

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

APRIL 6, 2025



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025 (5:00 PM)



For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of Ettore Binotto

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 (11:00 AM)

†Aldo Lista

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025

NO MASS

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025 (7:00 PM)

Special intentions of Dana Lim

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†David Romlewski and Special intentions of Desiree Paiva,
Vincent & Maria Ghisleni, Dana Lim and Samantha Cameron

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of Dana Lim

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 (9:00 AM) STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7 PM

Special intentions of Dana Lim

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Paul Matthew Thanikkotu, †Aldo Lista, †Jamie Tesoro, †Otto
Haring and †Rita Marguerite Charlebois Hornby

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wed & Thurs - 9:30 am to 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

PASTOR'S BLOG

In the midst of getting ready for our Easter celebrations, the most holiest time of the liturgical year, it is a bit of a grace to write this blog, reflecting on the pilgrimage to Italy, and specifically day 2 (Thursday February 27) in Rome. Pictures for this time will be sparse...we heard a lot of "NO PHOTO...SILENCE".

Rome - Day 2

After a long first day in Rome, navigating the Roman ruins, reflecting on the arches and celebrating Mass in St. John Lateran, day 2 kicked off with a tour of the Vatican Museum. Our entry time was early, but not too early so that we could get some rest and have a bit more flexibility in the morning. Espresso and Cappuccinos were an important part of this portion of the pilgrimage...actually, throughout the whole pilgrimage as they were so well made! I digress... After some hiccups with our entry into the museum (one of our pilgrims required the use of a service dog for seeing and making sure documents were sent in advance), we were in full tourist mode with explanations of the ceiling of the Sistine chapel and learning about other historical artifacts and pictures. For those who have been through the Vatican museum, there is no way to see everything in one day and you feel pressured to keep moving, so it is hard to digest all that was being spoken. Thankfully, I had done my research on the ceiling beforehand so that when we entered the chapel, I was able to just receive. And definitely in the chapel, you feel pressured to just move along. However, because of the hiccups at the entry to the museum, I stayed close to the pilgrim with her service dog. The guards of the chapel were very welcoming and offered us a seat right near the main altar of the chapel. It was the first time I had that vantage point of the chapel and it was magnificent. Michelangelo brought the story of salvation from creation to our redemption to life. And it is not abstract! It follows a logical process that makes the story come to life. The beauty of the chapel definitely raised my heart to God.

Something else that I was pondering while sitting in the chapel was that Pope Francis was still in the hospital and that this chapel was going to seat the Cardinals of the Church to elect his successor. It was a surreal experience. Alas...all good things must come to an end, except when on pilgrimage in Rome. After our tour of the Vatican Museum, we walked from the entrance of St. Peter's Basilica to the beginning of the Camino walk down the Via della Conciliazione (Road of Reconciliation) to enter into the Holy Door of St. Peter's. This was a very moving spiritual experience where we were given a cross to carry in pilgrimage down the Via della Conciliazione all the way through the Holy Door to the tomb of St. Peter in the Basilica. While we were walking, we were praying the ritual that had been prepared by the Jubilee Year office. As I was leading the prayers, I was overwhelmed with the joy of the procession and the grace that was being poured out for myself and each of the pilgrims. There was one moment, as we had to climb the steps to get to the holy door, where our cross bearer (an older Italian gentleman who had served in his church for years as a server and sacristan) began to get tired. Approaching the stairs, he just looked at me and said, "I can't do it." So, I replied, "Nope, you got this." And I took his arm and another pilgrim took his other arm and we just helped him, one step at a time. This moment brings forth how we are to carry the crosses of our own life in our small pilgrimage up the Via della Conciliazione, within our larger pilgrimage through Italy, and within the pilgrimage of our life - in our poverty we depend on God and others, one step at a time.



After the pilgrimage through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, we went back to our local guide as they walked us through the basilica. Again, you can go into the Basilica time and time again and still pick up a detail that was not noticed last time or something else catches your eye to reflect on. I think my time in Florence with Michelangelo's art and statues were what came to me this time around while we pondered on his *Pieta*. This statue is very domesticated, familiar to each of us. But, this time around I was gazing on Our Lady's sorrowful face as she looks upon Our Lord in her arms. It was her tenderness that caught me. How she looks tenderly on the disfigured face of God. And with that same tenderness she holds each one of us and looks upon us who have disfigured ourselves through sin. Through this loving, tender gaze, she leads us to Her Son who can restore us into the image and likeness of God - the hope that we carry as Christians.

After our time at the Basilica, we made our way to historic Rome near the Pantheon where we would break for lunch, explore the city, and celebrate Mass at the Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola. It was another beautiful Church where we were able to offer Mass and receive the beauty that God was shining forth for us. I was immediately drawn to the tombs of St. Robert Bellarmine and his pupil St. Aloysius Gonzaga. The sacristan of the church found me just looking around and taking things in; so, he gave me a nice keepsake, a little guide to the history and art in the Church. When you start going into all these beautiful Churches, it all starts blending together, so having this guide will be a good companion for future reflection.

After celebrating Mass and walking around the Church, it was time to head back to the hotel. However, I stayed back with a few other pilgrims to take in historic Rome and do some shopping. There are some ecclesial tailors that I have been shopping with since I was ordained but I have never been into their physical store. So, I made a visit and did some shopping. We also wanted to stay around and enjoy some of Rome's famous cuisine. We went to a very nice, quaint restaurant and pretty much we all ordered the carbonara. It was delicious! As we were eating, we kept saying, you can get all the ingredients and make it at home but it won't taste the same. The freshness of the cheese, how the chickens are raised who laid the eggs, the pasta and how it is processed...it all makes a difference. After a great meal accompanied by great company, we made our way back to St. Peter's Basilica. While we were in Rome, they began to say the rosary every evening for the health and intentions of Pope Francis. Since we couldn't have a papal audience, we figured this would be a good alternative. It was very moving and meaningful to pray with the universal Church for the Pope. It reminded me of when Pope St. John Paul II was dying and they offered something similar.

After another long day, we made it back to the hotel to rest for the night. I was going to go into day 3 in Rome, but the blog has already reached a nice enough length, so I will get into that next week.

Fr Michael



**Providing post-abortion help and healing in
a confidential and non-judgmental way**

Project Rachel at St. Mary's Refuge is offering a weekend retreat, May 2-4, 2025, for women who have been hurt by abortion. You can speak with someone who understands and cares, and have a chance to begin the healing from loss and grief.

Phone 289-691-6840,
or e-mail ProjectRachel@stmarysrefuge.org.

SHARELIFE

You open the door to safety from abuse

Your support of ShareLife-funded agencies is a saving grace for victims of domestic abuse. Maria was trapped in an abusive relationship, isolated from family and friends. A mother of three, pregnant with her fourth, she needed to escape for her safety and theirs. At Safe Centre of Peel, led by Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin, 17 partner agencies unite to care for families. They provide legal assistance, safe housing, and financial aid. Through your solidarity, Maria and her young children were able to secure the freedom they deserve.

**Thus far we have raised \$15,979
toward our goal of \$110,000.**

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope available at all the exits of the Church or at sharelife.org/donate.

Please make checks payable to St. Mary Star of the Sea

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

Special intentions of Ettore Binotto
Special intentions of Ettore Binotto

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Special intentions of Danny Sabbadin
Special intentions of Danny Sabbadin

BLESSED MOTHER

In loving memory of Rita Marguerite Charlebois Hornby
In loving memory of Rita Marguerite Charlebois Hornby

ST. JOSEPH

In thanksgiving

SSVP – BUNDLE UP

A wonderful way to practice your Lenten almsgiving is to support our SSVP. This could be through the donation of clothing/bedding/household goods to our Bundle Up this weekend, or a loonie or toonie (or any amount!) in the poor box. The truck will be in the parking lot all weekend to receive your Bundle Up donations. Members of our SSVP team will be on hand before and after all Masses to assist, but you are welcome to come by any time on the weekend to make a drop off (please place inside the container).

Thank you.

How to Donate to SSVP

You can use one of the SSVP envelopes found on the poor boxes or a regular envelope marked SSVP.

To donate online through Canada Helps, please visit <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/> and search for "Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, St. Mary Star of the Sea Conference" or use the QR Code.



To donate by Interac e-Transfer, please direct your donation to the email stmarystar@ssvptoronto.ca, and use the Question 'Saint' and password 'Vincent'. Your ongoing generosity means the world to us. Thank you all for your support.

**SSVP HELPLINE:
FOR ASSISTANCE PLEASE
CALL 647-628-2058**

Leave your name, number and a brief message and someone will get back to you at the earliest.

ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA LENTEN CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Family Day of Confessions

Saturday, April 5th

Morning Confessions (11:00am-12:30pm)

Afternoon Confessions (2:00pm-3:30pm)

A time designated specifically for families with children who find it difficult to make it to confession. This allows parents to go to confession knowing that their children are occupied with fun faith filled activities. All are welcome but priority should be given to parents of children.

Parish Day of Confessions

Friday, April 11th

Morning Confessions (9:30am-12:00pm)

Afternoon Confessions (2:00pm-4:00pm)

Evening Confessions (6:00pm-8:00pm)

For the whole parish to seek the Lord's Mercy. Please note that this will be the last opportunity for Confession before Easter.

ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE 2025

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, April 12th/Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday Mass (9:00am and 11:00am)

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)

Thursday, April 17th

Mass of the Lord's Supper (8:00pm)

Altar of Repose (Until Midnight)

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Friday, April 18th

Celebration of the Lord's Passion (3pm Service)

Stations of the Cross (7:00pm)

**Divine Mercy Novena begins this day and will be prayed at 2:30pm
prior to the 3:00pm service**

Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 19th

Easter Basket Blessing (10:30am)

Divine Mercy Novena (3:00pm online)

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (8:30pm)

The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday)

Sunday, April 20th

Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord (9:00am & 11:00am)

Divine Mercy Novena (3:00pm online)

CWL & CFFC

Our collection of gently used bicycles empower individuals in marginalized countries. We believe in the humble bicycle as a means to increase access to vital community services and networks that allow individuals to meet their basic needs and build better lives.

If you have one (or two) that you would like to donate, please drop off at the St. Vincent de Paul truck in the Church parking lot.

Bundle Up Weekend (April 5/6)



SUMMER



CAMP



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

WEEK 1: JULY 7-11
WEEK 2: JULY 21-25

Join us for a summer of faith, friends and fun!

DAILY MASS • CRAFTS • SPORTS & GAMES
• OUTDOOR FUN!

**JOIN US THIS
SUMMER!**

Contact me for more
information!

REGISTRATION : \$150/CAMPER

With discounts for siblings

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Facebook



Twitter



YouTube

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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