

Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time



As we begin the fourth week in ordinary time, scriptures speak of seeking righteousness, humility and refuge in the Lord and the Lord loves the righteous. God is the source of our lives in Christ Jesus. Therefore, God wants us to be poor in spirit, meek, merciful, pure in heart and the peacemakers with the hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Note from the desk of Fr. Dunstan:

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." (John 15:16)

The above passage is the vocation that each and every one receives through Baptism. I would like to share one of my own personal experiences that I encountered. I am originally from Sri Lanka where the Civil War was in effect until 2009. In 2000, I was working in a church in the north of the country where we were under heavy attack with lots of shelling and bombing occurrences. Parishioners and villages in that vicinity had come for asylum at my church for safety. We prayed the rosary and had a service for the end of that particular attack. After the prayers, I went to rest in the rectory. Due to the heavy battle, I couldn't relax. I started praying alone. While praying, the above scripture passage came to my mind, "I chose you and appointed you to bear fruit not come and relax and rest. Get up, go to church, and be with your people." I responded to that inner calling God gave me. I left the rectory and was walking to the Church, not even 200 metres away, when shelling fell on the rectory and the whole building collapsed. I was covered with dust and sand from the shelling. I was in shock, but God pushed me and made me escape with all the people from the church to another location. A little while later, we heard our church was also destroyed during that exchange of shelling and bombing and several were killed. I felt the providence of God and remembered the same bible words: "whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you."

The sermon on the mountain invites us to act out our faith with total confidence in God. He who created us and gave our life will definitely listen to our prayers and give us his protection and providence.

May God bless us all!

Mass Intentions



Tuesday, January 31, 2023

For + PASQUALE BELSITO

Requested by Jane & Larry Lazazzera

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

For + AGNES FERNANDO

Requested by Veronica Samaraweera

Thursday, February 2, 2023

For INTENTIONS OF TORE JOSEPH REVELLS

Requested by Georgina Revells

Friday, February 3, 2023

For + ANTONIO WINTERSINGER

Requested by The Wintersinger Siblings

Saturday, February 4, 2023

For INTENTIONS OF KEN & FRAN FORBES

Requested by Paul, Claudia & Michael DeCourcy



The Sanctuary Light burns this week in loving memory of

John & Dorothy Markle.

Please Pray For The Sick

Kayden Russell, Joan Tierney, Amanda Finlay, Michael Murphy, Francesca Natale, Diane Meldrum, Paul Decourcy, Jack Lees, Stella Avery, Carmel Richard

We are constantly updating our prayer list, and try to reserve this list for those who are critically ill. If we do not hear from you by the end of the month as to the status of a person, we will remove the name. If you wish to add a name, please call or email us. Thank you for your understanding.

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.



Thank you for making a gift to your Parish. Income Tax receipts for donations made in 2022 will be making its way to your home by mail on or before February 6th. Donations made to St. Vincent de Paul will be received separately. Please remember St. John's Parish in your last will and testament. 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	\$ 4,620	\$ 3,287
Offertory PAG:	\$ 907	\$ 1,183


In The News

ARE YOU INDIGENOUS AND CATHOLIC? Did you know that St. Ann's Parish in Toronto is home to the Archdiocese of Toronto's Native Peoples' Mission? We offer an enculturated weekly Sunday Mass at 12:30 p.m. that honours traditional spirituality. All are welcome. 120 First Ave., Toronto. More information at <https://nativepeoplesmission.archtoronto.org/>. Miiigwech.

LEGACY GIFTS: If you have included your parish or favourite archdiocesan charity in your Will or estate plan, please let us know. Through the Legacy Society of the Archdiocese of Toronto, we would like to say a special thank you. All Legacy Society members are invited to the Annual Legacy Society Lunch & Mass by the Archdiocese of Toronto. They also receive: • A hand-crafted cross blessed by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins. • A personal letter from Cardinal Collins and a certificate acknowledging your intention. • Invitations to Legacy Society functions and other special events. Let your legacy be a testament of your faith! All Legacy Society members have the option of remaining anonymous. If you have any questions, please contact the Development Office at development@archtoronto.org or 416 934 3400 ext. 519.

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

MANRESA JESUIT SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTRE: presents Praying with the Life of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, OLM. Join us on Monday January 30th from 9 am to 3 pm, for a day of reflection open to men and women. While most Catholics are familiar with the Icon of the Divine Mercy which is found in most parishes, less known is the life of Sr. Faustina, an obscure Polish nun, whom Jesus used to proclaim God's infinite mercy for all who desire to receive it. Monday, January 30, 2023 – 9 am to 3 pm. Facilitated by Fr. Henk van Meijel, SJ. A suggested offering of \$65 per person. Includes break, lunch and mass along with program. **REGISTER:** manresa-canada.ca, or registration@manresa.ca, 905.839.2864

**VOCATIONS:** "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven..." Do not be discouraged by jeers when considering being a priest, deacon, brother or sister. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. Email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

Parish News

Marriage Sunday: the weekend of February 11th and 12th, highlights the importance of the sacrament of marriage and complements World Marriage Sunday celebrations that take place across North America. Here, at St. John's we invite married couples of to renew your vows at one of the Masses that weekend. Contact the office so we can reserve your seats and prepare. Deadline – Monday, February 6th. Let us come together and celebrate the tremendous contributions of married couples who continue to strengthen our faith community.

SAVE THE DATE: It's Back by popular demand! Parish Strove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Tuesday February 21st. David and his team are working on the details, more info to follow soon.

BE A SERVER AT THE ALTAR: We are looking for new servers for our 4:30 pm Mass. The Altar Servers form a very important part of the Church and every parish is enriched through their dedication and service. If you would like to join this important ministry, please contact Lisa Charette, at lisacharette@rogers.com.

YOU CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE: in someone's quality of life. Please remember that there is always a box in the east vestibule of the church, collecting good used eyeglasses. We are also looking for donations of items you may already have in your home; a bar of soap, a tooth brush, or half bottle of Tylenol/Advil. All items will be sent to recipients in the Third World who cannot afford to buy their own, through the organization of Dr. Joan Simone.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Beginning February 3rd, we will have the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the First Friday of the month from 4 to 5 pm. All are welcome!

"Eucharistic adoration is the act of adoring the Eucharistic presence of Christ. The Church believes that because "Christ himself, living and glorious, is present in a true, real, and substantial manner: his Body and his Blood, with his soul and his divinity" (CCC: 1413), the Most Blessed Sacrament is worthy of our adoration. What do I do at Eucharistic adoration? Eucharistic adoration is a time to set apart for deep prayer and devotion to Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament." Come Adore, come sing, come & pray.

Little Levity: Frankie the local drunk staggers into St. John's church, enters the confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing. Fr. James coughs a few times to get his attention but Frankie continues to sit there. Finally, Fr. James pounds three times on the wall. Frankie mumbles, "ain't no use knocking, there's no paper on this side either!"

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