

Saint Maria Goretti

Prayer

O Saint Maria Goretti, who, strengthened by God's grace, did not hesitate, even at the age of twelve, to shed your blood and sacrifice life to defend your virginal purity, deign to look graciously on the unhappy human race, which has strayed far from the path of eternal salvation.

Teach us all, and especially modern youth, with what courage and haste we should flee anything that could offend Jesus and defile our souls with sin. Obtain for us from God great horror of sin so that, keeping our souls undefiled, we may live holy lives on earth and win eternal glory in heaven. Amen.

St. Maria Goretti was born to a poor peasant family on 16 October 1890 in Corinaldo, a town near Ancona, Italy. Maria was the third of seven children of Luigi and Assunta Goretti.

When she was seven years old, the Goretti family moved to Ferriere di Conca, a village near Anzio, where they shared a home with Giovanni Serenelli and his son Alessandro. Maria was nine years old when her father died of malaria. While her mother worked the farm Maria took care of her siblings and also cooked for the Serenellis.

Maria was known for her unusual serious-mindedness and piety. Every night she would recite the Holy Rosary for the repose of her father's soul. As Ferriere had no parish church, nor a priest, Maria would walk for kilometers for the privilege of hearing Mass.

At the time it was not customary to receive First Holy Communion before the age of twelve, but Maria, extremely devout and religious, pleaded with her mother to let her take instructions when Maria was not quite eleven years of age. Every day, Maria walked to the village of Mazzoleni, where she received catechetical instructions. During this time Maria intensified her piety, obedience to her mother and love for her siblings. She was busy preparing her soul to receive Jesus. On Thursday, 29 May 1902, the feast of Corpus Christi, she received her Lord for the first time. Maria would receive the Body of Christ only 4 more times before she died.

Being a beautiful child, Maria attracted the attention of 20-year-old Alessandro. It was 5 July 1902 when Alessandro tried to force his attention on her. He was furious over her refusal to commit an act of impurity and when Maria resisted him with all her strength, crying out repeatedly, "It is a sin. God forbids it," he drew a knife and stabbed her fourteen times.

At about 6 o'clock in the evening her weakened body was put on a stretcher and put in a horse-drawn ambulance which took her to the hospital at Nettuno. Doctors worked feverishly to save her life. No anesthetic was administered because the attendants feared peritonitis. Despite the intense pain, she uttered not a sound, till she finally lost consciousness. In the morning of 6 July 1902, Maria received Holy Communion for the last time, and openly forgave Alessandro, her murderer. Then Maria died.



Alessandro was captured soon after Maria's death. Originally, he was going to be sentenced to death, but since he was a minor at that time the sentence was commuted to 30 years in prison. He remained unrepentant and incommunicative to the world. In his 8th year of imprisonment he had a vision of Maria. He saw a garden, where a young girl dressed in white was gathering lilies. She smiled, came near him and invited him to accept an armful of lilies. As he accepted them, each lily transformed into a still white flame. Maria then disappeared.

A local bishop, Monsignor Giovanni Blandini, visited Alessandro in jail. He wrote a thank you note to the Bishop, asking for his prayers and telling him about his dream. Alessandro's conversion was complete. When he was released from prison after serving 27 years, his first act was to travel to Maria's mother, Assunta, to beg her forgiveness. She forgave him, saying that if Maria had forgiven him on her deathbed then she could not do less, and they attended Mass together the next day, receiving Holy Communion side by side. Alessandro reportedly prayed every day to Maria Goretti, referring to her as "my little saint."

Alessandro later became a Capuchin lay brother, living in a convent and working as its receptionist and gardener, until dying peacefully in 1970.

On 27 April 1947, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII beatified Maria, and on 24 June 1950, the same Pope solemnly canonized her and proclaimed Saint Maria Goretti the new patroness of Catholic Youth. This ceremony was attended by 250,000 faithful, including her mother (the first mother to see her child canonized) and her brothers and sisters. St. Maria Goretti has also been a principal patron of the World Youth Day celebrations, begun by Saint Pope John Paul II, and held around the world.

Parish Week

Sunday, 7 July 2019

Saturday, 6 July / St. Maria Goretti, virgin

■ *Feast day of our Parish Patroness*

- 8.00 am Mass: † Souls in Purgatory (Audrey)
4.00 pm St. Maria Goretti Holy Hour
5.00 pm Mass: † Rupina Rodrigues (Shoba Ryan)
6.15 pm St. Maria Goretti movie, *in Church*

SUNDAY, 7 JULY / 14 - C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

■ *2nd Collection: Share Life Free Will*

■ *SVPD Bundle Up Sunday*

■ *St. Maria Goretti Devotions at all Masses*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Jean & John Gunn (Jim & Betty)
10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto & Lydia Rodas (family)
12.00 pm Mass: Thanksgiving for "We Do Care"
(Helen Serneo)
- *RCIA and Infant Baptisms*
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 8 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Leo Ryan (Rick & Rosemary Schieman)
7.00 pm Mass: † Melicia & Victorano (family)

**Tuesday, 9 July / St. Augustine Zhao Rong, priest,
& Companions, martyrs**

- 8.00 am Mass: † Jesus A. Regalia (Clarita & family)

Wednesday, 10 July

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Sofia Barredo 65th Birthday
(Corine Maulion)

Thursday, 11 July / St. Benedict, abbot

- 8.00 am Mass: † Benito Chan (Perlita Sipin)

Friday, 12 July

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Geri Yin & Edward Tan (family)
9.00 am Sentinel D.E.C. Annual Inspection

Saturday, 13 July / St. Henry

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias (friend)
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Alvina Fernando (friends)

SUNDAY, 14 JULY / 15 - C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Swarna Amereskere (family)
10.30 am Mass: Int. Marjorie Joseph (Mom Agnes)
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Birthday (Helen Serneo)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

BUNDLE UP Sunday 7 July

On the weekend of 6/7 July, the *Society of St. Vincent de Paul* will collect gently-used clothing to support the needy. A St. Vincent de Paul bin will be in front of the Church; bring your donation, and help others in our community.

Parishioners are reminded that the *Bundle Up* Sunday is primarily a CLOTHING drive. The St. Vincent de Paul Society will also accept donations of SHOES. However, the Society *does not accept* the following items: Books, dishes, furniture and video cassettes.



Focus on the Word

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Isaiah 66.10-14; Galatians 6.14-18; Luke 10.1-20

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. Amen.

ShareLife 2019

Living the Gospel by supporting those who suffer from anxiety



Kristen is a college student whose mother recently died. The sense of loss led to crippling anxiety, which made it hard for her to eat, sleep or study. She decided to attend a free walk-in counselling clinic offered by CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES of Simcoe County, a *ShareLife*-funded agency. She found the session helpful, so she agreed to attend several more. With her clinician's help, Kristen learned what triggered her panic attacks and developed a plan to battle her anxiety. She now has the tools, resources, and support she needs to manage her day-to-day life.

Please make a sacrificial gift to *ShareLife* through our parish.

Our Parish goal for 2019 is: \$43,900.00

Total Raised to Date is: \$28,632.00

A freewill offering will be taken on: **7 July**.

Please donate, and help us reach our goal! Your generosity will help bring compassion and hope to others.

Bingo Fun Night 13 July, 6.30 pm, The Ark

Our **BINGO FUN NIGHT** will be held on Saturday, 13 July, at 6:30 pm in the Ark at St. Maria Goretti School, next door. At all Masses this weekend we will be selling tickets for the ***ShareLife* 50/50 Draw**; and the **Silent Auction** items will be on display in the Vestibule for bids. To help us plan, see our *signup sheet* at the *ShareLife* table in the Vestibule. We hope that all of you will come to support this fun event. It promises to be a time of enjoyment and fellowship, all to serve a great cause.

The Children's Choir is hosting a **MOVIE NIGHT** on Saturday, 6 July, after the 5.00 pm in Church: **THE LIFE OF ST. MARIA GORETTI**. Admission is free; an offering will be taken to support *ShareLife*.

7 July: **ShareLife** Appeal, Freewill Offering

On 7 July, the 2nd collection will be the *Freewill* Offering for our annual *ShareLife Appeal*, supporting 33 Catholic agencies and 10 grant recipients that respect the sanctity of all human life.

COMING UP

7014o19

28 July

2nd Collection: *Maintenance*;
- Catholic Women's League (11:30 am)
- Knights of Columbus, *Meeting & Installation* (1:00 pm)

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For more information on these and other parish activities, see pages 3 and 4 in the website bulletin.

St. Maria Goretti Parish Feast

Weekend program: 6– 7 July

Saturday, 6 July, is the actual feastday of our patroness:

4.00 pm Holy Hour in honour of St. Maria Goretti

5.00 pm Solemn Mass with Veneration of Relic

All **Sunday** Masses: *Sprinkling with Holy Water* in reparation for all acts of sacrilege and desecration; *Prayer to St. Maria Goretti* after Communion.

10.30 am Mass: *Liturgical dance* by the **Children's Choir**;

12.00 pm Mass: **Knights of Columbus Honour Guard**.

Sacramental Certificates

Confirmation

Congratulations to all the students of **St. Maria Goretti**

and **St. Albert the Great** Schools, and our **Saturday Catechism Classes**, who received the Sacraments of 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation in this Easter Season. May God bless and guide you and your dear families as you mature in grace and wisdom.

The Certificates for *Confirmation* are ready, and may be picked up at the CERTIFICATE table in the Vestibule after all Masses today.



Divine Mercy Pilgrimages Regina Mundi Retreat Centre

Parishioners are invited to participate in a Summer Retreat at our own diocesan Divine Mercy Shrine, located at the Regina Mundi Retreat Centre, 19309 Warden Avenue, near the town of Sharon in Queensville, Ontario. It is perfect for families. Go to: reginamundimagnificat.com



The Mass: A time for prayer

The Mass is the highest prayer we can offer, as we unite our actions of praise and worship with the saving action of Jesus Christ. The Mass is one act of faith, from the beginning to the end.

The Mass concludes when the final hymn is completed and the Priest has left the Sanctuary. Parishioners are asked to kindly remain in their pews until the end of Mass, and show the proper reverence for this great sign of our faith.

It is appropriate to remain in your pew for a moment after the Mass ends, and to offer a personal prayer of thanksgiving to the Father for the great gift of His Son. Parents would do well to teach their children this habit from the earliest ages.

☺ Your sabbath smile

Q: *Why don't mummies take vacations?*

A: *They can't relax and unwind.*

Revision to the Catechism

There has been a revision of number **2267** of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, relating to the death penalty. It was originally promulgated in a Rescriptum "*ex Audentia SS.mi*," of 8 February 2018.

The Supreme Pontiff **Francis**, in an audience granted on 11 May 2018 to the Prefect of the *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, approved the following new draft of no. 2267 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, arranging for it to be translated into various languages and inserted in all the editions of the aforementioned Catechism.

The death penalty

2267. Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.

Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that "the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person," [1] and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.

[1] FRANCIS, *Address to Participants in the Meeting organized by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization*, 11 October 2017, L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, 13 October 2017, 5.

RCIA, RCIC



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Children

5 July **Conversion: Developing True Relationship**
(Holy Hour at 6 pm, Mass at 7 pm, Meeting at 7.30 pm)

7 July **Sacraments of Initiation** (At 12.00 noon Mass)

2 August **The path to Holiness: Growing in Faith**
(Mass at 7 pm, Meeting at 7.30 pm)

Thinking of becoming Catholic? Leave a message for the Pastor at: 416-261-0076, and come to the next meeting for Inquirers.



Repair and Renewal

Images of the East side of the Parish Rectory prior to the beginning of the Foundation Repairs in 2016.

The work underway since 3 July 2019 includes the installation of new bollards to assist in protecting the periphery of the Church and Rectory structures.