

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13, 2025



ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

PALM SUNDAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 (5:00 PM)



†Joseph, Teresa and Clinton Vaz Corera

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Alan Sr. & Alan Jr. Del Puerto

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025 (11:00 AM)

For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025

NO MASS

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025 (9:00 AM)

†Giovanni (John) De Zen, †David Romlewski, †Pascalia Rodrigues and Special intentions of Dana Lim and Bern & Louise Wilson

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

8:00 PM - MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

ALTAR OF REPOSE UNTIL MIDNIGHT

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

3:00 PM - LITURGY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Divine Mercy Novena (2:30 PM)

Stations of the Cross (7:00 PM)

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025

8:30 PM - VIGIL OF EASTER

For the People of the Parish

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

Wed - 9:30 am to 10:30 am

DAILY DEVOTIONS

(after Mass)

Wed. - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

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

Before I begin the blog material for this week, day 3 in Rome, I just wanted to bring to your attention some Holy Week and Easter information as there won't be a blog next week for Easter.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been announcing and informing you about the Holy Week and Easter schedule. I would invite you again to familiarize yourself with these schedules and please communicate it to your families. **Please note that there is NO MASS on Tuesday April 15th at 7pm due to my attendance at the Chrism Mass in the morning.**

The Easter celebrations are the most holy of our liturgical year, so take time to prepare yourselves for them so that you can truly rejoice in the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Also, within this email, you will find a link to the Easter message from our Archbishop Frank Cardinal Leo. One paragraph captured my attention and maybe can be something for you and your family to meditate on this week:

An added dimension to this Easter joy, this Easter celebration and Easter hope, is that we celebrate it in the context of the Jubilee Holy Year in which we are invited to see ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope. Let us prayerfully recall the words of Pope Francis which opened the Holy Year: "The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope" (*Spes non Confundit*, 20). Our Easter faith twinned and intimately connected to Easter hope is not wishful thinking, a vague optimism, or radical escapism. Rather, it is rooted in the work and love of the Most Holy Trinity. The Holy Father continues: "Jesus experienced the drama of death. The Father's love raised him in the power of the Spirit and made of his humanity the first fruits of our eternal salvation" (*Spes non Confundit*, 20). Central to our Paschal proclamation are the words of the Easter Preface, "For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying, he has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life" (Roman Missal, Easter Preface I). These two aspects of the Paschal mystery-Jesus' death and resurrection-inform our hope and transform our lives forever making the life of grace available to us (cf. CCC, 654).

Divine Mercy Novena

Throughout the year and especially during Lent, the prayer ministry at St. Mary's have been praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet every Friday at 3pm online through Zoom. As we approach Good Friday and the octave of Easter which leads us to the 2nd Sunday of Easter (or Divine Mercy Sunday), we now would like to invite you to join us as we pray the Divine Mercy Novena. The Novena begins in person on Good Friday, April 18 at 2:30pm, will be prayed online through Zoom from April 19-26 at 3pm and will conclude in person on April 27th at 3pm with Holy Hour and Confessions. We look forward to praying with and for you.

Divine Mercy Sunday Sundaes and Easter Egg Hunt

Our youth ministry and family ministry are collaborating to bring you some Easter joy...

Join us on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 27th) for *Divine Mercy Sundaes*! Enjoy delicious ice cream and support our Parish Summer Camp! For a donation of \$5 your sweet treat will help send kids to camp for a summer of faith and fun!

To add to the sweetness of Divine Mercy "Sundae," the family ministry will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 2-8, following the 11am Mass. We will meet in the parish hall first to enjoy a sundae, and then head outside for the egg hunt. It's sure to be a fun and memorable time for all!

Blog

Alright, administrative stuff done. Now onto the blog. The best way to describe Day 3 in Rome is “Telling the Story.” I honestly do not know if this was the intention of the day but upon reflection what we saw and did on Day 3 was the effect of Jesus rising from the dead, ascending into heaven and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Our first stop was the magnificent basilica, St. Paul Outside the Walls. Being one of the four major basilicas in Rome, it also had one of the Jubilee Holy Doors which we were able to enter through. The conversion of St. Paul sent shockwaves through the early Christian communities. He was a zealous Jew who was committed to extinguishing the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ. After his encounter with the Risen Jesus on the road to Damascus, he became a zealous Christian who would be known as the apostle to the gentiles. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of his conversion and then of his missionary adventures throughout the Roman Empire into Asia Minor. He would finally be martyred by beheading in Rome. His remains are found in the Basilica. We did not go to the monastery that was founded where St. Paul was actually beheaded, *Tre Fontaine* where, as the story goes, his head bounced three times and three springs of water gushed forth from those spots.

Our local guide was present to give us the history of the Basilica. Sadly, we could not walk around freely in the Basilica because a Mass was being celebrated for a large group of pilgrims. Another slight inconvenience which was outside of our control but did not take away our entrance into the basilica through the Holy Doors and to be in the place where the great Apostle is buried.

After our time at the Basilica was complete, we made our way to the Catacombs. Here, our local guide would leave us for the day and we would be handed off to one of the provided guides on location. This was my first time in the Catacombs of St. Callixtus and it was a great tour because it was the combination of faith with history. Here we learned the story of those early Christians and how with their hope of the resurrection so strong, would bury the dead with great dignity. The guide at the catacombs provided us with [an explanation of some of the symbols](#) we would see in the catacombs which emphasized their hope in the resurrection. It was meaningful from a faith perspective because a lot of the people who would have been buried in these tombs would be the early Christian martyrs. The effect of the resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit convicted the early Christians in their witness to the faith even till death. Seeing the place where St. Cecilia was first buried before a basilica was built in her honour was emotional for me and it only got better.

At the end of the tour, we were scheduled to celebrate Mass. I didn't know where we would offer Mass, just that it was going to be in this area. I assumed we leave the catacombs, find the chapel and offer Mass. However, to my surprise we were taken into one of the family burial spots that was turned into a chapel with an altar dressed and ready for Mass. And the guide said that you are scheduled for Mass, here is everything you need. So we had the privilege of celebrating Mass in the catacombs! I can remember the opening line of my homily, “There are no words...” What a powerful and moving experience as pilgrims of hope to be offering Mass where those who have gone before us in the faith were buried. They believed in the resurrection of the dead, their hope was in Jesus. For them, death was not a thing to be feared because Jesus has victory over it and we can be confident in Him. Using the first Eucharistic Prayer (Roman Canon) during Mass was especially moving when the list of saints, the first apostles and martyrs, who lead the way with their faith, hope and love. When we emerged from the catacombs, it felt resurrection, out of the place of death into the light.

After this emotional experience, we made our way back into historic Rome at the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain for lunch and a free afternoon to explore. Knowing that we had this free time, I planned with my classmate Fr John to get together to continue to catch up. We walked around the Villa Borghese Gardens and found ourselves back in the Piazza del Popolo.

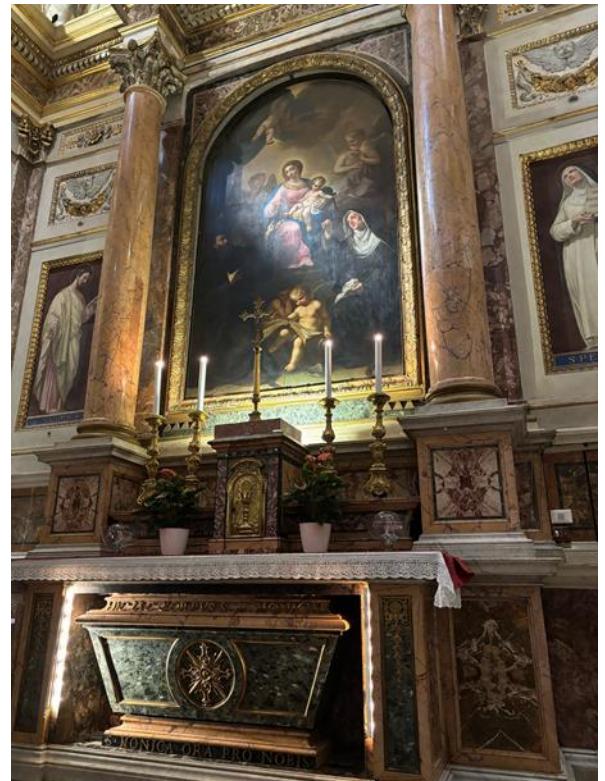


From here the afternoon with no plans turned into an amazing adventure that brings the mornings events to full circle. We started by going to the Church which houses two Caravaggio paintings, the Crucifixion of St. Peter and the Conversion of St. Paul. Obviously photos will do no justice to a Caravaggio but to see the play on light and dark that Caravaggio was famous for is incredible.



Through that way of painting he is able to tell the story of these two saints who become the foundation of the early Church - the confession of faith and the mission to the gentiles. Thomas Cardinal Collins used to say the care for the gathered and to reach out to the scattered. What I loved about how the story was told was that both paintings were in the same side chapel and above them was a fresco of a previous event. For St. Peter, it was the Domine, Quo Vadis encounter with the Risen Lord. This encounter happened at the Appian Way just outside of the Catacombs of St. Callixtus which we had just visited. For St. Paul, it was his conversion on the road to Damascus when he encountered the Risen Lord.

After our time taking in the story of these two pivotal players, Fr John and I decided to make a walk over to the tomb of St. Monica in the Church of St. Augustine. St. Augustine had an important role for both of us being alumni of St. Augustine's Seminary. For Fr John, St. Augustine has been an influence in his study of the Church Fathers (Patristics). And we both love St. Monica for her role in the conversion of her son. So off we went. When we entered the Church we found another Caravaggio, the Madonna of the Pilgrims. I spent some time admiring the painting and said a prayer for the pilgrims. We then went over to the tomb of St. Monica and prayed for both our moms. I also prayed for the intentions of all the mothers at St. Mary's



Since it was literally around the corner from the Church of St. Augustine, we then walked over to the Church that houses the famous Caravaggio of St. Matthew. Again, the arrangement of the chapel tells the story of St. Matthew from his conversion, to His life as an evangelist and finally his martyrdom.

[As we were talking about St. Matthew we began to ask the question where he and all the apostles are buried.](#) St. Matthew is in Sicily, most of the 12 are in St. Peter's Basilica but there are two who are in another Church in Rome, the Church of the Apostles. So, we walked over to the Church and prayed at the tomb of Sts. James (the less) and Philip. My intention here was for our schools, St. Luke and St. James. It was pretty incredible to see the same symbols we saw in the catacombs at the tomb of these apostles.

Literally, we had no plans for the afternoon and found ourselves just walking about in Rome going into beautiful churches that tells the story of our faith and those who lived and died for it through art, architecture and beauty. We entered into a really good conversation about evangelizing and catechizing the faithful through these means and how a new renaissance is required in these arts and skills for our generation. Funny enough, I found [this article](#) when we were discussing this topic...seems like we are not the only ones that have thought the same.

After our time together walking around, we had built up our appetite. Fr John had arranged for other priests from Toronto who were in Rome to get together for supper. We started with cocktails at the Canadian College and then made our way over to one of their favourite spots for supper. I had as a starter another known pasta in Rome, [Pasta All'Amatriciana](#). I shouldn't write this part when hungry...

Alas, after supper, I made my way back to the hotel and definitely had a good night's rest. The next day was our last full day in Rome and then we made our way to Orvieto. Stay tuned...

Fr Michael

LIFELIFE-GIVING WOUNDS: A Healing Retreat for Adult Children of Divorced or Separated Parents

The Life-Giving Wounds retreat invites participants to move through the broken image of love that appeared to them in their parents' relationship to their deepest origin and identity as God's beloved, capable of great love. The next retreat will be from Friday, May 16 at 6 p.m. to Sunday, May 18 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Augustine's Seminary (2661 Kingston Rd., Scarborough). Must be 18 or older to attend. Cost: \$340 per person (\$200 for students), which includes meals, lodging and retreat material. Limited subsidies are available if cost is a concern. Please contact lgwtoronto@proton.me.

For university/college students, contact your campus minister for more information. Space is limited. To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/LGW-TO-Retreat-Register2025>.

THIS WEEK'S VOTIVE LAMP DEDICATIONS

TABERNACLE

Special intentions of Adrian Gill
Special intentions of the Gill family

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Blessings for the Confirmation of Dana Lim
Blessings for the Confirmation of Dana Lim

BLESSED MOTHER

In loving memory of Anita Coleman
Blessings for the Confirmation of Dana Lim

ST. JOSEPH

Blessings for the Confirmation of Dana Lim

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND

This Collection is a Pontifical request for the Holy Land in support of Christian communities, the works of the Holy Land and the upkeep of Holy Sites. Let us give generously to respond to the needs of the Church in the land of Jesus.

Yellow envelopes, for the collection for the Needs of the Church in the Holy Land, are available at all the exits of the Church.

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

SSVP – MARCH SUMMARY AND BUNDLE UP

During the month of March, our members made 34 visits to Neighbours in Need, and distributed \$3490 in grocery cards and \$235 in bus tickets. Parishioners donated \$2500 during March. We are so grateful to you!

The truck in the parking lot last weekend was almost full by the time it was removed on Monday. Thank you for donating your goods in a meaningful way, helping further the work of Saint Vincent de Paul. We are also thankful for the 3 bicycles which were sent to El Salvador through Canadian Food For Children. Blessings!

[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.

SHARELIFE

You empower youth to embrace God

Your devotion enables the Office of Catholic Youth to fulfill their mission of helping youth and young adults to encounter, love and serve Jesus Christ. Through your loving support of ShareLife, young people are empowered to become Christian leaders who know Christ and have a growing relationship with Him. Aspiring youth and campus ministers, like Laura, form spiritual habits through workshops and formation retreats. They learn practical methods to engage the youth of today and help them deal with everyday pressures. "These formation sessions have equipped me with a firm foundation in the faith," she says, "enabling me to pass on authentic Catholic teachings to the young people in my care."

**Thus far we have raised \$15,979
toward our goal of \$110,000.**

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

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

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 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)

St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish



EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 27th

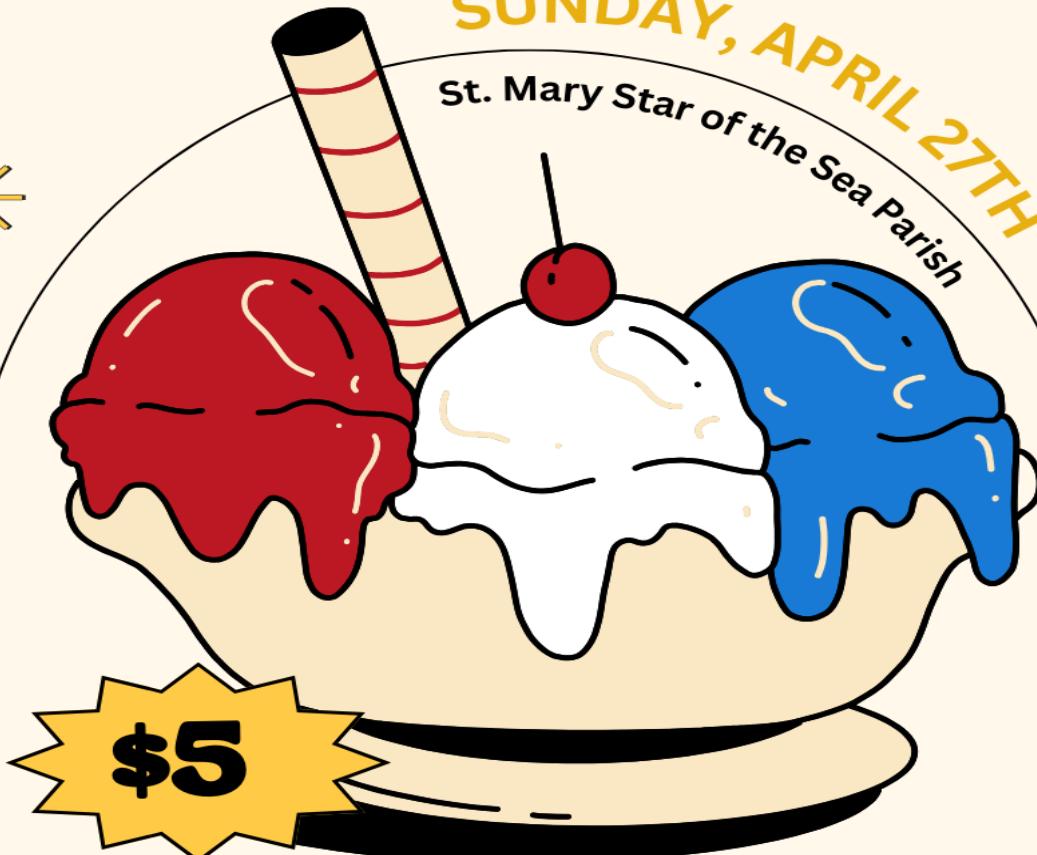
Following the 11am Mass

For ages 2-8



SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH

St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish

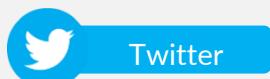


Divine Mercy Sundae Fundraiser

Coffee and Snacks following the 9am Mass

Ice Cream Sundaes following the 11am Mass

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @STMARYSTAROFTHESEAPARISH



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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