

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 16, 2024



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024 (5:00 PM)



For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Guido & Erma Barbisan

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024 (11:00 AM)

†Antonio Sena and Gino Anastasi

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

NO MASS

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 (7:00 PM)

†Nkemdilim Philomena Udeugwu

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Jim Nugent and Special intentions of Louise Wilson and Julia Pamplin

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Laura Lea Carroll

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of the Gulzar family

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Special intentions of Raphael Carreira, Benny & Pushpa Lobo,
Derek Grant Boutin & Abbie Winker and †Rosita Martinez

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

PASTOR'S BLOG

In my homily last weekend, there was an image that I recalled when praying with the first reading: the sheep caught in the thorns and thistles. This image first came to me in the summer of 2020 during my personal prayer when I was using a series of meditations on the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In moving from the meditation, the scenario and the image, to reflection, how this applies to me and my priestly, pastoral ministry, one of the questions that were asked was, "if He [Jesus] is asking you to go with Him, into that field, to free and feed the children, will you dare to say yes, in spite of the thorns?" As we all know from our own personal lives, it is not always easy to say "Yes!" *Fiat*. I certainly recall the tension that I felt in my heart and in my thoughts of the consequences of what a yes to this question would be. At the end of the sparring match with the Lord, he won (clearly...He always wins), I gave my yes and moved on to the next mediation.

At the end of the summer, August 2020, I would receive a phone call from Cardinal Thomas Collins asking to book a time to meet with him. (Getting phone calls and meetings from Bishops is always an anxious moment...for a variety of reasons). In my meeting with him, He asked if I would become the chaplain to the Toronto Courage Chapter. For those who are not aware, Courage is "Spiritual support for adults who experience same-sex attraction and who desire to develop a life of interior chastity in union with Christ." I had an idea (the whispering amongst the clergy is pretty bad) that this was going to be the ask, but it never fully hit me until it came in real time. I was anxious...afraid. This would not be an easy ministry in our current culture. But in the moment, the Holy Spirit prompted the image of the sheep/children in the thorns and thistles, and I recall my yes there... and I reaffirmed that yes to Cardinal Collins and took on the ministry.

In my four years of ministry with men and women who experience same-sex attraction (SSA), I have been able to listen to their stories and realize there are no simplistic answers to complex human situations. The encounter with the other provides a relationship of love and trust in which I can express with clarity, beauty and conviction - the vision of the human person, love and sexuality as ordained by God and taught by the Church. It is in this ministry where truth in charity leads our brothers and sisters in Christ who experience SSA to live out God's will in their life.

Over these four years, my anxiety and fear has turned to confidence and hope in meeting with many men and women who have been rescued by Jesus from the thorns and thickets, the lies and deceptions that the world, our culture, has been telling them for many years. They know they belong in the Church as much as I belong in the Church because of Christ's love for them as His children. Pope St. John Paul II spoke very emphatically about this. In his first encyclical he writes: "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love...if he does not participate intimately in it." Pope Benedict XVI explains to us the practical application: "Look at the face of the other...discover that he has a soul, a history, and a life, that he is a person, and that God loves this person."

Given their own experience of being rescued by Jesus, the month of June provides its own challenges as they see the lies that they were enslaved to being promoted and endorsed pretty much everywhere. This led one member of Courage to share with me (and other priests) a reflection he had after the solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. With his permission, I am posting it for you.

Sacred Heart

Happy Feast Day!

My heart is full of joy after this morning's Eucharist and adoration.

*My prayer for you fathers is expressed by St. Paul, in today's readings,
"that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.."*

The love that flows from the table of sacrifice is beyond anything we can imagine.

However when I left the church this morning, my heart was pierced, when I saw the rainbow flag flying at the school.

As a man with SSA I would like to explain my pain.

My identity is not my sexuality. I understand why a gay person feels that, because this is so much a part of who we are. The culture brainwashes them into believing this lie.

However, as Paul says in today's reading, I comprehend the depth of God's love which surpasses knowledge, so I may be filled with all the fullness of God.

This means I am a son of the Father. This is my identity. I am loved unconditionally.

I realize that the community is making an effort to provide a safe place where gay people feel welcomed. Fr. James Martin is trying to minister to us. I believe his intentions are good. However as a man who has lived in the trenches, he has got it wrong. He is leading many on the wrong path. The Spirit is not blowing in their direction.

This breaks my heart. The gay culture offers sweet candy for the vulnerable students to suck on. I know first hand, that when the candy is sucked away, you are left with stones in your mouth.

The rainbow flag is so much more than a symbol of being inclusive and welcoming. The culture promotes a very sexual lifestyle which is contrary to the teachings of the church. Again, I speak from experience since I lived the lifestyle.

The Truth that the Spirit has revealed to this sinful man, would not be received, if I preached this message to them.

However on this day of the Sacred Heart, I unite my heart with his so they can beat as one.

What an honour and joy that my heart along with his has been pierced.

I have chosen chastity because there is no other way.

I choose what I can not choose.

It's difficult but as Paul says, he has given me the strength in my inner self with the power of the Holy Spirit to persevere.

I couldn't survive without the Eucharist and adoration I had this morning. This wouldn't be possible if it were not for your sacrifice.

Thank you for being there for me. May God bless you all.

I would invite you to visit the Courage International website and read other testimonies. [You can find them here.](#) Please continue to pray for the men and women who are part of the Courage ministry, here and throughout the International apostolate. They are witnesses of the power of Christ's love as they take up their cross and follow Him.

Fr Michael

SSVP

MAY SUMMARY

During the month of May, our members made 33 home visits, and distributed \$3260 in grocery cards, \$189 in bus tickets, and one bed. Thank you for allowing us to be the hands of Jesus.

MARYGROVE CAMP COLLECTION

Thank you for your support of Marygrove Camp, allowing underprivileged girls to attend camp this summer.

SSVP HELPLINE: Please call 647-628-2058

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

SHARELIFE

Your ShareLife gift changes lives

In a world where empathy matters most, your compassionate heart provided accessible, dignified support to over 2,500 people with special needs and their families. We thank you for your kindness and compassion.

**Thus far we have raised \$42,503 (39%)
toward our goal of \$108,000**

Transform someone's life today. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

In thanksgiving for Davita Powell
In thanksgiving for Davita Powell

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In Loving Memory of Leon Winniski
In Loving Memory of Leon Winniski

OUR BLESSED MOTHER

To Derek Grant Boutin & Abbie Winker
To the Edgar Grant Boutin family

ST. JOSEPH

In thanksgiving

CHARITABLE GIFT OPTION

A donation of securities is one of the easiest and smartest ways to donate in Canada. With a gift of securities, you can receive an immediate donation receipt for the fair market value of the security. In addition, there is no capital gains tax applied to any benefit received from the sale of these securities. Listed securities include, stocks, bonds and mutual funds. To donate listed securities, you can obtain our form, the letter of direction, by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/GiftofSecurities>.

Contact the Development Office 416-934-3400 ext. 561/519 or development@archtoronto.org for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

TOTUS TUUS IS BACK!

The youth of the parish are invited to join us for Totus Tuus Summer Camp this summer the week of July 15th! For those of you who may not know. Totus Tuus is an Archdiocesan program whereby seminarians and young adults travel to different parishes, spreading the Good News of our Lord through catechesis, Mass, Confession, songs and games! The Day camp is for children entering grades 1-6 and runs Monday to Friday and the Evening Program is for youth entering grades 7-12 and runs Sunday to Thursday. The cost is only \$125/child for the whole week for the day program and \$25/child for the whole week for the evening program. Registration is now open and you can find it online on the Parish Website or at the exits of the Church. For more information, please contact Sam, the Youth Minister!

Sacramental Preparation 2025

If your child will be preparing to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation next year, registration and enrolment will begin in the fall.

Mark your calendars! We are planning ahead and have set dates for the preparation programs. Please see the schedules attached. Note that there is a faith formation series for parents that are scheduled for the fall.

To receive more information about registration and updates, kindly fill out the forms on our parish website to join our emailing list. More information will be sent out in the fall.

For First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion:

<https://stmarystarofthesea.ca/first-holy-communion>

For questions pertaining to First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion, contact Adriene at aadona@archtoronto.org

For Confirmation:

<https://stmarystarofthesea.ca/confirmation>

For questions pertaining to Confirmation, contact Samantha at scameron@archtoronto.org

Please [click](#) here for the calendars.



I love my
Catholic Moms Group.com
LOVE. LAUGHTER. MOMENTS OF GRACE.

Calling all moms! Our next parish Catholic Mothers group meeting is this next Thursday June 20th at 7:30pm in the parish hall. Come and be a part of an encouraging and supportive community of women and grow deeper in your faith life and vocation. Email us your questions and to keep you posted of our next meetings. staroftheseacatholicmomsgroup@gmail.com

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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.



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