

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 30, 2025



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 (5:00 PM)



Special intentions of Franca Racco

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Erma & Guido Barbisan

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 (11:00 AM)

For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025

NO MASS

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025 (7:00 PM)

†Ignatius Fernandes

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of Pope Francis, Louise Wilson, Samantha Cameron and Cesare & Denise Dalle Carbonare

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Paul Griffin

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 (9:00 AM) STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7 PM

Special intentions of Dana Lim

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Greg Aspiras and Special intentions of Bern & Louise Wilson, Pauline D'Souza, Dana Lim and Samantha Cameron

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

All roads lead to Rome and so for the next couple of weeks, the blog will be dedicated to our time in Rome. We spent 4 full days to experience and receive the beauty of our faith in the eternal city. The pilgrimage to Rome during the Jubilee Year was the main event for the entire pilgrimage to Italy. For me, our experience as Pilgrims of Hope in Rome brings most of my highlights. Full disclosure, this is my third time in Rome but the first time as a priest, so a different experience than the previous two visits.

One of the major clouds that were hanging over us for the entirety of the pilgrimage was the health of Pope Francis. He was admitted to the hospital with the respiratory infection and as the Vatican News Services reported, his prognosis was guarded. When we departed Toronto on February 20th, it was clear that one of the major highlights for our pilgrimage, the papal audience, was not going to happen. The irony here was that with a flight cancellation from Air Canada and having to rebook the flight two days later, the whole of our pilgrimage itinerary was reconfigured to make sure we were in Rome for the papal audience which affected a lot of other minor things. Alas, it is a pilgrimage we thought...then the audience was cancelled and I couldn't help but laugh at the situation. That is the pilgrims experience. But, as our time in Italy had us catching some news reports, what was becoming even more uncertain was with his health in decline, would we be in Rome for the death of a Pope and what that would mean for our pilgrimage. Our prayers definitely became a lot more intentional for the health and intentions of the Holy Father.

So, our first day in Rome, Wednesday, was supposed to begin with an early rise, box breakfast and early transfer to St. Peter's for the papal audience. That did not happen. So, we got a little bit more sleep, a hot breakfast and later transfer to St. Peter's for early morning exploration on our own with nothing formal planned. Some people went for a tour of St. Peter's on their own, which you can visit multiple times in your life and find something new to receive. For myself, I met up with my classmate, Fr John, who is studying in Rome. We went for a quick tour of his college in Rome and then for a cappuccino and pastry to catch up and check in. After the free time, Fr John went to study and we went to our next spot to meet our local guide in Rome, the Colosseum and the ancient ruins of Rome.

This is where tourist meets pilgrim. There was a lot of history to cover and a lot to receive about Ancient Rome. Quite frankly, the historical details remain a little bit of blur to my memory. What I was taking in was the arches. Arches in ancient times commemorated great victories. The two arches near the Colosseum that I was fixed on was [The Arch of Constantine](#) and [The Arch of Titus](#). Historically speaking, The Arch of Constantine celebrates the great victory that he had in 312AD. But it also stands as a memorial for Christians, the fall of pagan Rome and the beginning of Christian Rome. After that victory, Constantine would convert to Christianity and by looking at the arch, I was saying, "He won - Jesus is Lord." Christianity shifted from the great persecution, the martyrs who died in the Roman Colosseum and in Ancient Rome, to celebrate their faith publicly. This reflection moved me to think about Christians being persecuted today. We have more martyrs dying for the faith today than we had back in the time of Constantine. To look at that arch is a reminder, they are not dying in vain. Jesus is Lord and he conquers.



The Arch of Titus brings forth the richness and depth of our Sacred Scriptures. First, The Arch of Titus commemorates the fall of Jerusalem in 70-72AD. The siege and fall of Jerusalem was prophesied by our Lord in the Gospels. So that is the first connection to Sacred Scriptures. But Our Lord told his disciples when they saw these things to flee to the hills, and that is what they did. At the cost of their own reputation, seen as traitors to their own nations, abandoned by their families they listened to the Lord's warnings and were spared. Josephus, the Jewish historian would explain that no Christian died during the siege. Digging deeper into this arch comes forth the letter to the Hebrews, that was probably written during the siege of Jerusalem (there is debate as to when the letter was written and its authorship, but there is a solid argument for during the Roman siege). The letter to the Hebrews, through its own argument, is persuading and encouraging the Christians who fled for the hills to remain faithful, to not go back because we Christians have something superior...something greater in Jesus Christ.



The Arch of Titus reminded me of this...that what we have in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ far surpasses anything this world has to offer.

As both a tourist - with a local guide - and as a pilgrim of hope, these arches definitely provide hope. True Christian hope founded in Jesus Christ, who He is and what He did for you and me.

After our tour of Ancient Rome, we went to St. John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome and the Mother of all Churches. Going back to the Arch of Constantine and his conversion, this Church was built at the Emperor's request. It is where the successor of Peter exercises his ministry as both Pope of the Universal Church and Bishop of Rome. It also has one of the 5 Holy Doors. While we had scheduled another visit to the Lateran for the Holy Doors and tour, we got an extra trip through the door before Mass was celebrated. Yes, I got to celebrate Mass in one of the side chapels of this magnificent Cathedral - the Cathedral of Rome and of the world. Like, I have celebrated my share of Masses at St. Michael's Cathedral, but this was a surreal experience especially using the first Eucharistic Prayer, the Roman Canon. Saying the names of the first Popes in the Canon during Mass was a powerful moment of tradition and the handing on of the faith. One of things that you don't think about normally as a priest but are forced to think about when in Rome. During the Eucharistic Prayer we pray for both the Pope and Bishop of the diocese. But what happens in Rome when the Pope is the bishop of the diocese? LOL Anyways, I got an answer from my classmate Fr John and what they say at the Canadian College: "Francis our Pope and Bishop". Funny, we cannot do that here in Toronto... "Francis, Our Pope and Francis, Our Bishop..." Alas...


After Mass, we transferred back to our hotel for supper and rest. It was a long day of walking, despite the later start, so we definitely could use the temporal daily bread and rest. Next week, I will write about day 2 and 3 in Rome: great stories and memories.

Follow Up: Last Week's Homily

At the conclusion of my homily from last week at the 5pm and 9am Masses (for those who went to the 11am Mass, you can watch the homily through our website), I spoke about the Jesus Prayer. This prayer has a lot more influence in the faith life of those of the Eastern Churches. Fr Timothy, who is a Greek Melkite priest, provided me with some resources for you to use to learn more about this prayer and how it can help with your time of meditation:

- 1) A classic primer on the Jesus Prayer: <https://www.svots.edu/saying-jesus-prayer>
- 2) For those short on time: <https://www.orthodoxprayer.org/Jesus%20Prayer/Jesus%20Prayer-When%20to%20Pray.html>
- 3) Two videos for those who would rather learn through audio/visual:
<https://youtu.be/4Qvsg-R4WMU?si=ARvOghkOinAdqQsQ>
https://youtu.be/S_VeNg7GE2o?si=riTaj_URvtwMk0Pt

Fr Michael

 <p><i>Providing post-abortion help and healing in a confidential and non-judgmental way</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Phone 289-691-6840, or e-mail ProjectRachel@stmarysrefuge.org.</p>
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SHARELIFE SUNDAY - MARCH 30, 2025

Our 2025 parish goal is \$110,000

ShareLife Sunday marks the first collection for our parish's annual campaign. But ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need. From children to seniors, and everyone in between, more than 40 ShareLife agencies are there each step of the way.

As a family of faith, we lift each other up from our lowest moments. Nick's life had an easy start – he came from a good home, where he was raised with a strong work ethic, and he welcomed a son. But living with a mental illness, he struggled more than some. Deep inside, he felt like something was missing, and he devastatingly fell into addiction. With your helping hand, he rose up through the DARE Program at Good Shepherd.

"By the grace of God, I am still alive," he proclaims. "I'd love to be able to give back what was so freely given to me. I am taking roles of service, giving back as much as I can. I was afraid I'd never be able to feel the way I feel. I am very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to be sober." Thanks to your support, he is no longer just surviving—he is thriving, with a heart full of hope and a future filled with promise.

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

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

LEGION OF MARY BOOK BORROW

The Legion of Mary will have their book borrow this Sunday after the 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses. Please feel free to browse or borrow some books.

SSVP – WE HAVE TWINS!

Did you know that many of the Saint Vincent de Paul conferences in the GTA have twins? Our St. Mary conference twins with conferences in Jamaica and Trinidad. We communicate with them a few times a year, and offer some small financial support. Thank you for supporting us in our initiatives.

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.



THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

In loving memory of Paul Tavares
In thanksgiving

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Birthday Blessings for Melanie Nazareth
For the souls in purgatory

BLESSED MOTHER

In loving memory of Ignatius Fernandes
In loving memory of Mathias & Sofia Soares

ST. JOSEPH

In thanksgiving



Inspired by faith, grounded in science. The wisdom of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System

Did you know that women and couples can use the Creighton Model FertilityCare System of fertility appreciation for a variety of reasons?

Couples can use this wisdom of their times of fertility and infertility to prayerfully discern planning their family with high degree of accuracy, as well as the wisdom of SPICE to grow in total intimacy in their marriage.

Women at any age, from menarche to menopause, can use this wisdom of their cycle function to understand their fertility as a gift and monitor a key vital sign of health.

Doctors trained in NaProTECHNOLOGY®, a cooperative reproductive health science, can use the wisdom found in the Creighton charting to evaluate, diagnose, and treat reproductive health concerns such as PMS, PCOS, infertility, and many more.

And it is all done with one-on-one support and in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

To find out how to #startwiththechart, contact jennifer@fertilitycare.ca or visit our website www.fertilitycare.ca.

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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