

From the desk of.....

At the conclusion of the Christmas season according to the current liturgical calendar, we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. Today's feast gives us an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism by water and the Holy Spirit, and give thanks to God for the great gift which it is to us.

The early Church Fathers called the Sacrament of Baptism the *Vitae Spiritualis Ianua* - the door of the spiritual life. Before our baptism, although created in the image of God, we were still estranged from Him because of original sin. Everyone was born into this dysfunctional reality. Yet, what we celebrate at the end of the Christmas season leading us back into Ordinary Time is that God, in his love and mercy towards us, not because of anything that we have done or merited, sends us our saviour, Jesus Christ. The reason why he is a saviour is because we all need to be saved from sin which is estrangement from God and its effects, death.

Through Baptism we are united to Christ and no longer are we exiled from God by original sin. Our Heavenly Father, by His grace, by His unmerited gift to sinners, has called us forth from the fallen world and incorporated us into the very life of the Blessed Trinity. In being united to Christ, we become sons and daughters in the One Son and are given our hereditary share, heaven. On the day of our baptism and throughout our life we should acknowledge and hear the voice of the Father speaking: "You are my son...you are my daughter, with you I am well pleased."

In being incorporated into the life of Christ, as children of the Father and heirs to the kingdom, we share in his mission - to seek out and save the lost. Keep this reality and your identity as the baptized in mind throughout the year as we speak about evangelization.

Please continue to desire for an open heart to God's creative and dynamic power in 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!

THANK YOU!

As we come to the end of our Christmas season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and generosity over the season. With my first Christmas and now in the New Year, I have seen the full life of the parish over a year. This allows me to say with all honesty that I am truly blessed and humbled to be here in this parish community.

To have such a beautiful season of Christmas takes many hands. First to those who helped decorate our sanctuary and around the Church, thank you for giving your time and talent to help make our Church warm and inviting. Second to the Ushers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Altar Servers, thank you for giving your talents to help our liturgies be solemn and beautiful. Last but not least, to Rick, Katie and the choir who have extra duties during this time of year, thank you for providing us with the sacred music that helps us in the liturgy to lift our minds and hearts to God.

Finally, thank you to all the parishioners for your generosity and festive spirit. In this New Year, let us not just keep Christ in Christmas, let us keep Christ in our families and in our lives.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JOHN PAUL COUNCIL II # 11955

AN INVITATION TO BECOME A KNIGHT

Are you 18 years or older and have never been invited to become a member of the fraternal order of the Knights of Columbus? Please therefore consider this as a personal invitation to become a Knight.

Becoming a Knight is an addition to being a participating Catholic who have an interest to further your activity within the Catholic Church. Brother Knights are true brothers to one another in complimenting the parish community. There are many advantages to you and your family in joining our fraternal order. Explore these advantages by speaking to one of us at one of our events or email me at raymarentette@gmail.com.

LINKS TO FAITH – JAN. 12, 2020

WEEK 2 NUNC COEPI: NOW I BEGIN – GOOD CATHOLIC SERIES

“Good Catholic is an online platform that offers digital content series designed to inspire people to live a more devout and joyful Catholic life. Our content series cover a variety of topics within the Catholic faith, and are presented in a dynamic combination of in-depth text, video commentary, and audio — which you can read, watch, and listen to at your convenience.” Scroll down to find the Nunc Coepi series.

To access the free Nunc Coepi series, click on Links to Faith at the bottom of the parish homepage: www.stmarystarofthesea.ca and select [Week 50 – Nunc Coepi: Now I Begin – Good Catholic Series](#)

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!

SSVP

Let us all give thanks for God's abundant blessings, and continue to share with those who are less fortunate. Our members are grateful to our parishioners for your generosity. May you be blessed in 2020.

COMMUNITY MEAL

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

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.

AN EVENING
AT THE SEMINARY

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY
JANUARY 27, 2020

Have you ever thought about being a priest? Get a glimpse of priestly formation with a seminary tour, holy Mass, and dinner. This event is for men in Grade 12 and above. Those aged 17 and under must be accompanied by their parish priest. Register online at www.vocationstoronto.ca or call 416-968-0997

DANCING
FOR THE COMPASS

returns for a 13th year to the Port Credit Legion (upstairs), 35 Front St. N., Sat. Jan. 25 2020. Doors open 7 pm, dancing 8 pm to midnight. Call Peter Toller 905-274-6131 for tickets \$25/person and \$30 at the door. 50s/60s music with the local 8-piece band, Little Peter & the Elegants. Light buffet & fabulous raffle prizes.

THIS WEEK
AT ST. MARY'S

SATURDAY 11TH

10:00 am Mass - Special intention of Pushpa Lobo
 Followed by Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
 10:30 am Confessions
 5:00 pm Mass - †Placy Menezes
 Requested by the family

SUNDAY 12TH

9:00 am Mass - †Joseph Wosik
 Requested by the Wickett family
 11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish
 12:30 pm Bible Study (SJR)
 1:30 pm Baptisms (Church)

MONDAY 13TH

9:00 am Mass - †Mario Orłowski
 Requested by the family
 7:30 pm Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting (Hall)

TUESDAY 14TH

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

WEDNESDAY 15TH

10:00 am Craft Group Meeting (SJR)
 7:00 pm Mass - Special intention of Camela Vassallo
 Requested by Pushpa & Benny Lobo
 7:00 pm Legion of Mary Meeting (SJR)

THURSDAY 16TH

9:00 am Mass - †Dana Zarnowska
 Requested by the family

FRIDAY 17TH

9:00 am Mass - †Edmond Boyd
 Requested by Adele Noonan
 5:00 pm Community Meal (Hall)

SATURDAY 18TH

10:00 am Mass - †Corazon Ticzon
 Requested by Teresita Roxas
 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 19TH

9:00 am Mass - †Kyle Ondrey
 Requested by the family
 11:00 am Mass - For the People of the Parish
 1:30 pm Baptisms (Church)