

First Sunday of Lent



And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. Luke 4:13

From The Desk of Fr. Dunstan: We have faith, we pray, we trust in the Lord Jesus, and we say the Lord's prayer, at least once a week when we attend Mass. As we enter the first week of Lent, let us reflect on "lead us not into temptation". Jesus was led by the angel to the desert to fast and pray for forty days to be with God intimately. At the very moment, Jesus entered the desert, the devil squeeze in to take him away from God with his temptations. Satan tried all means to win Jesus, first by transforming the stone into bread, second with the test of God's providence and protection, and then with the attraction of the power of the world against the Kingdom of heaven. Being aware of the tricks of Lucifer, Jesus did not fall into temptation.

On the contrary, in the full freedom and liberty, despite having everything, pushed by the cunningness of the serpent, both Adam and Eve, being naive and with greed, fell into temptation and sinned against God. These results, first losing the presence of God and the shame with their own nakedness, second loosing image and likeness of God who created them with freedom and liberty and finally hiding themselves behind nature and the fellow human with insincerity. Is this not something that we do always?

We are blessed by God with the gift of life. Most of us have everything we need to live. But sometimes instead of being satisfied with what we have, we compare with others who live around us and be tempted with greed and consequently we fall into several unnecessary problems. Finally, we blame others, situations, and even God Himself for our own failures.

Every year the Church invites us, during the season of Lent to be aware of our fragilities and to seek the mercy of God with the realization and true repentance by saying, "be compassionate O Lord, for we have sinned", and we know where sin increased, there grace increased all the more.

Dear brothers and sisters, as we pray, "Our Father in Heaven ... lead us not into temptation" every time, let us acknowledge all the trials we face and plead to God to give us abundance of grace and the gift of justification in the kingdom of heaven, through Jesus Christ who grant us Eternal Life in spite of our transgressions. Amen.

PANCAKE SUPPER turned out great and impressed me. David Breech and team - you all put your heart and soul and shared your talents to make it happen. CONGRATULATIONS! Everyone who came enjoyed, not only the delicious pancakes and sausages but also meeting one another after 3 years of COVID locked down. It was an excellent beginning for Lent within St. John's parish where everyone was able to see each other, mingle and rebuild the spirit of unity but also the outreach to others by sharing with the Good Shepherd community who helps the people in need. Once again, I appreciate and thank the pancake team for organizing it and all others present for making the event meaningful.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, February 28th, 2023

For + MICHAEL SHEA

Requested by The Shea Family

Ash Wednesday, March 1st, 2023

For + MICHAEL MURPHY

Requested by The Milway Family

Thursday, March 2nd, 2023

For INTENTIONS OF CATHERINE CHANG

Friday, March 3rd, 2023

For + JAMES MAILLOUX

Requested by Maureen MacDonald

Saturday, March 4th, 2023

FOR + MICHAEL MURPHY

Requested by Charles Braive



*The Sanctuary Light burns this week
for the intentions of*

The DeCourcy Family

Please Pray For The Sick

Carl D'Sousa, Joan Tierney, Amanda Finlay, Diane Meldrum, Jack Lees, Stella Avery, Carmel Richard

Lent & Easter Schedule

Fridays of Lent

4:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

Confessions

Saturdays - 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm

Wednesday, March 8th - 8:45 am to 9:15 am & 5 pm to 6 pm

Thursday, March 30th - 5 pm to 6 pm

Palm Sunday Masses - Usual Weekend Mass Times

Holy Thursday - April 6th

8:15 am - No Mass

7:00 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper & Eucharistic Adoration

Good Friday - April 7th

8:15 am - No Mass

12 noon & 3:00 pm - Liturgy of the Word - Communion Rite

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - April 8th - 8:00 pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Masses - April 9th - 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Easter Monday - April 10th - 8:15 am

Come join us in praying the **ROSARY** before Mass, Tuesday to Friday at 7:45 am. Doors open at 7:45 am.



Please remember the St. Vincent de Paul poor box as you exit the church.

In The News

LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY: Join us Saturday March 4th from 9 am to 5:30 pm at the Metro Convention Centre for Lift Jesus Higher Rally. A grace-filled day celebrating God's love with uplifting music, Eucharistic Healing Procession, Confession and Holy Mass. Speakers, • Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto • Ralph Martin • Chris Stefanick • **FOR TICKETS/INFO:** www.ljhr.ca **EMAIL:** contact@ljhr.ca **CONTACT:** Sadie, 905.270.2510

A 9-DAY TRIP TO ENGLAND: St. Dunstan's Parish is planning a Trip to England, July 12-20, 2023. Price per person double occupancy: \$4,580.00. Which includes flights & taxes, accommodation in a central London Hotel, Full English Breakfast daily and (5) 3-course dinners. All entrance fees, tours, and visits per the itinerary with guide and private transportation + gratuities to hotel and restaurant staff. If interested please call St. Dunstan's Parish office 416.694.2811 ext. 2.

CANADIAN BISHOPS RELEASE PASTORAL LETTERS TO ADVANCE THE HEALING JOURNEY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THIS LAND: Individual letters have been prepared for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. In addition, the bishops have released a letter to Catholics throughout the country. Catholics throughout the archdiocese are invited to reflect, learn and join in efforts to nurture and deepen our relationship with Indigenous Peoples. We pray that the letters may serve as an additional tool to guide the journey of healing, reconciliation and hope. Copies of the letters can be accessed by visiting www.archtoronto.org/healingandreconciliation.

TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE - HUMANITARIAN RELIEF: The Archdiocese of Toronto will accept donations and channel funds through Catholic partners (including Caritas Canada, Aid to the Church in Need, CNEWA, and Jesuits International) to support relief efforts underway. Those wishing to help may do so in the following ways: Online through the Archdiocese of Toronto website – <https://www.archtoronto.org/en/contact-us/donations/donate-pages/donate-to-turkiye-and-syria-relief/>. -By phone through the Development Office – 416.934.3411. Through the parish, making cheques payable to: St. John's Parish – Turkey and Syria Earthquake – Humanitarian Relief



VOCATIONS: Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the life-commitment God has prepared for you? If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416.968.0997. Email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca



Thank you for making a gift to your Parish. Your offertory contributions are our only source of income in support of normal parish operations. Please consider increasing your donations for 2023.

	2019	2023
Sunday Offertory	\$ 4827	\$ 3020
Offertory PAG:	\$ 1110	\$ 1421

Parish News

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER: A warm, wonderful, delicious evening enjoyed by all – young families and our Parishioners with wisdom. Thank you to Chefs Corbin, Chi Chi, and Bill. Support, direction, and clean up George, Doris, the Knights of Columbus, and the incredible students from St. Joh School. We are grateful to all who attended and participated in this Parish Event.



SPECIAL SPEAKER: Local historian Gene Domagla will give a presentation on Places of Worship in the Beaches area on Sunday, March 5 in the church Hall at 12 noon - right after the 11:00 Mass. Everyone is welcome to attend. A free light lunch will be served courtesy of our CWL council.



40 CANS FOR LENT - I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN: 40 CANS is an opportunity to turn a small sacrifice into a big difference in someone's life. The Knights of Columbus are once again encouraging you to donate one can per day for 40 days during the Lenten season. Or substitute \$1 for each can. All donations will be given to the Good Shepherd Mission. This is your opportunity to honor Christ by giving. Drop off your non-perishable food donation in the special 40 Cans for Lent baskets at the back of the church.

Little Levity: Joe and Mike go to a bakery. Mike takes 3 buns and puts them into his pockets. Mike says to Joe, "That took great skill and guile to take those buns. The owner didn't even see me." "That's just simple thievery." Joe replied. "I'll show you how to do it the honest way and get the same results." Joe says, "Sir, I want to show you a magic trick. Mike, please pass me a bun." At which Joe ate it. He then asked Mike to pass him another bun and ate it. Once again, he asked and ate another bun. "The owner said okay my friend where's the magic trick? Joe said "Look in Mikes pockets."

Peace begins with a smile.....Mother Teresa