

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

2210 LAWRENCE AVE E. SCARBOROUGH , ONTARIO, M1P 2P9

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PASTORAL TEAM:

Rev. Fr. Thomas Lim

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch

**Chaplain to the Faithful participating in
the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass**

Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Scollo

In Residence

Julia Di Paolo - **Secretary**

PARISH OFFICE AND HOURS:

Mon to Thurs: 9:15 AM — 12:00 PM
1:00 PM — 4:00 PM

Friday: 9:15 AM — 2:00 PM

Sunday: 9:15 AM — 1:00 PM

Closed on Saturday and Holidays

DEVOTIONS:

Holy Rosary: before 8:30am Mass

Divine Mercy: Friday after 8:30am Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Wednesday

Novena to Our Lady of Miraculous Medal:

Every Monday, October - May

Novena to St. Anthony de Padua:

13 Tuesdays (March - June 13)

Eucharistic Adoration:

Mon - Thurs: 9am-12pm (Church)

Every Friday: 9am - 7pm (Church)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

For assistance call 416-410-3589

PARISH SCHOOL:

St. Lawrence Catholic School 416-393-5264

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm (English)

Sunday Mass : 8:30 am (English)

10:00 am (Italian)

11:30 am (English)

1:00 pm (Latin)

5:00 pm (English)

DAILY MASSES:

English: 8:30 am Monday to Saturday

Latin: 12:00 pm Monday to Wednesday

7:00 am Thursday

7:00 pm Friday

10:00 am Saturday

CONFESSIONS:

Saturdays following the 8:30 am Mass

Saturdays 4:15 pm to 4:45 pm

(or by appointment)

BAPTISM:

Visit our website or call the Parish Office for more information.

MARRIAGE:

Couples must contact the Pastor ONE YEAR in advance. Marriage Preparation Course is required. Visit our website for more information.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK:

If one of your loved ones would like to receive this Sacrament, please contact the Parish Office.

COMMUNION OF THE SICK:

Visitation and/or Holy Communion for the sick upon request.

A warm Welcome to New Parishioners!

*Please fill out a parish registration form found in the foyer of the Church,
and kindly introduce yourself to the Pastor.*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 7, 2024

John: 20:19-31



“Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them...”

This passage from John's Gospel has all the more significance because it brings the Gospel to a close. The story of the breakfast-party with the Risen Christ on the shore of the Lake of Galilee is a sort of appendix. The story-line of the main Gospel ends with Thomas blurting out 'My Lord and my God'. The Gospel therefore ends, as it began with the only two unmistakable declarations in the New Testament of the divinity of Jesus. 'The Word was God' and 'My Lord and my God' bracket the Gospel, showing the purpose and angle of the whole, to show that Jesus is God. It complements the other Gospels: they show a man who is also God, whereas this Gospel shows a God who is also man. It is with the divine authority that Jesus confers on his Church the divine power to forgive. Real forgiveness is indeed Godlike. It is not simply 'forgive-and-forget', but forgiveness in the knowledge that a hurt has occurred. Just as a bone, broken and merged together again, can be stronger than it was before it was broken, so forgiveness can create a real link of love on both sides, a treasured secret of divine graciousness between forgiver and forgiven..

I profeti chiamarono il Messia "principe della pace" (Is 9,5); affermarono che una pace senza fine avrebbe caratterizzato il suo regno (Is 9,6; 11,6). In occasione della nascita di Cristo, gli angeli del cielo proclamarono la pace sulla terra agli uomini di buona volontà (Lc 2,14). Gesù stesso dice: "Vi lascio la pace, vi do la mia pace. Non come la dà il mondo" (Gv 14,27).

Sul monte degli Ulivi, contemplando la maestà di Gerusalemme, Gesù, con le lacrime agli occhi e con il cuore gonfio, rimproverò il suo popolo: "Se avessi compreso anche tu, in questo giorno, la via della pace!" (Lc 19,42). La pace è il dono apportato dal Redentore. Egli ci ha procurato questo dono per mezzo della sua sofferenza e del suo sacrificio, della sua morte e della sua risurrezione. San Paolo afferma: "Ora invece, in Cristo Gesù, voi che un tempo eravate lontani siete diventati vicini grazie al sangue di Cristo. Egli infatti è la nostra pace, colui che ha fatto dei due un popolo solo, abbattendo il muro di separazione che era frammezzo, cioè l'inimicizia" (Ef 2,13-14).

Quando, risuscitato dai morti, si mostrò agli apostoli, Gesù offrì loro innanzi tutto la pace, prezioso dono del riscatto. Quando si mostrò a loro, disse ai suoi discepoli: "Pace a voi!". Vedendoli spaventati e sperduti, li rassicurò dicendo loro che era proprio lui, risuscitato dai morti, e ripeté loro: "Pace a voi!". Gesù ha voluto fare questo dono prezioso del riscatto - la pace - e l'ha fatto, non solo agli apostoli, ma anche a tutti quelli che credevano e avrebbero creduto in lui. È per questo che mandò gli apostoli a proclamare il Vangelo della redenzione in tutti i paesi del mondo, dando loro il potere di portare la pace dell'anima per mezzo dei sacramenti del battesimo e del pentimento, per mezzo dell'assoluzione dai peccati. Inoltre, in quell'occasione, Cristo soffiò sugli apostoli e disse loro: "Ricevete lo Spirito Santo; a chi rimetterete, i peccati saranno rimessi e a chi non li rimetterete resteranno non rimessi" (Gv 20,21-23).

E il salmo ci rassicura: "Grande pace per chi ama la tua legge" (Sal 119,165) .



Eucharistic Adoration

Mon - Thur 9am - 12pm (Church)*

Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)*

*In the Chapel, when there is a funeral.

Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!



Mass Intentions for the week



SATURDAY APRIL 6TH – SABATO

5:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

SUNDAY APRIL 7TH – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. + Orlando Gaerlan

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

Susanna e Gianni Onisto & Concetta Lembo

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia-Vito Sciuto e famiglia

Rosaria e Antonio Lisciandro

Vito e Mike Cuoppolo

Luigi, Giovanni e Luigina De Rose

Francesco Falsetti e famiglia

Vincenza Di Tacchio - Dora Cuoppolo

Felice, Maria e Antonio Tersigni

Vincenzo Cucuzza

Mariangela e Vito Vitro - Pasquale Volpe

Giovanna Costantino e famiglia

Gaetano, Agata e Filippo Lopresti-Costantino

L'Anime del Purgatorio

11:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

1:00 P.M. - Pro Popolo

5:00 P.M. + Manuel Dungca

MONDAY APRIL 8TH – LUNEDÌ

8:30 A.M. + Kristopher Bubisavljevic

12:00 P.M. - Pro Popolo

TUESDAY APRIL 9TH – MARTEDÌ

8:30 A.M. + Antonio Tersigni

12:00 P.M. + George Tang-Choon

WEDNESDAY APR 10TH – MERCOLEDÌ

8:30 A.M. - Sarah Tumalian

12:00 P.M. + Lucilla Lam

THURSDAY APR 11TH – GIOVEDÌ

7:00 A.M. - Agnes Leung

8:30 A.M. - Loreano Cruz

FRIDAY APRIL 12TH – VENERDÌ

8:30 A.M. + Wilfedo Balatbat

7:00 P.M. + Chrisse Amereskere

SATURDAY APRIL 13TH – SABATO

8:30 A.M. + Guillermo Gallego Jr

10:00 A.M. + Silvina Nazareth



Offertory - Last Week:

Maundy Thursday: \$3,105.75

Good Friday: \$6,940.10

Easter Sunday: \$6,665.00

Regular: 7,280.05

Thank
you

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 7, 2024



Dear Friends in Christ, I had the privilege of receiving six adults into our Catholic Church during the Saturday Easter Vigil Mass. Prior to the celebration, I asked them if they would write me a brief reflection on their journey of faith. In reading their stories, I was moved by how the Spirit of God touched and led them to the Catholic faith.

Over the next few weekends, I wish to share their stories with you. My hope is that in reading their reflections, you may come to a greater appreciation of your own Catholic faith - a gift that we often take for granted!

Wendy Zhang, a single, young professional woman, wrote the following reflection titled, "My Journey": *"When I was in university, I was gifted with a professor who presented arguments that forced me to seriously consider the existence of God. I started wondering why no one I knew pondered what happens after death, or what the meaning of life is. This made me lonely because I was constantly haunted by my life's lack of purpose. It made me even lonelier that I could never find an answer. Everything changed when I started to believe in God, specifically in Christ's love for me and his sacrifice making way for me to be in communion with Him. I was 21, and I found my purpose in Christ.*

I attended different 'Reformed Baptist' churches before I landed at my previous church. You might ask, "Why Reformed Baptist?" Because that was simply all I knew. Whenever I searched 'church near me,' only protestant churches showed on the map. The first videos on YouTube were always sermons by prominent Protestant pastors, and popular Christian Instagram pages also quoted these same pastors. What did I know? This was my only understanding of what "Church" is. But I am grateful because I met my now-best friend at that church. We bonded over our love for Christ and many other shared interests. We talked every theological topic to death: baptism, doctrines of grace, politics, even ethics of birth control, and more. Even though we were rock-solid Calvinists, we were just new believers who loved Christ and wanted to worship Him in spirit and truth. I had no idea that this longing would eventually lead me to the Catholic Church (CC).

*Things started to change when that same professor challenged me on my view of baptism: I believed that only professing believers (non-infants) could be baptized. He informed me that for 1500 years, the Church has always practiced infant baptism, believing that it saves, and it wasn't until the Reformation that Zwingli and others led the Anabaptism movement which taught baptism to be solely symbolic. Even my spiritual/intellectual role models at the time, Calvin and Knox, believed in the CC view of baptism. This was completely shocking to me. It made me so mad that I told my professor to never speak to me again. But I was so disturbed because I knew only one of us could be right, and he had history on his side while I only had the hearsay of my small Baptist church. So it didn't look good for me. **I asked God, "Father, if I'm wrong, please correct me and teach me the truth. Lead me to wherever your church is, no matter the cost."***

I started a serious investigation on baptism and found my professor's claims to be true. I started to call myself a Presbyterian, which I believed was very Orthodox. Again, what did I know? I kept praying for God to lead me to the truth. Meanwhile, my friend was looking into Holy Communion. "Did you know Martin Luther believed in the real presence?" She asked me one day. "He also believed in the perpetual virginity and assumption of Mary." Obviously, I didn't know that. The Reformation fathers were starting to sound very Catholic to me. I contacted my former professor again, this time to humbly ask him my questions about the Reformation because it had become painfully obvious to me that I didn't know anything about the origins of my faith. After many questions and answers, hours of conversations, plus additional research on the early Church Fathers, I realized I was wrong about the CC. I was very anxious about the very real possibility that perhaps the CC is exactly what it claims to be: the one true Church founded by Christ. Nonetheless, I kept asking the Holy Spirit to lead me to the truth no matter how scary, and no matter where it takes me.

One night, I was reading an excerpt from St Irenaeus' "Against Heresies." He argued that the heretics had no credibility over their claims because they had no connection to the line of bishops. To prove this, he started to name the bishops in order starting with Peter. I also read St Augustine lists this same line of succession starting from Peter, hundreds of years after St Irenaeus. It was at this moment that it dawned on me: the apostolic succession is real. If the apostolic succession is real, it means Peter had the keys and the gates of Hades will never prevail against the Church, as Jesus promised. This also means that the Church truly has teaching authority, as granted by Jesus who passed it to Peter and so on, until today. That means the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of the Saviour, and it means the Church is truly the pillar of truth. This was suddenly so clear to me that it was as if the Holy Spirit said to me, "This is that answer you were asking for. Will you accept it?"

RCIA has been the greatest, most unexpected gift. It's been a season of wrestling with my old beliefs and overcoming the stumbling blocks created by Protestantism. I used to hear Catholics say they want me to 'come home,' but now I finally understand because it really feels like I'm coming home to my Father's house. I am grateful for this time as a Catechumen, and it is bittersweet for it to come to an end. I have seen my prayers answered, and experienced the Father's love for me in placing me under the careful watch and wisdom of Father Thomas. Many CC teachings are hard for me still, but I'm grateful that the Lord foreknew this, so He assigned and equipped Father Thomas to help me understand as best as humanly possible. God also knew that I would need a good friend to walk with me in this, which He once again blessed me abundantly with. I trust that Jesus did not lie when He said the gates of Hades would not prevail against His church. I trust that Jesus didn't leave me here alone to figure it out without a church. He intentionally built a church through the Apostles, and that same Church and her teachings still exist today. I have no choice but to (happily) believe that because Jesus promised it would. He instituted the sacraments because He knew that we'd need them. He left us the Holy Spirit because He knows we are weak without Him. When I look at the Church, I am reminded of these promises. The Bible says that He who promises these things is faithful, He will do it. In knowing this and trusting in my Lord, I know I am safe in His Church because I know that the Holy Spirit will keep the Church from error, the Father will keep His covenant with her, and the Son will come back for her. I am now so convinced of these truths that I echo the great St Augustine, I should not believe the gospel except as moved by the authority of the Catholic Church. May I never forget the love and mercy of Christ, and strive to be a good and faithful servant for the rest of my days. Thanks be to God."

Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – APRIL 7, 2024

Dear Padre

April 7, 2024

What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

Pope John Paul II declared Sr. Faustina Kowalska a saint of the Church on April 30, 2000, and in a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that "throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that [we] will experience in the years to come."

Saint Faustina was born in 1905 and spent most of her life in Poland, in the Congregation of the Virgin Mary of Mercy. She experienced an extraordinary union with God. She received exceptional graces, revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, the ability to read souls, and the gift of prophecy.

One of the images that was revealed to Faustina was that of the merciful Jesus, touching his Sacred Heart, from which beams of red and white light came forth. This image and her devotion to the divine mercies gathered thousands of supporters throughout the world. We still see the traditional image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in many of our churches today. In some churches, we might see the newer image, inspired by the saint. Saint Faustina Kowalska died in 1938 at the age of thirty-three, leaving an impressive mystical legacy. She is a disciple of God's divine mercy for the twenty-first century. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.



"Make sickness itself a Prayer"

~St Francis de Sales~



April 26th
(7-9pm)
EDGE Youth
Ministry
For Grades 5-8

1 Timothy 4:12 ~ "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."



YOUR SHARELIFE GIFT IS A LIFELINE TO FAMILIES IN NEED

Many individuals and families silently suffer from depression, anxiety, grief and trauma. ShareLife-supported Catholic Family Services agencies provide a lifeline to those dealing with mental health challenges.

"Your generosity allows us to assist some of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our community. Without access to free support, they would be left alone and unable to get the help they need. Each donation impacts a life for the better. Thank you." – Elizabeth Pierce, Catholic Family Services of Durham

Please give at the parish using a  ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

Vocation Reflection

Easter! Resurrection and new life; a new life shared from an earthen tomb. This has been the meaning of life for Christian people for two thousand years. There is nothing more secure, nothing more lasting. Come and share the thrill of proclaiming this truth through your life as a priest, religious or deacon. Call **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.**

www.vocationstoronto.ca Email vocations@archtoronto.org



Stewardship Reflection

In the first reading we hear the wonderful account of the early Christians living a beautiful community of stewardship in which they were all "of one heart and soul." Likewise, in the same way the early Christians offered all of themselves for the sake of the Church, we too should offer the gifts of our time and talent to our parish community. In this way, we will be able to echo the words from the first reading and joyfully proclaim: "There was not a needy person among them."



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK
APRIL 14-20, 2024

We appreciate and celebrate your **FAITHFUL SERVICE** within our parish community. Thank you for volunteering & making **EVERY MOMENT MATTERS.**

EVERY MOMENT MATTERS

St. Lawrence Martyr Parish

MEET AND GREET VOLUNTEERS

After all the W/E Masses

Archdiocese of Toronto

APR 13-14 Parish Hall



JOIN our PASTOR FR. THOMAS LIM for a 12-day

Pilgrimage to Mexico Aug 22 - Sep 2, 2024

Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sites from the lives of the Cristeros Saints and many more!
Flyers/Registration forms are found at the lobby of the Church and SLM website.



FATHER YOU CALLED

SAINT LAWRENCE TO SERVE YOU BY LOVE AND CROWNED HIS LIFE WITH GLORIOUS MARTYRDOM.

HELP US TO BE LIKE HIM IN LOVING YOU AND DOING YOUR WORK.

AMEN