

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary time

October 29, 2023



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023 (5:00 PM)

Ex 22:20-26 | Ps 18:2-4,47,51 | 1Thes 1:5c-10 | Matthew 22:34-40



†Deceased members of the Tan & Torralba families

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 (9:00 AM) [\[Click for Livestream\]](#)

For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 (11:00 AM)

Blessings for Shantie Toolsie

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023

Romans 8:12-17 | Psalm 68:2,4,6-7ab,20-21 | Luke 13:10-17

NO MASS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023 (7:00 PM)

Romans 8:18-25 | Psalm 126:1b-2ab,2cd-3,4-6 | Luke 13:18-21

†Don Domenico Fietta

ALL SAINTS DAY: WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Rev 7:2-4,9-14 | Ps 24:1bc-2,3-4ab,5-6 | 1John 3:1-3 | Matthew 5:1-12a

†Dec. memb. of the Lobo & Poranganel families, Sp. int. of Denise & Cesare Dalle Carbonare, Louise Wilson and Eleanore Marchese

ALL SOULS DAY: THURSDAY, NOV. 2, 2023 (9:00 AM & 7:00 PM)

Wisdom 3:1-9 | Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5-6 | Romans 6:3-9 | John 6:37-40

†For all Souls

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Romans 9:1-5 | Psalm 147:12-15,19-20 | Luke 14:1-6

†For the Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Romans 11:1-2a,11-12,25-29 | Ps 94:12-13a,14-15,17-18 | Luke 14:1,7-11

Blessings for Sharmila Iyer, Shantie Toolsie, Special intention of Julie Fredette, †Cayla Moreno and †Teresa PeLeggi

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

After 10 days on the road, travelling from hotel to hotel and long bus rides through three countries, Portugal, Spain and France, it is good to be back home. Praise the Lord from whom all goodness flows!

From the moment that I started packing for this pilgrimage to the last moment of arrival, the distinction of vacation and pilgrimage was felt. What do I mean by this? Before a vacation, I am setting myself up for a week of not doing any ministry other than the most important thing of prayer and Mass. You work hard, there might be a few “check out” moments along the way, but when the last Mass is finished and you are about to take off for vacation, there is a sense of relief and yeah the stress is just washed away. Before this pilgrimage, I had none of that feeling. After the last Mass, there was no sense of relief or stress being washed away. It was getting ready for a different type of ministry. There were no “check out” moments along the way. It was ministry, just a different type of ministry. This feeling played itself out at the airport where I couldn’t just go into my introvert self and just recharge the social batteries. I had to be “on” and minister to the pilgrims as they came through security and were waiting at the gate. The different feeling of this pilgrimage was not bad. In fact, it was exciting.

At the conclusion of the pilgrimage, the best way to describe it would be “getting comfortable being uncomfortable.” The first part of our pilgrimage was through two Atlantic storms. There was a lot of rain and a lot of wind with the temperatures lower than expected. Despite the rain, we still went and saw everything that we had planned. And while it was not good for us pilgrims, the people of the countries and their crops needed the rain. Once we got into the second half of the pilgrimage, then we started seeing better weather but also had to contend with people getting sick because of the rain and cold. Thankfully, we ended the pilgrimage with sunny skies and warm temperatures. Also, we had to get comfortable on a bus. There were some long bus rides that we went through and they can be draining, but it was amazing to see the countries we visited, the mountains and the plains. The hardest thing for me was the movement from hotel to hotel. I am a homebody by nature, so I like my own bed. Having to change one so frequently was a bit harsh on my system. Alas, *foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.*

While it is good to get back into routine, I will miss the adventure of the pilgrimage. I am still processing all the sites and places we visited, the privileged moments a priest has celebrating Mass at these sites, and people sharing their lives with really a stranger. So the last part of this blog is part of my processing of the events of the pilgrimage. I am a systematic person, so the best way to break it up is Fatima, Spain 1, Lourdes, Spain 2.

Fatima

The message of the apparition at Fatima to the three children was one of peace. Given world events, to pray for peace at this site was incredibly moving for me. The candlelight vigil, procession and the international rosary really gave an authentic Catholic vibe. The next morning, being able to celebrate Mass at the chapel of the three children and the “dancing sun” was amazing. To pray the angel’s prayer in the site where the three children met the angel was also incredibly moving. Sadly, it was raining so we did not get to experience the fullness of the site - to sit and pray - we kept moving to get out of the rain. But, thanks to the rain, I found myself indoors at the adoration chapel and was able to get to confession. (Yes, priests go to confession as well!)

Spain 1 - Medieval History and St. Theresa of Avila

The second part of the pilgrimage brought us into Spain where we were able to get caught up in faith and how it is so deeply intertwined with history. Celebrating Mass in Alba de Tormes, at the tomb of St. Theresa of Avila was special. Her movement of reform and renewal of the Carmelite order has always inspired me, and to get to know a little more about her life while touring was helpful for my own ministry. I know selections from her books, The Interior Castle and The Way of Perfection but I am now more inspired to read them. The timing of our visit was also important, because October 15th is her feast day, so all the churches we visited were still decorated for the feast. Following our time in Alba de Tormes and Avila, we went to Toledo, Madrid and Burgos. The Cathedrals and Basilicas were stunning. My take away here is how much people were willing to invest into their faith. The worship of God came first and it showed in the externals of their churches.

Lourdes

The third part of our pilgrimage brought us to Lourdes. My goodness, what a beautiful shrine and a beautiful setting. We celebrated Sunday Mass as a group and then went for our tour of the shrine. It was a full day of activity and there was always something happening at the shrine. We went around the interior of the basilica, went to the baths and then privately I went to the grotto. There was a time of Eucharistic Adoration for healing and the candlelight procession with the international rosary. Words can't describe how beautiful this time was.

Spain 2 - Our Lady of Pilar,Montserrat, and Sagrada Familia

The last leg of our pilgrimage brought us through the picturesque Pyrenees to the regions of Aragon and Catalonia in Spain. These two apparitions of Our Lady are shrouded in legend and oral tradition but grounded in faith. With Our Lady of Pilar, to know Our Lady goes before us and is with us on our missionary journey gave me great consolation. With Montserrat and the Black Madonna, I was moved by the conversions that have happened here, specifically St. Ignatius of Loyola. With Sagrada Familia, it is still not finished in construction, much like my thoughts and reflections. As initial thoughts, it does not fit categories that I am more comfortable with and was a bit underwhelming given some of the historic cathedrals and basilicas we had already visited. However, Antoine Gaudi the architect had a vision for the Church and was a man of great faith and loved the liturgy. So, once it is complete and everything begins to tie in together, I think it will be easier to understand all the symbols and meaning behind the architecture and will better answer the question, Why?

So, that was my external processing for the Marian pilgrimage. My first one as a spiritual leader. In the conversations we will have at the door of the Church I will be able to speak more into my experiences, so feel free to ask. Next week, Samantha will share with you her experience as a pilgrim. She also has a tonne of pictures that she will share on Instagram, so if you haven't followed us, you can @StMaryStaroftheSeaParish. I am not a picture guy and I can't really take pictures during Mass, so Samantha snapped a few shots while I preached at Mass!

Fr Michael

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Calling all youth from Grades 6-12: Our Youth ministry is back and better than ever! We are introducing our new program called Navigation Nights! This will be a time where all youth are able to come and explore their faith! Our first night is a social and the theme? Jersey Night! So, grab your friends, grab your favourite team's jersey and join us Sunday, November 12th from 4:30-6:00pm! For more information about Youth Ministry please contact me (Sam) via email at SCameron@archtoronto.org

SSVP BUNDLE UP – NOV 11/12

It's a good time to gather up your gently used linens, clothing, shoes, towels and household goods to donate to Saint Vincent de Paul. Some items may be distributed to the needy and funds raised from the sale of the items are used towards the works of Saint Vincent de Paul. A truck will be available at St. Mary's and unlocked all day on Nov. 11 and 12, so you can drop off donations anytime. Members of St. Mary's SSVP will be available to assist you with your donations before and after all weekend Masses. Did you know that SSVP owns or manages 22 facilities in the GTA, including homes for women?

SSVP HELPLINE: 647-628-2058

Leave your name, number and a brief message and some will get back to you

SUNDAY MISSALS

2023 – 2024 Sunday Missals are now available for \$6 each. Get your copy today.

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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.

11 Peter St. S., Mississaua, ON L5H 2G1 | (905) 278-2058 | stmarystaroftheseami@archtoronto.org

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

Registration for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation are open.

Please visit this link to register:

<https://stmarystarofthesea.ca/sacraments>

Registration for First Holy Communion will close on Saturday, November 4th.

Registration for Confirmation will close on Sunday, December 3rd.

If you have any questions or would like more information please reach out to Adriene (First Holy Communion) or Samantha (Confirmation).

LEGION OF MARY BOOK BORROW

The Legion of Mary will have their monthly book borrow after the 9 and 11 am Masses this Sunday, October 29, 2023. Feel free to browse or borrow a book. Kindly return any books you may have previously loaned.

SHARELIFE

We have currently raised \$90,288 (72%) towards our suggested goal of \$125,000

Please make donations at sharelife.org/donate or by giving at the parish with a ShareLife envelope.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

FOR ALL SOULS

