

## From the desk of.....

In today's second reading, we hear St. Paul addressing the community in Corinth exhorting those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus to answer the call to be saints. St. Paul is explaining to the Christian community that life in Christ is not meant to be a life of mediocrity. The Christian life is meant to be a life of greatness as the Children of God with the end being holiness - to be a saint. The difficulty for us is that we think or have a conception of holiness that is either impossible to attain or is meant for a select few. Our fears, weaknesses, sinfulness hold us back from reaching our true potential as Christians.

Pope Francis, in his written work *Gaudete et Exsultate*, "Rejoice and Be Glad", echoes the words of Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI that we are not to be afraid of becoming a saint. His Holiness writes that we are not going to become saints by relying on our work alone (Pelagianism) or by relying on some secret knowledge (Gnosticism). We are going to become saints by following the blueprint of the Beatitudes. According to Pope Francis, the signs of this desire to be a saint in today's world are being patient, being humble, being joyful, being bold and zealous for the things of God, and being faithful to prayer.

We need saints in today's world because all it takes is one saint to transform and renew it by radiating God's light to those in darkness. Think of St. Dominic, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Siena and any St. Theresa. They opened their hearts to God's creative and dynamic power and allowed His Will to be carried out in their life. We can see the effect that they had in their own culture with renewal and reform. This is what we need in our own culture, first in the Church and then into the world. Brick by brick they worked to build up the Kingdom of God, and so must we.

God has called all of us to be saints, to be holy. The only tragedy in life is not to become one.

*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.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS JOHN PAUL II COUNCIL # 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](mailto:raymarentette@gmail.com).

## THANK YOU!

A generous benefactor purchased pew missals for the parish. On behalf of the St. Mary Star of the Sea community, thank you.

## LINKS TO FAITH – JAN. 19, 2020

### WEEK 3 – A PRIMER ON THE OLD TESTAMENT – INTERVIEW WITH FR. LESLIE HOPPE

"Christians read the Bible to come into contact with tradition and give shape to their conversion to this faith. Yet, conversion is a lifelong process. It is not simply that one is saved or one isn't. We need to grow in our generosity, love, and concern for others. The Bible provides a framework for understanding our relationships with God and each other and helps us to deal with specific issues in our lives."

To read this article from U.S.Catholic, click on Links to Faith at the bottom of the parish homepage: [www.stmarystarofthesea.ca](http://www.stmarystarofthesea.ca) and select [Week 3 – A Primer on the Old Testament – Interview with Father Leslie Hoppe](#)

## 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!

## 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.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

- † The deceased members of the Vassallo family  
*Requested by Carmela Vassallo*
- † Paul McAlpine & Lauren Doiron  
*Requested by Patricia McAlpine*
- † Anita Coleman and the deceased members of the Tonic and Baratto families  
*Requested by the Tonic family*
- † Loving Granddaughter Karishma Iyer  
*Requested by Shantie Toolsie*
- † The deceased members of the Tedesco and Baratto families  
*Requested by the Tedesco family*
- † Emon, Castilla, John & Trevor  
*Requested by Flavia & Alicia Forgenie*
- † The deceased members of the Kalman & Sajti families  
*Requested by Gabriella Kalman*

**IN THANKSGIVING**

For favours received  
*Requested by Kathleen Hynds*

**THIS WEEK**  
**AT ST. MARY'S**

**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

**MONDAY 20TH**

9:00 am Mass - Special intention of Hubert Baudet and Marie-Claire Phelippeau  
Requested by Pat & Hugh Loughran

**TUESDAY 21ST**

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

**WEDNESDAY 22ND**

10:00 am Craft Group Meeting (SJR)  
6:30 pm Confessions (Church)  
7:00 pm Mass - Special intention of Fr. Neil McMillan  
Requested by the CWL  
7:30 pm CWL General Meeting (Hall)  
7:45 pm Legion of Mary Meeting (SJR)

**THURSDAY 23RD**

9:00 am Mass - †Carmel Fleming  
Requested by Pat & Hugh Loughran  
7:00 pm Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Meeting (Church)

**FRIDAY 24TH**

9:00 am Mass - †Erma Barbisan  
Requested by Veronica Koor and Ushers  
5:00 pm Community Meal (Hall)

**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  
12:30 pm Bible Study (SJR)