

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 11, 2024



# ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024 (5:00 PM)

Lv 13:1-2,44-46 | Psalm 32:1-2,5,11 | 1Cor 10:31—11:1 | Mark 1:40-45

For the People of the Parish



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024 (9:00 AM)

†Mathri Paul Thannikkotu

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024 (11:00 AM)

†Dorina & Gildo Balestra

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

James 1:1-11 | Psalm 119:67-68,71-72,75-76 | Mark 8:11-13

NO MASS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 (7:00 PM)

James 1:12-18 | Psalm 94:12-13a,14-15,18-19 | Mark 8:14-21

†Joseph, Teresa & Clinton Vaz Corera

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Joel 2:12-18 | Ps 51:3-4,5-6ab,12-14,17 | 2Cor 5:20—6:2 | Mt 6:1-6,16-18

Blessings for Bernard Wilson and Paola De Campo and Special intention of Louise Wilson and Pushpa Lobo

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Dt 30:15-20 | Psalm 1:1-4,6 | Luke 9:22-25

Blessings for Marilyn Fernandes and family

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Isaiah 58:1-9a | Psalm 51:3-4,5-6ab,18-19 | Matthew 9:14-15

†Alberto and Stella Severin

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 (9:00 AM)

Isaiah 58:9b-14 | Psalm 86:1-6 | Luke 5:27-32

Blessings for Sergio & Francesca and †Juliana & Faustino Isidro and the Holy Souls

## 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](mailto:campaign@archtoronto.org)

## PASTOR'S BLOG

Last weekend we began our prayer ministry at the parish. It was a blessing for us who have been praying and planning...and then going back to prayer and finally see it come to fruition. As the ministry begins, there will be areas that we tweak to make it more beneficial for those who participate. However, as a beginning, it exceeded my expectations. My thanks to Deacon John, Adriene, Sam and Wendy for all their time and dedication to this endeavour. May God who has begun this good work bring it to completion.

We now turn our eyes to the season of Lent and the 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving beginning with Ash Wednesday that falls on February 14th or Valentine's Day. One thing that I have noticed more and more in my role as a parish priest is the importance to give helpful reminders when it comes to these special days in the life of the Church.

This year, I would like to lead with stating the 5 Precepts of the Church. For some, this might be something relatively new. For others, it helps with refreshing the memory from their childhood catechism. The 5 Precepts of the Church are (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2042-2043):

- 1) You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
- 2) You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- 3) You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
- 4) You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
- 5) You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The purpose of these precepts is "to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in growth in love of God and neighbour." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2041) Effectively, these precepts are the bare minimum that the Church, who is a teacher and mother, asks of her children to live their life as Christians united with the liturgy and nourished by it.

So why did I lead with the precepts? Well, because Ash Wednesday is one of those days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. (The other one is Good Friday for those who might be asking.) For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

This year, with Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day, there is no dispensation for this precept and therefore we are obligated to follow it. There will be some who receive this well and make plans accordingly. There will be others that will ignore it. And there will be others who are upset because they have to fast and abstain from meat on this day.

In all three cases, look to Jesus, who teaches us that it is through our acts of self sacrifice that we grow in love. We deny ourselves because we love. So really, from this point, there is no opposition in the two events. In fact, they are complementary if we consider that they both focus on love: one deals with the sentiments of love (Valentine's Day) and the other focuses on the essence of love (Lent). One is temporal the other is spiritual.

So maybe...just maybe... this Lenten season, the Lord is inviting us to move from the mere sentiments of love to the essence of love. With that invitation in our hearts and minds, may all our endeavours this Lenten season be motivated by love. Through them, may we be purified from all that keeps us from loving as Christ loves and be renewed by His love.

Fr Michael

## 2023 PARISH TAX RECEIPTS

2023 tax receipts for your donations to the parish will be mailed out shortly and you should receive them latest by the end of the month.

## SSVP – TAX RECEIPTS

As always, we are grateful to our donors. Tax receipts will be mailed in the next week. Receipts are sent for donations of \$20 or more. Receipts are available for donations under \$20 by request.

## SSVP & THE KINGDOM OF GOD

I recently read Archbishop Francis Leo's Pastoral Letter on Seeking the Kingdom of God. The quote below, beautifully describing the Kingdom, is found on page 13 of the letter. Our desire, as members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, is that we, along with all of you, are contributing to the building up of God's Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is a space. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy. The Kingdom of God is a time. It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the Faith. The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come). The Kingdom of God is a condition. Its symptoms are love, justice, and peace..." Sal Badali

## PRO-LIFE PRESENTATION

The subject of abortion is a sensitive, deeply personal and often divisive issue, and our increasingly secular society has adopted a stance that goes against authentic Catholic moral teaching. Yet, many of us may have our own doubts, or feel ill-equipped to offer a reasoned defence of our beliefs when challenging questions arise in discussions with our families and friends, or in the media. On Thursday Feb. 15 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, St. Francis of Assisi parish will host a pro-life presentation in the parish hall entitled, "Effective Responses to Challenging Questions on Abortion." The presentation will be delivered by Right to Life Mississauga & Area, the grass-roots educational arm of the pro-life movement in Mississauga and Brampton. This presentation, which is also appropriate for high-school kids, will equip you with the basic knowledge and skills to respond to challenging questions with empathy and confidence. To register, contact the parish office at 905-822-8132, or email menofstfrancismi@gmail.com and include Pro-Life Presentation in the subject line. Registration is free. Come with an open heart and mind and invite a friend.

## THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

### TABERNACLE

In loving memory of Beniamino Iavicoli  
In loving memory of Beniamino Iavicoli

### SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Special intention of Louise Wilson  
Special intention of Louise Wilson

### OUR BLESSED MOTHER

Special intention of Louise Wilson  
Special intention of Louise Wilson

### ST. JOSEPH

In Thanksgiving

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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.



## 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 exists of the Church. For more information, please contact Sam, the Youth Minister!

## Flipping for Faith PANCAKE



\$5  
per person

SUN, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

Join us in our fundraising efforts to send the Youth  
to Steubenville Catholic Conference this summer!