



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

office@stjohnskitchener.ca
519 745 7855
85 Strange St., Kitchener

THE VOICE OF GOD NEVER FORCES US

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - APRIL 26, 2026

The fourth Sunday of Easter, which we celebrate today, is dedicated to Jesus the Good Shepherd. The Gospel says that: "The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out" (Jn 10:3). The Lord calls us by name, He calls us because he loves us. However, the Gospel says, there are other voices, that are not to be followed: those of strangers, thieves and brigands who mean harm to the sheep.

These different voices resonate within us. There is the voice of God, who speaks kindly to the conscience, and there is the tempting voice that leads to evil. How can we recognise the voice of the Good Shepherd from that of the thief, how can we distinguish the inspiration of God from the suggestion of the evil one? One can learn to discern these two voices: they speak two different languages, that is, they have opposite ways of knocking on [the door of] our hearts. They speak different languages. Just as we know how to distinguish one language from another, we can also distinguish the voice of God from the voice of the evil one.

The voice of God never forces us: God proposes himself, He does not impose himself. Instead, the evil voice seduces, assails, forces: it arouses dazzling illusions, emotions that are tempting but transient. At first it flatters, it makes us believe that we are all-powerful, but then it leaves us empty inside and accuses us: "You are worth nothing". The voice of God, instead, corrects us, with great patience, but always encourages us, consoles us: it always nourishes hope. God's voice is a voice that has a horizon, whereas the voice of the evil one leads you to a wall, it backs you into a corner.

Another difference: the voice of the enemy distracts us from the present and wants us to focus on fears of the future or sadness about the past — the enemy does not want the present — it brings to surface the bitterness, the memories of the wrongs suffered, of those who have hurt us, ... many bad memories. On the other hand, the voice of God speaks in the present: "Now you can do good, now you can exercise the creativity of love, now you can forego the regrets and remorse that hold your heart captive". It inspires us, it leads us ahead, but it speaks in the present: now.

Again: the two voices raise different questions in us. The one that comes from God will be: "What is good for me?". Instead the tempter will insist on another question: "What do I feel like doing?". What do I feel: the evil voice always revolves around the ego, its impulses, its needs, everything straight away. It is like a child's tantrums: everything, and now. The voice of God, however, never promises joy at a low price: it invites us to go beyond our ego in order to find the true, good peace. Let us remember: evil never brings peace. First it causes frenzy, and then it leaves bitterness. This is the style of evil.

Lastly, God's voice and that of the tempter, speak in different "environments": the enemy prefers darkness, falsehood, and gossip; the Lord loves sunlight, truth, and sincere transparency. The enemy will say to us: "Close yourself up in yourself, besides no one understands and listens to you, do not be trusting!" Goodness, on the contrary, invites us to open up, to be clear and trusting in God and in others. Dear brothers and sisters, during this time many thoughts and worries lead us to turn inwards into ourselves. Let us pay attention to the voices that reach our hearts. Let us ask ourselves where they come from. Let us ask for the grace to recognise and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd, who brings us out of the enclosures of selfishness and leads us to the pastures of true freedom. May Our Lady, Mother of Good Counsel, guide and accompany our discernment.

POPE FRANCIS — May 3, 2020

Preparación para el sacramento de Confirmación: Comenzará el sábado 23 de mayo a las 5:00pm. Escribir a oficina@parroquiaguadalupe.ca para registrarse.

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 Bishop Dabrowski is sending a delegation of young adults (aged 18-35) to World Youth Day in the summer of 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelization for the world. For more information about WYD and how to join our delegation please visit: <https://wyd.hamiltondiocese.com/>.

ENGLISH SCHEDULE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

<u>Saturday, April 25</u> <i>For Deceased of the Scarfone & Morabito Families</i>	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, April 26</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM
<u>Tuesday, April 28</u>	11:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, April 29</u> <i>St. Catherine of Siena</i>	11:00 AM
<u>Thursday, April 30</u> <i>St. Marie de L'Incarnation</i>	11:00 AM
<u>Friday, May 1</u>	11:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

<u>Saturday, May 2</u> <i>+Stella Dombroskie</i>	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, May 3</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM

HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

IV Domingo de Pascua

<u>Sabado 25 de abril</u> <i>+Amanda Hernandez +Luis Lafargue</i>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 26 de abril</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
<u>Martes 28 de abril</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Miércoles 29 de abril</u> <i>St. Catalina de Siena</i>	12:00 PM
<u>Jueves 30 de abril</u> <i>St. Marie de L'Incarnation</i>	12:00 PM
<u>Viernes 1 de mayo</u>	12:00 PM

V Domingo de Pascua

<u>Sabado 2 de mayo</u> <i>+Marvin Castillo Courtade</i>	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 3 de mayo</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

The Kitchener Knights of Columbus announces the return of its **Annual Spring Clean Up** on *Saturday May 2nd from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at the St. Anthony Daniel Church parking lot at Ottawa St N. and Franklin St N, Kitchener.* Bring your old electronics, televisions, computers, laptops and cell phones. We also accept any scrap metal, including copper, stainless steel and brass; even your old kitchen sink.

The Knights will be also distributing small embroidered roses after the weekend masses *May 2nd and 3rd here in our parish.* The funds raised from your donation in the **Roses for Life Campaign** will assist our Council in providing financial support to local Pro-Life agencies. They can be attached to jacket lapels, coats, or purses. Your support is most appreciated.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

“Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people, I encourage you to cultivate your personal relationship with God through daily prayer and meditation on the Word. Pause, listen and entrust yourselves. In this way, the gift of your vocation will mature, bringing you happiness and yielding abundant fruit for the Church and the world.

May the Virgin Mary, model of the interior acceptance of divine gifts and expert in prayerful listening, always accompany you on this journey.”

Pope Leo XIV

DIA DE ORACIÓN POR LAS VOCACIONES

“Queridos hermanos y hermanas, queridos jóvenes, los animo a cultivar su relación personal con Dios a través de la oración cotidiana y la meditación de la Palabra. Deténganse, escuchen, confíen; de ese modo, el don de su vocación madurará, los hará felices y dará frutos abundantes para la Iglesia y para el mundo.

Que la Virgen María, modelo de acogida interior del don divino y maestra de la escucha orante, los acompañe siempre en este camino”.

Papa León XIV

St. Michael Church will be hosting the artist and sculptor, Timothy Schmalz will provide a presentation about his inspiration and work entitled, *“Homeless Jesus and Other Sculptures”* on Thursday May 7th at 7pm in the Church’s Parish Hall. (80 University Ave. W. Waterloo). This event is free of charge, a free will offering would be greatly appreciated in support of The St. Michael Africa Project.