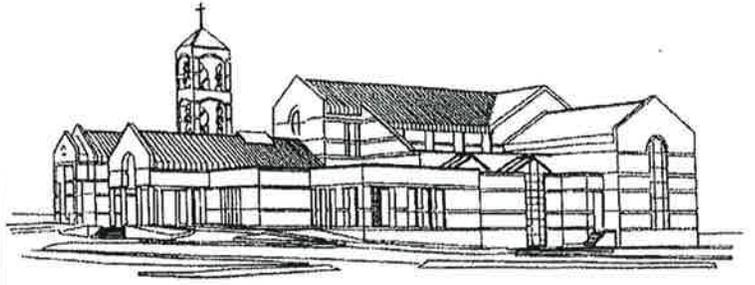


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

300 Ansley Grove Road, Woodbridge, ON, L4L 3W4
T: 905 856-2205 F: 905 850-5589
<https://immaculateconceptionwo.archtoronto.org>
icparish@rogers.com



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT February 22, 2026

Message from Fr. Shaiju

My dear brothers and sisters, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, we walk with Jesus into the desert, a place of silence, struggle, and truth. After forty days of fasting and prayer, He is tempted to use His divine power for Himself. Satan tries to place conditions on His mission, to turn hunger into self-satisfaction and power into display. But Jesus chooses something greater. The temptation of bread is not really about hunger; it is about what truly sustains life. Jesus longs not for food that perishes, but for the will of the Father. He came not simply to remove physical hunger, but to fill the world with God's Word and to reveal God's deep love for every human heart. His power is not for show. It is quiet, compassionate, and life-giving. His authority is not used to dominate, but to heal, to lift up, and to break the chains that bind people in sin and suffering. And we too face our deserts. Our temptations may not look dramatic, but they are real: gossip, selfishness, unhealthy attachments, and endless cravings for more. Therefore, my dear friends, let us choose what truly feeds the soul. Let us choose love over selfishness and choose God above all, giving Him ample space to pour His grace into our lives.

Cari fratelli e sorelle, mentre viviamo questo tempo di Quaresima, camminiamo con Gesù nel deserto, luogo di silenzio e verità. Dopo quaranta giorni di digiuno e preghiera, Egli è tentato di usare il Suo potere per Sé stesso. Ma Gesù sceglie la volontà del Padre. La tentazione del pane non riguarda solo la fame materiale, ma ciò che sostiene davvero la vita. Egli non è venuto soltanto a togliere la fame del corpo, ma a nutrire il mondo con la Parola di Dio e a rivelare il Suo amore per ogni cuore. Il Suo potere non è spettacolo: è silenzioso, compassionevole e dona vita. La Sua autorità non domina, ma guarisce e libera. Anche noi affrontiamo tentazioni quotidiane: egoismo, pettegolezzi, desideri senza fine. Scegliamo allora ciò che nutre l'anima. Mettiamo Dio al centro e lasciamo spazio alla Sua grazia.

~Fr. Shaiju Ponmalakunnel

Thank you for your support! Message from Fr. Eugene

Dear friends, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous donations to the African Children's Mission of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. While visiting Cameroon, I had the joy of personally spending time with the children in the orphanages. "Like Santa Claus from Canada," I was able to bring them the gifts made possible through your generosity. Your support brought smiles, hope, and the promise of a brighter future to many children living in difficult circumstances. Thanks to your kindness, we were able to provide essential food items, school supplies, sports equipment, and mosquito nets to the children. Your actions truly make the Gospel of Jesus Christ come alive. As our Lord reminds us, "When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat." (Matthew 25:35). Through your generosity, you have lived out this Gospel message in a powerful and tangible way. **You can see some photos from my visit displayed on the screen in the church lobby.**

Desidero esprimere la mia più sincera gratitudine per le vostre generose donazioni a favore della missione africana per i bambini della Congregazione dei Figli dell'Immacolata Concezione. Il vostro sostegno ha portato sorrisi, speranza e la promessa di un futuro migliore a tanti bambini che vivono in situazioni difficili. Le vostre azioni rendono davvero vivo il Vangelo di Gesù Cristo.

With sincere gratitude and prayers, *Fr. Eugene*

Lenten Altar Display

A heartfelt thank you to our Children's Liturgy Group for creating the Lenten altar display. Its simple, natural elements remind us that Lent is a time of prayer, reflection, and renewal. Thank you to the children and their leaders for helping our parish enter more deeply into this holy season.