

Christianity

How are we to live?

"I no longer live, but Christ lives in me, and I live by faith in the Son of God who gave himself up for me" (Gal.2:20).

Our new life in Christ begins in Baptism. Each person is called to become holy,

to become a saint. To help us live this call to holiness, God gave us **Ten Commandments**, which prohibit what is contrary to love of God and neighbor, and prescribe what is essential to it.

1. I am the Lord your God;
you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honour your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

At the Last Supper Jesus gave us a new Commandment: to love one another as he loved us. He sacrificed his life to save everyone; and invites us to imitate him, loving and serving others.

The Ten Commandments

Christian life is about love. The first three Commandments tell us how to love God: the other seven tell us how to love people. Because we are called to trust God, Commandment #1 forbids atheism, money worship, and superstitions such as fortune-telling and horoscopes. Commandment #2, out of respect for God's holy name, forbids saying it disrespectfully, and profaning sacred things. Commandment #3 requires that we make time for God. The focus of the Christian Sabbath is the Mass. Sports and other activities on Sunday must be scheduled around Mass. Missing Sunday Mass is a mortal sin, except for serious reasons, such as illness.

The commandments to love others ("our neighbor") begin with Commandment #4. We should honour and respect our parents and those in lawful authority. Parents, for their part, have a duty to create a harmonious family atmosphere, marked by kindness. Since human life is a divine gift, Commandment #5 forbids murder, abortion, and suicide as well as illegal drug use.

Commandments #6 & 9 deal with marital love, requiring faithfulness in marriage. Since unity and procreation are both essential in marriage, Commandment #6 forbids contraception and sterilization to prevent pregnancy, and sexual activity outside marriage. Because of our human dignity, the 9th forbids thoughts of lust; it requires modesty and discretion in dress and speech.

Commandments #7 & 10 require justice and solidarity with the poor. Commandment #7 forbids theft, tax evasion, charging unjust interest, waste; Commandment #10 forbids greed, envy, and coveting another's possessions.

Commandment #8 forbids rash judgment, gossip and flattery. It requires speaking the truth with charity.



How important is prayer?

Being a Catholic is more than just following a set of rules, saying certain prayers and attending Mass on Sundays. It calls for friendships with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, fostered by prayer. (Com. 535)

Why is there a universal call to prayer? "Because, through creation, God first calls every being from nothingness...."

The Mass is the most excellent prayer because it makes present the sacrifice of Calvary. The Our Father is a unique vocal prayer because Jesus Christ taught it to us.

Everyone needs to make time each day for intimate conversation with God. One can nourish prayer and knowledge of the faith with retreats, daily Mass, and reading the Bible and spiritual books.

The Rosary is a traditional way to honour Mary, as Jesus asked (and meditating on key events in Jesus' life. Praying the Rosary individually or as a family is a practice the Church recommends.



What Is Sin?

Sin is an offence against God, disobeying His love (Com. 392). *Mortal* sin destroys all grace in the soul and takes away our supernatural life in God. *Venial* sin is less serious, but it harms our friendship with God, and our ability to love others.

"What is required to receive Holy Communion? Anyone who is conscious of having committed a grave [mortal] sin must first receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before going to Communion." (Com. 291)

395. When does one commit a mortal sin? One commits a mortal sin when these are simultaneously present: grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent. If unrepented, mortal sin leads us to the eternal death of hell."

Immediately after death, everyone is judged by God on how loving they had been in life. After this judgment each soul will go either to heaven or hell. Before entering heaven, imperfect souls may have to spend some time in *Purgatory*. No matter how many mortal sins one has committed, or how long one has been in a state of mortal sin, God always welcomes the sinner back, just as the father welcomed his son back in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

What about Suffering?

Illness and suffering have always been among the gravest problems confronted in human life. Even Jesus felt forsaken by God when faced with betrayal and physical agony, but his death and resurrection give new meaning to human suffering, which now has a redemptive value. "Very often illness provokes a search for God, and a return to him" (CCC 1501). While medical science endeavours to cure disease, Christians can unite their suffering to Christ on the cross, for their own salvation and that of others.

The influence of Faith on daily life

All Christians are called to become holy and to spread the Catholic faith in and through their ordinary activities, which includes cultural and leisure pursuits.

The vocation of the Lay faithful is to seek the Kingdom of God by conducting their lives according to the plan of God. (Com.188)

Also, by working with commitment and competence, people fulfill the potential inscribed in human nature, honour the Creator's gifts, and serve the human community. "Work" includes paid employment, work within the family, volunteer activities, and study

Parish Week / Sunday, 31 August 2025

Saturday, 30 Aug.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Cecily Espinoza (Carol Morra)
5.00 pm Mass: † Edwin Tauro (Annie)

SUNDAY, 31 AUG. / 22-C

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

- 9.00 am Mass: † Francis Andreas (family)
10.30 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving for safe return
(Cristeta Villanueva)
12.00 pm Mass: † Ranjit Savundranayagam (brother)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 1 Sept. ■ Labour Day

- 8.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (Anthony)
7.00 pm Mass: † Alwyn D'Souza (family)

Tuesday, 2 Sept. / Blessed Andre Grasset

- 8.00 am Mass: † Rose Usha Biswas (family)

Wednesday, 3 Sept. / St. Gregory the Great, pope & doctor

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

Thursday, 4 Sept. / Blessed Dina Belanger

- 8.00 am Mass: † Dr. Fr. Leonard Shankar Rozario (family)

Friday, 5 Sept. / St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata

- 8.00 am Mass: † Dorilla & Susan Rainville (Marie Plourde)
6.00 pm Holy Hour
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Saturday, 6 Sept.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (Anthony)
5.00 pm Mass: † Theresa & Joseph (Mary Joseph)

SUNDAY, 7 SEPT. / 23-C

- Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati

- 9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)
10.30 am Mass: † Amadeo Cruz Sr. (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Arturo Serneo (family)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

A Special Gift RAFFLE PRIZE

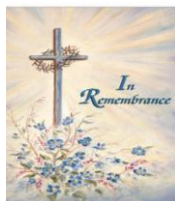
We thank **Cheryl Dalliday** for her gift of the spectacular toiletry tray kindly donated in December 2024 for a Parish Raffle Prize.

Sunday School Resumes 21 Sept.

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

Mass Intentions Requests for 2026

The *Mass Intention* book for 2026 is now open. The Parish Office will accept requests for intentions after any Sunday Mass and during weekday office hours.



Focus on the Word

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Sirach 3.17-29; Hebrews 12.18-24; Luke 14.1-14

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Amen.

Knights of Columbus 13 Sept., 6.30 pm End of Summer Dinner Dance



Special Dance Performance

Door Prizes, 50/50 Draw

\$35 per person; Over 65 years: \$25; Kids under 12: free.

For tickets, call: **Harrison**, 416-278-0951

Rosary Sunday Midland, 14 September

The annual *Rosary Sunday* celebration at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland will be held on Sunday, 14 Sept. The CWL has hired a coach for the day. Cost: \$45 per person. To reserve a seat, call: **Riza** (647-338-9288) or **Lillian** (647-909-6425).

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The next meetings:

RCIA Adults: 5, 12 September - 7.30 pm

RCIC Youth: 6, 13 September - 10.00 am.



2nd Collection: Maintenance, 31 August

The 2nd collection this Sunday will be for the support of our major parish projects through the *Maintenance Collection*.

COMING UP

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- 13 Sept. ► Ordinations to the *Transitional Diaconate* (Cathedral, 10 am);
- KOC Dinner Dance (6.30 pm)
- 14 Sept. Feast of the **Exaltation of the Cross**;
Pope Leo XIV, birthday (1955);
- ► Annual *Rosary Sunday* (Martyrs' Shrine)
- 19 Sept. Memorial Mass: † Profetiza Diaz
- 20 Sept. ► *Dine for the Shrine*: St. Theresa Parish Dinner & Dance (Qssis)
- 21 Sept. 2nd Collection: **Needs of the Church in Canada**;
- SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS resumes at 10.30 am Mass
- 27 Sept. Feast of **St. Vincent de Paul**;
- ► *Linda's Walk* (10.00 am, St. Bonaventure Church)
- 28 Sept. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*
- 29 Sept. Feast of **St. Michael the Archangel**
- 5 Oct. Annual MISSION CO-OP APPEAL,
with **Bishop Noel Emmanuel** of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka;
- Fall Fair (9 am – 2 pm)
- ► LIFE CHAIN (2 pm)



Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Statement by the Permanent Council Regarding the Urgent Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

Following the terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas on 7 October 2023, the Holy Land has been in the grip of a devastating war.

International concern about the ever-deteriorating situation in Gaza has been heightened with the latest reports from the United Nations, that civilians there are on the brink of starvation, while they continue to be exposed to violence and death, with children and the elderly being most at risk.

The loss of human life since the attack of 7 October has been tremendous, particularly among Palestinians (both Muslims and Christians). Less than a month ago, Holy Family Church in Gaza City, which had been sheltering children and the wounded, fell victim to a military strike, killing three and seriously injuring several others, for which the Israeli army has acknowledged responsibility and the Israeli government has apologized for the loss of innocent human life.

Pope Leo XIV has recently stated, with profound concern, that the “dire humanitarian situation in Gaza” and the “barbarism of war” causing it must be ended immediately.¹

He has advocated for the provision of humanitarian aid to the stricken civilian population as well as the release of hostages and detainees on both sides.²

The Holy Father has appealed to all nations “to observe humanitarian law and to respect the obligation to protect civilians, as well as the prohibition of collective punishment, the indiscriminate use of force and the forced displacement of the population” in Gaza.³

He has reiterated his call for a ceasefire and a resolution that will bring lasting peace.⁴

While the situation in the Holy Land is complex and every human solution has its limitations, the power of prayer should never be underestimated. Praying and fasting for peace in the Holy Land is both urgent and necessary at this time. As Christians express their concern about the catastrophic impact this war is having on the civilian population in Gaza, they also do well to pray for and promote respect toward the Jewish People, particularly in the face of the rise in anti-Semitism. May God, rich in mercy, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, patroness of the Holy Land and Queen of Peace, touch the hearts of all who live in the Holy Land (Jews, Muslims, and Christians). May they open themselves to forgiveness and justice, and live in peace, united by their common humanity. 25 August 2025

¹ Pope Leo XIV, Comments after *Angelus* message, 20 July 2025.

² Pope Leo XIV, Comments after *Regina Caeli*, 11 May 2025.

³ Pope Leo XIV, Comments after *Angelus* message, 20 July 2025.

⁴ Pope Leo XIV, Comments after *Angelus* message, 27 July 2025.

Dr. Fr. L Rozario

Dr. Father Leonard Shankar Rozario, the honourable V.P. of Notre Dame College and Registrar of Notre Dame University, Bangladesh, died on 21 June 2025 at John Mary Vianney Hospital.



Dr. Fr. Leonard Shankar Rozario, CSC was born on 11 February 1967 at Kaligonj, Gazipur, Bangladesh. Fr.

Leonard finished his SSC (1984) with First Division from Bandura Holy Cross High School and College and HSC (1986) with 2nd Division from Notre Dame College, Dhaka. He completed his B.A. (1988) at Notre Dame College.

He earned his degrees in Bachelors of Philosophy (1992) and Bachelor of Theology (1997) equivalent to MA Theology (FCS) at Jana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, India, and his Master of Arts in Linguistics (2006) degree with “Outstanding Achievement” at the Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, USA. His MA (Linguistics) thesis was titled, *A Glimpse into Garo Folktales – A Narrative and Ethnographic Analysis of Stories and Storytelling*.

He finished his PhD Major in English Language Studies in 2016 at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines.

Fr. Rozario, taught religion and volunteered at the Notre Dame High School Niles, Illinois, USA from 2003 to 2006. He taught English at the Notre Dame College since 2006 and Notre Dame University Bangladesh from 2017, and served as examiner for English Compulsory, Subject Code 107, Higher Secondary School Certificate, Dhaka Board, 2017 and English Compulsory, Subject Code 105, Examiner Code 2650, National University, 2010.

He was also the author of the book, *A Glimpse into Garo Folktales: A Narrative and Ethnographic Analysis of Garo Children Story and Storytelling*. His Dissertation was: “Developing a strategy-embedded language learning program (*SELLP*) on writing proficiency for freshman college students of Notre Dame College, Bangladesh.”

Father Leonard Shankar Rozario served Notre Dame College with unrelenting dedication, helping to shape the futures of countless students. May he rest in peace.





Archdiocese of Toronto Jubilee Pilgrimage
to Martyrs' Shrine, Sunday, 24 August.





Christopher Deir, *rip*

The Canadian man murdered during a tragic home invasion in Costa Rica was a life coach who grew up in the Greater Toronto Area. 40-year-old Christopher Deir was shot to death when he stepped into the hall of his vacation rental home after hearing his girlfriend screaming. The slaying took place in the Los Jobos area of Tamarindo, Guanacaste, a popular beach town, on the evening of July 11.

The couple regularly reside in Mexico, reports said. Deir was a Jungian life coach. He wrote, "My life's mission is devoted to advocating for the Soul in all its expressions. As a soul-centred coach, I help accomplished professionals and creators who are navigating transitions and feeling stuck tap into the wisdom of their unconscious inner world, allowing for integration and lasting transformation. The result is a more expanded and authentic sense of Self, and a renewed sense of awe and wonder in the face of the mystery, majesty, and wisdom inherent in Life."

A funeral service for Deir was held on 24 July in the chapel of St. Joseph at Holy Cross Catholic Funeral Home in Thornhill. He is survived by his mother, two brothers and their families. He was predeceased by his father. His obituary read: "Our beloved Christopher will be greatly missed and held dear in the hearts of his many extended family and friends. May his memory be eternal."

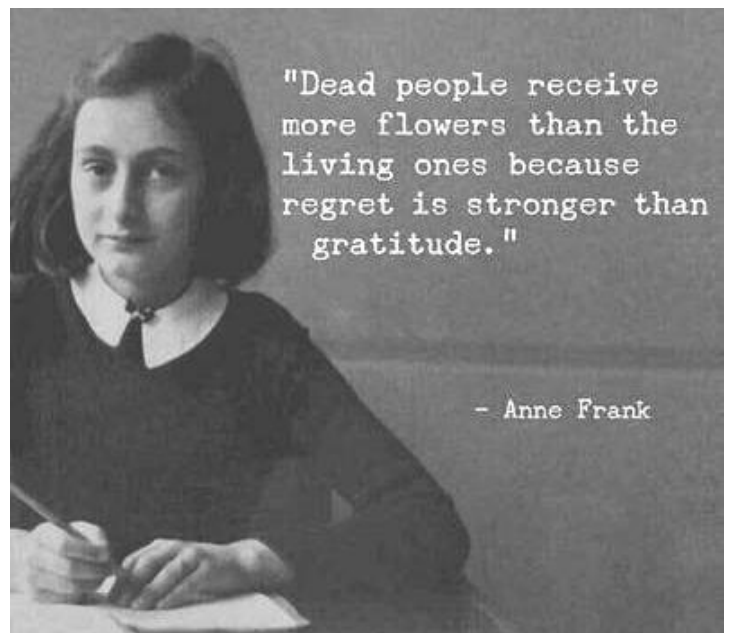
Detectives believe that the killer intended to rob the couple, but when confronted by Deir, the triggerman panicked and fired. Deir was hit three times in the upper torso. Cops are still hunting the killer.

On 9 June, the Canadian government issued a travel warning for Costa Rica. The move was the result of civil unrest, natural disasters, and skyrocketing crime. It is now a level-two advisory. Travellers are warned to take precautions. In addition to gang-related gunplay, the nation is rife with petty crime. Most of Costa Rica's violent crime can be tied back to gang wars over drug turf and is not targeted at tourists.

15-day old child carried to safety in flood



[Above] Parents from Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj carry their small baby overhead as they cross a waterlogged street. The incident shows how rainfall has created havoc in many parts of Uttar Pradesh. The flooding is caused as Ganga and Yamuna River waters have risen sharply.





Relic of Saint Thomas More could be exhumed from Anglican church to be venerated by Catholics

In a quiet corner of Canterbury, England, inside the Anglican church of St. Dunstan, history rests beneath the stone floor: the head of one of the most revered martyrs of the English Reformation. Now, as the 500th anniversary of his martyrdom approaches, the silent relic of St Thomas More may once again speak to us.

St. Dunstan, which has held the skull of the saint since King Henry VIII took over the church in England, has begun steps toward what could become one of the most significant ecumenical acts in modern British life. Local parish leaders are exploring the possibility of exhuming and preserving the relic, in time for the 2035 anniversary of More's martyrdom. While relics are commonplace in Catholic devotion, their presence in Anglican churches is unusual; and even more so when they belong to a Catholic saint canonized after the establishment of the national church. Yet for the Parish Council of St Dunstan's, this rare time is less a source of tension than of opportunity. Sue Palmer, a Council trustee, said, "This is not just about a piece of bone. It's about memory, conscience, and the role this man plays in the imagination of Christians around the world. We are stewards of something far bigger than ourselves."

St. Thomas More's head, once placed on a pike above London Bridge as a warning to traitors, was rescued by his daughter, Margaret Roper. After her death, both she and the relic were interred in the Roper family vault beneath St Dunstan's, a space that has been opened several times in the past two centuries, most recently in 1997, confirming the presence of the skull in a niche. Today, that niche draws pilgrims daily. Some leave flowers, others simply sit in silence. But many have begun to question whether the relic, hidden from view, is being treated in a way worthy of its significance.

St. Dunstan church is aware of these concerns. In a statement released 6 July 2025, the 490th anniversary of St; Thomas More's execution, it announced its intent to consult with ecclesial, academic, and other voices, including the Vatican. No final decision has been made, and the process of obtaining formal permissions through diocesan and legal channels could take years.

Still, the implications are substantial. If the relic is exhumed, carefully preserved, and placed in a setting that allows for prayerful veneration, it could transform the church into a site of pilgrimage and ecumenical encounter. St. Thomas More's body lies somewhere beneath the crowded floor of the Chapel of *St Peter ad Vincula* inside the Tower of London. Palmer said, "We're not trying to turn the church into a museum. We're seeking to honor a legacy in a way that is reverent, unifying, and spiritually alive." The church remains open daily, and visitors continue to arrive, often with quiet reverence, to be near the last remnant of the man declared a saint in 1935, and who is the patron of statesmen, lawyers, and all those who resist political coercion on the grounds of conscience.



St. Dunstan, Canterbury ↑

Tower of London ↓





Renovation & upgrading of the St. Maria Goretti School grounds, July 2025





