

# 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.**

**8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ MARCH 2, 2025**

Luke 6: 39-45

**“From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.”**



Matthew gathered together the teachings of Jesus on the basic requirements of Christian morality into the Sermon on the Mount; that formed a sort of manifesto for the Kingdom of Heaven, starting with the eight Beatitudes. Luke gathers many of the same teachings into his ‘Sermon on the Plain’, starting with four Beatitudes. This has provided the gospel readings for the last three Sundays.

Matthew, writing for Christians of Jewish origin, stressed Jesus’ teaching on the Law, and how Jesus made it more interior and often more demanding. Luke, always aware of the needs of the poor, stresses more our social obligations. As he draws to a conclusion he gives us two of Jesus’ warnings, expressed in the vivid language and with the fierce exaggeration and wit which is so characteristic of Jesus’ teachings. The first, the splinter and the log, warns us to use the same standards in judging ourselves as we use in judging others. The second, the sound and rotten fruit, is perhaps a double warning. You can judge people only by their actions. More profoundly, it is also a challenge: don’t flatter yourself on your achievements until you are good through and through, until the store of goodness in your heart is really overflowing.



Con parole rudi, certamente per far penetrare meglio il suo insegnamento nei nostri cuori duri, Gesù ricorda una delle componenti fondamentali della vita cristiana: essere discepoli. Chi vuole condurre da solo la propria vita è un cieco che conduce un cieco; il buon frutto si trova su di un albero solido, e si è sempre cattivi giudici di se stessi se qualcuno non ci aiuta. Il maestro è Gesù, e noi siamo i suoi discepoli, cioè coloro che si lasciano istruire da lui, che riconoscono la sua autorità sovrana e si fidano delle sue parole. Ma beato colui che, sulla terra, ha saputo scoprire i portavoce di questa autorità, i maestri che non sono di ostacolo all’unico maestro, ma che attualizzano, concretizzano la sua parola, le sue esigenze, ma anche il suo amore attento. Vi sono i maestri secondo l’istituzione, quelli che la Chiesa ci dà, e riconosce come tali. E vi sono quelli che, nascosti, si lasciano riconoscere dai cuori preparati. Ogni uomo deve, nel corso di tutta la sua vita, riconoscersi discepolo di Gesù: seguirlo, obbedirgli e quindi ascoltarlo, al fine di mettere in pratica il suo insegnamento che ci conduce alla vita.



**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 MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> - SABATO**

5:00 P.M. + Sebastien Yolande Paulette Friolet

**SUNDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> - DOMENICA**

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

10:00 A.M. (Italian)

- Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia
- Susanna e Gianni Onisto
- Giulia Benedetti
- Alfredo Fugaccia
- Vito Sciuto e famiglia
- Vito e Mike Cuoppolo
- Teresa Luisi

11:30 A.M. + Geraldine Senewiratne

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

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

**MONDAY MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> - LUNEDI**

8:30 A.M. + Bernard Tranquada

12:00 P.M. + Rosalind Dangay

**TUESDAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> - MARTEDI**

8:30 A.M. + Carmen Giuca

12:00 P.M. - Lynette Lobo

**ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> - MERCOLEDI**

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

12:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

**THURSDAY MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> - GIOVEDI**

7:00 A.M. + Paul & Pauline Lam

8:30 A.M. + Paola Gionfrido

**FRIDAY MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> - VENERDI**

8:30 A.M. + Joachim Reigber

7:00 P.M. - Fred Leung

**SATURDAY MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> - SABATO**

8:30 A.M. - Erika Bagasan-Hare

10:00 A.M. + Salcino & Lumina Dominguez



**OFFERTORY LAST WEEK**

Regular: \$6,490.35

Bell Tower Envelopes: \$10,990.00

Valentine's DD (Net): \$4,042.66



**“O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones.**

**Let me find YOU again. Amen.”**

~ Henri Nouwen ~



**Vocation Reflection** ~ “In the Lord your labour is not in vain”. Is the Lord calling you to work in His vineyard? Pray to hear God’s call. If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

Email [vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org) ~ [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

## 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ MARCH 2, 2025



Dear Friends in Christ, last weekend as part of my homily for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, I spoke about the remarkable story of a woman named, Mary Johnson, and her difficult journey in learning how to forgive the murderer of her son. Allow me to offer a brief synopsis for those readers who were not present during Mass....

On 12 February 1993, Mary's only son, Laramiun Byrd, was tragically killed by 16-year-old Oshea Israel, during a party that both men had attended. Mary confessed that by the time Oshea was arrested three days later and charged for the murder of her son, hate had already set in her heart: *"Here I was, a Christian woman full of hate..."*

During Oshea's sentencing, Mary made a victim impact statement in which she concluded it by telling Oshea that she forgave him *"because the Bible tells us to forgive."* Although Mary uttered words of forgiveness, the reality was she had not actually forgiven Oshea. Mary was filled with lots of bitterness, which ran so deep in her that it eventually turned into anger. Mary began to hate everyone and drove many people away as a result.

By God's grace Mary was able to see the true state of her life. One day she read a poem about a mother whose child had been murdered and the mother of the murderer. The poem gave Mary a vision to start an organization that could help both the mothers of murdered children and mothers of children who had taken a life. While Mary did eventually establish the organization and called it, *"From Death to Life"*, Mary needed to deal with her own unresolved issue of unforgiveness, before she was able to help anyone.

With the permission of the Departments of Corrections, Mary was permitted to meet Oshea in prison for about two-hours. It was during that meeting when Mary forgave Oshea. Her willingness to forgive Oshea proved to be life altering because shortly after forgiving him, Mary *"felt something rising from the soles of my feet and leaving me. From that day on I haven't felt any hatred, animosity or anger. It was over."* Needless to say, the Lord was kind and merciful to Mary because he gifted her the grace to forgive.

Let me turn my attention to Oshea, whom I did not have the time to address in my homily last weekend. One can say that the Lord was also kind and merciful to Oshea during that same period. Oshea received the grace to change – a change that took place in stages and over many years.

Initially during the early years of his incarceration, Oshea refused to take responsibility for what he had done. *"For years I didn't even acknowledge what I'd done and would lay the blame on everyone else. I didn't want to hold myself responsible for taking someone's life over something so trivial and stupid. You blame everyone else because you don't want to deal with the pain."* This tendency to blame others for our faults is a common default behaviour that many of us, if we are honest, are also guilty of.

Yet, as Oshea matured and began to reflect more deeply into his past life, he was able to see the errors of his ways and take ownership of his past actions. As he recounted, *"In prison I spent a lot of time in segregation and for a long time had a face on which looked like I didn't care. Then one day I had a sort of epiphany and started to look at how I was living my life. I went through a real growth process. Luckily I had started changing and educating myself by the time Mary approached me. At first I said no to the meeting because I wasn't ready but Mary persisted and when she tried again I was in a better place to hold myself accountable. To call myself a man I had to look this lady in the eye and tell her what I had done. I needed to try and make amends. Whether she forgave me or not was not the point."* The Lord tends to give us the grace to see with greater clarity the ramification and magnitude of our past sins as we mature in our human state and grow more deeply in our spiritual life. It is also through grace that we are able to be truly contrite and to ask forgiveness for them!

That both Mary and Oshea received the grace of transformation and healing is clearly seen in their stories. It is undoubtedly edifying to see how Mary cooperated with the grace of God and was able to forgive Oshea after years of being consumed with anger and hatred. It is equally instructive to see Oshea take ownership of his past actions and seek forgiveness from Mary. Yet their respective actions are only a beginning.

When Jesus began his public ministry, his first words were, *"Repent (metanoite) and believe in the Gospel"* (Mk 1:15). In one sense, metanoia can simply mean "repentance", something which both Mary and Oshea showed. However, the word has a deeper meaning since it signifies a deep, transformative change of one's mind, heart, and soul made possible through God's grace. It involves a radical reorientation of one's life toward God, through a process of conversion and renewal, and by a shift in how we understand ourselves, and our relationship with God. As Catholics, then, we must not only offer forgiveness when we have been hurt or seek forgiveness from those whom we might have wounded; that is a start. We must go one step further and continually direct ourselves towards God.

Pax Christi, *Fr. Thomas*



**SACRED JOURNEY**  
**RESTORING THE HOUSE OF GOD**

**THANK YOU!!!**

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE: \$180,317.00

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## Dear Padre,

### Does pregnancy qualify as an exemption from abstinence and fasting in Lent?

Yes, it does. Just to be clear, abstinence is not eating meat on the Fridays of Lent and applies to Catholics over the age of fourteen. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine are obligated to fast, that is, eat only one full meal and two smaller meals that do not add up to a full meal. In addition to children and elders, exemptions from these disciplines include pregnant or nursing women and the physically or mentally ill, including those with chronic illnesses, like diabetes.

It is presumed that mature Catholics will seek balance and integration in the practice of the faith and will routinely make careful, informed decisions and apply them to spiritual practice. Obviously, being informed and aware of what the Church teaches, why the Church teaches something, and how it is to be applied and understood will only enhance a person's discernment.

The health of an unborn baby is a clear responsibility and of the utmost importance. Maintaining a healthy and balanced diet during pregnancy and adjusting any habitual practices that may endanger the health of the baby should be a primary concern. While exempt from fasting and abstinence, a pregnant woman may want to observe Lent by adopting another penitential discipline, something that would do no harm to the baby but would still be in the spirit of Lent. ●



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](#)

**CATHOLIC CHURCH'S RULES ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE:**  
"Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Members of the Eastern Catholic Churches are to observe the particular law of their own *sui iuris* Church.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection." (Source: USCCB)

[A Reflection on Lenten Fasting](#)



### ASH Wednesday Masses

8:30 am (English)  
12:00 pm (Latin)  
2:00 pm (Italian)  
7:00 pm (English)

### LENT Friday Schedule

English Mass  
8:30 am  
Eucharistic Adoration  
9:00 am ~ 5:45 pm  
Confessions  
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Stations of the Cross ~ 6:00 pm  
Latin Mass ~ 7:00 pm

*"The ashes mean I'm a sinner.  
The cross means I have a  
Saviour."*

~Fr. Mike Schmitz~



**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

### 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 ~



### Prayer for the Health and Recovery of Pope Francis

O Merciful and Loving God, fountain of all grace and source of eternal healing, be with our Holy Father as he faces this battle with illness. Surround him, O Lord, with boundless compassion and strengthen his spirit so that he may regain the health needed to continue to lead your flock with a father's heart. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.