

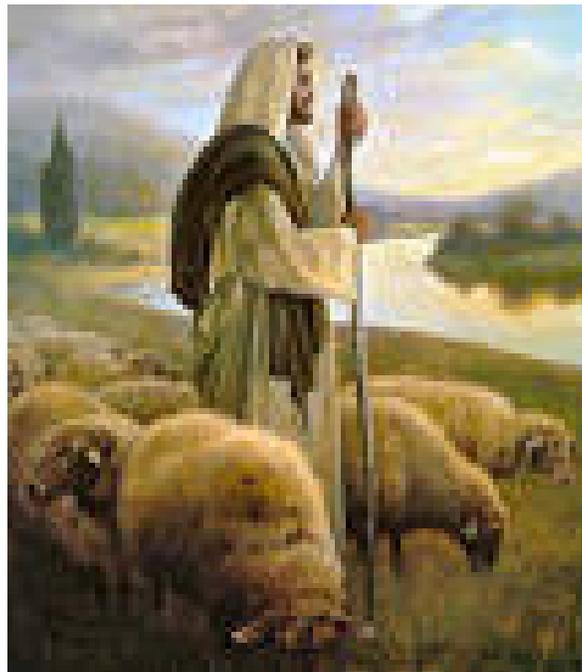
**St. Rose of Lima Church**

**April 22nd, 2018**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Pastor:**

**Father David Martin**



**Masses:**

**Thursday: 12:10 PM Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM**

**Confession:**

**Saturday at 3:00 PM**

**Baptisms:**

**Please call the Office 653-6850 for arrangements.**

## A Vision for a Revitalized Church

### Living out our Baptismal Call

This Sunday, Bishop Robert Harris announces the plan for diocesan realignment. It will result in one of the most significant changes in the structure of our diocese, since we began more than 175 years ago. Why are we doing this now?

The reason for such a change in our diocese is captured in the vision that was developed first in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, published in 2012. This plan presented the core of our vision for the pastoral life of our diocese. In the last two years through survey, reflection, consultation and prayer our diocese has further refined this vision. It now is our Vision for a Revitalized Church, Living out our Baptismal Call.

The changes announced this Sunday are based on becoming a Church that lives this vision.

- \* An evangelizing community that gives Jesus Christ to the world
- \* Full churches for Sunday Mass
- \* Intergenerational community of children, teens, young adults, middle-age, seniors
- \* The center of the community life serving those on the margin and most in need
- \* A community of growing disciples who share their faith, support one another, and lead others to Jesus Christ

May God bless us as we seek to live as missionary disciples of Jesus, sharing the Good News in our world, locally and globally.

### **“STRONGER TOGETHER... ‘my boy...’”**

This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday...also known as “Vocation Sunday.” The focus is, of course, on all vocations but as well a special prayer for priestly vocations. In May I will have been ordained 15 years. It’s unbelievable how fast time goes by. One memory that keeps coming back to me from my ordination is how Fr. Frank McDonald, my former pastor and good friend laid his elderly frail hand upon my head. In two gentle words he said, “My boy...” He was the one who trained me to be an altar server. Later he became my confessor and spiritual guide. He was one of the first to help nurture my love for the church. He was the one who instilled in me early on the importance of my **BAPTISMAL CALL**. The greatest of all Sacrament! In 1981 Fr. Frank, a man of vision, led the people in Hampton from a small church that held 75 people to a new modern building that seats 350 people. I still remember that happy day...!

Also, as noted above, this weekend, our pastoral plan for re-alignment and revitalization will be made known throughout the diocese. For the past 6 years, many groups and been working hard, using their gifts and prayer to offer a recommendation to our bishop. This past Tuesday, he met with the priests to give us the final decision. From its onset, he has noted that “this

process is not just about closing parishes... rather it is a way of revitalizing and evangelizing our diocese to make it the best it can be. With a large overhead of buildings, property upkeep, shrinking communities and fewer coffers to work with, our new vision of church will draw us closer together. You may be asking, "Will this really work?" Let's look at another group who has gone through this same process:

Last weekend, we had Mary Anne Melvin help lead our music. She is a music teacher at the new Seaside Park School on the Westside of Saint John. Three schools were closed and merged into one new multi-million dollar building. Many were concerned about this merger...about losing history and identities. Along with some help from teachers, the children wrote a song to quell the fears and anxieties. The song was played on CBC by one hundred voice choir directed by Mary Anne.

I was struck by this example (recalling the Advent reading from Isaiah, "And a little child will lead them...") and I want to share some verses from this song that should help us. I've taken the liberty to put my own words in parenthesis to help it make sense for us and how our mergers and new parish identities is the work of the Holy Spirit, enhancing what we have and to help us realize that truly, we are stronger together. Some excerpts from the song (you can hear it on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3rYK68ikQ8>)

### **STRONGER TOGETHER:**

*"It isn't easy growing older (changing) every day. Preparing for our future when we rather play another game  
But when we tell you we have teachers (parishioners and leadership) who make learning (church) fun.  
On this adventure we're learning that we're stronger together  
We have three times as many school (parish) activities (ministries)  
We celebrate as many fun festivities (liturgies and social gatherings)  
When we tell you we're excited and more confident and so inspired (Holy Spirit).  
At Seaside Park the teachers (leaders and parishioners) go the extra mile  
  
Our school (parish) is beautiful and makes us smile.  
  
When we tell you it's like family and that it feels like coming home (new parishes)."*

This weekend various parishes will be told that they are merging with others. Yes there will be some fear and surprise but for me this proof of the Holy Spirit moving us forward. Like the children of Seaside Park School, we will be 'stronger together' and the possibilities endless.

Nothing stays the same. We all change and we all grow. I am not the same priest that I was 15 years ago. I have grown, I have moved, and I have gained so many wonderful experiences by entering into the lives of those I serve. How many of us still live the same house that we grew up in? How many of us still do things the way they were done 20 or 30 years ago? Today the 'status quo' ends. Today we begin to live a new life. Today we experience Resurrection.

*Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of Bernie and Yvonne McQuade*

In the charity of your prayers, please remember: Lillian Harrison, Margaret Roy, Ernie Melanson

**Mass Intentions.**

Tuesday April 24	7:00 PM St. Matthew	Mary "Kay" Kathleen MacDougall
Wednesday April 25	9:00 AM St. Augustine	Duncan MacDonald Junior
Thursday April 26	12:05 PM St. Rose	Floyd and Shirley Olive
Saturday, April 28	4:00 PM St. Rose	Joyce Vautour
Saturday, April 28	5:30 PM St. Augustine	Kevin McCormick
Sunday, April 29	9:00 AM St. Rose	Marianne Morin
Sunday, April 29	11:00 AM St. Matthew	George Lloyd

**Stewardship for the weeks ending April 15, 2018**

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>2281.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>354.55</b>
<b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b>	<b>416.60</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3052.15</b>

1) Alzheimer's Café will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark's Church at 2:00 PM. All welcome!

2) **Outreach:** Our next soup day is Monday, April 23, beginning at 1:00 PM in Rose's Kitchen. All are most welcome.

3) **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Knitters and Crocheters are meeting every Tuesday, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Rectory. For more information, call Cecile Deschamps at 696-8963.