

# The Parish Community of St. Padre Pio

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## PARISH TEAM:

Monsignor Gregory Ace, C.H.H. - Pastor

Deacon Gary Thibodeau - Deacon Assistant

Deacon Curtis Boone - Deacon Assistant



**He is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia**



Sat. Apr. 16  
 5:00 pm –+ **For the People of the Parish**  
 Sun. Apr. 17  
 8:00 am - +**Maria Vomiero & the Deceased Members of the Vomiero Family**  
 9:15 am –+**Antonio & Elisabetta Figliomeni**  
 10:30 am - +**Carlo & Anthony Liut**  
 12:00 noon - +**Expedito Martinez**  
 Mon. Apr. 18  
 7:00 pm – +**Giovanna & Antonio Arrizza**  
 Wed. Apr. 20  
 7:00 pm – +**Anna Zeppleri**  
 Thurs. Apr. 21 - +**The Deceased Members of the Virgilio & Romanelli Family**

**Easter Sunday:** is the greatest day of the Christian year. We praise God for all of 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.

**RCIA** – At the Easter Vigil, our catechumens,  
**Stephen Graham**  
**Lilian Msigwa**  
**Perusi May Ritchie** (Daughter of Lilian Msigwa)  
**Sarah Tullio**

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 10:30 Mass, 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:

**Teresa Abbruscato**  
**Emma Alabastro**  
**Lucy Chiappetta**  
**Marcia Cruz**  
**Elizabeth D'Annibale**  
**David Della Rossa**  
**Jean Francois Olivier Petit**

**Stations of the Resurrection** -This Wednesday, April 20, 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 deeply into the mysteries of our redemption, as we walk the way of the Resurrection, the Way of Light.

**Divine Mercy Celebration** - Sunday, April 24th 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.

**First Communions**

All First Communions will be celebrated in the church at 2:00pm on the following dates

**Sunday, May 1– St. Padre Pio School**  
**Sunday, May 15 – Pope Francis School**  
**Sunday, May 22 – St. Andrew School**  
**Sunday, May 29 – St. Stephen School**  
**Sunday, June 12 – Public & Private School**

**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 pussy willows 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.

**Easter Lamb** – The Easter lamb, representing Christ, with the banner of victory, is one of the most significant symbols of the Easter season. It may be seen in pictures and on cards. The liturgical use of the Pascal lamb as a symbol of Jesus inspired the faithful of medieval times to eat lamb on Easter Sunday. In modern times the custom developed of having an image of the Easter lamb made of pastry or sugar as the centre piece of the table during the Easter meal. Today many bakeries make these Easter lambs.

**Knights of Columbus** – meeting on Thursday at 7:00pm at the Sisters

**Items in the Store** – The gift store in the Narthex of the church is selling items for First Communion

**Children's Liturgy** – will begin again next weekend. We are still in need of volunteers. Lessons and direction are provided so that children, ages 4-9, can understand the readings of the Mass at their level. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Parish Office at 905-893-7879.

**Ukrainian Relief** - The Archdiocese of Toronto has launched a relief appeal to support the Ukrainian people, who are suffering from widespread violence and a humanitarian crisis. Your gift will fund relief projects through the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and refugee resettlement efforts through the Office for Refugees, Archdiocese of Toronto (ORAT). The link for the Archdiocese can be found on our parish website, [www.stpp.church](http://www.stpp.church), or you can make a cheque out to St. Padre Pio Parish – Ukrainian Relief. Let us continue to pray for an end to the hostilities there, and for peace and justice to be established.

**Longo gift cards** are available for purchase in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$500. Longo's supports our parish by donating a percentage of the cards purchased to our mortgage fund. If you shop at Longo's why not purchase a gift card from the store and in doing so, help your parish. If you require large purchases for your company event, etc., please call the Parish Office at 905-893-7879.

**Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)** – Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). It is a convenient, easy and automatic way to support your parish. This allows the parish to meet its monthly obligations, such as hydro, heat, payroll etc. All donations are tax deductible and can be stopped at any time. Donations can be directed to your weekly or building fund offering, or both and will be deducted from your bank account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thanks to all our parishioners who give so generously.

**Parish Donations** - you can now make your weekly envelope donation on the church website at [www.stpp.church](http://www.stpp.church) by using *Donate Box*. Please indicate your envelope number on the form. A receipt will automatically be e-mailed back to you. Thank you for your generosity.

**Parish Office** will be closed on Monday, April 18th during the day. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00pm.

**A reminder** that the 10:30am Mass – Sunday will continue to be livestreamed on our parish website, [www.stpp.church](http://www.stpp.church)

**Items for Completion of the Church**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Narthex:  | Acoustical Ceiling Panels  |
| Outside:  | Outdoor Amphitheater at rear of church   |
| Basement: | Meeting Rooms and Kitchenette<br>Washrooms<br>Hall & Stage<br>Kitchen<br>Storage |

If you or someone you know would like to assist in any way with these projects, please contact the Parish Office at 905-893-787

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

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