

From the desk of.....

In today's Gospel we hear some of Jesus' bold proclamations about how we ought to live our life as Christians: not settling for mediocrity but for excellence. He challenges his disciples to go above and beyond their limits of charity and to not settle for anything less. He makes these bold proclamations in reference to the Mosaic Law revealed as 10 Commandments.

We might ask why we need God's law to govern our lives? The answer to this question begins at creation. When God created human persons, in his image, He also gave them a command. This command teaches us that the human person does not have the power to decide unilaterally what is good and what is evil; that power belongs to God alone. It is only within God's law that human freedom is completed, because "God, who alone is good, knows perfectly what is good for man, and by virtue of His very love proposes this good to man in the commandments."

At Creation, God gave one command, which was disobeyed. In the narrative of Exodus, the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God again gives the law, but it takes into account the fallen nature of humanity. He gives 10 Commandments to prohibit what is contrary to the love of God and neighbour, and prescribe what is essential to it.

However, while being commandments - that which we are to follow because they come from God - they are imperfect. In the fullness of time our Merciful Redeemer, Jesus Christ, came to be with His people. He came not to abolish the Law but elevated and fulfilled it. He perfected the Law by obtaining the grace to imbue every action with his very love. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we love as God has loved us. St. Thomas Aquinas writes: "The New Law is mainly the same grace of the Holy Spirit which is given to believers in Christ."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, "You were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness." When we open our hearts to the creative and dynamic power of the Holy Spirit, we will attain that greatness, living in accordance with the New Law, the Law of Love.

Fr. Michael

SEAMSTRESS REQUIRED

We are looking for a seamstress to sew vestments and nativity garments for children for an Early Catholic Family Life program we will be running in the spring. We have the patterns. Please call the church office if you can help!

PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 pm in the hall. You are welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY MEAL

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

FUNERAL RECEPTION MINISTRY

In times of loss and grief, the support of family and friends becomes a hidden consolation. Many come to the Church to seek that support, and we as their family ought to find ways to support them. One way of supporting those grieving at the time of the funeral is to offer our assistance if they are looking to have a reception in the hall. We are looking for men and women who are able to volunteer their time and talent to help with funeral receptions. If you are interested, please call or email the parish office.

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.

CWL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday February 19th at 1pm - CWL General Meeting in the Church Hall. Please note that February is an afternoon meeting. All ladies of the parish (members / non-members) are welcome to attend.

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!

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.

SUPPORTING SHARELIFE THROUGH PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)

Monthly pre-authorized giving (PAG) is an easy way to spread your ShareLife contribution over the course of a year. The ShareLife package you received by mail includes a response form with a PAG option. Simply submit a void cheque with the completed form to your parish office, or drop it in the offertory basket at any time. Contact ShareLife at slife@archtoronto.org or 416-934-3411 if you have any questions about pre-authorized giving.

Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

SSVP MONTHLY REPORT - JANUARY

We are happy to welcome 3 new members to our team, Heather, Renzo and Sheila! January was another busy month. We made 26 home visits, distributing \$2234.90 in vouchers and tickets. We appreciate your ongoing support. Income tax receipts are in the mail.

**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
Mark 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 !!

**LINKS TO FAITH
FEBRUARY 16, 2020**

**WEEK 7 – THE IMPORTANCE OF SILENCE
– ST. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI**

“The importance of Silence cannot be stressed enough in our day of frequent distraction and noise, for God does not speak to us in such things but in silence as in a gentle breeze is the Lord heard.” This is an excerpt of one chapter from *The True Spouse of Jesus Christ*.

To read this beautiful text on Silence and Prayer, click on Links to Faith at the bottom of the parish homepage: www.stmarystarofthesea.ca and select [Week 7 – The Importance of Silence – St Alphonsus de Liguori](#)

The Office for Refugees is launching a program to assist parishioners who would like to sponsor a family member overseas who is a refugee. If you are a parishioner, and would like to sponsor a family member, please contact the parish office to schedule a meeting with the pastor prior to March 31. The Office for Refugees will look to the sponsoring family to provide the necessary funds for sponsorship

**COME & SEE WEEKEND
MARCH 13 – 15, 2020**

Come and See Weekend – Friday, March 13 (begins at 7:00 p.m.) to Sunday, March 15 (ends at 1:30 p.m.), at St. Augustine’s Seminary: Inviting single Catholic men 17 years and older, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Jesus Christ; leading to a better discernment of God’s call for their lives. Time for prayer, reflection and information on the process of becoming one of Christ’s disciples as a Catholic priest. Register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca. Registrants 17 years old require parental consent. For more information, please contact (the Parish Priest) or the Office of Vocations at: 416 968 0997; email: vocations@archtoronto.org

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY’S

SATURDAY 15TH

10:00 am Mass - †Ricky Cassolato
Requested by mom and dad
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10:30 am Confessions
5:00 pm Mass - †Alberto & Stella Severin
Requested by the family

SUNDAY 16TH

9:00 am Mass - †Alan del Puerto Jr.
Requested by the family
11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish

MONDAY 17TH

9:00 am Mass - Special intention of Astrid & Donald Correia

TUESDAY 18TH

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

WEDNESDAY 19TH

10:00 am Craft Group Meeting (SJR)
1:00 pm CWL General Meeting
6:30 pm Confessions (Church)
7:00 pm Mass - †Anthony Menezes
Requested by Brenda Cornacchione
7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (Hall)
7:45 pm Legion of Mary Meeting (SJR)

THURSDAY 20TH

9:00 am Mass - †Rosie D’Souza
Requested by Ann Fernandes

FRIDAY 21ST

9:00 am Mass - Special intention of Taryn Stobart
Requested by Shantie Toolsie
5:00 pm Community Meal (Hall)

SATURDAY 22ND

10:00 am Mass - †Joseph Vassallo
Requested by Carmela Vassallo and family
Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10:30 am Confessions
5:00 pm Mass - †Vicky Menezes
Requested by the family

SUNDAY 23RD

9:00 am Mass - †Emilio Visentin
Requested by Franca & Rino Barbisan
11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish
12:30 pm Bible Study (SJR)

