

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 23, 2025



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025 (5:00 PM)



For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Lina Marchese

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025 (11:00 AM)

†Special intention of Kenny Lobo

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

NO MASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 (7:00 PM)

†Maria Haring

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Paul Kalaparambath and Special intentions of Pope Francis, Louise Wilson and Vincent Ghisleni

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Giovanni Catricala

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025 (9:00 AM) STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7 PM

Special intentions of Pope Francis

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Angelica Trimboli and Special intentions of Pope Francis, Jean Jose and Franca Racco

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

News and Noteworthy

Before I jump into the blog, I just wanted to bring to your attention a few important dates that are coming up:

March 25th: Annual Consecration to Mary

In his Bull of Indiction for the Holy Year Jubilee, *Spes non Confundit*, 24, Pope Francis wrote:

Hope finds its supreme witness in the Mother of God. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life. Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future. Surely, she kept pondering in her heart the words spoken to her in the Temple by the elderly Simeon: “This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too” (Lk 2:34-35). At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her “*fiat*”, never abandoning her hope and trust in God. In this way, Mary cooperated for our sake in the fulfilment of all that her Son had foretold in announcing that he would have to “undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again” (Mk 8:31). In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope. It is not by chance that popular piety continues to invoke the Blessed Virgin as *Stella Maris*, a title that bespeaks the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust...I am confident that everyone, especially the suffering and those most in need, will come to know the closeness of Mary, the most affectionate of mothers, who never abandons her children and who, for the holy people of God, is “a sign of certain hope and comfort”.

Together with the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto, we will have our consecration to Mary in place of devotion to her parents, St. Ann and Joachim, following Mass on March 25th. We will have two Masses offered on this solemnity, 9am and 7pm. We have been provided with a lot of resources to help prepare for this consecration; so, I would invite you to visit the Archdiocese of Toronto website to access those resources to privately prepare.

ShareLife Sunday

Next weekend, March 29/30 2025, we officially begin the annual ShareLife campaign. Last year we exceeded our goal and this year our goal is \$110,000. Please see the bulletin boards around the Church, the newsletter for important information and the designated envelopes and reports at the doors of the Church to learn how your donation goes to support local charities around the Archdiocese of Toronto. On behalf of those charities, thank you for your ongoing financial and spiritual support for a successful campaign.

Family Day of Confessions

Over the past few years, I have been listening to some of the obstacles that come up when it comes to going to confession, especially for families. So this year, we are offering a family day of confessions. What that entails is that in the hall we will be offering activities for children who are unable to go to confession and for children who have already made their confession. This allows parents to go to confession knowing that their children are occupied with fun faith filled activities. To accommodate sleep schedules and feeding schedules, we are offering two time slots:

- 1) Saturday April 5th 11am-12:30pm
- 2) Saturday April 5th 2pm-3:30pm

There will be multiple priests to help with confessions, so please take this opportunity for confession during the Lenten season. And to be clear, this is open for everyone but please give priority to parents with young children.

Parish Day of Confessions

On Friday April 11th, we will be having our parish day of confessions. Similar to previous years, there will be opportunities throughout the day to go to confession with visiting priests. This will be the last chance for confessions before Easter at St. Mary's.

Blog

That is a lot of news and over the coming weeks. So, if you forget, not to worry, you will continue to hear more about these events in the coming weeks as we get closer to their celebrations. Now onto the blog...

Last week, I concluded the pilgrims tales after our first full day in Florence. The next day was also a full day in Florence, but a little bit different. It was the only day that we really had to dress for rain ([nothing like what happened this past week in Florence](#)). But the rain wasn't going to distract us from our itinerary for the day. We were going to continue our walking tour with our local guide and conclude with Mass at the *Duomo*. It was a fun walk as we continued to learn more about this historic city and with a little more time outside the *Duomo* we were able to pay attention to some of the minor details. Clad in red, green and white marble, this Cathedral includes the external Baptistry (see last week's blog) and Giotto Bell Tower, making it one of the largest Cathedrals in the world. The symbol of Florence, the red *Fleur de Lis*, adorns the wall representing both the cathedral's name *Santa Maria del Flores*.

What I learned was that the Dome of the Cathedral is an architectural masterpiece and how it was made still brings architects to their knees. Michelangelo would take that work and replicate it, as close as possible, to the dome that sits on top of St. Peter's Basilica. But the architect died before he could actually finish what he started with his desire for the interior of the dome. It was painted by a local artists Vasari and Zucconi, the last judgement scene.



Following our tour, we would offer Mass in this magnificent Cathedral in one of the side chapels. What a great privilege! I don't remember exactly what I preached about, but I do recall one awesome experience. In offering the Mass, using the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer 1) there is a point before the consecration where the priest is instructed to turn his gaze up. So, as I turned my eyes to the heavens, I saw this scene. And it was just a very powerful moment of all the angels and saints,

the great multitude of heavenly hosts being present at every Mass. I said that my neck hurt last week from looking up all the time, but at this one moment, time seemed to have stopped and Mass took on an eschatological character - what we are waiting with hope, the coming of Our Lord Jesus in all his glory and to usher in this universal judgement.

After Mass, we went from the sacred to the banal and vulgar, shopping. Its not a bad thing because Maria and I got to spend some time together and continued to catch up on all things "Simoes" and her plans for the summer. We did this over a beautiful lunch with a bottle of Brunello and Florentine steak. We thought we wouldn't be able to finish, but we did. N.B. Florentine steak is delicious, but make sure you have an appetite to finish!

After our meal, we needed to walk it off, so that's what we did. We did some window shopping, some actual shopping and found ourselves back at the hotel for a rest before cocktails and supper. It was another amazing day despite the rain.

All good things come to an end...except on pilgrimage. The next day we departed from Florence and made our way to Siena, the city where St. Catherine was born and lived. It was a short day trip to Siena but definitely rich in spirituality. St. Catherine was born in 1340 lived a short 33 years but would be considered to modern ears, an "influencer". She was a nurse who cared for the most destitute in society. She was a deeply rooted in the life of the Church, had several mystical visions of Christ and devoted herself to the church. She is most famous for going to the Pope in Avignon encouraging him to go back to Rome and exercise his Petrine ministry.



Our walking tour started at the Basilica Cateriniana de Dominico (The brown church in the foreground). The Church definitely carries a noble simplicity inside which is quite the contrast to the other churches that we had seen. Because I was not in wonder and awe staring at so many frescos, it made it easier to sit and pray with St. Catherine's relics...her finger and her head. The rest of her body is in Rome (for another blog). After our time of prayer and tour, we continued our walk through the historic city stopping in at the house where St. Catherine was born and raised. It was turned into a sanctuary and a beautiful place of prayer with many frescos and paintings depicting her life, including one with her receiving the stigmata (the wounds of Christ crucified) and the mystical exchange of her crown of glory for a crown of thorns.

We continued our walk from her childhood house on to the Duomo of Siena (Larger white Church in the background). **We definitely got our steps in on this day along with a lot of stairs and

elevations.** When we made it to the Duomo, it was stunning. Finally my neck got a rest as we didn't need to look up, but got to look down at the beautiful marble work of the Cathedral. It just captured the artistic talent of that time but with great attention paid to teaching and catechesis. There are many, but this one is the most stunning that depicts Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly and the journey of



wisdom (Which worked well for the homily the following day):

At the end of our walking tour of the Duomo, we were given some free time to grab lunch and explore the city. At the conclusion of our day, we made it to the bus and we were on our way to Rome.

Fr Michael

SHARELIFE SUNDAY MARCH 30, 2025 Our 2025 parish goal is \$110,000

Through your support of ShareLife, you extend the hands of Christ to those in need: the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized in our community. Because you care, more than 40 agencies provide strength to people of all ages in their weakest moments. You've been there for young parents as they worried about their next meal, isolated seniors yearning for companionship, teenagers seeking guidance in a confusing world, refugees longing to rebuild their lives, and people with special needs striving for dignity and acceptance. Thank you for living the Gospel through your compassion.

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

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

In thanksgiving
For the souls in purgatory

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In thanksgiving
For the souls in purgatory

BLESSED MOTHER

In loving memory of Edith Krajewski
In thanksgiving

ST. JOSEPH

For the souls in purgatory

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

This Lent, Pope Francis is asking the more affluent nations to hear the cries of the poor and the cries of the Earth suffering under financial debt and ecological debt. For centuries, the now-wealthy nations have drawn natural resources from countries that are now poor and struggling because of that system. As some nations industrialized, they became wealthy, and deposited their waste products onto others, such as using the atmosphere as a free dumping ground for climate-change-causing carbon emissions. The rich nations of the world owe an ecological debt to the rest of the world.

During this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis calls on the wealthy nations to critically examine how they have benefited from unjust global financial arrangements and to cancel the financial debts of the poorer nations and thus deliver justice to billions of people who will never be able to repay those debts. Pope Francis also calls on us to repent of the ecological suffering that we have caused by changing our wasteful and polluting ways. He asks us all to examine ourselves and see how our actions have caused suffering to others and the Earth and do what we can to remove and replace suffering with flourishing. This Lent let us **Turn Debt into Hope.**

SSVP

During this Lenten season, let us strive to better understand the needs of the poor, and respond to them with compassion.

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, 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.

Bundle Up for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul



We are collecting your donations at

St. Mary Star of the Sea

11 Peter Street South, Mississauga

On

April 5 - 6, 2025

We DO NOT ACCEPT
appliances, baby or regular furniture,
books, mattresses, dishes,
construction material or video tapes
For more information visit
www.ssvptoronto.ca



In conjunction with Canadian Food for Children and the Catholic Women's League, we are accepting bicycles. These can be dropped off in the truck. Thank you!



Providing post-abortion help and healing in a confidential and non-judgmental way

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.

Phone 289-691-6840,
or e-mail ProjectRachel@stmarysrefuge.org.

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

SCAMERON@ARCHTORONTO.ORG

With discounts for siblings

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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.

