

Parish Week † Sunday, 8 Sept. 2024

Saturday, 7 Sept.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Regina Dualan (Corine)
5.00 pm Mass: † Regina Dualan (Corine)

SUNDAY, 8 SEPT. / 23-B

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Theresa & Joseph (Mary Joseph)
10.30 am Mass: † Amadeo Cruz Sr. (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)
1.30 pm Infant Baptism
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 9 Sept. / St. Peter Claver, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Lina & Giancarlo Vaccaro (family)
7.00 pm Mass: † James Larkin (Alice)

Tuesday, 10 Sept.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Birthday
Brian Francis (family)

Wednesday 11 Sept.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Scott D'Cunha (Esme)

Thursday, 12 Sept. / Most Holy Name of Mary

- *Fr. Richard Veltri: death Anniversary (2011)*
8.00 am Mass: † Arturo Serneo (family)

Friday, 13 Sept. / St. John Chrysostom, bishop & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Dorothy D'Souza (Family)

Saturday, 14 Sept. / Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Theresa Crasto (Esme)
5.00 pm Mass: † Lalita & Joseph D'Souza

SUNDAY, 15 SEPT. / 24-B

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Rosario Rebello (family)
10.30 am Mass: † Abella Deongkinay (Carmelo & Edna)
12.00 pm Mass: † Angela Sivayogan (family)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Christian Life Seminar Six Sessions

7 pm on: September 7, 13, 21, 28; October 5, 12, at the MFC Mission Centre, U. 7, 2250 Midland Avenue.

For details, call: **Jay & Jackie Juson**, 647-406-1968.

EWTN † Family Celebration Event 7 Sept.

Please pray for all Parishioners taking part in the *Eternal Word Television Network's* FAMILY CELEBRATION EVENT at the Delta Airport Conference Centre, 655 Dixon Road, Etobicoke, on 7 September. The program includes inspirational talks by EWTN hosts and clergy, and Holy Mass with Cardinal Thomas Collins.

Sunday School Resumes 15 September

Parishioners may be interested to know that St. Maria Goretti Parish will be resuming its *Sunday School for Kids* 3 to 6 years old during the 10.30 am Mass. It's a great service to the children, and it gives the parents a chance to listen to the Scriptures and homily.

This ministry will resume on: 15 September.

For details, call: **Anna** or **Maria**, 416-875-0324.

Focus on the Word

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Isaiah 35.4-7; James 2.1-5; Mark 7.31-37

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Amen.

Pray for the Deceased

The **11 victims** of the **fire** in **Manila's Chinatown** in **August**.

Linda's Walk 2024 28 September

The 15th Annual Linda's Walk will be taking place on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at St. Bonaventure Church.

Registration for the walk is now open. You can find the link to the online registration page below. A free t-shirt will be included with every registration. There will also be a lunch following the walk in the St. Bonaventure Church Hall.

Registration & Start of Walk: 10:00 am; Lunch: 12:00 pm

Adults: \$25; Youth (ages 12 - 15): \$15; Children (under 12): Free!

Link to the walker registration form: info@stclareinn.org.

See page 3 in the website bulletin for more details.

Rosary Sunday Midland, 8 September

The annual *Rosary Sunday* celebration at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland will be held on Sunday, 8 Sept. Please keep in your prayers the Parishioners who will be participating this year.

COMING UP

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- 15 Sept. *Sunday School for Kids* resumes at the 10.30 am Mass
22 Sept. 2nd Collection: *Needs of the Church in Canada*
29 Sept. Feast of **St. Michael the Archangel**;
- 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*;
- Daughters of St. Paul BOOK FAIR
- 1 Oct. **Bishop Michael Power**, death anniversary (1847);
- Memorial Mass: Verlynda Villarosa (10:00 am)
- 5 Oct. Memorial Mass: Mary Weerasinghe (1:00 pm)
- 6 Oct. 2nd Collection: *Indigenous Healing & Reconciliation*
- 7 Oct. Infant Parent Godparent meeting (7:40pm)
- 16 Oct. St. Maria Goretti's birthday (1890);
- St. Maria Goretti School Mass (9:00am);
- ► St. Albert School Mass (1:00pm)
- 19 Oct. Wedding: Opiriano & Dimaculangan (1:00pm)
Wedding: Outas-Singh & Seelchran (3:00pm)
- 20 Oct. 2nd Collection: *World Mission Sunday*
- 27 Oct. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*
- 1 Nov. **Feast of All Saints**
- 2 Nov. **Feast of All Souls**
- 4 Nov. Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 10 Nov. Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)
- 17 Nov. 2nd Collection: *Shepherd Trust*
- 24 Nov. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*
- 2 Dec. Infant Baptism Parent Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 8 Dec. Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)

ShareLife 2024

Many thanks for your contribution to our 2024 Parish Campaign.

So far, we have raised: \$ 43,758.00
toward our 2024 goal of: \$ 65,000.00



ShareLife: Answer the call to compassion

ShareLife is more than a parish collection. It is how we, as Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, bring the hands of Christ to those in need.

100,000 people in Toronto are expected to turn to food charities for the first time in 2024. Through our Parish's support, *ShareLife*, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto and a generous anonymous donor are committing \$750,000 to fund food banks and meal programs throughout the Archdiocese. Reaching our Parish campaign goal will help to make these grants possible. We have currently raised \$43,758.00 towards our goal of \$65,000.00. Please help us combat hunger by giving at our Parish using a *ShareLife* envelope. Thank you for your compassion.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Congratulations to the newest members of our Church, born again in water and the Spirit as brothers & sisters of Jesus:

12 May

Zyon Andre De Vera

18 May

**Alaina Jade Makabali
Kazel Lara Parungo**

26 May

Keanu James Mendoza

15 June

**Celine Maria Adel
Olivia Marie Santos**

23 June

**Lucas Peter Parrilla
Elijah James White
William Jasper White**

6 July

Janiah Rayne Solijon

7 July

**Eleanora Maria Bevilacqua
Gabriel Yap Cortez
Kael Arteo Rodriguez**

14 July

**Eric Jonas Halder
Zoe Isabel Locke
Nicolas Navarrete Sansait
Joaquin James Samonte Penaloza**

20 July

**Jace Maverick Borja
Olivia Francine Maslocha
Ariah Celeste Rosalinda**

21 July

**Xyla Kryst Alic Busan
Joyline Kenath
Audrei Munoz Mariano
Julien Alfonso Sealtiel**

27 July

**Analeia Celeste Artates
Noah Arthur Santican Cusi
Sean Andrew Raymundo**

3 August

**Andre Jace Antolin
Josiah Bandese
Macxene Rose Velarde Pajar**

10 August

**Olivia Amor Gajeton
Claudette Kaye Mallari**

RCIA, RCIC *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children*

Coming Up:

RCIA meetings: 6 & 13 Sept.

RCIC meetings: 7 & 14 Sept.



Do you know people who have told you they are thinking of becoming Catholic? Tell them to leave a message for the Pastor at the parish office: 416-261-0076, and let them know when the next meeting for Inquirers will be held. Make sure to invite them to come to Church with you and experience what shared prayer and a spirit-filled community are all about.

Sacramental Preparation

Catholic Schools: 1st Communion prep starts in September

Students in our Catholic Schools will receive preparation for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion in Grade 2. Families will be given Information packages to register the students in this process. Family instruction meetings will be held early in the New Year.



Other Schools: Saturday Class start 28 September

Preparation begins on 28 September for *First Holy Communion* for students in other schools. They meet on Saturdays at 10.00 am. For further information, call: **Fr. Elias**, 416-261-0076.

Fr. Richard Veltri

16 October 1934 – 12 September 2011

This week, we remember dear **Fr. Richard Veltri**, who served often at St. Maria Goretti Parish from 1985 to 2005.

May he rest in peace.



Linda's Walk

Linda's Walk raises funds for ST. CLARE INN, a transitional home for homeless women between the ages of 30-60 who are struggling with a diagnosed mental health issue. It offers temporary residence for a period of up to one year. It is a non-denominational home-like setting where the focus is on re-building lives and self-esteem.

A spirit of hospitality and community are an integral part of life at St. Clare Inn which is guided by the following principles:

- Respect for each individual;
- A simple lifestyle;
- The healing benefits of living in community; *and*
- An atmosphere of peace

Every effort is made to create regular routines and establish some semblance of a normal daily life at the Inn. For most of our residents, their previous lives were anything but normal. Each woman develops a plan based on her unique needs and circumstances with the help of her support worker. They set goals to help to evaluate their progress and determine the length of their stay. Residents are expected to attend appointments with professionals and participate in the support groups necessary for their care.

All residents take part in the daily care of their personal space and the general care of the Inn. Women come together to prepare and share dinner each day. This helps to develop and rebuild independence and social skills.

The Inn is a smoke-free environment, and the consumption of alcohol or illegal substances is not allowed. Violence towards self, other residents or staff is not acceptable.

When a woman is ready to leave St. Clare Inn, we will help her to find affordable housing to ensure that she maintains a stable living environment. We believe that an essential part of recovery is finding a home.

Eligibility Criteria

- Women 30 - 60 years of age
- Homeless
- Diagnosed with a mental illness
- Mobile, independent, and motivated
- Transitioning to independent living
- Must be currently working with External Supports, such as a Housing Worker, Case Manager, Social Worker, Psychiatrist or General Medical Practitioner
- Willing to work with SCI staff on setting and working towards goals that will promote and accomplish personal success and independence in the community.
- Willing to disclose relevant psychosocial/medical/mental health history and sign consent forms with SCI staff to continue working towards independence.

Our Inspiration



Linda's bench

Linda's story begins where it ends, on the North York streets that became her home after the unrelenting voices in her head (the product of her paranoid schizophrenia) would not let her rest. Linda, aged 40, found herself alone, with only her 'voices' for company. She roamed the streets and spent her nights sleeping in various bus shelters and gas stations in the streets from Lawrence to York Mills, and from Don Mills to Yonge St. Often she slept on 'her' bench at the corner of Leslie and Lawrence near St. Bonaventure Church. The neighbourhood seemed safe and most people were kind. Some would press money or food into her hand. However, a small group of citizens complained about her presence. The bench was eventually removed one winter.

The removal of 'her' bench migrated Linda to a new resting place in the washroom of a gas station at Yonge and York Mills. She died there of a heart attack in the morning of 28 September. Her only belongings were the purple track suit she was wearing, along with a sleeping bag and coat. Around her neck she wore a string of 'keys.' Perhaps they represent the mysteries of her life which now remain locked.

Linda came from a family of 12 siblings and had three daughters of her own. She was often known as Connie or Shane or simply the "Bag Lady." Early photos and family memories show a happy woman with a love for life.

Linda's story is not unusual. Her early years as a joyful and loving mother changed dramatically to unhappiness as she began to hear 'voices' talking to her, and as she was eventually diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. Her family and social workers tried to help her, she eventually disappeared from the health care system until she was found—too late to be helped.

Linda's unfortunate death gave birth to the creation of St. Clare Inn; a transitional home for women with mental health issues, a place that gives women like Linda an option to living on the street. It is a place where women with mental health challenges can rebuild their lives.

CANADA

PROVINCES & TERRITORIES FLAGS



Canada



Alberta



British Columbia



New Brunswick



Quebec



Manitoba



Ontario



Saskatchewan



Prince Edward Island



Nova Scotia



Newfoundland & Labrador



Northwest Territories



Yukon



Nunavut



Tiger yellowhead butterfly.

Interfaith leaders meet in front of Paris Cathedral 100 years after the first such Olympic meeting

Caroline de Sury, OSV News, 8 August 2024

The square in front of Notre Dame Cathedral was bathed in sunshine on 4 August as delegates of five major religions involved in the Paris Olympic Games met. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus came to talk about their experiences at the multifaith centre in the Olympic Village and discuss the values of faith and sports.

The event followed backlash against several scenes at the Games' opening ceremony, in the week following the event, from a number of religious leaders across the world. A scene that had drag performers and nudity in a reinterpretation of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* drew the most anger.

The interfaith meeting has a long tradition. A similar meeting of faith leaders had taken place at Notre Dame 100 years earlier, in 1924, during the Paris Olympic Games, at the initiative of Pierre de Coubertin, who had relaunched the Olympic Games in the modern era in 1894.

Thomas Bach, president of the IOC, and Tony Estanguet, president of the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, met with Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Paris, and Auxiliary Bishop Philippe Marsset, who was delegated to oversee the Olympic Games and Holy Games initiative. Bishop Emmanuel Gobilliard of Digne, the Holy See's special representative for the Olympics, was also there along with the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, and Chief Rabbi of France Haïm Korsia.

The meeting was held in front of Notre Dame, set to reopen on 8 December after renovations following the devastating 2019 fire. The theme was, "How does sport mobilize the best in man and humanity?" The leaders said that sport is a powerful source of positive values and unity for mankind.

"Faith and sport share many of the same values that guide us to live together in peace with our fellow human beings," Bach said in his remarks. "The Olympic Games are first and foremost about sport. But they are also about much more. They are about: Togetherness. Hope. Solidarity. Peace."

François Morinière, former managing director of the French sports daily *L'Equipe*, is a member of the interfaith organizing committee. He is co-founder of the *Holy Games Catholic* initiative. He recounted the origins of the interfaith gathering at Notre Dame Cathedral. "The idea came in 2021. While sports and faith share values and "like faith, sport can guide us on how to lead better, more meaningful lives," and, like faith, "sport can bring out the best in us to live "in solidarity and peace with our fellow humans."

Bach said, "sport is not a religion. It cannot answer the ultimate questions on the meaning of our existence. Only faith can give answers to the really existential questions of life, death and of the divine."



"Only faith can guide us in our acceptance of divine transcendence." Bach participated in the Mass in La Madeleine Church on 19 July.

"Sport is not a religion. Our *remit* (concern) is the Olympic Games. Our earthly pursuit is to bring the entire world together in peaceful competition," he underlined. "In our world torn apart by so many wars, hate and aggression, the Olympic Games are the only event that still manages to bring together the entire world in peaceful competition."

For Morinière, Bach's speech in front of Notre Dame was "particularly powerful. The silence that followed was very meaningful. It was a beautiful moment of recollection." The French sport journalist and editor was struck by personal tragedy in 2013 when his eldest daughter was killed in a bus crash in French Guiana on her way to World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Rio de Janeiro.

It's their Catholic faith that lifted the family up after Sophie's death. His book *Et le Ciel devient familier* ("And Heaven Became Familiar") is a testimony of the painful time following the tragic accident and losing his 21-year-old daughter. Morinière said the Paris Olympics are times when the Catholic Church is most engaged in years. The presence of a centre providing chaplaincy services for athletes has been part of the specifications for the Olympic and Paralympic Games since the 1972 Munich Olympics, "but with this year's Holy Games, the mobilization of the Catholic Church around the Olympic Games has taken on a new dimension."

"The help of the young people mobilized for the occasion made it possible to keep the churches open and welcoming. Over the past few days, there have been some very beautiful moments of prayer and evenings of praise," said Morinière. At the end of the meeting, the main representatives of the various chaplaincies were photographed in front of Notre Dame Cathedral, with their hands outstretched as a sign of peace and friendship.

Morinière said, "The whole event in front of Notre Dame reflected the atmosphere, the fraternal spirit and the good ambiance of the Olympic Village's multifaith centre. It was a nice way to move on after the sad artistic moments of the opening ceremony, which also had some good scenes."

Bishops around world decry 'derision' of Christianity at Olympics opening ceremony

Caroline de Sury, OSV News, 29 July 2024

The opening ceremony of the Paris Olympic Games, a sports festival aimed to unite all nations of the world, created shock and disbelief instead as Catholics around the world felt offended by the parody of the Last Supper.

The four-hour spectacle on 26 July started with a parade of athletes down the Seine River, accompanied by music and dancing scenes on top of French monuments. Notre Dame Cathedral, still under construction, was also featured with an extensive dance segment paying tribute to the construction workers who are rebuilding the icon of Paris following a 2019 fire. Dancers appeared to do aerial work on the scaffolding. The bells of the cathedral rang for the first time since the 2019 fire that nearly destroyed the building.

However, television cameras next showed drag queens, one of whom wore a crown, seated at a table. The shape of the crown resembled a monstrance. The scene was immediately interpreted as a parody of Leonardo da Vinci's iconic wall painting of the *Last Supper*.

The drag queen table scene was later complemented with a nude singer appearing in the middle of a fruit basket, to represent Dionysus, ancient Greece's god of wine.

The French bishops issued a statement on 27 July deploring the scenes at the opening of the Olympic Games. They said, "While the ceremony was a marvelous display of beauty and joy, rich in emotion and universally acclaimed, it unfortunately included scenes of mockery and derision of Christianity, which we deeply regret. We would like to thank the members of other religious denominations who have expressed their solidarity with us. We are thinking of all the Christians on every continent who have been hurt by the outrageousness and provocation of certain scenes. We want them to understand that the Olympic celebration goes far beyond the ideological biases of a few artists."

For the bishops, the values of sport and Olympism must contribute to the "need for unity and fraternity that our world so desperately needs, while respecting everyone's convictions, around the sport that brings us together."

Bishop Emmanuel Gobilliard of Digne, the special representative of the Holy See for the 2024 Paris Olympics, said that he did not watch the whole opening ceremony, as he was praying. "It is my priority as a priest," he told OSV News, adding he saw part of the ceremony and "found it beautiful with the athletes (and) the Olympic flame." The next morning, when he saw the images of the controversial scene shared on social media, he was deeply hurt.

"What shocked me most is that the freedom of spirit and tone claimed by those who set this up should not be directed against others. You can make fun of your own ideas and

laugh at yourself. But to mock the faith and religion of others, this way is very shocking. That was my reaction."

He further stressed that the Olympic Games are the last place to create such divisions.

"Why there???" It is contrary to the Olympic Charter, to the dimension of unity that is present in its values, to the idea of bringing everyone together, without political and religious demonstrations. Why exclude believers and Christians? It was the last place to do that. We want to respect the spirit of the *Olympic Charter*. We are out of it now."

The *Olympic Charter* is the codification of the fundamental principles of Olympism, and the rules and bylaws adopted by the International Olympic Committee. One of its opening points says, "The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

Bishop Gobilliard said that "all the Christians who watched it suffered this derision," adding that "many Christian athletes suffered it, the IOC and its president, Thomas Bach. I don't think he knew about it."

Archbishop Peter Comensoli of Melbourne, Australia, said on X: "I prefer the original."

The parody of the Last Supper was not the only offensive scene at the opening event. There was also a horsewoman dressed in armor, perched on a metal horse and galloping down the Seine River with the Olympic flag. It was a scene which some recognized as St. Joan of Arc, the holy warrior who fought the English in the 15th century. But according to the organizers, it represented 'Sequana,' the Celtic divinity who lived in the Seine, a sign of resistance. Another troubling scene depicted a singer who impersonated the decapitated body of Queen Marie Antoinette.

Politicians were also disgusted by the scene, with French member of European Parliament Marion Maréchal going on X to say: "To all the Christians of the world who are watching the Paris ceremony and felt insulted by this drag queen parody of the Last Supper, know that it is not France that is speaking but a left-wing minority ready for any provocation. United Kingdom's groups *Voice for Justice UK* and *She Leads UK* united to call for an immediate apology. In a July 27 statement, they said that they were outraged at the Drag Queen parody of the Last Supper.

"This is not acceptable. Yet again, the word 'inclusive' is used to justify behavior that is overtly *exclusive*. Such mockery is a deliberate attack on the person of Jesus Christ and a direct challenge to the faith that lies at the heart of, Western society."

One scene that drew praise was the concert by Céline Dion. She paid tribute to Edith Piaf by performing her "*Hymne à l'amour*" from the 2nd floor of the Eiffel Tower.

"It was magnificent," Bishop Gobilliard said. "It could all have been a beautiful evening of unity, fraternity and communion between us, but that one scene spoiled it all."

*Life In Christ Ministry
Renewal, 16 March 2024.*



