

# St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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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.**

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 5, 2024

**John 15:9-17**



**“You are my friends if you do what I command you...”**

The word ‘commandment’ often implies coercion and regimentation, and ‘obedience’ implies an unwilling or even a sulky child. In the case of God’s commands, however, a commandment is a gift, indicating the way in which love can be expressed; and obedience is a way of seeking to draw closer to God by imitation. The lover seeks to act like the beloved, to be modelled on the qualities which are loved and admired. The commands of God are not random or domineering, but are indications of the ways in which we can draw just a little nearer to the infinite qualities which are seen in the creating and redeeming God. The generosity seen in the beauties of nature and humanity, in the beauty of tolerance and forgiveness are reflections of the divine qualities. This is how Jesus kept his Father’s commandments and remained in his love, and how we too may do the same.

It might even be said that Jesus needed to suffer so that we might see that God too can endure suffering. Suffering and the supreme suffering of death are human experiences which cannot be predicated of God, and so Jesus himself took them on to share and ennoble these also. Jesus showed his love of the Father and his love of humanity by adopting and enduring the experiences which cannot touch an impassive God. Such is the full meaning of the love expressed by ‘as the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.’

Today’s reading adds three more dimensions to the concept of the love shared by Jesus and his Father and by Jesus and his disciples. It is a love of friendship not of subservience. Linked to the awe and reverence for God there has always been an astounding warmth and even humour of friendship in the Jewish tradition of love of God. Abraham was known as ‘the friend of God’ (this still persists in the Moslem tradition). We see it in the preposterous bargaining of Abraham with God over Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18, which one feels they must both have enjoyed! It comes again in David’s unselfconscious joy as he dances before the Lord (2 Samuel 6), in the intimacy of the prophet Jeremiah’s frank complaints to God about the treatment he has to endure for insisting on his message of doom. Again in the warm relationship to God of the charismatic Galilean rabbis of the time of Jesus: Abba Honi actually threatens God that the people will stop calling God ‘Abba’ if he does not send rain. When God teases him by sending a few drops of rain, Honi again complains, to be rewarded with a torrential deluge. Honi counters with a further complaint and is at last rewarded with a steady rain.

The second aspect of Christ’s love expressed in this passage is that he lays down his life for his friends. Christ’s death was not only the expression of loving obedience to his Father but also the extreme expression of his literally boundless love for his friends whom God reconciled by that shedding of blood.

A third aspect is the openness of this friendship. One of the principal aspects of true friendship is openness, the trust which permits friends to have no secrets from one another. We can have no secrets from Christ, and he on the other hand reveals to us all we can understand about the deity, with a fearless intimacy and frankness in prayer which equal and exceed that of any human friendship.

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Durante la lettura del Vangelo, nel corso della celebrazione liturgica, è il Signore Gesù Cristo che parla ai suoi discepoli. Oggi ci dice che siamo tutti suoi amici, che gli apparteniamo attraverso la fede e attraverso il battesimo. Egli l’ha provato rivelandoci il suo segreto e la sua missione di Figlio di Dio. Ci ha detto che Dio, nella sua onnipotenza divina, ci ama tutti. Per mezzo di suo Figlio Gesù Cristo, ci ha fatto entrare nella comunione di amore che esiste fin dall’eternità tra lui e suo Figlio. “Come il Padre ha amato me, così anch’io ho amato voi”. È una parola di verità potente e divina.

Per tutti quelli che hanno preso coscienza dell’importanza di questo dono divino, conta una sola cosa: mostrarsi degni dell’amore che ci viene nell’amicizia del Figlio di Dio. “Rimanete nel mio amore”.

Per Gesù Cristo, ciò che è importante innanzitutto è che tutti i suoi amici si amino gli uni gli altri come egli stesso ha amato i suoi discepoli nel corso della sua vita terrena. La più viva espressione di questo amore è stata la sua morte sulla croce per i peccatori (cf. Gv 1,36; 19,34-37). L’amore perfetto del Padre celeste è la felicità e la gioia di suo Figlio. E questa gioia, il Figlio risuscitato la trasmette ai suoi amici nel giorno di Pasqua. “Pace a voi! Come il Padre ha mandato me, anch’io mando voi!”. Ricevete lo Spirito Santo!” (Gv 20,21-22). Egli offre senza sosta la gioia a tutti quelli che credono nella sua parola e per mezzo del battesimo si uniscono a lui e alla sua cerchia di amici, la Chiesa. Chi entra nell’amore di Dio per mezzo di suo Figlio ha ormai una ragione essenziale per essere sempre felice.



### 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!**

As we enter the month of May, a time when we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, we are called to reflect on her special role in the life of the Church. Just as April brings the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection, May brings us closer to Mary, who stands as a beacon of faith and a model of devotion.



### Mass Intentions for the week



#### SATURDAY MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO

5:00 P.M. + Teodoro & Cornelia Lim

#### SUNDAY MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

In Ringraziamento Alla Madonna di Valleverde

Intenzioni di Arturo Creta

Susanna e Gianni Onisto-Msgr Arnaldo Onisto

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia-Vito Sciuto e famiglia

Antonio Pagliaro-Rosaria e Antonio Lisciandro

Vito e Mike Cuoppol-Maria e Vito Vitro

11:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. + Holy Souls in Purgatory

#### MONDAY MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> – LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. - Divina Gaerlan

12:00 P.M.+ Chan Tak To

#### TUESDAY MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> – MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. - Fr. Jose C.M.I

12:00 P.M. - Yung Kwan Leung & Family

#### WEDNESDAY MAY 8<sup>TH</sup> – MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. + Hannah Porawa

- Enza Flame

12:00 P.M. + Holy Souls in Purgatory

#### THURSDAY MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> – GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Pro Populo

8:30 A.M. - Fr. Thomas Lim

#### FRIDAY MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> – VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Bishop Nicola Di Angelis

7:00 P.M. + Joseph Valdares

#### SATURDAY MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> – SABATO

8:30 A.M. + Dolores Matthews

10:00 A.M. + Paul & Pauline Lim



Offerory - Last Week:  
Sunday Collection : \$5,754.75  
ShareLife: \$4,897.90



## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 5, 2024



Dear Friends in Christ, I recently returned from Salzburg, Austria after spending a few days of rest during my Easter break. Salzburg is a picturesque city renowned throughout the world for its baroque architecture, stunning alpine scenery, and rich cultural heritage. The city is the birthplace of the famous composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It annually hosts the Salzburg Festival, one of the world's most prestigious classical music and performing arts festivals. And situated in the center of the city is the Mirabell Palace and Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If these various attractions aren't enough to draw countless tourists, I am quite certain that some also come to "see" the various places, where "The Sound of Music" was filmed.

Although I had the opportunity to visit many of Salzburg's beautiful attractions, the most memorable part of my trip took place in a small town of St. Radegund in Upper Austria. It was in this relatively obscure place, only one hour's distance by train ride, that I learned (for the first time) about the life of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter - a simple farmer, husband, father and layman - who choose to accept death rather than act against his conscience. I had the privilege of concelebrating Mass for one of his surviving daughters, Aloisia, in the church where Franz had served as a sacristan.

Who is Blessed Franz Jägerstätter and why do I think that he is an excellent model for how Catholics should act during these difficult (and often) persecutory times? Franz was born on 20 May 1907 in St. Radegund to his unwed parents, Rosalia Huber and Franz Bachmeier. After his natural father died during World War I, Rosalia married Heinrich Jägerstätter. Heinrich adopted Franz, gave the young boy his surname, and helped him with his education. Although Franz lived an unruly life as a young man, he was nevertheless remembered as an ordinary and humble Catholic. It was only after he married Franziska (affectionately called Fani), with whom he had three daughters, that he grew in his faith.

In 1938, Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, annexed Austria in an event known as Anschluss. Following the annexation, which the Austrians accepted with mixed responses, the country was integrated into the Greater German Reich. This resulted in many aspects of Austrian society, economy, and politics to become more aligned with Nazi Germany. Franz, for his part, was the only local citizen in his town to vote against the Anschluss in 1938, a decision that served as a harbinger for his future actions.

Given the military climate of the time, every member of the German armed forces, including those from annexed countries, were required to swear a personal oath of loyalty to Hitler. This oath, known as the "Soldiers' Oath" or "Hitler Oath" was introduced in 1934 and emphasized personal loyalty to Hitler as the supreme commander of the German armed force. A soldier who refused to swear the oath could experience severe punishment, imprisonment, and in some cases death by execution.

Franz was called up for military service and sworn in on 17 June 1940. With the help of his mayor, he was permitted to return to his farm. Franz eventually became convinced that it was a serious sin to participate in war given the atrocities committed by the Nazis, and he decided that he would reject any future military call-up. Given that the majority of his townsmen took the oath and went to war, his closely knitted community viewed his decision as being selfish, cowardly, self-serving and unjust, and they ostracized both Franz and his family.

Franz was called for military service again in February 1943. He refused, however, to fight in the war, or to swear the oath of allegiance to Hitler. His actions led to his arrest and imprisonment. Franz was initially held in custody in Linz and then eventually transferred to Berlin-Tegel, where he was condemned to death and execution by guillotine for sedition during a trial on 6 July 1943. Despite facing intense pressures from both the authorities and his community to comply, Franz remained steadfast in his opposition to the Nazi regime and the war, and he continued to live according to his faith and conscience.

On 9 August 1943, before being executed, Franz wrote: ***"If I must write... with my hands in chains, I find that much better than if my will were in chains. Neither prison nor chains nor sentence of death can rob a man of the Faith and his free will. God gives so much strength that it is possible to bear any suffering... People worry about the obligations of conscience as they concern my wife and children. But I cannot believe that, just because one has a wife and children, a man is free to offend God"***.

After Franz's execution in 1943, Franziska faced immense hardship and challenges as a widow raising their three daughters Hildegard, Aloisia, and Rosalia. Despite the difficult circumstances, Franziska did not remarry after her husband's death. She dedicated herself to raising their daughters and preserving the memory of Franz's courageous stand against the Nazis. Franziska passed away on March 26, 2013, at the age of 100 and lived a long and remarkable life, supporting her husband's memory and legacy, and ensuring that his story of resistance and sacrifice during World War II was remembered and honored. She was buried along with the ashes of her blessed husband in the church cemetery.

In his final letter to Franziska, Franz wrote the following words: ***"May God accept my life as expiation, not just for my sins but also for the sins of others"*** and, ***"Just as those who believe in National Socialism tell themselves that their struggle is for survival, so must we, too, convince ourselves that our struggle is for the Eternal Kingdom."***

In 2007, the Church beatified Franz Jägerstätter, recognizing him as a martyr and a model of faith for future generations, and for his bravery and moral courage. His refusal to compromise his principles, even in the face of grave consequences, is a reminder to each of us that the ultimate and greatest Good that we can choose is God Himself, even if that choice might cost us our life. Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, pray for us! Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*

## 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 5, 2024

# Dear Padre

May 5, 2024

**Please clarify for me what the Church considers as “gossip.” Is it that bad?**

Human beings have the great gift of speech. We continually talk to one another and we talk about one another. Gossip, at its most basic level, is just idle talk. It is neither good nor bad. But it is a tool we can use to build up another human being or tear a person down.

Gossip is sinful when we use our words to unjustly hurt the reputation of another or to judge another person rashly. The two words that the Church uses to describe this evil side of gossip are “detraction” and “calumny.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that detraction is “without objectively valid reason, disclosing another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them.” Calumny occurs when a person, “by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them” (CCC 2477).

To judge whether your own gossip is good or evil, simply ask yourself: Do the words I am saying help others or hurt others? Am I building them up or tearing them down? Hopefully, as a Christian, you are committed to the commandment of Jesus we hear in today’s Gospel: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). ●

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~

Celebrating the 15 years “Gift of Priesthood” of our Pastor, Fr. Thomas on May 9, 2024.

*“To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek Him the greatest adventure, to find Him the greatest human achievement.” (St. Augustine)*



Meet and Greet our Pastor on May 10 (Friday) after the 8:30 am Mass in the Parish Hall.

Please bring your favorite baked goods, cookies to share. Small cash donations for pizzas, cake and pastries are welcome.

### SAINT JOSEPH’S ORATORY, MONTREAL

400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada’s Consecration to St. Joseph



Consider a pilgrimage to Saint Joseph’s Oratory, Montreal In 2024, Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal will mark the 4th centenary of the country’s consecration to Saint Joseph. Founded by Saint Brother André and one of Canada’s most popular pilgrimage sites, the Oratory is pleased to welcome pilgrims during this special anniversary. Going on a pilgrimage is to set off on a spiritual journey to a sacred place with the hope of experiencing an inner change, healing, openness to others and to God’s plan for each one of us. At Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal, pilgrims pray, reflect, celebrate the Eucharist and leave feeling revitalized.

From March 10 to October 19, 2024, the 4th centenary will be commemorated through significant events at the Shrine. Whether as a parish, with family or friends or for your own personal pilgrimage, Saint Joseph’s Oratory is ready to welcome you. To reserve your pilgrimage or to learn more about Saint Joseph’s Oratory, please visit: [www.saint-joseph.org](http://www.saint-joseph.org).

### Jubilee Year 2025 - Year of Prayer Video Series

In advance of the Jubilee Year taking place in 2025, the archdiocese has created a video series which will highlight the importance of prayer in our lives. The series will focus on the seven petitions of the Lord’s Prayer as found in the fourth part of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The first video, an introduction to the Year of Prayer by Archbishop Leo, is available for viewing now on the [archdiocesan website](http://www.archdiocesanwebsite) as well as on the archdiocesan YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/@archtoronto>.



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](http://www.slmwebsite).



**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**

**Vocation Reflection** ~ The greatest love story that ever happened: God’s continuing love for His people. All God asks is “Love one another as I have loved you”. The world really needs to see people who are trying to love others with all their hearts. Priests, religious and deacons can be excellent examples of this love. If you are willing to answer God’s call, call Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

**Stewardship Reflection** ~ As stewards, we are called to befriend Christ and lay down our lives for Him for there is “no greater love than this.” Since it’s unlikely that we’ll be called to martyrdom, we are instead called to lay down our lives by sacrificing our own wills and own comforts for the sake of the Kingdom. Let us strive to accomplish this through a renewed commitment to stewardship.

