



# Parish Week

*One does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes  
from the mouth of God.*

**Sunday, 23 February 2020**

**Saturday, 22 Feb. / Chair of St. Peter the Apostle**

- 8.00 am Mass: † Paolo & Rosa Lo Monaco (Narasco family)  
4.00 pm St. Albert School 1<sup>st</sup> Com. Family Instruction #2  
5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel, Francis & Christy Andreas  
(Maria Subramaniam)

**SUNDAY, 23 FEB. / 7-A**

- *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Maintenance*
- *ShareLife Bake Sale*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Leo Moraes (Evelyn Walsh)  
10.30 am Mass: † Adelle Diaz (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: Int. 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Shirley Juan (family)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

**Monday, 24 Feb.**

- 8.00 am Mass: † Lobib Zeidan (Amalia)  
7.30 pm St. Albert School 1<sup>st</sup> Com. Family Instruction #2  
7.00 pm Mass: † Lydia Marquez (CWL)

**Tuesday, 25 Feb.**

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Caroline)

**Wednesday, 26 Feb. / ASH WEDNESDAY**

- *Lent begins; Day of Fast and Abstinence*
  - *All Ash Wednesday Masses include distribution of blessed ashes*
- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Irene Orr for surgery (mother Valerie)  
8.45 am St. Maria Goretti School Ash Wednesday Liturgy  
9.30 am ► St. Albert School A.W. Liturgy (Juniors)  
10.30 am ► St. Albert School A.W. Liturgy (Seniors)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Deceased members of the Galea family  
(Fr. Edwin)

**Thursday, 27 Feb.**

- 8.00 am Mass: † Isabel Galicia (CWL)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Elizabeth Dias Wanigasekara (family)  
7.30 pm St. Maria Goretti School Confirmation  
Family Info Nite

**Friday, 28 Feb.**

- 8.00 am Mass: † Veronica Martin (Preethi Benedict)  
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Birthday Esme D'Mello (friends)  
7.30 pm Stations of the Cross (CWL)

**Saturday, 29 Feb.**

- 8.00 am Mass: † Arthur Braganza (children)  
10.00 am 1<sup>st</sup> Com. Family Info Nite *make up* meeting  
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Birthday Esme D'Mello (friends)

**SUNDAY, 1 MAR. / LENT 1-A**

- *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*
- 9.00 am Mass: † Ann Stafford (Alice Larkin)  
10.30 am Mass: † Herbert Lloyd James  
Birthday Remembrance (Cecilia Estavillo)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Juan Rodriguez Sr. (Carmen & family)  
2.30 pm ► RCIA Rite of Election, St. Barnabas Church  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

## Focus on the Word

**7<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## Pray for the Deceased

**Constable Mike Austin**      **Wayne Joice**  
**Deacon Joseph McTeague**      **Dr. Li Wenliang**

The **29 victims** of the **mass shooting** in the shopping mall at **Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand**

## Lenten Masses

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

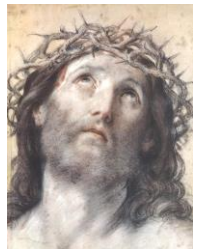
## Stations of the Cross

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 of the Cross* booklet may be obtained at the office for \$2.

The Facilitators for 2020 will be:

- |          |    |   |
|----------|----|---|
| February | 28 | <b>Catholic Women's League</b>              |
| March    | 6  | <b>Youth Ministry</b>                       |
|          | 13 | <b>Altar Servers</b>                        |
|          | 20 | <b>St. Vincent de Paul</b>                  |
|          | 27 | <b>Greeters &amp; Eucharistic Ministers</b> |
| April    | 3  | <b>Knights of Columbus</b>                  |
|          | 10 | <b>Lectors</b>                              |



## Calling all Palms

Bring in your *old blessed palms* by the Sunday before Holy Week (29 March), and place them in the *palm box* in the Vestibule.

## COMING UP

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- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2 Mar.  | Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)   |
| 8 Mar.  | Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)  |
| 12 Mar. | ► St. Albert School Reconciliation (9:15 am)  |
| 14 Mar. | <i>World Day of Prayer</i> (1:00 pm)  |
| 15 Mar. | Knights of Columbus (1:00 pm)   |
| 21 Mar. | CWL <i>Tax Clinic</i> (9.00 am-3:00 pm);<br>- STEWARDSHIP LENTEN MINISTRY REFLECTION (11.30 am – 2.30 pm) |
| 22 Mar. | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: <i>Maintenance</i>  |
| 23 Mar. | ► St. Albert School Mass (1:00 pm)  |
| 26 Mar. | St. Maria Goretti School Reconciliation (8:45 am);  |
| 31 Mar. | St. Maria Goretti School Mass (12:30 pm)  |
| 13 Apr. | Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)   |
| 19 Apr. | Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)  |
| 21 Apr. | <b>Queen Elizabeth II: birthday</b> (1926)  |

## Website [stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org](http://stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org)

For the *Prayer to St. Michael*, and more information on parish activities, see 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.

## ShareLife Bake Sale: 22/23 February

Join us on Saturday and Sunday, 22 & 23 February, for our **ShareLife BAKE SALE** in the Vestibule. We will be selling delicious treats for the entire family. All proceeds from the Sale will go towards our 2020 *ShareLife* Campaign.

## RCIA Rite of Election

2.30 pm, 1 March, St. Barnabas Church

*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*

On Sunday, 1 March, 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 2.30 pm at St. Barnabas Church, 10 Washburn Way.



## Sacramental Preparation

22 & 24 February: **St. Albert School**

**1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Family Instruction #2**

SATURDAY: 4.00 pm; MONDAY: 6.00 pm.

27 February: **St. Maria Goretti School**

**Confirmation Family Information Night**

MASS: 7.00 pm; MEETING: 7.30 pm.

29 February: **St. Maria Goretti & St. Albert Schools**

**1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Family Information Night**

**make up session - SATURDAY: 10.00 am.**

## Sunday Mass Slips

The Candidates have begun using their **SUNDAY MASS SLIPS**. The slips represent their wish to join the action of all parishioners in offering their prayers and gifts to God.

## 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:** Read some solid spiritual books this Lent; 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 detailed each week in the Parish 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 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 from Catholic stations that highlight life’s positive values, or just give “The Screen” a rest one day a week.

# St. Michael

## Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Toronto



St. Michael is the patron Saint of our Archdiocese, and of several of its central institutions. After the death of Michael Power, our heroic first bishop, St. Michael Cathedral was dedicated on the feast of St. Michael, 29 September 1848. It is fitting, that we celebrate our heavenly patron, St. Michael the Archangel, and that we ask for his intercession.

We hear about St. Michael in the Bible, especially in the Book of Daniel and in the Book of Revelation, which remind us that the personal struggles that each of us confronts during our brief passage through this earthly life, and the challenges that the Church itself confronts, are all set within the majestic perspective of the triumph of good over evil that is made clear in Revelation 12, and that is reflected as well in Ephesians 6. God calls on each of us to engage courageously in a battle against evil.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Leo XIII introduced throughout the Church a special prayer to St. Michael: “St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.....” I ask everyone to recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world. Pope Francis has also recommended this prayer.

The Prayer to St. Michael is deeply rooted in the Word of God and in the living faith tradition of the Church. Each of us can so easily become caught up in the illusions of our rich and individualistic society, but the Prayer to St. Michael reminds us of the stark seriousness of the daily battle against evil in all its forms. It is a bluntly realistic prayer in its recognition of the harsh fact of evil, something from which we can all tend to avert our gaze. More than that, however, it is a joyfully confident expression of serene trust in the power of God. That is the source of our joyful hope; it is the divine energy that derives the evangelization of this world.

Some of the terms found in the traditional prayer to St. Michael might be a bit unfamiliar, and so I offer the following reflections on the biblical and spiritual background to the prayer:

### ***St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.***

One of our great Christian spiritual classics, the “Spiritual Combat” of Lorenzo Scupoli, reminds us of the struggle that we frail children of God experience in our quest for holiness. As G.K. Chesterton once observed, life is a journey, and a puzzle, but also a battle. We are to imitate Christ in daily life, to love with the love of God on earth – to be like God. The very name “MICHAEL” means “*who is like God.*” We call out to St. Michael the Archangel, to help us to be like God in our daily love of neighbor, and to defend us in this day of battle against all that is not of God.

### ***Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.***

We should not make “the devil made me do it” an excuse for our sins; Satan tempts, but does not compel. God has granted free will to each of us, and constantly guides and sustains us in the exercise of our free will not only directly, but also indirectly through His saints, like St. Michael. But we are vulnerable to the snares of temptation. Each of us should reflect on the account in Genesis 3 of the tempting of Adam and Eve. That biblical passage reveals a common pattern of human folly and pride. It is a mirror in which, if we are honest, we can see ourselves. An inflated ego can mislead anyone, and we can easily fall to the snares of temptation.

Christian tradition identifies three basic sources of temptation: the world, the flesh and the devil. The world, the environment in which we live, which is scarcely conducive to a life of virtue, can ensnare us in temptation. Temptations can also come from within, from the flesh, and it is helpful to examine our consciences daily using the categories of the seven deadly sins, which are really facets of the temptations of the flesh: pride, anger, envy, greed, laziness, lust and gluttony. And, finally, we can be tempted by the devil, the fallen angel of temptation. Read Matthew 4:1-11 for the description of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. Recognition of the Satanic dimensions of evil is part of our Faith and anyone who has even for a moment observed or experienced the resilient reality of evil in this world will not ignore it. We should not over-emphasize or dramatize this fact of reality, or unhealthily dwell upon it, but ignore it at our peril. We can so easily be naïve, and fail to recognize the cosmic context of the earthly struggle against evil.

### ***May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,***

In all our struggles we totally depend on the action of God. In Revelation 12, which is the main scriptural source for the Prayer of St. Michael, the vision of God’s protection of the Church encourages the disciples of the Lord in times of struggle on earth. We also call to mind the words of Jesus in Matthew 4:10 “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him only shall you serve.’”

### ***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 soul. Amen.***

All is done by the power of God, and we simply ask that St. Michael be our protector, acting always by the power of God, keeping in mind the words found in the First Letter of Peter, which along with Revelations 12 is a scriptural foundation for the Prayer to St. Michael: “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.....” (1 Peter 5: 6-9) Joyfully, confidently, and serenely trusting in God, we nonetheless always need to be vigilant in battling against every form of evil, and we ask St. Michael to come to our aid in that battle.



# Stewardship

## 2019 Receipts, 2020 Sunday Envelopes

The Charitable *Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations during 2019 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 2020 *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*



## 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.

# Prayer: A Matter of Life or Death

**Pope Benedict XVI, 4 March 2007**

When he addressed the crowds gathered in St. Peter Square to recite the midday Angelus on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent, **Pope Benedict XVI** drew a lesson from the Gospel of the day's Mass, which recounted the *Transfiguration of Jesus*.

The Holy Father explained that “prayer is not something accessory, it is not ‘optional,’ but rather a question of life or death.”

“Only one who prays, that is, who entrusts himself to God with filial love, can enter into eternal life, which is God himself.”

Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the moment when Jesus went up the mountain to pray together with Peter, James and John: “For the three apostles, to go up the mountain meant to be involved in Jesus’ prayer, who often withdrew to pray, especially at dawn or after sundown, and sometimes during the whole night.

“However, on that occasion alone, on the mountain, he wished to manifest to his friends the interior light that invaded him when he prayed ... his countenance was altered and his raiment became dazzling, reflecting the splendor of the divine person of the Incarnate Word.”

The Pope took Christ’s conversation with Moses and Elijah to represent his dedication to the mission the Father had given him.

“In his intimate dialogue with his Father, he does not leave history, he does not flee from the mission for which he came into the world, though he knows that to attain glory he will have to go through the cross,” Pope Benedict XVI said.

He continued: “What is more, Christ enters this mission more profoundly, adhering with all his being to the will of the Father, and he shows us that true prayer consists precisely in uniting our will to the Father’s.

“Therefore, for a Christian to pray is not to evade reality and the responsibilities it entails, but to assume them to the end, trusting in the faithful and inexhaustible love of the Lord.”

Benedict XVI concluded by inviting believers during Lent to pray to Mary, “teacher of the spiritual life, to teach us to pray as her Son did so that our life is transformed by the light of his presence.”



## **Fear Not Persecutions, but Trust in the Presence of God**

The plea the first Christian community of Jerusalem made to God in prayer was not “to be defended, to be spared from trials or to enjoy success, but only to be able to proclaim ... the Word of God frankly, freely and courageously”. The community also asked that “their proclamation be accompanied by the hand of God so that healing, signs and wonders could be accomplished. In other words, they wanted to become a force for the transformation of reality, changing the hearts, minds and lives of men and bringing the radical novelty of the Gospel.”

Pope Benedict wrote, “We too must bring the events of our daily lives into our prayer, in order to seek their most profound significance. And we too, like the first Christian community, allowing ourselves to be illuminated by the Word of God and meditating on Sacred Scripture, may learn to see that God is present in our lives, even at moments of difficulty, and that everything ... is part of a plan of love in which the final victory over evil, sin and death is truly that of goodness, grace, life and God”.

## **Venerating the Mother of God**

The Holy Father wrote, “Venerating the Mother of Jesus in the Church means, then, learning from her how to become a community of prayer. This is one of the essential aspects of the first description of the Christian community given in the Acts of the Apostles.”

Our prayers “are often dictated by difficult situations, by personal problems which cause us to turn to the Lord in search of light, comfort and aid. But Mary invites us to open prayer to other dimensions, to address God not only in moments of need and not only for ourselves, but unanimously, perseveringly, faithfully and with ‘one heart and soul.’”



# Taking care of our children.

Lord, help us to cherish and care for the children in our lives. Help us to pass on our faith in the knowledge that You will bless and guide all who honour You. Make us true instruments of Your grace and peace in our world, that all may come to know You. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



*Photo: Rogers Media*

