

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.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Luke 6: 27-38

“Be merciful, just as your Father is Merciful.”



Luke's version of the Beatitudes puts the emphasis not on Christian attitudes, as Matthew's version does, but on the blessing on those in real, dire need. Now Luke continues this with our duty to respond to those in need, even if they are hostile, even if they hate us. There must be no calculation whether we will get back money or property lent, no limit to how much we lend or give. At first it seems that Luke is concerned only with money, and indeed he is so concerned, for he is always warning of the danger of possessions and the need to use them for those who have none. Luke is proclaiming Christ's Good News to a more affluent society than Mark or Matthew, and places all the more emphasis on the danger of wealth. But after dealing with money Luke goes on to other acts of generosity. We must not judge, but must forgive in order to obtain forgiveness. Most of all, we must be compassionate. Whereas Matthew ends his instructions here with the general, 'Be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect', Luke focuses on compassion, 'Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate'. It is an affair of the heart: we must be emotionally involved with those in need.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Il Vangelo ci propone oggi la rinuncia alla vendetta e alla violenza. Al loro posto, Gesù impone ai suoi discepoli il principio della non resistenza al male e il comandamento dell'amore dei propri nemici.

È come se ci dicesse: non si trionfa sul male con il male; non si trionfa sulla violenza con la violenza. Il male e la violenza sono vinti quando li si lascia dissolvere, senza rilanciarli con una risposta analoga. L'odio non può essere distrutto che dall'amore che lo subisce gratuitamente.

Non è vero che noi non possiamo evitare, a queste parole, un movimento di rifiuto? Non hanno l'apparenza della follia, abituati come siamo a vedere trionfare il potere e l'aggressività dei forti, mentre il male si accanisce sui deboli e i disarmati? Questi ordini non sarebbero il frutto delle divagazioni di un sognatore che non ha l'esperienza della crudeltà spietata del nostro mondo? Di Gesù si può dire qualsiasi cosa, tranne che non abbia conosciuto la cattiveria. Egli ha conosciuto bene che cosa voleva dire essere detestato, spogliato, percosso e ucciso. In realtà, è il solo uomo che può dire quello che noi abbiamo appena ascoltato senza la più piccola leggerezza, perché in lui, e in lui solo, queste parole furono verità. Egli ha amato coloro che lo odiavano, ha dato più di quanto non gli fosse stato tolto, egli ha benedetto coloro che lo maledicevano.

Solo così questa condotta viene giustificata. Non è il prodotto di una saggezza profana, che implicherebbe una irresponsabilità criminale. Non è qui un politico o sociologo di questo mondo che parla. Colui che parla ha superato il male attraverso la sofferenza. Ed è per questo che la sola giustificazione possibile di questi comandamenti di Gesù è la sua croce. Solo colui che dice "sì" alla croce di Cristo può obbedire a tali precetti e trovare nell'obbedienza il compimento della promessa contenuta in essi: il bene trionfa sul male attraverso l'amore.



Eucharistic Adoration

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

Every Friday 9am - 7pm (Church)*

*In Chapel, when there is a funeral.

Come and spend some quiet time in prayer!



Mass Intentions
for the week



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22ND - SABATO

5:00 P.M. + Howard Steinman

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23RD - DOMENICA

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

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia
Alfredo Fugaccia
Tony Lamanna
Antonio Savella
Marino D'Attolico
Benito Cortese
Vito e Mike Cuoppolo
Luigi e Maria D'Addario
Lucia e Luigi Cuoppolo

11:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. + Sergio, Felisa & Fidel Canete

MONDAY FEBRUARY 24TH - LUNEDI

8:30 A.M. + Edward Emanuel

12:00 P.M. - St. Michael A Prayer Group

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25TH - MARTEDI

8:30 A.M. + Cindy Fugaccia

12:00 P.M. - Living & Deceased De Souza F

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26TH - MERCOLEDI

8:30 A.M. + Alvin Marshall

12:00 P.M. - Mary Pierre-Harvey

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27TH - GIOVEDI

7:00 A.M. - Therese de Ruitter

8:30 A.M. + Baldomera & Concorcia De Gala

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28TH - VENERDI

8:30 A.M. + Elia La Rosa

7:00 P.M. - Geogina Jose

SATURDAY MARCH 1ST - SABATO

8:30 A.M. + May Munro

10:00 A.M. + Sydney, Irene, Anne De Souza



OFFERTORY LAST WEEK

Regular: \$2,462.25

Bell Tower: 4,150.90

thank
you

**“LOVE ought to show itself in Deeds
more than in Words.”**

~St. Ignatius of Loyola ~

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ FEBRUARY 23, 2025



Dear Friends in Christ, a few years ago I watched a movie titled, “The Railway Man.” The 2014 movie, which starred Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman, depicted the real life story of a former British soldier named, Eric Lomax, who was captured by the Japanese during the Second World War. Like many other POWs at that time, Eric was taken to Thailand to build the so-called “Death Railway.”

During his imprisonment, Eric suffered numerous forms of abuse from the Japanese soldiers. These included severe beatings that caused several of his bones to be broken, waterboarding, hunger and malnutrition, and exposure to the natural elements. Although most of the Japanese soldiers took turns inflicting pain and suffering upon Eric and his fellow POWs, one stood out among them – a man named, Nagase Takashi, who acted as their interpreter. Nagase continually threatened Eric with death and repeatedly accused him of being a spy.

Eric’s nightmare eventually ended when he and the other prisoners were freed by the Americans shortly after Japan’s surrender in 1945. Although Eric became a ‘free’ man, he suffered from PTSD, developed an intense hatred of his Japanese inquisitor, and harboured a desire for revenge. It was only with the help and encouragement of his second wife, Patricia Wallace, that Eric was willing to deal with his unresolved issues and seek closure for that chapter of his life.

In 1993, Eric meet Nagase in Thailand. During their first meeting together, Nagase asked Eric to forgive him amidst tears and trembling. The former British soldier realized that, in a way, Nagase had also been psychologically tortured all those years by remorse. While the Japanese army’s treatment of the POWs who worked the railway was undoubtedly cruel, many of the soldiers acted in that manner by way of indoctrination. As one commentator noted: *“Years of schooling had indoctrinated young Japanese men with the notion of Emperor worship, and their training to become soldiers in their native country was based on brutality. The soldiers were also taught to fight with relentless ferocity as part of the Japanese counter-insurgency against Mao Tse-Tung’s forces. All of these factors played a part in creating soldiers who could carry out the cruelest acts of torture without a second thought”* (Source, History Extra). After that initial meeting, the former enemies promised to keep in touch through letters and phone calls and incredibly over time they became friends. As Eric later remarked, *“After our meeting I felt I’d come to some kind of peace and resolution. Forgiveness is possible when someone is ready to accept forgiveness. Sometimes the hating has to stop.”*

Our gospel passage today comes from the second part of Luke’s account of Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain. Moses once instructed the Israelites, *“You will love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength, and you will love your neighbor as yourself.”* But Jesus took this teaching ones step further by exhorting his disciples, *“I say to you that listen: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you”* (Lk. 6:27).

Many will undoubtedly have a hard time accepting or understanding Jesus’ words. Why? Because many will not comprehend the true meaning of ‘love’ that Jesus requires that we give to our enemies. In fact, this should not be surprising given that the word ‘love’ today is often used in connection to our emotions, passions and feelings, or in the context of romance. Yet, let us be clear that Jesus was not speaking about feelings or emotions; rather, he was talking about actions.

The Greek word, *agape*, that is used in today’s gospel, signifies a kind of complete, total and sacrificial love. Against this backdrop, to “love your enemies” means to perform good actions towards them. It means that we are to refrain from committing the proverbial ancient teaching, ‘an eye for an eye,’ or “a tooth for a tooth,” that has been practiced by so many people throughout human history. As followers of Christ, we are called not to return evil with evil; rather, we respond good with evil.

To love one’s enemies also means that we “bless” those who curse us. The word *“benedire”* comes from the Latin word that consist of *“bene”* (meaning “well” or “good”) and *“dicere”* (meaning “to say” or “to speak”). To bless someone here can mean two things: to bestow a person a good action, or to speak well of them. Conversely, a curse, which comes from the Latin, *maledire*, means “to speak badly of” or “to curse”. And, so, what this means is that if someone should curse us, our response should be to bless them, that is, to verbalize a desire for good upon that person.

I know that carrying out Jesus’ precept to love our enemies is a difficult one to carry out even in the best of times. Yet, if we struggle in carrying out Our Lord’s command, perhaps we do well to reflect upon how often the Lord has been merciful and compassionate toward us! As the psalmist reminds us: *“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him”* (Ps. 103). In light of his continual love and mercy, pray to the Lord then for the grace to *“love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and pray for those who abuse us.”*

Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*



SACRED JOURNEY
RESTORING THE HOUSE OF GOD

THANK YOU!!!

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$169,327.00

To donate SCAN the QR CODE or

<https://tinyurl.com/SLMDonationForm>



Dear Padre,

My ex broke up with me. I find myself hoping he gets subjected to the same emotional pain as I have. I hate feeling this way, so how do I ask God to take away this pain and help me forgive my ex?

What you are sharing is your hurt and confusion. Although your boyfriend was ready to end the relationship, you were not. It seems you are still not ready to move on. That is OK. Everyone has his or her own manner of dealing with disappointment, and there is no perfect timeframe.

More than your boyfriend's suffering, you desire freedom for yourself and a return to a healthy sense of your own personhood. You perceive him as happy and perhaps wonder how that's possible while you are still struggling. This is all very normal, and it's part of the process we all experience when an important relationship changes.



VALENTINA SHUMINA / SHUTTERSTOCK

You will work through this. You will love again. You will no longer be triggered by strong feelings when you encounter him in the future. But you are going to have to do the hard work of growing, maturing, and learning to let go. Begin by praying for his well-being. And if you can't do that, ask God for the grace to want to pray for his well-being. Certainly, the Lord will help you, but he won't magically take away your pain. There are no shortcuts. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



2025 JUBILEE YEAR
ITALY PILGRIMAGE

With our Pastor
Father Thomas Lim
September 27 to
October 10, 2025

[Click for Details](#)



Cardinal Leo thanks you for the 2024
ShareLife Parish Campaign
Our parish contributed \$37,289.35

In acknowledgement of your kind generosity, Archbishop Francis Leo extends his heartfelt gratitude to all pastors, parish staff, volunteers and parishioners.

You can find his letter expressing thanks [here](#).



Ontario Provincial Election
February 27, 2025
Resources for the Catholic
Community

To assist with this process, two resources may be helpful as Catholics prayerfully discern their vote in the coming days.

1. Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto has prepared a 2025 Ontario Election Guide which can be accessed [here](#). (Ontario Election Guide 2025)
2. Catholic Conscience has prepared "Voting Like A Catholic", a 2025 Provincial Election resource that can be accessed [here](#). (Catholic Conscience Ontario Election 2025)

We pray for all those who serve in elected office and for those who will form the next provincial government.

Saint Thomas More, Patron Saint of Politicians, Pray for us.



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

Day With Mary ~ Save the Date!



Join the Cardinal Archbishop
On Saturday, May 31,
The Feast of the Visitation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
For more information click
[here \(AoT-Day W/ Mary\)](#).

Mary, Mother of the Church, Pray for us!

Thirsty Thursdays: Quench Your Thirst at the Source

The desire of every human heart is for communion.

And as we strive to fulfill this desire, often we are found wanting, until we go to the source: Jesus.

The dates for upcoming Source Holy Hours are: March 20 | April 10 | May 15
The event is held from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church - 840 Bathurst St., Toronto (near the Bathurst subway station). For more information, visit:
<https://sistersoflife.org/where-we-are/toronto/> <https://ocytoronto.org/events/>



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 ~



"If I invite God into my life, I am and always will be good enough." ~ Kate Wicker