



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor
Deacon Don Roberts
Deacon Richard Te
Melinda Mayo, Parish Secretary
Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper

New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Please register by filling out a form available at the back of the church or online.

Sacrament of Baptism

The desire for Baptism for a child must be accompanied by a very serious commitment to raise the child within the Catholic faith community and to educate the child in the truths of the church. An essential part of the commitment is regular attendance at Sunday Mass. Baptisms are held on the 4th Sunday of every month. Please contact the parish office for a Baptismal package.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning to be married should contact the parish one year in advance. They must also attend a Marriage Preparation Course prior to entering marriage. If either party has previously gone through any form of civil divorce or religious marriage with another person, please notify the priest as soon as possible as the priest is not permitted to set a wedding date until the Bishop's Office has been contacted.

Sacrament of the Sick

In this Sacrament we celebrate Christ's healing presence among us today. If you, a relative or friend, require this Sacrament at home or nursing home, please call the parish office. For your spiritual needs during a hospital stay, the Archdiocese of Toronto has assigned a full time Roman Catholic Chaplain to each of the two Mississauga hospitals. For the Chaplain, speak to the Nurses' Desk or call the Spiritual Care Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM
Every 2nd & 4th Friday: 7:30 PM
(or by appointment)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Closed Daily: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MASS

Sunday Eucharist
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM (fulfills the Sunday obligation)
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 NOON
Children's Liturgy at: 10:00 a.m. Mass

Weekday Eucharist
Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays 7:00 PM
Tuesdays / Thursdays 8:00 AM

* Morning Prayer / Evening Prayer
(One half hour before Mass)

DEVOTIONS

Holy Hour
Fridays (excluding holidays) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Rosary & Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Mondays 6:30 PM

Divine Mercy
Fridays (excluding holidays) 3:00 PM

PARISH LIFE

Legion of Mary (Wed 7:30 PM) 905-822-8132
Knights of Columbus (Mike Genua) 416-804-3457
Social Committee 905-822-8132
Ministry of Consolation & Hope 905-822-8132 ext. 3
RCIA 905-822-8132 ext. 4
St. Vincent de Paul 905-822-8132 ext. 5
J.O.Y. Social Club joysocialclub@st-ignatius-loyola.com
Catholic Cemeteries 416-733-8544
Charismatic Prayer Group 905-822-8132 Ext. 3
(Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.)

SCHOOLS

St. Francis of Assisi 905-822-3183
St. Margaret of Scotland 905-820-5115
Christ the King 905-569-0220

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 18, 2018

“If the grain of wheat dies, it bears much fruit”

Whenever God's people fell into the hands of their enemies and became slaves and exiles away from their true homeland, God sent his prophets to draw them back to repentance, faith, and restoration with their God and true Savior. God sent the prophet Jeremiah to the exiles to offer them the assurance that God would not only free them from their oppressors, he would also offer them a new covenant that would endure and last for all ages. The Lord Jesus is the fulfillment of this great promise who establishes the new covenant in his blood which he shed upon the cross for our sins and the sin of the world.

How does God set us free the worst tyranny possible - from slavery to mortal sin, Satan, death, and destruction? Jesus announced to his followers that when "he would be lifted up from the earth, he would draw all people to himself" (John 12:32). What did Jesus mean by the expression of being "lifted up" and "drawing people to himself"? When great leaders set their people free from deadly enemies and secured lasting peace and security in the land, they were literally robed with glory and splendor and raised up and enthroned on high before their people. And they were often given titles such as Savior, Victor, and Deliverer of the people.

How can death lead to life and defeat to glory? Jesus described his approaching death on the cross as his "hour of glory" (John 12:23) when he would be "lifted up from the earth" and would "draw all men to himself" (John 12:32). Jesus saw his death on the cross as triumph over the powers of sin and darkness. Jesus drew an illustration of the "grain of wheat" to show how this principle works in God's kingdom. Seeds cannot produce new life by themselves. They must first be planted in the earth before they can grow and produce fruit.

What is the spiritual analogy which Jesus alludes to in the image of the grain of wheat that must die in order to rise to new life that bears great fruit? Is this simply a veiled reference to his own impending death on the cross and his resurrection? Or does Jesus have another kind of "death and rebirth" in mind for his disciples? Jesus, no doubt, had both meanings in mind. Jesus' obedience and death on the cross obtain for us freedom and new life in the Holy Spirit. His cross frees us from the tyranny of sin and death and shows us the way of perfect love.

How do I practically "die" to myself so that Jesus Christ can live in me and transform me into his likeness? It certainly means that what is contrary to God's will must be "crucified" or "put to death". God gives us grace to say "yes" to his will and to reject whatever is contrary to his loving plan for our lives. Jesus also promises that we will bear much "fruit" for him, if we choose to deny ourselves for his sake. Jesus used forceful language to describe the kind of self-denial he had in mind for his disciples.

Jesus says that nothing should get in the way of our preferring him and the will of our Father in heaven. Our hope is not earth-based but heaven-bound. Do you hope in the Lord and follow with joy the path he has chosen for you?

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

On March 22 at 7:00 p.m., we will have 6 priests to hear Confessions. Please mark your calendars and plan on going to Confession in preparation for Easter. Please note that there will **NOT** be Confessions on Holy Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Reconciliation is also available at:

St. Joseph's Parish - Tues. March 20 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Merciful Redeemer - Wed. March 21 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

St. Ignatius Loyola - Thur. March 22 at 9:30-11:30 a.m., 4:00-6:00 p.m. & 7:00-8:30 p.m.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday March 29 - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. followed by Adoration until midnight.

Good Friday March 30 - Passion of the Lord at Noon and 3:00 p.m. with Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday March 31 - Blessing of Easter Baskets at 11:00 a.m.

The Easter Vigil will begin at 8:00 p.m. (Please note that this Mass is approximately 2 hours in length.)

Easter Sunday April 1 - Resurrection of the Lord 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Mass  for the
Intentions *for the Week*

MONDAY, MARCH 19 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Doreen Samm
+ Emiliana Baquial
S.I. In Thanksgiving for St. Joseph

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 – 8:00 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 – 7:00 P.M.

+ Benita Quadarrama

THURSDAY, MARCH 22 – 8:00 A.M.

In reparation for offences committed against the
Most Holy Eucharist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

SATURDAY, MARCH 24 – 5:00 P.M.

+ Stan Clark

SUNDAY, MARCH 25 – PALM SUNDAY

8:30 A.M. *Intention Available*

10:00 A.M. S.I. Parish Community

12:00 Noon + Encarnacion Alvarez



**Living the Gospel locally and around
the world**

“It is important that we continue to support the ShareLife appeal, to provide for the needs of the marginalized both here in our communities and around the world. Sometimes the results are obvious and sometimes they’re invisible, but always they make a tangible difference in the lives of the people we are helping. Please prayerfully consider how you can be supportive today on ShareLife Sunday.” — Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto.

**Today is ShareLife Sunday.
Thank you for your generosity.**

PARISH LENTEN DEVOTIONS 2018



DAILY MASS: Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

ROSARY: Wednesdays at 6:40 p.m.

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY: Sung on Fridays at 3:00 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 2nd and 4th Friday of every month following the 7:00 p.m. Mass and Saturday from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

DYNAMIC WOMEN OF FAITH

Saturday, March 24 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre 4300 Cawthra Rd. Register at <http://dynamicwomenfaith.com/> or call 416-907-1042 for more information.

CALLING ALL GIRLS

March 23 at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd., at 7:00 p.m. An evening of high-powered talks. Meet new people. Learn the truth. Talk about it. Discover who you are. Avoid mistakes. Improve your relationship. Register at <http://dynamicwomenfaith.com/> or call 416-907-1042.

DIVINE MERCY EVENT

At Nativity of Our Lord Parish (480 Rathburn Rd, Etobicoke) March 24, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Talks by Father Terrence McKenna, "Appeals of Our Lady" exhibit and music by Sts. Peter & Paul Prayer Group Music Ministry. Admission is \$15/person. Everyone who wishes to attend must RSVP to divinemercytoronto@gmail.com or call Marilyn at (416) 259 7477.

CALL FOR CONSCIENCE

If you wish to sign up for the email messages from the archdiocese and have missed a previous opportunity here at church, please go online to <http://bit.ly/SignUpSundayRegistration>. Remember the email request is voluntary, can be unsubscribed to at any time, is completely private and will only be used some 6-8 times per year by the archdiocese.

COME & SEE WEEKEND

St. Augustine’s Seminary March 23-25
The Office of Vocations is hosting a Come & See Weekend for single Catholic men 17 years and older, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ. Time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ’s disciples as a Catholic priest. For more information, Please contact the Office of Vocations at: 416-968-0997 or email vocations@archtoronto.org.

**“ATONING FOR THE SIN OF ABORTION; HOW
TO FIX OUR MORAL COMPASS”**

Come be inspired by our own Michael Smolders (Husband, Father, Public Speaker, Coach and Entrepreneur) as he unpacks the Spiritual tools needed to tackle the Culture of Death on Monday March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, 4260 Cawthra Rd. Sponsored by Right to Life Association of Mississauga and Area and Kolbe Pro Life.

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