

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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PASTORAL TEAM:

Rev. Fr. Thomas Lim, *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch, *Chaplain to the Faithful participating in the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass*

Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Scollo, *In Residence*

Julia Di Paolo - *Secretary*



He Is Risen!

Alleluia!

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 5TH, 2026



Dear Friends in Christ, one of the most remarkable cultural and spiritual movies of our modern era was the release of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* in 2004. Its global impact was staggering: a modestly budgeted film that earned over \$600 million, resonating deeply with both Christian and non-Christian audiences alike. What made the movie unique was Gibson's devotion to historical realism - he used Aramaic and Latin, relied on the Gospel accounts, and drew from the mystical visions of Anne Catherine Emmerich. In casting Jim Caviezel, a relatively unknown actor, Gibson ensured that our focus remained on Christ Himself, not a celebrity.

Yet the film only hints at the Resurrection, leaving the story incomplete. A full sequel, *The Resurrection of the Christ*, did not begin principal photography until 2025 in Italy. Why the delay? The Resurrection, unlike the Passion, is not merely dramatic or physical; it is profoundly mysterious. It encompasses victory over death, the transformation of creation, and the unseen reality of redemption. It is an event that transcends human comprehension and artistic depiction.

This mystery is echoed in the Gospels themselves. Jesus repeatedly foretold His suffering, death, and rising. In Matthew (16:21; 17:22-23) and Mark (8:31), Jesus teaches that He must go to Jerusalem, be rejected, killed, and rise "on the third day." In John (2:19), Jesus declares, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," pointing to His body. These predictions reveal that Good Friday and Easter Sunday are not random tragedies or surprises but are the deliberate plan of God, unfolding in time and history.

Yet when we examine the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection, we encounter a striking paradox. All four evangelists proclaim the reality of the Resurrection, yet none describe the event itself. We are given not a glorious spectacle of triumph, but two observable realities: the empty tomb on Sunday morning, and the appearances of the risen Christ to His disciples over time. The moment of resurrection interestingly remains hidden, silent, almost as if they were beyond the evangelists' ability to capture in words or images.

Why this silence? Perhaps the Resurrection is too sacred, too transcendent, for human description. The Book of Sirach reminds us that some divine mysteries are beyond our capacity to understand. The Resurrection is such a mystery - it is so glorious, so overwhelming, and so ineffable. Consequently, we are given only signs instead, such as the seemingly trivial details of the empty tomb. John tells us which disciple ran faster, who entered first, and how the burial cloths lay folded. Although these details are small, nevertheless, they serve as anchors to the reality of the event. They are testimonies, not merely to what happened, but to the incomprehensible magnitude of what took place. Faced with a reality too great for words, the evangelist can only point us to tangible signs that invite faith.

This is where Easter speaks most profoundly to us. In John's Gospel, we read that the disciples "did not yet understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead." Faith begins with encounter, even before full comprehension. The beloved disciple "saw and believed," recognizing something true before fully grasping its meaning. The Resurrection is not only a historical event; it is an invitation to see, to believe, and to live within the mystery of God's love.

Easter reminds us that the Resurrection is not merely about Jesus' triumph over death; it is also about our response. The empty tomb and the appearances of the risen Lord call each of us to faith. They are signs pointing beyond themselves to a deeper reality - God's power to transform death into life, despair into hope, and sin into redemption. The Resurrection invites us into participation: it is both fulfillment and revelation. It confirms what Jesus foretold, yet it continues to unfold in our lives as we grow in faith and understanding.

The Passion and Resurrection are one mystery. Jesus foretold His suffering, endured it for our salvation, and rose on the third day, opening the way to new life. The third day symbolizes God's saving love, bridging death and life, fear and hope, human limits and divine glory. When we encounter the risen Lord - in the Gospel, in prayer, in the sacraments, or in acts of love - we are drawn into this mystery. Easter calls us to witness God's signs and let our hearts be touched by Christ's victory. God often works quietly, in hidden ways, yet always powerfully. Like the disciples, we may not understand everything at first. But as we encounter the risen Lord, faith begins, hope is renewed, and life is transformed.

This Easter, let us open our hearts to the profound mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Let us see, believe, and enter into the new life made possible through the risen Lord. For the Passion of Christ was not the end - it was the passage to life, hope, and glory. On this holy day, we are reminded that the third day is God's day, the day of fulfillment, and the day that invites us all to rise with Him. Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 5TH, 2026

Parish Office **Closed** on **Easter Sunday and Easter Monday**
Regular Office Hours resumes on Tuesday!

He had to rise from the dead.

JN 20: 1 - 9



Jesus is risen! As Pope Francis said, "This message resounds in the Church the world over, along with the singing of the Alleluia. He remained two days in the tomb; but his death contained God's love in all its power, released and made manifest on the third day, the day we celebrate today: the Easter of Christ the Lord. The words heard by the women at the tomb are also addressed to us: Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Death, solitude, and fear are not the last word. There is a word that transcends them, a word that only God can speak: it is the word of the Resurrection." Christ has made good on all he promised. He is truly risen. ¹

Che cos'è che fa correre l'apostolo Giovanni al sepolcro? Egli ha vissuto per intero il dramma della Pasqua, essendo molto vicino al suo maestro. Ci sembra perciò inammissibile un'affermazione del genere: "Non avevano infatti ancora compreso la Scrittura". Eppure era proprio così: non meravigliamoci allora di constatare l'ignoranza attuale, per molti versi simile. Il mondo di Dio, i progetti di Dio sono così diversi che ancor oggi succede che anche chi è più vicino a Dio non capisca e si stupisca degli avvenimenti.

"Vide e credete". Bastava un sepolcro vuoto perché tutto si risolvesse? Credo che non fu così facile. Anche nel momento delle sofferenze più dure, Giovanni rimane vicino al suo maestro. La ragione non comprende, ma l'amore aiuta il cuore ad aprirsi e a vedere. È l'intuizione dell'amore che permette a Giovanni di vedere e di credere prima di tutti gli altri. La gioia di Pasqua matura solo sul terreno di un amore fedele. Un'amicizia che niente e nessuno potrebbe spezzare. È possibile? Io credo che la vita ci abbia insegnato che soltanto Dio può procurarci ciò. È la testimonianza che ci danno tutti i gulag dell'Europa dell'Est e che riecheggia nella gioia pasquale alla fine del nostro millennio. ²

¹Magnificat - April 2026 Edition | ² <https://www.lachiesa.it/>



Come and spend some quiet time in prayer

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

MON - THUR 9AM - 12PM (CHURCH)*
 EVERY FRIDAY 9AM - 7PM (CHURCH)*
 *IN CHAPEL, WHEN THERE IS A FUNERAL.



Mass Intentions for the week



EASTER VIGIL - HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 4TH - SABATO SANTO

***No Saturday 5 PM Mass ***

8:00 P.M. English (Vigil Mass)

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5TH - DOMENICA DI PASQUA

8:30 A.M. For All Our Parishioners

10:00 A.M. Per Tutti I Nostri Parrocchiani

11:30 A.M. For All Our Parishioners

1:00 P.M. Pro Popolo

***No Sunday 5 PM Mass ***

MONDAY APRIL 6TH - LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Marie De Souza

12:00 P.M. Protection of the Unborn Children

TUESDAY APRIL 7TH - MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. + Ella De Francia

12:00 P.M. + Maria De Jesus Faria

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8TH - MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. + Florence Bahingawan

+ Dulce Enriquez + Ignacio Torres

+ Harris James + Simplicio Cuison

12:00 P.M. + Norberto Tavares Faria

7:00 P.M. **Confirmation Mass**

THURSDAY APRIL 9TH - GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. + Orlando Gaerlan

8:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

FRIDAY APRIL 10TH - VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Angela & Nicola Caccavella

7:00 P.M. + David & Carmen Jose

SATURDAY APRIL 11TH - SABATO

8:30 A.M. Loreano & Norma Cruz

10:00 A.M. + Phyllis Campbell

1:00 P.M. **First Communion Mass**

SACRED JOURNEY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Romulo Delgado's
HOLY MARY
 Oratorio on the life of The Virgin Mary through the mysteries of the Rosary
 SATURDAY | MAY 23, 2026 | 7:30 PM
For Tickets
 Deluxe \$100 (Limited Quantity)
 Regular Adult \$60
 Child \$30
stlawrencemartyrchtoronto.org/holymary

SHARELIFE SUNDAY COLLECTIONS
 March 22 / April 26 / May 31



Our parish goal this year is **\$37,000.**

Please give at the parish by using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

Vocation Reflection... "He has been raised from the dead!" Through our baptism He calls us to proclaim new life to the world. Pray for those who herald the Good News as priests, deacons, brothers or sisters. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, [Director of Vocations](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org), Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. Email: vocations@archtoronto.org

OFFERTORY LAST WEEK

Regular: \$ 8,184.55




Today's Second Collection:
 Easter



Next Week's Second Collection:
 Building Fund

EASTER SUNDAY ~ APRIL 5TH, 2026

FAITH FORMATION SERIES	
IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS	
SPEAKERS & TOPICS	
APR 16, 2026 FR. ANTONELLA MURGIA	WHY IS EASTER THE CENTRE OF OUR FAITH
APR 30, 2026 DEACON DOUG MCMANAMAN	DIFFICULT TOPICS AROUND CATHOLIC SEXUAL ETHICS



Grades 6–8. Edge Nights
Every other Friday from 6:30-8:00 PM

2026 Schedule:
Jan 30 | Feb 27 | Mar 13 | Mar 27
Apr 10 | Apr 24 | May 22 | Jun 12

For **registration forms** see our parish website or email us at stlawrenceedge@gmail.com

Help Not Harm: Take Action to Support Bill C-218
Write your Member of Parliament Today!
Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca

You're invited to visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca where you can e-mail your Member of Parliament (MP), asking for their support of **Bill C-218 (The Right to Recover Act)**, which would amend the Criminal Code to prevent Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) from being provided when mental illness is the sole underlying condition. Without this change, MAiD will be available for those suffering from mental illness alone beginning in March 2027.


Chances are you know someone struggling with mental illness — a family member, friend, or colleague. As Catholics and Canadians, we are called to offer care, hope, and protection — not death — to those who are suffering and most vulnerable.

Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca today and ask your MP to support Bill C-218.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.

"Make sickness itself a Prayer"
~ St Francis de Sales ~





CONFIRMATION

Confirmation students, their sponsors and families are invited to a Reconciliation Service on **Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 PM**

Confirmation Mass is on Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 PM
Confirmation students and sponsors are asked to **check-in by 6:15pm in the parish hall**

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion Celebration is on **Saturday, April 11th at 1:00 PM**
First Communion Children are asked to **check-in by 12:15 PM in the Parish Hall**




Easter Sunday

APRIL 5TH

COFFEE & CAKE





Drop-In
After All the Morning Masses
(Only 8:30 AM, 10 AM, 11:30 AM)
in the Parish Hall




After the 11:30 AM Mass





A DAY WITH MARY

Mark your calendars:
Date: Saturday, May 30, 2026
Location: Villanova College, King City, ON
Registration Open's Online April 8th
www.archtoronto.org/mary

This family-friendly day will include Holy Mass with His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, the Rosary, confessions, a keynote address and children's catechesis. Enjoy music, fellowship and more!