

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT  
FEBRUARY 25, 2024



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024 (5:00 PM)

Gen 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18 | Ps 116:10,15-19 | Rom 8:31b-34 | Mark 9:2-10

†Ross Durnan

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Wilfredo Ticzon



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 (11:00 AM)

For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Daniel 9:4b-10 | Psalm 79:8,9,11,13 | Luke 6:36-38

NO MASS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 (7:00 PM)

Isaiah 1:10,16-20 | Psalm 50:8-9,16bc-17,21,23 | Matthew 23:1-12

†Dennis Perin

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Jeremiah 18:18-20 | Psalm 31:5-6,14-16 | Matthew 20:17-28

Special intentions of Louise & Bernard Wilson and in  
Thanksgiving for Xavier Rampersad

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Jeremiah 17:5-10 | Psalm 1:1-4,6 | Luke 16:19-31

Special intention of Dalia & Jesus Lizarzaburu

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 (9:00 AM) Stations of the Cross (7 :00 PM)

Gen 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a | Psalm 105:16-21 | Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

†Eliswa Paul Kannampuzha

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Micah 7:14-15,18-20 | Psalm 103:1-4,9-12 | Luke 15:1-3,11-32

†Giorgio Circosta, †Wilfredo Caparas, †Robert Pereira and  
Blessings for Nadiya Lim on her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wed. & Thurs. 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Friday 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

DAILY DEVOTIONS

(after Mass)

Tuesday – Sts. Anne & Joachim

Wed. – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Thursday - St. Jude

Friday – Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday – St. Michael

Confessions: Sat. 9:30 to 10:30 am

Support Your Parish:

1. Drop off or mail your regular weekly offertory contribution to the parish office.
2. Contribute to your parish offertory by credit card. You can make a one time or recurring contribution to your parish's offertory or other special funds.
3. Contribute through Pre-Authorized giving (PAG). You can obtain a form from the parish office or [click here](#) to download the form.
4. You can contribute to the offertory via on-line banking. Email [campaign@archtoronto.org](mailto:campaign@archtoronto.org)

## PASTOR'S BLOG

As we make our way through this Lenten season, I will continue to use these messages to explain the 5 precepts of the Church. The purpose of this is to remind us of the precepts and to provide some instruction on them so that we can live our Christian life more fully connected to the liturgy and to be nourished and strengthened by the liturgy.

- 1) You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
- 2) You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- 3) You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
- 4) You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
- 5) You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church

This week I want to look at the second and third precept together. But, I will start with the third precept.

### **The Third Precept**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains: "The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy." (CCC 2042)

For many, this might seem like a strange precept but it arises out of a particular historical context. There was a time in the history of the Church where many people who attended Mass were not receiving Holy Communion on a regular, weekly basis and even on a yearly basis. There were many personal and communal reasons why the faithful were not receiving Holy Communion regularly. So, through this precept, the Church as a teacher emphasizes in her catechesis that this Sacrament is the source and summit of the Christian life and as a mother wants her children to be nourished by this Sacrament for their Christian living.

Now this makes sense for us and why this precept might seem a bit strange. Why wouldn't we want to receive the Eucharist frequently? If we truly believe that it is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ then there should be a desire to want to receive Him more often especially if we are striving for holiness. Remember, the precepts are the bare minimum for Christian living. We shouldn't aim for the minimum: we should do everything we can to receive Him at least once a week on Sunday (Re-Read last week's blog) or more often if given the opportunity.

However, in our modern time, we do not have the problem of people not receiving Holy Communion on a regular, weekly, yearly basis. Rather, we have long communion lines but short confession lines. And so we turn to the second precept.

### **The Second Precept**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains: "The second precept ("You shall confess your sins at least once a year") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness." (CCC 2042)

For many, this might seem like a strange precept but it arises out of a particular historical context. We are in a time in the history of the Church where many people are not going to confession on a regular basis. Now, there are many personal and communal reasons why the faithful are not going to confession regularly. So, through the precept, the Church as teacher wants to emphasize that those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick do. Jesus came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. As a mother, the Church wants her children to be adequately prepared to receive the Eucharist through the forgiveness of sins and ongoing conversion of heart in confession. As I have said in the past, if we want to truly embrace the good news, we need to be consciously aware of the bad news in our own life.

Yes, the Sacrament of the Eucharist is medicine for the sinner in the field hospital that is the Church. However, medicine is not prescribed in a general way. Sometimes, we need to remedy one illness before we get to the next. As the Catechism explains that anyone who is conscious of grave sin should not receive the Eucharist without first going to confession (CCC 1457). Similar to our reception of the Eucharist, we should not aim for the minimum. We should make confession a regular part of our spiritual plan of life. My rule of thumb is once a month. If you are battling with a particular sin, you might want to start with something more like every other week or once a week. If our desire for holiness is real, then we need to be completely detached from sin and the more often we go to Confession the more detached from sin we become with the grace that is given to avoid sin in the future.

So, during this Lenten season, as we move from the sentiments of love to the essence of love I encourage you to get to confession so that you can receive the Eucharist with hearts and minds made pure. Divine Love, shown to us sinners, is mercy.

Fr Michael

## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

### TOTUS TUUS

The youth of the parish are invited to join us for Totus Tuus Summer Camp this summer the week of July 15th! For those of you who may not know, Totus Tuus is an Archdiocesan program whereby seminarians and young adults travel to different parishes, spreading the Good News of our Lord through catechesis, Mass, Confession, songs and games! The Day camp is for children entering grades 1-6 and runs Monday to Friday and the Evening Program is for youth entering grades 7-12 and runs Sunday to Thursday. The cost is only \$125/child for the whole week for the day program and \$25/child for the whole week for the evening program. Registration is now open and you can find it online on the Parish Website or at the exists of the Church. For more information, please contact Sam, the Youth Minister!

### 2023 TAX RECEIPTS

2023 tax receipts for donations to the parish that were not picked up, have now been mailed out.

### SSVP - ALMSGIVING

While many of us might think of almsgiving foremost as the giving of our money to charitable causes (and we always welcome your donations!), I would like to include this reflection found in Loyola Press:

**Give of Yourself:** Daily life also offers countless opportunities to give of yourself to others (alms), and most don't involve dipping into your wallet. Give encouragement to the doubting, give a word of praise to the insecure, show kindness to someone who could use a friend, and offer a word of thanks to those whose service of others often goes unappreciated. Give the gift of your attention to someone who simply wants to be noticed. Tell your children stories about people whose values you admire when you gather at mealtime. Don't be stingy with your smiles—give them freely to everyone you meet. And most important, give your love to those close to you. Hug them, hold them, and tell them what they mean to you. In this way you open your heart to God and others. ~Sal Badali

### LEGION OF MARY BOOK

The Legion of Mary will have their monthly book borrow after the 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses this Sunday, January 25. Feel free to browse or borrow a book. Kindly return any books you may have previously loaned.

Free Rosaries and prayer cards available. Take as many as you like.

### THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

#### TABERNACLE

For the conversion of sinners  
For the conversion of sinners

#### SACRED HEART OF JESUS

For the conversion of sinners  
For the conversion of sinners

#### OUR BLESSED MOTHER

For the conversion of sinners  
For the conversion of sinners

#### ST. JOSEPH

In Thanksgiving

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VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE

Connect with us online! Scan the QR code to visit our parish website.  
If you are new to the parish, welcome! Register on the website.



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