STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, QUEENSPORT
ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT FELIX

PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN OBINNA NNAJIOFOR, 366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 358-2346

The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at www.cansoparishes.org

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A – APRIL 19, 2026

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS -
Saturday, April 25 - 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Church, Port Felix - *†Violet Bellefontaine*
Sunday, April 26 - 9:30 a.m. St. Agnes Church Hall, Little Dover - *†Dorian Harnish*
Sunday, April 26 - 11:00 a.m. Star of the Sea, Canso - †Pat Vincent Parker

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES –
Thursday, April 23, 2026 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel, Canso - ♥*For the Faithful*

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS – ***The God Who Walks by Our Side!!***

The familiar story of the Emmaus disciples shows how God works in our lives. These two disciples, leaving Jerusalem and walking back to Emmaus, symbolize humans in their hopeless, discouraged, and disillusioned state. The one whom they had followed for three years, hoping for better times under his leadership, is no more. All the talk about his rising from the dead on the third day has only been a myth. Now there is no more reason to stay in Jerusalem. In their hopelessness, they are returning to their obscure village. But the Lord is not ready to leave them in their hopeless condition. The same Lord who was crucified and buried walks by their side! He leads them through the scripture, through the breaking of bread, opens their eyes, and brings them back their lost hope and joy. Our Lord is a living God. He is alive and active in our lives. In moments of our discouragement, he walks by our side, works in our hearts, and brings back our joy. Having experienced the risen Lord like the Emmaus disciples, we are the witnesses to the risen Lord in today's world. ***Do I truly believe this?***

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS – 11th/12th April 2026	
Star of the Sea	
Envelopes (23)	**645.00**
Winter Fuel (2)	**40.00**
Easter (3)	**60.00**
Initial (3)	**30.00**
St. Agnes	
Envelopes (16)	**245.00**
St. Joseph's	**N/A**

Confirmation Class Sign-up: We are calling on all parents who have kids between Grades 8 – 12 who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and are willing to do so to register by calling the Parish Office or sending an email to frjonathan@cansoparishes.org. You can also sign up by clicking/copying this link - **https://forms.gle/R5TtfpdfBxr2wxxG9**

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Butterfly Memory Tree – This will be up from **April 5th** to **May 24th**. The cost is ***$5.00*** per name (in memory of a loved one). This is for both ***Star of the Sea*** and ***St. Agnes Churches.***

Club 200 Tickets are available for purchase at **$10.00** each. The draw date will be **26th or 28th April 2026**.

Ministries Schedule – April 26, 2026
Lector – ***Eileen Carrigan***

Cleaners – Apr. 26 – May 02 – ***Harry Delorey***

Star of the Sea Cemetery Clean-up: As we are getting ready for the mowing season, we are appealing to those who can to join us for this clean-up **on Saturday, 2nd May 2026, at *10:00 am*.**

ST. AGNES NEWS

Money Bingo: Every **Sunday.** The time is ***7:00 pm.***

Chase the Ace: This takes place every ***Thursday @ 7:00-8:00 pm***.

Prize Bingo: Prizes are needed for this Prinze Bingo Event. We solicit your generous donation towards this event. The date of the event is yet to be determined.

Tickets are available on a donated 8000-watt generator. The draw date will be ***April 26, 2026.***

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWS

Card Plays – Every Tuesday, starting at ***7:30 pm***.

Cursillo Weekends:
Men's May 21-25 Women's June 4-7
Camp MacLeod, Albert Bridge. For more info, please call Arlene Edwards **902-577-4214** or Karen MacSween **902-317-5425**

July 10-12: Steubenville Atlantic
Steubenville is a youth conference happening this summer in Halifax. It is a joyful encounter with Jesus with other teens from all over. Steubenville Atlantic is the biggest Steubenville conference since 2009. There is a group attending from the Diocese of Antigonish. Limited spaces available. If interested: https://www.steubenville.ca/

April 18-19: MAID Awareness Sunday
"As Christians, we are called to witness hope and compassion. We must advocate for a culture that affirms life and the dignity of every person, especially those most vulnerable to being discarded or overlooked." - **Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick**

MAiD Awareness Sunday, or Dignity Sunday, is to raise awareness of the importance of protecting life at every stage and of opposing the expansion of MAiD to include mental health as the only qualifying condition.

We are also encouraged to contact our Members of Parliament and tell them to stop the expansion of MAiD for those with mental illness and to support Bill C-218 - An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying), "The Right to Recover Act." **Read Bishop Kirkpatrick's Pastoral Letter and learn more:**
https://antigonishdiocese.com/medical-assistance-in-dying-a-catholic-response/

May 8: Spring Deadline for Applications
to the Bishop Power Foundation
The late Bishop William Power recognized the importance of the laity in strengthening Christian faith in today's modern world. A family charitable foundation in his name continues to support: individuals in university Catholic Studies (full or part-time) and non-profit groups that:
a) empower the poor and/or
b) develop the laity for their Christian role within the church, and/or
c) aid the missionary activity of the church
Applications are accepted each spring and fall for consideration. The foundation typically distributes up to $25,000 annually to successful applicants. **The deadline is May 8 for consideration this spring.**
To apply or for more information, visit:
www.bishoppowerfoundation.ca

Burning Heart Moments

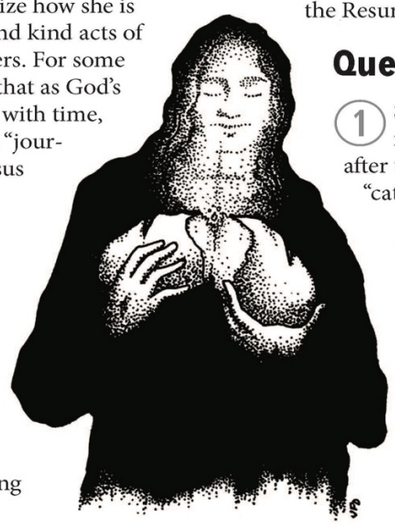
This Week's Readings at Mass

- Acts 2:14, 22-33 - Peter's discourse
- 1 Peter 1:17-21 - Filial obedience
- Luke 24:13-35 - The Road to Emmaus

The chosen readings continue to follow a pattern through this Easter season. The first reading is a speech given by Peter in the Acts of the Apostles soon after the Resurrection. He is speaking to a crowd of Jews, connecting the dots for them between King David and Jesus. He explains that David's statement of faith—"you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption"—was a prophecy of Jesus' resurrection. The Gospel tells the story of another appearance of the risen Jesus to his friends.

Luke gives us a beautiful story of a common Christian shared experience: having Jesus present with us in a time sadness or distress but not recognizing him at the moment. We might wonder why "their eyes were kept from recognizing him." We have probably also had experiences where Jesus' presence was clear to us even if it wasn't clear to others. For example, we might know someone whose spouse has died. In her grief she might feel entirely abandoned by God. From the outside, though, we can see how lovingly God is still caring for her. We can recognize how she is surrounded by the compassionate and kind acts of her friends and other family members. For some reason, she simply can't experience that as God's presence at the moment. Hopefully, with time, she will be able to look back on that "journey to Emmaus" and realize how Jesus was present with her.

The experience of not recognizing Jesus at the moment happens in good times too. Unfortunately, we don't always associate our "burning heart moments" with Jesus. St. Ignatius taught that the more we can pay attention to the movements of our hearts, the more we can discern how God is present to us and what God is inviting us to in the moment. For example, when considering a job change, or deepening a relationship, or taking up some new endeavor, if we feel "our hearts burning within us" that is a sign of Jesus' presence. Ignatius taught that, as in Luke's story, it helps to share these burning heart moments with someone else rather than keep them to ourselves. Another person can strengthen and validate our experience, share in our joy, and accompany us on the road *back* toward the Resurrection, not away from it.



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

"Their eyes were opened and they recognized him."

Sheepish Question:

As I follow Jesus today, where do I look and listen for him?

Questions of the Week

1. Share about a time when you realized Jesus' presence with you after the fact, even though you didn't "catch" it at the time.

2. When have you had a burning heart moment that clued you in to something important in your life?

Word of the Week • Copyright © 2020 Ann Naffziger. Published by the Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.