

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME February 11, 2024

From the Pastor's Desk... 2024 Lenten Message

"Return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning" (Joel 2:12).

Dear Parishioners,

On Wednesday February 14 the Universal Church will celebrate Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. Lent in the Christian liturgical calendar is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, that is, the passion, death and glorious resurrection of Christ at Easter. The holy season of lent is a favourable time for a pilgrimage towards the Paschal Vigil when Christ the paschal lamb "dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy, casts out hatred, brings us peace and humbles earthly pride" (Paschal Præconium).

The church invites us during these forty days to pause from the busyness of everyday life and follow Jesus "into the wilderness" to pray, fast and renew ourselves through a radical conversion. The gospels tell us that immediately after his baptism by John, the spirit led Jesus into the wilderness where he stayed forty days without eating; he lived among wild beasts, and angels ministered to him. At the end, Satan tempts him three times. Jesus rebuffs these attacks and humiliates Satan who left until an opportune time (CCC).

Jesus teaches us to be courageous in facing our own wildernesses, and through intense prayer and fasting, resist the lures and enticements of the devil. I urge you to be watchful and vigilant against the enticements of Satan that may appear under the guise of good. Satan is a shrewd and cunning being who masters the art of deceit and manipulation. The Bible refers to him as "the deceiver of the whole world..." (Rev. 12:9). He can easily trick us if we give him the least opportunity. St James says, "resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (4:7). The best way to resist the devil is to be devoted to daily prayer, Lectio Divina, recourse to the sacrament of Reconciliation and above all, participate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life.

To this end, I invoke the intercession of Blessed Luigi Maria Monti and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, to accompany us on our Lenten journey.

~Fr. Eugene Chianain, CFIC

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule *Mercoledì delle Ceneri* February 14, 2024



8 am – *Italiano*
12 pm – English
7 pm – English
8 pm – *Italiano*

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7:30 pm in English and at 8:15 pm in Italian starting Friday, February 16, 2024.

Tutti i Venerdì di Quaresima alle ore 19,30 di sera in inglese e alle 20,15 in italiano, cominciando da Venerdì 16 febbraio, 2024.

Happy Birthday, Fr. Paul!

Fr. Paul is celebrating his birthday on **February 14**. Let us wish him a very happy birthday and keep him in our prayers.

P. Paul celebra il suo compleanno il 14 febbraio. Facciamogli i nostri migliori auguri e ricordiamolo nelle nostre preghiere.

Congratulations, Carm Battaglia!

Heartfelt congratulations to Carm Battaglia on 10 years of service as our parish secretary. Thank you for all you do for our parish! Carm was recognized at a ceremony presided by His Grace, Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto.

Letter from Archbishop Leo for Marriage Sunday 2024

To Married Couples throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto,
As we celebrate Marriage Sunday in the Archdiocese of Toronto, I wish to extend my prayers and best wishes to all married couples. This is a wonderful occasion to honour your commitment, fidelity and public witness to the sacrament of holy matrimony. Each day that you say "yes", you affirm the vows made on your wedding day to support one another through the joys and struggles of life's journey.

Of course, it is not an easy path and a good marriage requires patience, trust, forgiveness and mutual support. I encourage you to also ensure that prayer remains central to your relationship, ever mindful of God's role in the sacramental bond that accompanies your life-long commitment. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us of the role of the Church in supporting married couples: *"We help them by offering welcome, closeness, accompaniment, discernment and integration into the body of the Church."*

Please know that I also keep close to my heart and in prayer those members of the Body of Christ who have experienced the pain of a broken relationship or the loss of a spouse. There are programs and ministries available throughout the archdiocese to help assist those who have endured these challenges and moments of suffering. I hope that these supportive resources may assist in accompanying those who have faced many difficult times, offering hope and light through the darkness.

I also express my deep appreciation for all those who are engaged in marriage enrichment programs throughout our archdiocese, from marriage preparation to ongoing support for married couples. Your service helps to foster healthy relationships and strong families infused with faith, so desperately needed in our day.

Additional resources to support marriage and families in the Archdiocese of Toronto can be found by visiting: www.archtoronto.org/marriage.

May we find inspiration in the life and personal sacrifice of our loving Mother Mary and her spouse, Joseph, and also those married couples you encounter each day; parents, grandparents, relatives and friends who are faithful witnesses, celebrating their relationships and authentic love for one another.

I reiterate my sincere gratitude and admiration for married couples throughout our beautiful archdiocese. May your love and shining example extend to your families and all those you meet, reminding us of the profound impact your deeply committed relationship can have on others each and every day. May God continue to bless you now and always.

Sincerely Yours in Jesus with Mary,
Most Rev. Francis Leo
Archbishop of Toronto



Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday February 12	
7pm	Amelia Alessio
8pm	Giovanna Defina & Antonio Mascatello
Tuesday February 13	
7pm	Maria Puopolo
8pm	Maria Bagnoli
Wednesday February 14 Ash Wednesday	
8am	Italian Mass
12pm	English Mass
7pm	English Mass
8pm	Italian Mass
Thursday February 15	
7pm	
7:30pm	"One Hour with Jesus" Adoration
Friday February 16	
7pm	English Mass & Stations of the Cross
8:15pm	Via Crucis

"One Hour with Jesus" Eucharistic Adoration

All are invited to the "One Hour with Jesus" Eucharistic Adoration which will be held on **Thursday February 15, 2024 at 7:30pm.**

CWL Meeting

Please join us for the monthly CWL General meeting on **Tuesday February 13, 2024 @ 7:30 p.m.** Members and New Members are all welcome.

Parent/Child Workshop for First Holy Communion Candidates

All First Holy Communion candidates **must** attend the Parent/Child Workshop. Please bring the *We Share in the Eucharist* Book. Only parents and First Communion candidates should attend.

- Saturday February 24, 2024 from 1:45pm-4pm
St. Gabriel
- Sunday February 25, 2024 from 1:45pm-4pm
St. Catherine & Other Schools