

Solemnity of The Ascension Of The Lord



Communion Reflection: It's all out of control. Inflation, the economy, violence, oppression, greed, morality, and tensions are all escalating as people scurry about for a sense of stability and well-being. Power seems to win the game and self-aggrandizement appears to be the order of the day. We appear to be engaged in an identity crisis of vast proportion, not certain whether standard, acceptable and appropriate protocols exist any longer. We are lost... The world needs the Good News of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis tells us, "The Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is now in the Lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us." If God is present in every space and time, then he is actively involved in what is happening in our lives. He works through both the positive and negative experiences we encounter, bringing us to a renewed and more focused place. The Ascension allows us to see this truth about ourselves and it enlightens our hearts. Christ, who was brilliantly transfigured before the very eyes of the disciples will be our destiny. Perhaps the cause of humanity's identity crisis is nothing other than an absence of faith. How can we believe that God takes a real interest in our lives if we do not believe in God in the first place? The Ascension reminds us of who God is, who we are and who we are meant to be. All we have to do is believe in what God promises. When people are so angry, hurting, displaced, confused, and broken it is hard to convince them that there is a better way. The rise in addiction and mental health issues are indicative of social structures that are failing. When we rely too much on the things of this world to please us, we can easily lose our excitement, enthusiasm, wonder, and joy. No worldly thing, no matter how great, can satisfy the longing of a human heart. Only God does that. Imagine how different life would be if everyone approached each moment as a creative opportunity to see what God will do. When encountered with faith, even darkness has great potential to become light. The neighbor who gets under our skin, the demanding coworker we see every day, the person at the supermarket who is rude to us, the elderly person we met on our daily walk who seemed so disheveled, the perfect sunrise that greeted us in the morning, and the wonderful aroma and taste of our first cup of coffee can all be used by God to awaken us, humble us, and bring us to a heightened sense of His presence. If people really understood the power of faith, they would have a better sense of who they are and where they are going. It would be harder to take something from someone that doesn't belong to us, strike out in vengeful violence when we are hurt, allow greed to override the basic sanctity of human life, justify behaviors that are blatantly sinful and wrong, give in to the whims of desire and passion, and live life as if we are the only ones that matter. The world needs the Good News of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Do not be reluctant to preach and accept the truth! Christ is our destiny and our hope. It's that simple. Alleluia!.....LPi

Mass Intentions



Saturday, May 20th
For + EDNA BURKE
 Requested by Robert & Irene Wintersinger Schmidt

Tuesday, May 23rd
For INTENTION OF AMELIA & JAMES PETERSON
 Requested by

Wednesday, May 24th
For INTENTIONS OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH
 Requested by Amelia & James Peterson

Thursday, May 25th
For + BERNADETTE & RAYMOND SELVARATNAM
 Requested by the Family

Friday, May 26th
For INTENTIONS OF NEWLY ORDINATED PRIESTS

Rest in Peace
In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of
Margaret Ann Shanly

Please Pray For The Sick
 Marianne Loranger, David Hibberd, Christine Curran,
 Jacob McLean, Carl D'Sousa, Joan Tierney, Diane Meldrum, Jack Lees, Carmel Richard



Thank you for making a gift to your Parish. Contact the office if you wish to begin using envelopes or for more



information on our Pre Authorized giving (PAG). Or scan the QR code below and the link will take you to our "Donate" button on our website where you can donate through your credit card; don't forget to select "St. John's Parish, Toronto" in the drop down menu.

	2022	2023
Sunday Offertory	\$ 2242	\$3152
Offertory PAG:	\$ 1110	\$ 1421
Popes Pastoral Works	\$ NA	\$1530

Little Levity:



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

In The News



On Saturday, May 13, 2023, Archbishop Francis Leo ordained seven transitional deacons with the Sacrament of Holy Orders

as priests who will serve in the Archdiocese of Toronto. As a faith community, we invite you to pray for all those who continue to serve and, in a special way, our newly ordained priests: Rev. Sávio Bruto da Costa, Rev. Sean Jacob, Rev. Mirko Ljuba, Rev. Carlos Marquez, Rev. Cole Powers, Rev. John Wang and Rev. Matthew Wang. Let us also pray for those who are currently in formation to the priesthood at St. Augustine's Seminary and at the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary. We give thanks to God for all those who have answered the call to serve the Church through a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life.

DAY OF REFLECTION: Join us on Monday, May 29, 2023: 9 am - 3:30 pm at Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre, 2325 Liverpool Rd., Pickering for an Ignatian Discernment retreat day. Both Adolfo Nicholas, former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, and Pope Francis, seek to foster a church community of greater wisdom and depth that is more integrated and prayerfully mindful of the issues of today's contemporary world. This day of reflection will focus upon how we can respond to our world today in a more Christ-like way through the Ignatian charism of wisdom and depth as intuited by these two well respected contemporary Jesuits. Facilitator: Fr. Trevor Scott, SJ. A suggested offering of \$65 per person. Includes break, lunch and mass along with the program. REGISTER: <http://manresa-canada.ca>, registration@manresa.ca, 905.839.2864

CALLING ALL GOLFERS: ShareLife's Golf Tournament returns June 5: On Monday, June 5, the 26th edition of the ShareLife Golf Tournament returns to Royal Woodbine Golf Club in Etobicoke. The day includes camaraderie, friendly competition, and fantastic food, while you support the vital work of Catholic social service agencies in our communities. Registration is filling quickly! Note that we also welcome sponsorship enquiries and silent auction and prize donations. For more details, visit sharelife.org/golf or contact Maria Panagakos at 416.934.3400 ext. 526 / mpanagakos@archtoronto.org.

ST. AUGUSTINE SEMINARY: Office of Vocations is offering a weekly Online Discernment Group for single men aged 18+ journeying with the book: "Pray, Decide and Don't Worry" by Bobby & Jakie Angel, Fr. Mike Schmitz. Books can be purchased through the Office of Vocations for \$10. Online meetings will run from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. For more information visit <https://staugustines.on.ca/events-listing/mens-online-discernment-group-2023>

Parish News

ShareLife ShareLife and World Communications Day. On this World Communications Day, your support of ShareLife is improving the lives of Deaf people in our community. More than 60% of families with a Deaf child do not know or use a signing language. Silent Voice, a ShareLife agency, is able to provide an array of accessible programs and services, responding to the needs of Deaf adults, youth, children, infants, and their families in American Sign Language (ASL). This is because of you. The help and support you give brings hope and changes many lives. Thank you for your generosity.

Thus far we have raised \$22,471 toward our goal of \$76,300. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

THE SPRING CONCERT IS BACK! The St. John's Harmony Choir is excited to invite you to their annual Spring Concert. After three years without a concert, due to the pandemic, they are excited to once again sing for you. There will be a variety of music, from silly to sacred, for you to enjoy as well as an outstanding soprano soloist. Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 4th at 3 pm.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Returned next week Sunday, May 28. As a reminder Children's Liturgy runs most Sundays during the 9 am Mass.

"THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING CLEBRATION " I WAS IN AWE...." Fr. John Newton. Thank you to all who came out to celebrate with Fr. John Newton on his 50th Jubilee of Priestly Ordination last weekend. It was wonderful to have Msgr. Brad and Fr. Pierre with us and what a beautiful sunny day. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for organizing and preparing the wonderful refreshments and setting up beautifully outside. And to all the wonderful volunteers, photographers and students of our Confirmation Class, giving of their service. Big thanks to those who brought extra treats, some even baked them himself and decorated them. Amazing job by all. In a few days we'll have the pictures posted on the website. In the meantime, enjoy these.

