

From the desk of.....

In the Gospel today we reflect on the episode of Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well. He entered into dialogue with her which produced a conversion in her heart.

As we have been reflecting these past two weeks of Lent, if we accept the invitation by our Lord into a friendship with Him, through His Church, he gives us life and life in abundance. We also know that there is urgency in accepting the invitation that leads to conversion and we should not take that for granted. With everything that is happening around us in the world today, our Father does not stop calling out to us and he waits patiently to hear a response from our hearts. This is the dialogue that Our Lord entered into with the Samaritan woman.

When we dialogue with our Lord in prayer, we should approach him with our heart on our sleeve, ready to become vulnerable with Him, like the Samaritan woman and avoid the superficial. Pope Francis writes in his 2020 Lenten Message: "The dialogue that God wishes to establish with each of us through the paschal mystery of his Son has nothing to do with empty chatter, like that attributed to the ancient inhabitants of Athens, who "spent their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new" (Acts 17:21). Such chatter, determined by an empty and superficial curiosity, characterizes worldliness in every age." Fr. Ben St. Croix in the opening night of the parish mission exhorted us to see prayer as resting in the heart of the Father, where heart speaks to heart.

With our hearts open to the creative and dynamic power of the Holy Spirit, may we avoid the chatter of superficiality and go deeper with Our Lord in prayer, listening to his voice which leads to our conversion.

Fr. Michael

SSVP – FEBRUARY SUMMARY

Our members made 22 visits, and distributed \$1777.35 of grocery vouchers and bus tickets. Thank you for remembering the poor.

NORTH OF 60 PROJECT

The community of Kugaaruk in Nunavut has requested our assistance. We are teaming up with St. Dominic's and other SSVP's to collect hot chocolate powder (1.8Kg size - \$10 at No Frills) and drink crystals (2.3 Kg size - \$7.97 at No Frills). It would be wonderful if parishioners could donate one item, or contribute towards it. Collection will take place at the end of April.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Next General Meeting of the CWL is Monday, March 16th, 7:00 p.m. in the Hall. All women of the Parish are welcome.

EARLY CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM

We will be running a new eight week program in the parish beginning on Saturday May 2 bookending the 5 pm mass. The program is designed to guide young Catholic parents on how to create a joy filled home with Jesus at the center. It has been created for families with children who have not yet made their First Communion. More information can be found on our website.

We are currently in need of a few things and hoped that members of the parish might be able to help. Here are the things we need:

1. Children's table and chairs
2. Children's kitchen set
3. Volunteers to assist our program leader in the Child's play area.

Please contact the parish office if you can help or would like to register for the program! Thank you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

John Paul II Council # 11955

BRUNCH

Our next brunch is scheduled for Sun Mar 22

Mark the date in your calendar and plan to join the Knights.

Listen for announcements following masses in March.

Stations of the Cross – Led by the Knights

Fri Mar 27 at 7:00 pm

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 !!

FAMILY OF FAITH

Tax receipts for donors who made a contribution to their parish's Family of Faith campaign in 2019 were recently sent charitable tax receipts via Canada Post or email. Donors with questions should contact the Donation Processing Centre at 416-934-3400, ext. 555 or campaign@archtoronto.org.

NURTURE LIFE, OPPOSE DEATH ON DEMAND! CONTACT YOUR MP TODAY!

The federal government has tabled legislation to expand what they refer to as medical assistance in dying but is more accurately called euthanasia/assisted suicide. More than 13,000 Canadians have been euthanized since 2016. New legislation would make assisted death available to those without life-threatening illnesses including those with disabilities and those no longer capable of making decisions for themselves. Some Canadians may even be euthanized on the day they make the request. Visit www.helptheliving.ca to send a letter (prepared for you) to your Member of Parliament expressing deep concern. More information at: www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia. We continue to pray and advocate for the vulnerable among us.

SHARELIFE

Living the Gospel by helping young mothers

Kristen was 17 when she found out she was pregnant. Worried she wouldn't be able to graduate from high school, she reached out to Rose of Sharon. At this ShareLife-funded agency she was able to focus on school work with the help of child minding by the agency. Kristen graduated and was accepted into the medical administration program at Seneca College. "Without Rose of Sharon," says Kristen, "there's no way I would have believed college was a possibility."

Our Goal this year is \$139,900
March 29 is ShareLife Sunday.
 Please give generously.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE LENT CAMPAIGN

This Lent, Development and Peace offers us a means to heed Pope Francis' call to ecological conversion. Its *For Our Common Home* campaign (inspired by the Pan-Amazonian Synod) is an opportunity to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Amazon and around the world who, in defending forests, air, water and land, are preserving our common home for present and future generations. For practical ways that you and your family can help to bear fruits of justice and peace this Lent, visit devp.org/lentcalendar, our church's website, or the bulletin board at the East door of the church.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

Fr. Michael Simoes will be the spiritual guide to the Marian shrines of Portugal, Spain and France. The pilgrimage will be 12 days from 2-13 October 2020. Please see the poster on the bulletin boards around the Church and pick up a brochure at the doors of the Church for further details.

LINKS TO FAITH - MARCH 15, 2020

WEEK11 – INGRUENTIUM MALORUM (RECITING THE ROSARY) – POPE PIUS XII

"And truly, from the frequent meditation on the Mysteries, the soul little by little and imperceptibly draws and absorbs the virtues they contain, and is wondrously enkindled with a longing for things immortal, and becomes strongly and easily impelled to follow the path which Christ Himself and His Mother have followed."

To read Pope Pius XII's encyclical from 1951, click on Links to Faith at the bottom of the parish homepage: www.stmarystarofthesea.ca and select [Week 11 – Ingruentium Malorum \(Reciting the Rosary\) – Pope Pius XII](#)

COMMUNITY MEAL

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

PARISH DAY OF CONFESSIONS

Friday, March 27 9:30 am – 11:00 am and 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm
 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm and 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

SATURDAY 14TH

10:00 am Mass - †Michael O'Brien
 - †Lynn & Frank Carroll
 Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 10:30 am Confessions
 5:00 pm Mass - †Stella & Alberto Severin

SUNDAY 15TH

9:00 am Mass - †Alan del Puerto Jr.
 11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish
 First Holy Communion Class after the 11:00 am Mass (Hall)

MONDAY 16TH

9:00 am Mass - †Peter Johnson
 7:00 pm CWL General Meeting (Hall)
 7:30 pm Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting (SJR)

TUESDAY 17TH

NO MASS
 7:00 pm Choir Practice (Church)
 7:00 pm RCIA Meeting (SJR)
 7:00 pm CWL Executive Meeting (Hall)

WEDNESDAY 18TH

10:00 am Craft Group Meeting (SJR)
 6:30 pm Confessions (Church)
 7:00 pm Mass - Friends and family of the Fietta family
 - †Lynn & Frank Carroll
 - †Josefino Tollentino Sr.
 7:45 pm Legion of Mary Meeting (SJR)

THURSDAY 19TH

9:00 am Mass - In Honour of St. Joseph

FRIDAY 20TH

9:00 am Mass - †Bill Henry
 5:00 pm Community Meal (Hall)
 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross led by Development & Peace

SATURDAY 21ST

10:00 am Mass - †Silla Pellizzer
 - †Larry Duffy and Deceased members of the
 Duffy and McArde families
 - †Lynn & Frank Carroll
 Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 10:30 am Confessions
 5:00 pm Mass - For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY 22ND

9:00 am Mass - †Anita Coleman
 11:00 am Mass - †Alberto D'Orazio
 12:30 pm Bible Study (SJR)
 First Holy Communion Class after the 11:00 am Mass (Hall)
 Knights of Columbus Brunch