

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 9, 2025



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025 (5:00 PM)



For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Father Leo Ramsperger

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025 (11:00 AM)

†Alberto D'Orazio

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

NO MASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 (7:00 PM)

†Josie Ricci

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Janet Miceli and Special intentions of Pope Francis, Vincent Ghisleni, Marilyn Fernandes and in Thanksgiving to St. Joseph

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†George Caldwell

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Alex Lorenzo

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Krystyna Donald, †Robert Pereira and Special intentions of Pope Francis and Ekta & Ryan Graham

EUCARISTIC 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

This past Monday, I returned from a 12 day pilgrimage in Italy that took us from Rome, to Assisi, to Florence, to Siena and Orvieto. As pilgrims of hope, we were able to experience our Catholic faith and tradition in a very tangible way that provides a sure and certain hope of salvation that was won for us by Jesus Christ. As I said in my last blog, after returning from pilgrimage, I will have a lot to say...I was not lying. There was a lot to take in, to digest and reflect upon. Over these next few blogs, I will try to unpack some of those experiences.

Assisi

When we arrived in Rome, we transferred by coach bus to Assisi. This was my third time in Assisi as I had been here in 2005 as part of a pilgrimage after World Youth Day in Cologne and then in 2012 with my seminary classmates. And like these times, the city did not disappoint. There is a calm and peaceful atmosphere that allows one to just receive the beauty of the Umbria region and to hear the whispers of God speaking through the frescos of the Churches and the lives of the saints.

Our first bit of time in Assisi was spent at [Saint Mary of the Angels](#). Walking into the Church for the third time in 20 years was still breathtaking. Here, we celebrated our first Mass as a pilgrimage group and here the tone was set. Everyone on the pilgrimage was there for a reason, a purpose. God had brought us together and there was something that He wanted us to receive. The Gospel of the day allowed us to reflect on the "Cost of Discipleship" - *If anyone wants to be my disciple, they must take up their cross and follow me.* I didn't have to work too hard at preparing a homily for this Mass because we were in the presence of saints who literally did this - St. Francis of Assisi, St. Claire and Blessed Carlos Acutis.

The next day, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, we began the day with Mass at [Santa Chiara](#) where St. Claire is buried. What I received from this Mass and our time spent at the Church was how St. Clair died: "Go securely and in peace, my blessed soul. The One who created you and made you holy has always loved you tenderly as a mother her dear child. And you, Lord, are blessed because You have created me." Just a holy and peaceful death...not attached to the world's goods, but to God.

It is also the Church where the original San Damiano cross hangs:

The Crucifix of San Damiano was brought by the Poor Clares to the Proto-Monastery of Saint Clare in Assisi, in 1257, when they moved from the church of San Damiano. It is the crucifix before which St Francis prayed in 1205 receiving the call to work for the Church of the Lord: "Go Francis, and rebuild my house which, as you can see, is falling into ruin". Francis first interpreted the voice of Christ as a request for the restoration of the little church of San Damiano, only later did he understand that the Lord was calling him to work for the Church made of living stones.

We then went on a walking tour of Assisi with our local guide to visit the tomb of Blessed Carlos Acutis, who will be canonized a saint this summer in the Jubilee for youth. Sam, our youth minister, was teaching our confirmation students about him, so I found it fitting here to pray for our young people and those to be confirmed. It is easy for us, in times like these, to get discouraged and sad because children and grandchildren no longer practice the faith. Our young people have to face great challenges with the noise of the world so loud and overwhelming. Yet, with Blessed Carlos he was able to overcome that noise and find peace in the Lord and in the Eucharist. He didn't abandon the material things of the world like St. Claire and St. Francis, but he was able to discipline himself with

the material things of the world so that they did not rule his life. He used them as a way to evangelize and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. As pilgrims of hope, it was important to visit and pray before him because his life can help us be hopeful rather than discouraged and sad, for our younger generation.

We then walked along to the [Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi](#). Here we entered into the first of many Jubilee Churches to pray at the tomb of St. Francis. Like my previous experiences, while it can feel a bit rushed because the line has to keep moving, it was nice to just find an empty pew and pray. But it was edifying to see so many people come to the Church and do the same. While it can easily become just a tourist trap because of its history and the frescos that were painted in the Middle Ages, you can't help but just stop and pray. The life of St. Francis has had a profound influence on my life, my discernment and as a priest, so it is always a special time to come and pray at this Church.

After our time at the Basilica of St. Francis and some free time to grab some lunch, we made our walk to [The Church of St Damian](#), the place where St. Francis originally heard the call to rebuild God's house, where he wrote the famous poem *The Canticle of the Creation* and where St. Claire prayed and died. This walk and tour was the perfect ending to the day we spent in Assisi.

As I said at the beginning of this blog, "There is a calm and peaceful atmosphere that allows one to just receive the beauty of the Umbria region and to hear the whispers of God speaking through the frescos of the Churches and the lives of the saints." This picture captures that:

Fr Michael

SSVP - FEBRUARY SUMMARY

We have been busy receiving calls and offering assistance to our Neighbours in Need. During February, we made 26 home visits and provided \$2735 in grocery vouchers and \$214 in bus tickets. In addition, we obtained 2 beds for Neighbours in Need. We pray that we also offered some hope to those we visited. We are happy to welcome a new member, Paola.

Thank you for supporting our ministry. May this Lenten season be a time of holiness and renewal for all.

How to Donate to SSVP

You can use one of the SSVP envelopes found in the collection 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.



THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

In thanksgiving
For the souls in purgatory

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

For successful surgery of Arlinda P.
In thanksgiving

BLESSED MOTHER

For the souls in purgatory
In thanksgiving

ST. JOSEPH

For the souls in purgatory

SSVP HELPLINE: 647-628-2058

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

SHARELIFE SUNDAY - MARCH 30, 2025

Our 2025 parish goal is \$110,000

Maria, a 64-year-old newcomer to Canada, arrived seeking a fresh start but found herself struggling to find both stable employment and affordable housing. Through your support of ShareLife, she received personalized guidance at Catholic Crosscultural Services that helped her secure both a job and a home. She found stability and peace of mind, giving her the strength to embrace her new life.

Now, she's a guiding light for seniors, helping others access the support that changed her life. This Lent, you can walk the same path as a testament to resilience and the transformative power of community.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope or at sharelife.org/donate.

ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH

ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY FOOD DRIVE

MARCH 15/16 AND 22/23 WEEKEND

**All donations will be going directly to Canadian
Food for Children**

Most Needed Items:

Iodized Salt, canned fish
and canned meat & soap
bars



DROP OFF LOCATION

**11 Peter Street S, Mississauga, ON L5H 2G1
Bins in front of the St. Joseph Statue in the Church**

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

SCAMERON@ARCHTORONTO.ORG

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @STMARYSTAROFTHESEAPARISH



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.

