

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

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Pastoral Staff

Rev. Damian Ali, Pastor

Don Roberts, Richard Te, Richard Noronha, Deacons

Melinda Mayo, Office Administrator Brenda Penney, Parish Bookkeeper

Lay Pastoral Assistant - Arlene Morgan Rickeeann Kitchura - Office Assistant

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Creator,

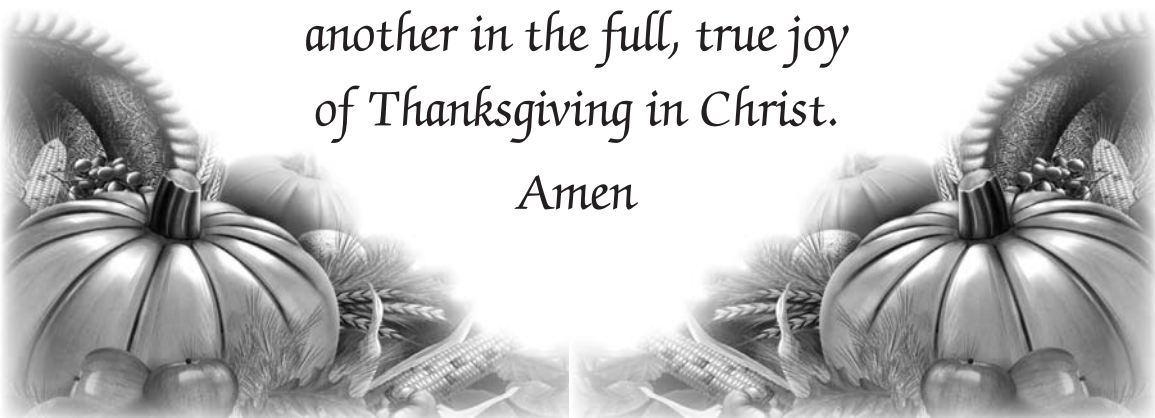
In this season of gratitude and abundance,
we give You thanks for our many blessings
as we pray for all who struggle
with hunger and want.

Be with them in the dark of night,
when all hope seems lost.

Keep their faith strong as they await relief.

And let Your goodness flow through our
hearts and hands as we reach out to one
another in the full, true joy
of Thanksgiving in Christ.

Amen



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 9, 2022

He fell at Jesus' feet giving thanks

What can adversity teach us about the blessing of thanksgiving and the healing power of love and mercy? The Book of Proverbs states: *A friend loves at all times; and a brother is born for adversity* (Proverbs 17:17). When adversity strikes you find out who truly is your brother, sister, and friend. The Gospel records an unusual encounter between two peoples who had been divided for centuries. The Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with one another even though Samaria was located in the central part of Judea. Both peoples were openly hostile whenever their paths crossed. In this Gospel narrative, we see one rare exception - a Samaritan leper in company with nine Jewish lepers. Sometimes adversity forces people to drop their barriers or to forget their prejudices. When this band of Jewish and Samaritan lepers saw Jesus, they made a bold request. They didn't ask for healing, but instead asked for mercy.

The word mercy literally means "sorrowful at heart". But mercy is something more than compassion, or heartfelt sorrow at another's misfortune. Compassion empathizes with the sufferer. But mercy goes further - it removes suffering. A merciful person shares in another's misfortune and suffering as if it were his or her own. And such a person will do everything in his or her power to dispel that misery.

Mercy is also connected with justice. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), a great teacher and scripture scholar, said that mercy *"does not destroy justice, but is a certain kind of fulfillment of justice. Mercy without justice is the mother of dissolution; (and) justice without mercy is cruelty."* Pardon without repentance negates justice.

God's mercy brings healing of mind, heart, and body

So what is the significance of these ten lepers asking for mercy? They know they are in need of healing, not just physical, but spiritual healing as well. They approach Jesus with contrition and faith because they believe that he can release the burden of guilt and suffering and make restoration of body and soul possible. Their request for mercy is both a plea for pardon and release from suffering. Jesus gives mercy to all who ask with faith and contrition.

Why did only one leper out of ten return to show gratitude? Gratefulness, another word which expresses gratitude of heart and a thankful disposition, is related to grace - which means *the release of loveliness*. Gratitude is the homage of the heart which responds with graciousness in expressing an act of thanksgiving. The Samaritan approached Jesus reverently and gave praise to God.

If we do not recognize and appreciate the mercy and help shown to us we will be ungrateful and unkind towards others. Ingratitude is forgetfulness or a poor return for kindness received. Ingratitude easily leads to lack of charity and intolerance towards others, as well as to other vices, such as complaining, grumbling, discontentment, pride, and presumption. How often have we been ungrateful to our parents, pastors, teachers, and neighbors? Do you express gratitude to God for his abundant help and mercy towards you and are you gracious, kind, and merciful towards your neighbor in their time of need and support?

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Each day until Nov 6, you're invited to join others for 40 days of prayer and fasting to reawaken the culture of LIFE in Canada. Please stand with us in prayers for life during a peaceful prayer vigil near the Mississauga Women's Clinic at 101 Queensway W. (at Confederation) for one or more hours during the 40 Days. Our parish date is Wednesday, October 26, 2022 from 7am to 7pm. For more info call John Killackey (905) 820-9232 or www.40daysforlife.com/mississauga

RCIA

The "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults," or RCIA, is available to unbaptized adults, those baptized in other Christian denominations who now wish to become Catholic, and baptized Catholics who have not yet celebrated First Communion or Confirmation. Preparation sessions take place on Tuesdays from 7:00pm to 8:30pm beginning October 11th. Please contact Fr. Damian to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.

Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Teresa Rodrigues

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 – 8:30 A.M.

Intention Available

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 – 8:30 A.M.

S.I. For married couples and those preparing for marriage.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Bonnie Noel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 – 5:00 P.M.

+ Thomas Walton

+ Xavier Pinto

+ Arthur Ashton

SUNDAY, OCT. 16 – 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

S.I. Parish Community

SACRAMENTAL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN ONLINE

Calling all parents who have children in Grade 2 (or older)! You are invited to register your child to receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The Parents' Information Meetings for First Reconciliation are Thursday, October 13th, 2022 at 7pm and Saturday, October 15th, 2022 at 10:30am. Parents need only attend one of these meetings.

We also invite any Grade 7 (or older) students who have the desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to register online. The Information Meetings for Parents and Confirmation candidates are Tuesday, November 1st, 2022 at 7pm and Saturday, November 5th, 2022 at 10:30am. Parents and candidates need only attend one of these meetings.

To register, please visit our Parish Website (stfrancisofassisi.archtoronto.org) and complete the online form. Go to "Sacraments at SFA" on the top menu bar and click on the appropriate link. For any questions or assistance, contact our Lay Pastoral Assistant, Arlene Morgan, at 905-822-8132 ext. 6 or by email at amorgan@archtoronto.org

ROSES FOR LIFE



Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Council #8668 want to thank the parishioners that generously donated to the Roses for Life campaign. We will be sending a check in the amount of \$1109.65 to Vita Manor. For more information on Vita Manor go to www.vitamanor.org

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Liturgy of the Word for children in JK to Grade 3 is being offered at the 10am Mass on the First Sunday of every month this fall, beginning Sunday, October 2nd. We hope that this program can be offered more frequently if additional volunteers are willing to facilitate the sessions on Sunday mornings. Moms and dads, grandparents, teachers and teacher candidates are encouraged to volunteer. Training will be provided. High school students who need volunteer hours are also invited to participate in order to provide support to the facilitator. If interested, please call the Parish Office to leave your name and contact information.

BRIDGE CLUB

What are you doing on Monday afternoons? Why not join us for an entertaining afternoon of Bridge? We are a very sociable group of people who would love to meet you. Come and try it. Who knows you might enjoy yourself. Bridge Club starts Monday, October 17 and runs from 1:00-3:30 p.m. For more info call Mary Ellen Lefebvre at 905-569-0230 or Penney McCarney at 905-822-4827.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2022 – CAST YOUR VOTE!

A municipal election will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022. All Catholics are strongly encouraged to exercise their democratic right to vote. We hope you'll take the time to get to know those seeking elected office for this important role.

To ensure your vote for Catholic School Board Trustee, at the polling booth, verify that you are registered as a separate school supporter. Thank you for your interest and involvement in this fall's municipal election!

THE ROSARY APOSTOLATE IS RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS



The Rosary Apostolate has been faithfully praying the Rosary with our students once a month for over 20 years. We have been invited back in-person and are seeking people who have a great love for the Rosary and who are willing to visit our schools to pray the Rosary with the children. It will be once a month for a total of 8 days a year per school. Training, screening, and materials will be provided. If you are interested, please contact Betty at 647-239-0987.

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