife, you're helping restore hope to those in crisis.

April 22 is the next ShareLife Sunday. Please give generously.

Items in the Store – the gift store in the Narthex of the church is now selling items for First Communion and Confirmation.

Celebrating the Easter Season

Spring Festival – In ancient times people used to celebrate the return of spring to the earth. As the trees burst into leaf and the birds began to sing, it seemed to them that the darkness and death of winter had been defeated. We still observe some of the customs that go back to that earlier age. But for the past two thousand years, Christians have

kept a new kind of spring festival. For us, Easter is the most important celebration of the whole year because it was at Easter time that Jesus died for the sins of the world and rose to a new life and is alive forever. On the first Good Friday and Easter Sunday he won the war against darkness and death, once and for all. For many centuries before Jesus' birth, the Jewish people had their own special spring festival, called Passover. Passover commemorates the time when God rescued the people of Israel from slavery and Moses led them out of Egypt. Jesus was crucified during Passover time and the first Christians, who were all Jews, turned Passover into the even greater celebration of God's deliverance through Jesus. Of course, Easter and springtime do not always go together. In the southern hemisphere, Easter falls in autumn, at the beginning of winter. But because of Jesus' resurrection, it is still a time of new life and new beginnings.

The Name for Easter – In many European languages, the name for Easter comes from the word Passover, as the following shows: Denmark – Passke, France – Pacques, Holland – Pasen, Italy – Pasqua, Spain – Pascua, Sweden – Pask, Wales – Pasg. In English, the word 'Easter' is not a Christian word at all. It comes from the name of a pagan goddess Eostre or Eastre. Her name meant 'the dawn' so that her festival, which took place every spring, was also about light and waking up to new life. It was the great St. Bede (673-735A.D.) from Jarrow in the northeast of England who first joined the two festivals together. It was one way of converting the pagans to Christianity. The name 'Easter' was kept, but it was the Risen Christ who was worshipped. However, old customs die hard and some of the symbols of our modern Easter probably came from Eostre's festival even if they have long since been given Christian meanings.

Easter Lilies – The Easter Lily, which originated in Japan, was brought to North America in 1882. Since it flowers around Easter time in this part of the world, it soon came to be called an "Easter Lily". Churches began using it as a decoration on Easter Sunday. Although the Easter lily did not originate from a religious symbolism, it has acquired that symbolism. Its radiant whiteness, the delicate beauty of its shape and form, its joyful and solemn aspect, certainly makes it an eloquent herald of the Easter celebration. Besides, lilies have always been symbols of beauty, perfection and goodness as found in both the Old and New Testaments.

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.

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. 20 – Youth Group's Got Talent
 May 4th – Rosary Making
 May 18th – Rosary Walk

Stained Glass Windows – There are now only two large windows available, based on the life of Christ. They are:
 Teaching the Multitudes -5 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.

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.

A Special Thank You to all those who helped make our Holy Week celebrations so beautiful – Our Choirs, Soloists, Musicians, Liturgical Dancers, Lectors, Ministers of Communion, Ushers, Altar Servers, the RCIA team, Banner Bearers, Knights of Columbus, CWL, our Youth Group, all those who helped in any way. Also, a very special thank you to Longo's for their very generous donations of all the Easter flowers.