

Living the
Gospel



ShareLife Sunday Collection: April 25/26

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❖ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Life More Abundantly

Today is often called “Good Shepherd Sunday” because of the Gospel image of Christ as the Good Shepherd. It is not a symbol that immediately resonates with us today. For the sheep, a good shepherd is essential—one who protects them and helps them to thrive. For the shepherd, the sheep are his livelihood.

While we are not necessary for God’s completeness, we should be clear: God delights in us and delights in giving us life. We are the sheep of His flock.

Emblazoned at the back of the chapel in the seminary I attended were the words from Jeremiah: *“I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”* (Jeremiah 3:15 – NRSV). As the Good Shepherd, Jesus comes to bring us life in abundance. We were reminded that we must wisely nourish the people we are called to serve.

While today’s Gospel contrasts Jesus, the Good Shepherd, with leaders who acted out of self-interest, it also speaks to us. All who exercise leadership in the Church—not only those in formal roles—are called to be shepherds after the heart of Christ. It is a beautiful calling, but also a demanding one. It requires us to respond to others with care and generosity, setting aside reactions that are defensive, reactive, or destructive.

For priests, this shepherding never takes place in a vacuum. From the outset our ministry is a sharing in that of the bishop. Before ordination, the bishop asks a striking question: *“Do you promise respect and obedience to me and to my successors?”* It’s a scary question! Yet in answering in the affirmative, an adventure begins.

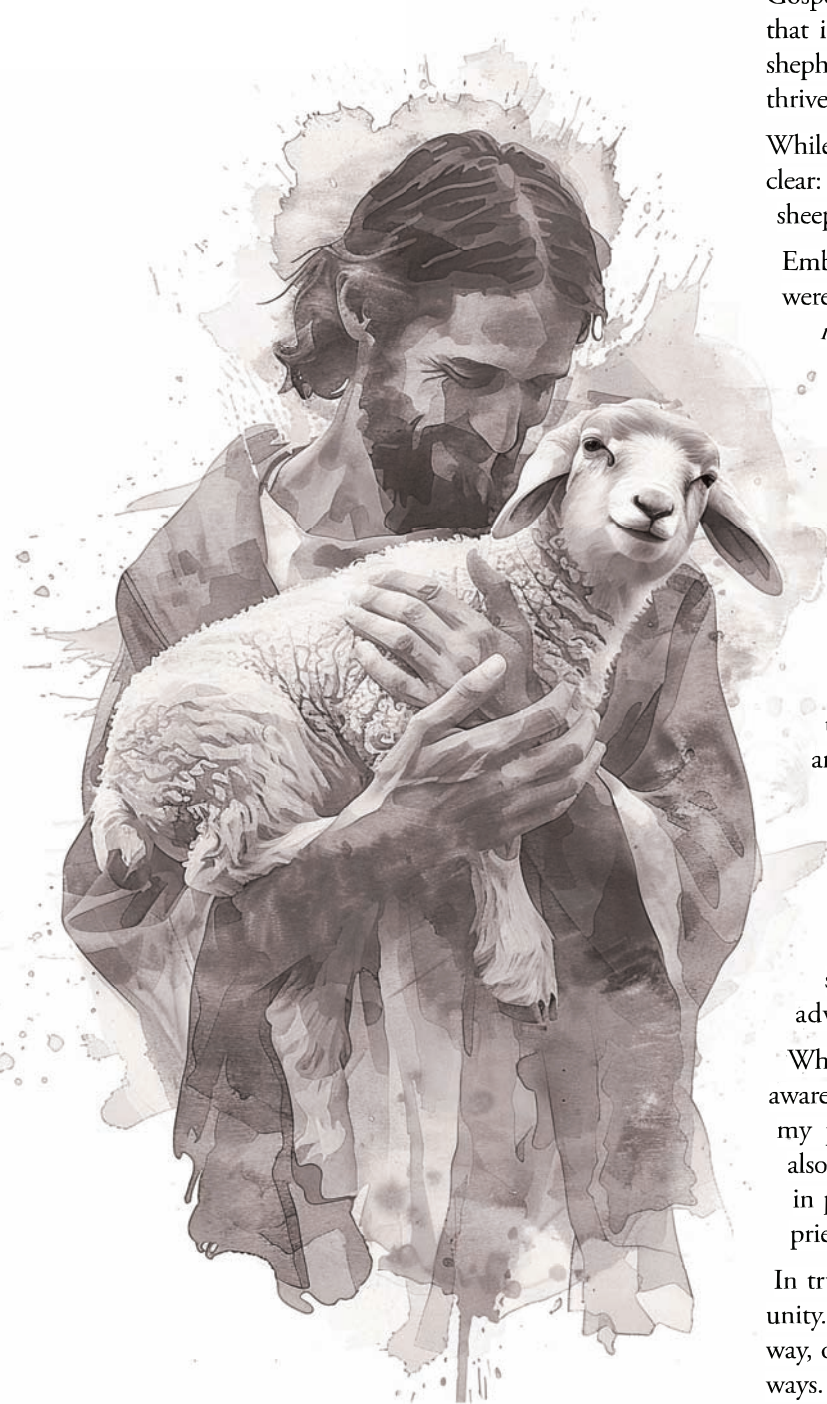
When I was first appointed pastor in 1994, I became acutely aware that my responsibility was to foster fruitful life of faith among my people—helping them to grow not only individually, but also in communion with one another. Despite our differences in personality and approach, we serve as one body. As diocesan priests, we work together in that unity.

In truth, all of us share a responsibility towards communion and unity. This does not mean that we approach the world in the same way, or that we receive and live out our Catholic faith in identical ways. Rather, it challenges us to discern how to live and act in ways that support the abundant life the Lord promises.

In the end, Christ is our Good Shepherd, and we are His flock. I pray that each of us may continue to discern the way in which we are called to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to do our part in revealing the abundant life He has given us.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob



❖ NEWS

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 25

4:30 pm ♦ For the People

Sunday, April 26

8:30 am ♦ † Fr. Edward Smith

11:00 am ♦ † Aileen Menez

Tuesday, April 28

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Wednesday, April 29

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

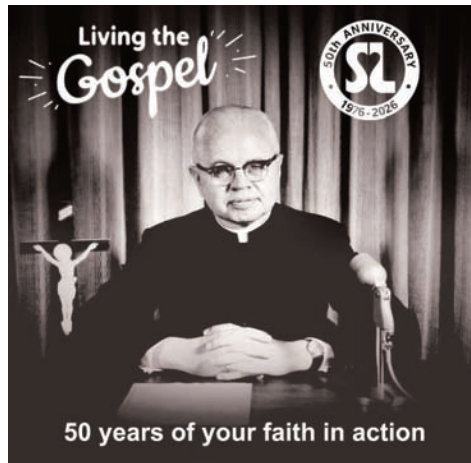
Thursday, April 30

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

Friday, May 1

5:00 pm ♦ Private Intention

ShareLife Sunday is this weekend, celebrating 50 years



Today is ShareLife Sunday, the second weekend of special collections. Since 1976, ShareLife has been rooted in our Catholic values of charity and in living the Gospel by caring for those in need. Over the decades, thousands of people across our archdiocese have come together through parish campaigns, school drives, workplace giving, and personal acts of kindness to make a difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

ShareLife recognizes that all humans are created in the image of God, with a commitment to the dignity of the individual and the right to life, working on behalf of the poor and vulnerable. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary in 2026, we invite you to join us in honouring this legacy of serving the marginalized in our parish community and around the world.

With your support, ShareLife-funded agencies can continue to provide vital services—like counselling for families, support for isolated seniors, and care for those facing mental health challenges—for years to come. Please give using a ShareLife envelope or at sharelife.org/donate.

Parish Collection Summary

| | 2026 | 2025 | Diff |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Apr 5 [†] | †\$ 10,721 | \$ 4,712 | ↑\$ 6,009 |
| Apr 12 | \$ 5,070 | \$ 4,354 | ↑\$ 715 |
| Apr 19* | \$ 6,878 | †\$ 11,337 | ↓\$ 4,459 |
| Apr 26 | | \$ 3,348 | |
| Mth Totals | \$ 22,669 | \$ 23,752 | ↓\$ 1,083 |

* Includes Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit Donations

† Includes Easter Donations

Upcoming Special Collections

- **May 3**- Preservation Fund
- **May 17**- Pope's Pastoral Works
- **May 31**- ShareLife

Thank you for supporting our parish!



Cashless Donations

With fewer people using cheques or cash, we are pleased to offer several convenient ways to donate:



Online: Scan the QR or visit stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org and select the Donate button. Ensure that "St. Paul's Basilica" is selected from the parish drop-down menu.

TipTap: Tap your card against an amount on the device at the back of the church to make a donation. For a year-end tax receipt, register your physical card by scanning the QR code beside the TipTap device.

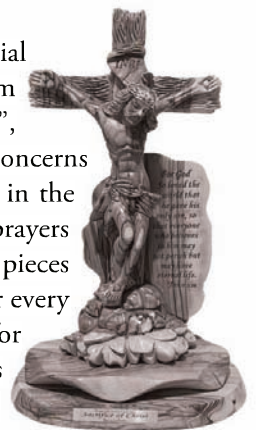


Handicraft Holy Land Christians



9 - 10, 2026; After each Mass

On May 9th and 10th, we welcome our special guest Vanessa from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass. Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. "May God Bless you for your generosity, for you help and for your prayers." To learn more visit HolylandChristians.ca.



Sing Unto God! St. Michael's Choir School Spring Concert

Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 4:30 pm; St. Paul's Basilica



As the school year draws to a close, the St. Michael's Choir School will come together on Sunday, May 31 at 4:30 p.m. for its annual spring concert, hosted by our parish. Featuring a repertoire from their recent Spring Tour, along with new selections reflecting this year's theme, the entire student body will fill the Basilica with their voices in celebration.

Admission is free, and a goodwill offering will be gratefully accepted. All are welcome.

4th Sunday of Easter

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