

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! - 2 Corinthians 5.17

Focus on the Word

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Leviticus 19.1-18; 1 Corinthians 3.16-23; Matthew 5.38-48

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Amen.

Parish Week ☩ Sunday, 19 Feb. 2023

Saturday, 18 Feb. / Our Lady of Lourdes

8.00 am Mass: † Enrico Bacling (Vina Garcia)
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Mary Fernando (Joan Penumerthy)

SUNDAY 19 FEB. / 7-A

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

9.00 am Mass: † Gabriel & Frances Andreas
(Jesudas Andreas family)
10.30 am Mass: † Frank & Joan DeVerno (Pamela)
12.00 pm Mass: † Benita Chen Ang (family)
1.30 pm Knights of Columbus
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 20 Feb.

8.00 am Mass: † Donald Ferris (Eric Ponee)
7.00 pm Mass: † Pari Rasiah (family)

Tuesday, 21 Feb. / St. Peter Damian, bishop & doctor

8.00 am Mass: † Domingo Villasis (family)
7.00 pm Memorial Mass † Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Wednesday, 22 Feb. / ASH WEDNESDAY

- *Lent begins; Day of Fast and Abstinence*
- *All Ash Wednesday Masses include distribution of blessed ashes*

8.00 am Mass: † Camila Maulion (Amalia El Haddad)
9.00 am St. Maria Goretti School A.W. Liturgy
11.00 am ► St. Joan of Arc Catholic Academy A.W. Liturgy
1.00 pm ► St. Albert School A.W. Liturgy
7.00 pm Mass: † Raymunda Borromeo (Edna Bautista)

Thursday, 23 Feb. / St. Polycarp, bishop & martyr

8.00 am Mass: † Camila Maulion (Chita & Gina)
7.00 pm Mass: † Camila Maulion (Sofie Salve)

Friday, 24 Feb.

8.00 am Mass: † Labib Zeidan (Amaila)
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Monica Hynes (Patrick)

Saturday, 25 Feb.

8.00 am Mass: Intention, Caroline (family)
5.00 pm Mass: † Pedro Bautista (Edna)

SUNDAY 26 FEB. / Lent 1-A

- *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*
- *2nd Collection: Maintenance*

9.00 am Mass: † Cosimo Rizzi (Carol Morra)
10.30 am Mass: † George Bastiampillai (family)
11.30 am Catholic Women's League
12.00 pm Mass: † Margaret Pfeiffer (Kathleen Ryan)
2.00 pm ► RCIA Rite of Election (St. Barnabas Church)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Pray for the Deceased

Deacon William Carson

Constable Grzegorz Pierzchala, the OPP officer shot on 27 December in Hagersville



Lenten Masses

During Lent, there will be an evening Mass at 7.00 pm Monday to Friday, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday.

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday during Lent, the *Stations of the Cross* will be prayed congregationally after the 7.00 pm Mass.

For private use, the parish *Stations* booklet may be obtained at the office for \$2.

The Facilitators for 2023 will be:

- Feb. 24 Catholic Women's League
Mar. 3 Youth Ministry
10 Altar Servers
17 St. Vincent de Paul
24 Greeters & Euch. Ministers
31 Knights of Columbus
Apr. 7 Lectors



Calling all Palms

Bring in your *old blessed palms* by the Sunday before Holy Week (26 March). Kindly place them in the *palm box* in the Vestibule.

COMING UP

7007o23

- 1 Mar. St. Maria Goretti School Reconciliation
4 Mar. 1st Communion Family Instruction #1 (4:00 pm)
6 Mar. - 1st Communion Family Instruction #1 (6:00 pm)
- Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
8 Mar. ► St. Albert Sch. 1st Reconciliation & School Rec. (1:00 pm)
12 Mar. Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
19 Mar. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*
21 Mar. St. Maria Goretti School Mass (9:00 am)
25 Mar. ► Installation of Bishop **Francis Leo** (Cathedral, 10:00 am);
- Wedding: Omotayo – Ogunleye (1:00 pm);
- 1st Communion Family Instruction #2 (4:00 pm)
26 Mar. - 2nd Collection: *ShareLife Appeal*;
- CWL Meeting (11:30 am)
27 Mar. - 1st Communion Family Instruction #2 (6:00 pm)
31 Mar. Wedding: Jefferson – Richein (2:00 pm)

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For more information on Parish activities, check pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is a day of FASTING AND ABSTINENCE. Ashes will be distributed at all our liturgies that day.

FASTING (one full meal and two smaller meals, no snacking) applies to those 18-60 years. This does not apply to those who are pregnant, sick or elderly.

ABSTINENCE from meat applies to those 13 and older.

During Lent, the **faithful** PREPARE FOR EASTER through:

Prayer Penance and Works of Charity or Mercy.

During the Lenten season, we see some changes to the Liturgy:

The “*Alleluia*” is not sung, and is omitted in prayers.

Musical instruments are used sparingly, only as necessary accompaniment for singing;

Flowers are not placed in the Sanctuary, from the Baptistry to the Tabernacle. Any donations (e.g., from funerals) must be placed in the Blessed Virgin Shrine area.

In the RCIA, **Catechumens** present themselves to the regional **Bishop** at the *Rite of Election*, to prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery through the various stages of Christian Initiation.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI Memorial Mass, 7 pm, 21 February

Our Parish will hold a Memorial Mass for **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI** at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 21 February.

b. 16 April 1927; *d.* 31 December 2022.



Sacramental Preparation

23 Feb. & 1 Mar.: St. Albert Sch. (*In school, for students only.*)

1st Reconciliation Instructions, 1.00 pm.

4 & 6 Mar.:

1st Holy Communion Family Instruction #1

SATURDAY: 4.00 pm, or MONDAY: 6.00 pm.

8 Mar.: St. Albert School

1st Reconciliation (& School Reconciliation), 1.00 pm.

25 & 27 Mar.:

1st Holy Communion Family Instruction #2

SATURDAY: 4.00 pm, or MONDAY: 6.00 pm.

RCIA Rite of Election

2.00 pm, 26 February, St. Barnabas Church
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



On Sunday, 26 February, RCIA & RCIC Candidates completing the *Catechumenate* period will celebrate the Rite of ELECTION.

This year’s ELECTION will be conducted by **Bishop Vincent Nguyen** at 2.00 pm at St. Barnabas Church, 10 Washburn Way.

The unbaptized receive their Election; the Baptized, a blessing.

Experiencing Lent

Here is a real 12-Step Program for your Lenten renewal.

At home

1. **Prayer:** Make sure to pray Grace together at family meals; pray the Rosary daily – offer the Sorrowful Mysteries on Friday. Read Psalms 27 and 146 at Morning and Evening Prayer. Include the *Divine Mercy* devotion in your daily prayer. Meditate on the *Stations of the Cross* daily (booklets at the parish office, \$2). On Sunday, share *Evening Prayer*: gather as a family, or with friends, using the script provided in the *Living with Christ* daily missalette.

2. **Peace Time:** Note the references to the Sunday Readings (under “Focus on the Word” in the second column), and read them in your Bible at home at a quiet time during the week. Let the Word of God permeate your life and bring you healing and peace.

Prayer and Church Community

3. **Weekday Eucharist:** Participate in daily Mass as per the schedule in the 1st column in the bulletin.

4. **Stations of the Cross:** Pray the Stations after daily Mass; join as a family in the weekly parish Stations, every Friday at 7:30 pm, following the 7.00 pm Mass.

5. **Prayer and Action:** Offer the *St. Vincent de Paul Society* your time & talent to help the poor. In addition to the hour’s wage as the weekly Sunday Offering, sacrifice a day’s wages for our annual *ShareLife Appeal*, to help people to help themselves.

Concern for One Another

6. **Ghost:** Be helpful to people anonymously, without revealing who you are to take credit.

7. **Threads:** Got any good clothes to spare? Set them aside for the St. Vincent de Paul’s *Bundle Sunday*.

8. **Lift:** Spend time with someone who is hurting and really needs encouragement. Set aside your own problems for a moment, and pray with that person for God’s peace.

Forgiveness: Self-Concern and Others

9. **Reconciliation:** Have a good Confession early in Lent; make up with God; open up – every Saturday, 4:00 pm. This is the Sacrament that keeps our hearts from getting clogged by sin; instead of growing cold, warm up!

10. **Family Forgiving Time:** Take time to reflect upon the past year, and talk about your relationships at home. Pray to God for help in discerning areas that need renewal, forgiveness and healing and then take action.

Fasting and Almsgiving

11. **Shrink:** Remember that both *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday* are days of Fast and Abstinence. In Lent, observe abstinence every Friday. This is a spiritual exercise. Choose a time in your period of fasting when you can concentrate, and pray for a spirit of solidarity between our own poverty, and that of the poor in our city and in the developing nations.

12. **Grow:** Ask God for help to get into spiritual self-renewal. Select appropriate acts of self-denial during Lent, and follow through! Cut out smoking; cap the alcohol; abstain from favorite foods; limit your time on the internet; and skip the mindless TV - pick programs on Catholic stations that highlight life’s positive values, or just give “The Screen” & clear your head 1 day a week.

Our Church's Year of Prayer

The LITURGICAL YEAR is a cycle of praise and worship which allows Christians to experience the mysteries of salvation as they are outlined in Scripture, and as they are lived in history.

Advent

The weeks following the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas

We prepare for the coming of Jesus into our lives and hearts.

Christmas Season

From Christmas Eve to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

We celebrate the gift of our Father's love: Jesus is our brother and our Lord, our Saviour and our friend, our Good Shepherd for life.

Ordinary Time - I

After the Baptism of the Lord, to the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday

With Jesus we enter into the work of his Body, the Church.

Lent

From Ash Wednesday to the morning of Holy Thursday

Through *prayer, fasting* and *almsgiving* we die with Christ to sin, and prepare to renew our Baptism, to live with him for God.

Easter Triduum

From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, to the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday

We celebrate Jesus' dying and rising, and we share with him the gift of eternal life through our Baptism.

Easter Season

From Easter Sunday to Pentecost

Sharing in the new life of Christ, we are filled with his Spirit.

Ordinary Time - II

After Pentecost to the week following Christ the King Sunday

We are guided by Jesus to build the kingdom of God by our lives, using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that were strengthened in us at the time of our Confirmation.



PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Stewardship

2022 Receipts, 2023 Sunday Envelopes

The Charitable *Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations during 2022 are in the Office Lobby.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your weekly stewardship! This is an act of honour to God, our Creator.

Parishioners are invited to pick up their *2023 Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Office Lobby after Mass. They are for registered parishioners only; if you are new to the parish and have not yet registered, *welcome to our neighbourhood!* Go to the Office window, introduce yourself, and complete a *registration form*.

Ensure that you have your own box: *the number on the label and on the envelopes* must be identical. If you notice any discrepancy, advise the parish office right away. If you use someone else's envelopes, your donation would be credited to the other person.

Please write the amount of your *donation* in the spaces provided on the front of your envelopes. (If you miss doing this, our financial advisors must stop to do so, and this *really* slows down the recording process.)

Changes for our Parish Records

Please notify the Parish Office at 416-261-0076, if you:

- Have a change in your family
- Have a change of address
- Have a new phone number, e-mail, cell phone
- Will be moving out of the Parish

A simple phone call would keep our parish records updated and eliminate unnecessary postage and returned mail.

Tithing

Whether there is a crisis or not, we have to make difference, for our God is Great. Determine through your faith that the shadow of the Almighty will be upon you. Even if work is slow and prosperity is limited, things will be different because you will act by faith. Every Sunday, every Day of the Lord, is a time of consecration for tithers. Present your tithe to the Almighty along with your thanksgiving for all blessings received. That way, you will honour God and ensure the secure ministry of the Church.

The Lord of hosts has sworn, "As I have designed, so shall it be; and as I have planned, so shall it come to pass."

- *Isaiah 14:24*

Therefore the Lord the God of Israel declares, "I promised that your family and the family of your ancestor should go in and out before me forever;" but now the Lord declares, "Far be it from me; for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be treated with contempt."

- *1 Samuel 2:30*



India

In 2023, it will be the world's most populous country



The United Nations projects that the population of India will reach 1,425,775,850 on 14 April, overtaking China on that day.

In 2022, the median age of an Indian was 28.7 years, compared to 38.4 for China and 48.6 for Japan. The number of Indians under 15 years old peaked in 2011 and is now declining. India has more than two thousand ethnic groups, and every major religion is represented, as are four major families of languages: Indo-European, Dravidian, Austroasiatic and Sino-Tibetan. There are also two language isolates: the Nihali language, spoken in parts of Maharashtra, and the Burushaski language, spoken in parts of Jammu and Kashmir.







Confirmation Info Night
Top: 13 February; Below: 14 February





Some of the Facilitators of our Sacramental Preparation meetings:
Front: Lillian D'Souza, Chita Sardua, Mary Fernando; *Back:* Charles Jesupillai.



Fr. Roy Farrell, former pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, beside the pulpit at his new assignment: St. Paul the Apostle Church, Dundas St. West.



The importance of family, the building block of human society.

