

## From the desk of.....

On 30 September 2019, on the feast of St. Jerome “the man who translated most of the Bible into Latin, and who famously said: “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ”, Pope Francis released his Apostolic Letter, a *Motu Proprio* “*Aperuit illis*” that establishes “the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.”

This being the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, we, as a community of faith in God’s Word made flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, should take stock of how the Word of God is having an influence on our lives, both individually and as community. Always remember that God’s Word is alive and active in our hearts. In Scripture it is written, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Mt 24:35) and in another place, “So shall my word be, which shall go forth from my mouth: it shall not return to me void, but it shall do whatsoever I please, and shall prosper in the things for which I sent it.” (Is 55:11)

One way to celebrate and study the Word of God is to read the Bible in a year. There are many ways to do this and now there are great resources to assist in keeping someone accountable each day with the readings. But don’t rely just on my word. Here is a testimony of one couple in our parish who read the bible in a year:

In 2019 my wife and I both read the bible using a version called “Bible in a Year” by Augustine Institute. We had tried previously but got bogged down in Leviticus or Kings. This version was structured to have three short readings each day – one each from the Old Testament, Wisdom Literature, and the New Testament – which we found to be quite an engaging way to read the Bible.

Reading the bible together enabled us to discuss what touched us, what challenged us, and what we just didn’t understand and needed to study more deeply (some parts of the Old Testament can be difficult!). It gave us a much deeper appreciation for the arc of salvation history from Genesis to Jesus’ coming, and we were often amazed by how linked the readings from the Old Testament and New Testament were. Most importantly, reading and praying with God’s Word each day was a blessing that helped us on our lifetime journey of growing in our faith and relationship with Christ.

Pope Francis calls the bible our “Greatest Treasure”. If you haven’t read the Bible before (and even if you have!) why not give it a shot this year? You won’t regret it!

As we continue in our spiritual journey as a parish in this year, why not dust off your bible that is sitting on the shelf and allow God’s word to take hold of your heart and allow his creative and dynamic power to transform your life.

*Fr. Michael*

## CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE

CWL members, membership dues for 2020 are now being accepted. Please remit your membership dues as soon as possible, using the blue envelope from your 2020 envelope box. Put your membership dues envelope into the regular collection basket at any weekend Mass.

Regular members: \$28.00, Seniors (65+): \$25.00

CWL National appreciates your prompt payment of your dues!

On Wednesday, January 22, the 7:00 p.m. Mass is being offered for the intentions of Fr. Neil, requested by the members of the CWL. The January General Meeting will follow immediately after the Mass in the Hall, at 7:30 p.m. Members, please join us for our Meeting and Refreshments. Women of the Parish, interested in finding out more about the CWL you are welcome to join us.

“The Catholic Women’s League welcomes all Christian women, aged 16+, to our Council. Like to know more? Please drop into any of our meetings. We accept new members at any time. Call if you have questions 905-822-6795.

Barbara Barringer, President.”

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JOHN PAUL II COUNCIL # 11955

### \*\*\* SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER \*\*\*

“All You Can Eat” Pancake Dinner | Tue Feb 25 at 5:30 pm  
Save the date in your calendar, and plan to join the Knights for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.

Pancakes & Sausages will be served with Juice, Coffee & Tea.

All donations will go to charity.

More information is posted on all church bulletin boards.

### KofC Lottery Tickets | NOW ON SALE

The Knights of Columbus are conducting their annual lottery, benefitting the Special Olympics of Ontario, The Arthritis Society & local charities.

Tickets are \$5 each. Generous participation is encouraged for fabulous prizes. Hope to see you on the winning side !!

## EXCITING NEW FAMILY MINISTRY COMING TO ST. MARY’S

Do you want to connect with like-minded parents in a welcoming and supportive environment? Do you want to learn the best in child development and how to teach the Faith? Do you want to deepen your relationship with your child? Then, join us for Early Catholic Family Life (ECFL), a new program that St. Mary’s will be piloting in the Archdiocese of Toronto. ECFL welcomes families with children 0-5 years old. Its sessions facilitate parent-child interaction, parent discussion time and children’s learning time.

We are excited to bring this opportunity to our community in the spring and fall of 2020 and hope that you will join us!

**LINKS TO FAITH**  
**JANUARY 26, 2020**

**WEEK 4 – MARY, UNDOER OF KNOTS**  
**– ADDRESS OF HOLY FATHER FRANCIS 2013**

“The first aspect of her faith is this: *Mary’s faith unties the knot of sin* (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 56). What does that mean? The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council took up a phrase of Saint Irenaeus, who states that “the knot of Eve’s disobedience was untied by the obedience of Mary; what the virgin Eve bound by her unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith” (*Adversus Haereses*, III, 22, 4)” This devotion has been part of church life since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Pope Francis has also written a beautiful prayer to Mary, Undoer of Knots.

To read this Address titled ‘Prayer for the Marian Day’, click on Links to Faith at the bottom of the parish homepage: [www.stmarystarofthesea.ca](http://www.stmarystarofthesea.ca) and select [Week 4 – Mary, Undoer of Knots – Address of Holy Father Francis 2013](#)

**COMMUNITY MEAL**

Every Friday at 5 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

**SSVP CHRISTMAS SUMMARY**

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to assist 87 families, consisting of 109 adults (incl. 25 seniors), and 81 children. Our distribution totalled \$16,490. May God bless you!

**PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)**

In response to changing lifestyles and demands on time, we are offering the Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) program. If you would like to donate to the Church, or find out more about the program, please pick up a brochure from the tables at the side exits of the Church.

**CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**

**MASS WITH CARDINAL COLLINS**  
**FEBRUARY 9, 2020 – 3 PM**

As part of Marriage Sunday 2020 celebrations, Cardinal Thomas Collins will preside at a special Mass to honour couples celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2020. If you (or a couple you know) are celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th or 60+ wedding anniversary in 2020, you are invited to join in this special celebration. The Mass will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 9 at St. Isaac Jogues Parish (1148 Finch Ave., Pickering). A reception will follow Mass. The Mass is open to all, but due to space restrictions, those wishing to attend are asked to register online or by phone. Milestone anniversary celebrants will be assured of reserved seating.

Registration and other important information can be found at [www.archtoronto.org/marriage](http://www.archtoronto.org/marriage) or by calling Ella Okonkwo at (416) 934-3400 ext. 523.

**THIS WEEK**  
**AT ST. MARY’S**

**SATURDAY 25TH**

10:00 am Mass - †Maria Barbisan  
Requested by Luigi Barbisan and family  
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
10:30 am Confessions  
5:00 pm Mass - †Russ, Mario, Cecilia Piva  
Requested by Maria and family

**SUNDAY 26TH**

9:00 am Mass - †Assunta Benetti  
Requested by Franca & Rino Barbisan  
11:00 am Mass – For the People of the Parish

**MONDAY 27TH**

9:00 am Mass - Special intention of Lucyna  
Requested by a friend  
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus General Meeting (*Hall*)

**TUESDAY 28TH**

NO MASS  
7:00 pm Choir Practice (*Church*)  
7:00 pm RCIA Meeting (*SJR*)

**WEDNESDAY 29TH**

10:00 am Craft Group Meeting (*SJR*)  
6:30 pm Confessions (*Church*)  
7:00 pm Mass - †Anthony Menezes  
Requested by Lilia D’Ovidio  
7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (*Hall*)  
7:45 pm Legion of Mary Meeting (*SJR*)

**THURSDAY 30TH**

9:00 am Mass - †David Hinton  
Requested by Barbara & Ed  
7:00 pm Confirmation Event # 1 (*Church/Hall*)

**FRIDAY 31ST**

9:00 am Mass - †Dale Walsh  
Requested by Paul and Dorothy-Ann Finlay  
5:00 pm Community Meal (*Hall*)

**SATURDAY 1ST**

10:00 am Mass - †Gavin Carton  
Requested by the family  
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
10:30 am Confessions  
5:00 pm Mass - †Sid, Tarcisio, Caterina Marchiori  
Requested by Maria and family

**SUNDAY 2ND**

9:00 am Mass - †Erma & Guido Barbisan  
Requested by Franca & Rino Barbisan  
11:00 am Mass – For the People of the Parish  
1:30 pm Baptism (*Church*)