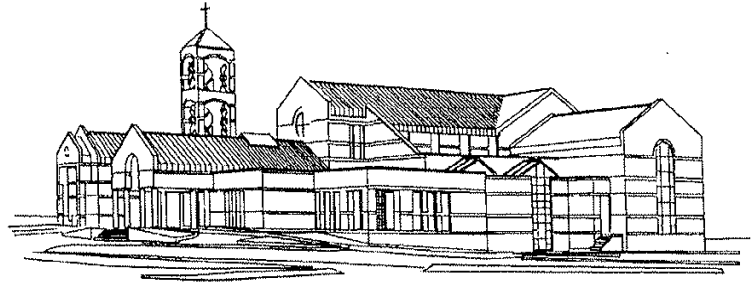


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 23, 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Today, we celebrate the Third Sunday of Lent, and in the Gospel, Jesus invites his disciples to repent or perish. Interrogators recount two stories of human tragedy, and Jesus uses these as an opportunity to emphasize the urgency of his message of repentance. The first incident involves the ruthless slaughter of Galilean pilgrims who went to the temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifices and were mercilessly killed by the troops of Pilate, the Roman governor (cf. Lk 13:1). The second is the sudden death of 18 people when the tower of Siloam in Jerusalem collapsed (cf. Lk 13:4). At that time, the Jews often interpreted such misfortunes as a direct consequence of sin, believing that those who suffered tragedies were being punished by God. Meanwhile, those who considered themselves "sinless and righteous" assumed they were immune to suffering and saw no need for repentance. Jesus challenges this misguided belief. He asks, "Do you think that these Galileans who were murdered were worse sinners than all the other Galileans? I tell you, no; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Lk 13:2-3). Through this, Jesus reminds us that unexpected tragedies can befall both the righteous and the unrighteous, often without warning, leaving no time for repentance. Therefore, he urges his listeners to repent without delay. As we journey through this sacred and transformative season of Lent, each one of us is called to a radical conversion – to turn away from sin and align our lives with the values of the Gospel. Repentance cannot be postponed. Procrastination and spiritual complacency are dangerous because tomorrow is never guaranteed. Let us seize the opportunity today to walk in the light of God, renewing our hearts and minds. May we open ourselves to His mercy and forgiveness, knowing that the time for repentance is now.

REMINDER: PASSION PLAY REHEARSAL

This is a friendly reminder to all those participating in the Passion Play to attend a rehearsal on **Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 7:00pm** in the parish hall. Your presence is essential as we prepare for this meaningful presentation. Please make every effort to attend. Thank you for your dedication!

SUPPORT OUR 2025 SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN

Our 2025 ShareLife Campaign will launch on the weekend of **March 29-30, 2025, with a second collection.** ShareLife is not just a parish collection – it is how we, as a Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Toronto, extend Christ's love and compassion to those in need. ShareLife serves tens of thousands of people locally and countless others worldwide, regardless of religious affiliation. As the needs in our communities continue to grow, it is essential that we reach our parish campaign goal of \$106,500. Achieving this goal will support the 40 agencies that make up ShareLife by:

- Providing walk-in counseling for those struggling with mental health challenges
- Supporting victims of domestic violence
- Offering care and companionship to isolated seniors
- Supplying food to children in developing countries
- Training priests and deacons to serve in our parishes

I encourage you to give generously to our campaign, remembering that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENT/CHILD WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

Dear First Holy Communion Candidates and parents, This is a reminder to all First Holy Communion candidates to attend the upcoming **Parent/Child Workshop** on:

• **Saturday March 29, 2025 from 10:45am-1pm:**

St. John Bosco, St. Gabriel

• **Saturday March 29, 2025 from 1:45pm-4pm:**

St. Catherine, Immaculate Conception, Other Schools

Your participation is essential as you prepare for this important sacrament. Please bring the *We Share in the Eucharist* Book. Only parents and First Communion candidates should attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Eugene Chianain



Upcoming Baptisms

Our parish is delighted to welcome the following children to the Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism:



*Adamo Austin Parente
Giulia Francesca Spizzirri
Gia Poma*

Congratulations to their parents and godparents.

Parish Lenten Mission in English *This Week!*



The English Parish Lenten Mission will be preached by **Fr. Elvise Lukong** on **March 24, 25 & 26 at 7pm**. The theme is "Come away to a deserted place all by yourself" (*Mark 6:31*).

2025 Golf Tournament

The 18th Immaculate Conception Parish Charity Golf Tournament in support of ShareLife and parish needs will be held on **Thursday June 5, 2025 at Glen Eagle Golf Club**. Please mark this date in your calendar. For registration or more information, please contact the parish office.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at **7:30 pm in English** and at 8:15 pm in Italian.

Tutti i Venerdì di Quaresima alle ore 19,30 di sera in inglese e alle 20,15 in italiano.

Income Tax Receipts

Income tax receipts for the 2024 taxation year may be picked up from the parish office during office hours.

Le ricevute delle tasse per l'anno 2024 possono essere ritirate in ufficio parrocchiale.

Evening Rosary

All are invited to pray the rosary **every Monday at 7:30pm in the chapel** for peace in our families and peace in the world.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday March 24

7pm	<i>Lenten Mission in English</i>
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Tuesday March 25

The Annunciation of the Lord

7pm	<i>Lenten Mission in English</i>
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Wednesday March 26

7pm	<i>Lenten Mission in English</i>
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Thursday March 27

7pm	
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Friday March 28

7pm	English Mass & Stations of the Cross
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8:15pm	<i>Via Crucis</i>
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Happy Birthday, Fr. Eugene!

Fr. Eugene is celebrating his birthday on **March 24**. Let us wish him a very happy birthday and keep him in our prayers.

P. Eugene celebra il suo compleanno il 24 marzo. Facciamogli i nostri migliori auguri e ricordiamolo nelle nostre preghiere.

Immaculate Conception Parish Summer Camp 2025

The camp for children entering grade 1 to 6 in September will be held from **July 7, 2025 – July 11, 2025**. The goal of the parish camp is to share the beauty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help the kids to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith. Campers will also enjoy activities such as soccer, crafts, drama, dodge, dance and much more. The registration fee is \$75.

Knights of Columbus Soccer



The Knights of Columbus are inviting adults to join for pick-up soccer at St. Catherine of Sienna gymnasium every Tuesday at 7pm-8pm, be there early! Try it out for some good exercise for free - \$50 to participate weekly until May 27th!

