

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time

July 9, 2023



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS



SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023 (5:00 PM)

Zechariah 9:9-10 | Ps 145:1-2, 8-11,13-14 | Rom 8:9,11-13 | Matthew 11:25-30

For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023 (9:00 AM) [Livestream Link](#)

† Victor D'Souza

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023 (11:00 AM)

† Mary Badali

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023

Genesis 28:10-22a | Psalm 91:1-4,14-15ab | Matthew 9:18-26

NO MASS

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023 (7:00 PM)

Genesis 32:23-33 | Psalm 17:1b,2-3,6-7ab,8b,15 | Matthew 9:32-38

† Orfelinda Saldanha

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Genesis 41:55-57;42:5-7a,17-24a | Ps 33:2-3 10-11,18-19 | Matthew 10:1-7

Healing for Denise & Cesare Dalle Carbonare, Blessings for Louise Wilson and † Rosa & Orlando Russo

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Genesis 44:18-21,23b-29;45:1-5 | Psalm 105:16-21 | Matthew 10:7-15

† Matilda D'Souza

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Genesis 46:1-7,28-30 | Psalm 105:1-4,6-7 | Matthew 10:16-23

Special intention of Ann Fernandes

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023 (9:00 AM)

Genesis 49:29-32;50:15-26a | Psalm 135:1b-2,3-6 | Matthew 10:24-33

Birthday blessings for Stephen Lim Hoye Yee and † Antonio Fietta

EUCARISTIC 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

Wednesday - 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

July 9, 2023

I do hope everyone is having a good start to the summer months. As for us at the parish, we are beginning our reflections on last year with regards to our programs and looking to the next year with hope always working towards excellence.

Follow up from last week's Blog

Before I get into the next question, I just wanted to add one more important detail. The God who creates out of nothing is not a God who created the world, set it in motion and then left. The God who creates out of nothing is also the God who holds all of creation in being. He is Being...*I AM WHO AM...*The God who is Presence. This does not fit into any of our categories of space and time because he is beyond those categories and sustains those categories. It is why we can say that we were created by God - willed and loved into being - and held in existence by Him. As St. Paul preaches, *In him we live and move and have our being*. Exploring these metaphysical realities allows us to ask the big questions of life with Jesus Christ and the love of God as the ultimate answer to these questions.

On to this weeks question...

This week's question is not as abstract as last week's. In fact, it is a question that is sensitive and requires a great amount of charity to enter into:

“Does one have to be baptized to enter heaven? And if so, what happens to non-Christians, such as Muslims, Hindus, atheists etc.?”

As you read this question, you can understand it's sensitive nature because we all know someone who is not baptized and those who belong to other religious communities. They might even be in our household through marriage etc... So, it will require great charity on my part as I write and on your part as you read. What I will ask is because it is sensitive in nature, our emotions and feelings can sometimes cloud the objective realities and so please be aware of that.

The question presented is in two parts, so I will be systematic. I will first address the question “Does one have to be baptized to enter heaven?” The first place we should always turn when we have a question like this is to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Here we find the treasure of the Church's teaching which outlines God's plan of sheer goodness. We can also use the other references attached to the Catechism: the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the YouCat.

I will begin with an assumption that “to enter heaven” means “saved”. To rephrase the question using this assumption, “Does one have to be baptized to be saved?” The answer is yes. To come to God and be saved, you need to repent, have faith in the Triune God, and be baptized. If you do these things, you'll be in a state of grace and as long as you remain in a state of grace, you'll go to heaven. Scripturally, Jesus in his dialogue with Nicodemus states, *Truly, Truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God* (John 3:5). St. Peter flatly tells us: *Baptism now saves you* (1 Peter 3:21). With the revelation given through Sacred Scripture and handed down through Sacred Tradition and held by the Magisterium, the the Catechism states, “Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament.” It goes on to state, “The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude.” However, the final sentence of paragraph 1257 shows the sheer goodness of God: “God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments.”

In the following paragraphs, 1258-1261 we find the answer to the question, “Is it possible to be saved without Baptism?” Here we learn of *Baptism by blood* - those that can be saved without Baptism who die for the faith and *Baptism of desire* - catechumens and all those, who, even without knowing Christ and the Church, still sincerely seek God and strive to do his will can also be saved without Baptism. Finally, children under the age of reason (age 7) are entrusted to the mercy of God.

But do not forget the first two conditions for salvation: Repentance and faith. Those who have the possibility of salvation without the Sacrament of baptism as stated above have these two conditions satisfied. Repentance is an act of the will to

turn away from sin and to turn to Jesus in faith (To turn from the bad news to the good news). Jesus preaches as he begins his ministry, literally the first words recorded from Jesus in the Gospels, *Repent and Believe in the Gospel* (Mark 1:14-15).

This necessity for baptism speaks to the Great Commission that Jesus gave to his apostles when he ascended into heaven, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. This is the mission of the Church and we as the Church must not tire in making this Sacrament possible to everyone who seeks it with a sincere heart. This leads to the second part of the question above, “And if so, what happens to non-Christians, such as Muslims, Hindus, atheists etc.?”

To answer this question, when we look at the Catechism there are two documents from the Second Vatican Council that are quoted: *Lumen Gentium* (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) and *Nostra Aetate* (Declaration on the Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions). I would invite you to read these documents in their entirety and note that *Nostra Aetate* has to be read in light of *Lumen Gentium*. They are not mutually exclusive.

At the heart of this question there are two extremes or heresies to be avoided, the heresy of Feeneyism which takes a strict reading of *Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus* (Outside the Church there is no salvation) and Universalism (Everyone is saved). *Lumen Gentium*, 16 clarifies that under certain conditions, it is possible for people who have never heard the Gospel to be saved. These conditions are:

1. That they are inculpably ignorant.
2. That they are sincerely seeking to know God, who reveals himself in some measure through the creation and through the light of conscience.
3. That they are trying to live in accordance with the light of conscience, assisted by God's grace.

Now we can easily jump to the conclusion that these conditions are probably fulfilled and so most people are saved without hearing the Gospel. I will note here the theological debate around the technical term *inculpably ignorant* is ongoing which leads us to jumping to conclusions. However, we must avoid turning into practical universalists. The last three sentences of *Lumen Gentium*, 16 help us not jump to that conclusion:

But very often, deceived by the Evil One, men have become vain in their reasonings, have exchanged the truth of God for a lie and served the world rather than the Creator. Or else, living and dying in this world without God, they are exposed to ultimate despair. Hence to procure the glory of God and the salvation of all these, the Church, mindful of the Lord's command, 'Preach the Gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:16) takes zealous care to foster the missions.

This is where the bad news is prevalent: We do not live in a neutral environment. We either belong to the Dominion of God or we belong to the powers of the world, the flesh and the devil which lead people away from saying “Yes” to the grace of God. So, the council is reminding us that even though it is theoretically possible for those who have not heard the Gospel to be saved, it is very difficult, especially given our current culture where the pull of the world is quite strong and prevalent, and, very often, it does not happen.

And with that thought, so that we do not become practical feeneyists, we need to urgently carry out the work of evangelization! Remember the last point of the *Kerygma* is a personal response of faith to God to help him in the rescue mission. We have loved ones and know people who are non-Christians or living away from the Church in mortal sin. It is a command of Jesus to go out and make disciples of them by helping them say “Yes” to God by sharing the life and love we have received leading them to repentance, faith and baptism.

Alright, that was a super long blog, Q&A post. For the next couple of weeks, I won't be writing anything but you might be blessed with posts from our friendly parish Lay Pastoral Associate or Youth Minister. Who knows? Open the email to find out!!

Fr Michael

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Every year the youth ministries across the archdiocese get together to compete against each other in an ultimate frisbee tournament! This year our parish will be joining Merciful Redeemer Parish to make one ultimate (pun intended) team! If we are going to win, we have to practice! The practices will take place at the school field across from Merciful Redeemer (2800 Erin Centre Blvd, Mississauga) and will be from 7-9pm. Check the parish website for the full schedule of practices including the day of the tournament! Please note that this is only open to those currently in grades 8-12 (going into grade 9-first year university). You do not have to commit to the tournament if you do not want to; you can always just come and hangout!

TOTUS TUUS PARISH POTLUCK

THURSDAY, JULY 27TH FROM 5-7PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

COST? JUST CONTRIBUTE WITH FOOD OR DRINK!



SSVP – JUNE SUMMARY

During the month of June, our members made 33 visits, and distributed \$4390 in grocery gift cards, and \$242 in bus tickets. We are pleased that for the most part, we have returned to home visits, as that is one of the features that sets Vincentians apart from other helping groups. Please pray for our Neighbours in Need, as many struggle with physical and mental health issues, as well as financial concerns. We pray for you as well. Thank you for your support.

SHARELIFE

Thus far we have raised \$59,573 (48%) toward our goal of \$125,000

Our 2023 ShareLife Campaign continues until December 31. Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

In loving memory of Maria & Saverio Arnone
Blessings for Louise Wilson

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Special Intentions of Bright, Ogechi & Children
Divine restoration for
Chigozie Ezenwa & Nkemamaka Okeke

OUR BLESSED MOTHER

Blessings for Louise Wilson

Special Intentions of Mary Ndukwe
Bende & Krisben Inv. Ltd.

ST. JOSEPH

Special intention for Clement Ikponmwonba

SSVP HELPLINE : 647-628-2058

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