



# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Damian Ali, Pastor  
Don Roberts, Richard Te, Richard Noronha, Deacons  
Brenda Penney, Parish Bookkeeper  
Arlene Morgan, Lay Pastoral Assistant  
Rickeyeann Kitchura, Office Assistant

### 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 usually held on two Sundays 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  
(or by appointment)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 4:00 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

#### Weekday Eucharist

Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays 7:00 PM  
Tuesdays / Thursdays 8:30 AM

### DEVOTIONS

#### Holy Hour

Fridays (excluding holidays) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

#### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rosary

Wednesday during Mass  
Monday & Wednesday at 6:40

### PARISH LIFE

Charismatic Prayer Goup 905-822-8132  
Legion of Mary (Wed 7:30 PM) 905-822-8132  
Knights of Columbus (Mike Genua) 416-804-3457  
RCIA 905-822-8132 ext. 3  
St. Vincent de Paul 905-822-8132 ext. 5  
Catholic Cemeteries 416-733-8544

### SCHOOLS

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

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 29, 2023

## “Rejoice and Be Glad, for Your Reward Is Great in Heaven”



What is the good life which God intends for us? And how is it related with the ultimate end or purpose of life? Is it not our desire and longing for true *happiness*, which is none other than the complete good, the sum of all goods, leaving nothing more to be desired? Jesus addresses this question in his sermon on the mount. The heart of Jesus' message is that we can live a very happy life. The call to holiness, to be saints who joyfully pursue God's will for their lives, can be found in these eight beatitudes. Jesus' beatitudes sum up our calling or vocation - to live a life of the beatitudes. The word *beatitude* literally means "happiness" or "blessedness".

What is the significance of Jesus' beatitudes, and why are they so central to his teaching? The beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness that God has placed in every heart. They teach us the final end to which God calls us, namely the coming of God's kingdom (Matthew 4:17), the vision of God (Matthew 5:8; 1 John 2:1), entering into the joy of the Lord (Matthew 25:21-23) and into his rest (Hebrews 4:7-11). Jesus' beatitudes also confront us with decisive choices concerning the life we pursue here on earth and the use we make of the goods he puts at our disposal.

Jesus tells us that God alone can satisfy the deepest need and longing of our heart. Teresa of Avila's (1515-1582) prayer book contained a bookmark on which she wrote: *Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. All things pass - God never changes. Patience achieves all it strives for. Whoever has God lacks nothing - God alone suffices.*

The beatitudes which Jesus offers us are a sign of contradiction to the world's understanding of happiness and joy. How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God as the greatest treasure possible. Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and spiritual oppression.

God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world. Thomas Aquinas said: *"No one can live without joy. That is why a person deprived of spiritual joy goes after carnal pleasures."* Do you know the happiness of hungering and thirsting for God alone?

### Mass for the Intentions for the Week

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 30 – 7:00 P.M.**

+ Danielle Schmalz

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 31 – 8:30 A.M.**

Intention Available

#### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 – 7:00 P.M.**

Intention Available

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – 8:30 A.M.**

For an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life and Permanent Diaconate.

#### **FRIDAY, February 3 – 7:00 P.M.**

Intention Available

#### **SATURDAY, February 4- 5:00 P.M.**

+ MaryJane Lau-Moon-Lin

+ Xavier Zuzarte

+ Gil Ruiz

#### **SUNDAY, JAN. 29 – 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

S.I. Parish Community

### **MARRIAGE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2023**



Married couples celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary (25, 50, 75 years) in 2023 please notify the parish.

Certificates to commemorate this special anniversary will be prepared by the Archdiocese and handed out by Father Damian. There will also be a special blessing at the end of Mass for all married couples.

Please email all information including names, the church where you were married, how many years you are celebrating and contact phone number to [stfrancisofassisi@archtoronto.org](mailto:stfrancisofassisi@archtoronto.org)

**We require this information as soon as possible.**

## INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

We thank you for your contributions to the Church in 2022 and advise you that income tax receipts will be mailed out mid-February by the Archdiocese of Toronto. Offertory envelopes for 2023 are available at the back of the Church and in the Parish Office. Brochures outlining our Pre-Authorized Giving Plan and Parish Registration forms are also available. If you would like a PAG form, please contact the parish office.



## PARISH SUMMER CAMP

**WHEN:** August 13th - 18th, 2023

### **DAY CAMP PROGRAM**

Grades 1-6 : Monday to Friday (9:00am – 2:30pm)

### **EVENING PROGRAM**

Grades 7-12: Sunday to Thursday (7:00pm – 9:00pm)

**WHERE:** St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Mississauga

**WHY:** For our youth to encounter Jesus in a fun & joyful way with lasting memories!

**REGISTER:** Beginning of **March 2023**

**CONTACT:** Ms. Arlene at [amorgan@archtoronto.org](mailto:amorgan@archtoronto.org)

**TOTUS TUUS** is a diocesan program that gathers together college/university students into teams of four each and sends them out to parishes to spread the GOOD NEWS of our LORD among children and youth. The Missionaries are trained by the Archdiocese of Toronto Office of Catholic Youth.

For grades 1-6, the program consists in catechetical instruction, songs, games, daily Mass, the Sacrament of Confession, lunch, recess and more. TOTUS TUUS balances strong catechetical content with having FUN!

The evening program for grades 7 – 12 has catechetical instruction, a night of Adoration and Reconciliation, and a night of fellowship with the team and many fun activities throughout the week. The goal of both programs is to help the youth to know the LORD and love him more deeply. Because of the youthfulness and energy of the Missionaries, the children and youth will make many special memories for life!

## ALTAR SERVERS



If you are in Grade 4 or up and are a baptized member of the Catholic Church and are already a participant in the Eucharistic Communion, **we need you**. Presently there are no Altar Servers for the 12:00 p.m. mass.

**Please email [sfa.altarserver@gmail.com](mailto:sfa.altarserver@gmail.com)** Training will be provided.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Youth Choir:** Practices every Saturday @ 4pm Parish hall

**Bridge Club:** Every Monday @ 1pm in Parish Hall

**First Communion Parents' Meetings:** Thurs. February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm or Sat. February 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the church

**Children's Liturgy:** Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10am Mass

**Marriage Sunday:** February 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> – all Masses

**Ash Wednesday:** February 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 8:30am & 7:00pm

**Men of St. Francis Club:** Sat. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 8am in parish hall

## ST. CLARE QUIZ

- How old was St. Clare when the preaching of St. Francis of Assisi influenced her?
- Where was St. Clare sent by St. Francis?
- What is the name of St. Clare's sister who followed her?
- Perhaps the best-known miracle attributed to St. Clare is?
- What is the official name of the Order founded by St. Clare?
- The nuns who followed St. Clare became known as?
- Who canonized St. Clare?
- 



## Week of Christian Prayer for Christian Unity

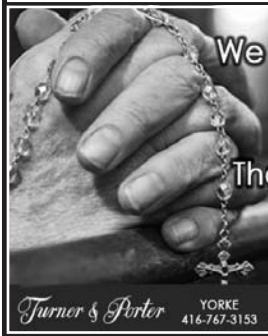
Inaugurated in 1908, the event is now celebrated around the world on an annual basis. In 2023, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was **celebrated January 18 to 25**. The theme for this year is "Do good, seek justice" (Isaiah 1:7). The materials for prayer and reflection were prepared by the Minnesota Council of Churches (USA), in the aftermath of the 2020 extrajudicial killing of George Floyd and the trial of the police officer responsible. As local Christian communities sought to respond to the anguish of these events, they also recognized their own historical complicity in perpetuating racial injustice. Inasmuch as the Church is summoned to be the sign and instrument of the unity God desires for the whole of His creation (cf. Lumen gentium, 1), the continued divisions between Christians constitute a scandal: we are thus called to repent of our disunity and work together for reconciliation among all peoples.

## PRAYER FOR UNITY

Compassionate God; help us repair the harm that we have inflicted upon each other and the divisions we have created among your people. Just as Christ Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon the disciples to birth the community of the new creation, send your grace to our divisions and gift us with the unity for which Jesus prayed. Christ, the way, the truth and the life, you embodied justice in your ministry on earth by the good that you did, breaking down the walls that divide and the prejudices that imprison. Open our hearts and minds to recognize that though we are many, we are one in you. **Lord Jesus, teach us and show us the way. Amen**



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