

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 30, 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear friends, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, the church proclaims the parable of the Lost Son (Prodigal Son) who took off with his share of the inheritance to a far away country and wasted it in desolate living. After squandering all his possessions, he realizes his mistake and decides to return home to his father and ask for forgiveness. He said to himself: "I shall rise up and go to my father, and I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am not worthy to be called your son" (Lk 15: 18-19). This was a true moment of self-awakening, when he realizes that he had walked down a dark path of sin and self-destruction and needed repentance. When his father spotted his son from a distance, he does not rebuke or reject his son for his mistake but rather welcomes him home with open arms and throws a sumptuous party for his son who was dead but now is alive! He was lost, but now he is found (Lk 15:24). In the parable of the prodigal Son, Jesus teaches us that God is a merciful and compassionate father who is always ready to welcome his children back home each time they stray away from his precepts and commandments. God suffers when we get lost in sin and He rejoices when we return to him with a humble contrite heart. As the father anxiously waited for the prodigal son, so too God awaits with open arms for the return of sinners who sincerely desire to repent of their sins and walk in the way of the Lord who is the way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:6). Many of us have wandered away from God by the choices we make. We are not proud of the life we are living because it is opposed to our Christian faith and the gospel values. We have been separated from God by the gravity of our sins. Yet God is ready to forgive us because that is His nature. During this sacred season of Lent, we are invited, like the prodigal son, to turn away from our sins, return home to God the father who is slow to anger and abounding in love.

REMINDER: PASSION PLAY REHEARSAL

This is a friendly reminder to all those participating in the Passion Play to attend a rehearsal on **Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 7:00pm**. Please make every effort to attend. Thank you for your dedication!

SUPPORT OUR 2025 SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7)

I would like to remind you that our 2025 ShareLife Campaign is **launching this weekend 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. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.



PASTORAL REFERENCE LETTER

We are currently receiving a large number of requests for pastoral reference letters from candidates applying to teach in the Catholic school system. Please be reminded that a pastoral reference letter is an objective and honest reflection of the pastor's knowledge of the candidate's understanding of the Catholic faith and doctrine, participation in the sacramental life of the Church, and involvement in the parish. I encourage all those intending to request a pastoral reference letter to actively participate in parish life by donating their time and talents in service to the community.

ENGAGED COUPLES WHO WANT TO MARRY AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

"Dear Father, we just got engaged! What should we do to get married at Immaculate Conception Parish?"

Congratulations! I am delighted that you have chosen to consecrate your love for one another in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. If at least one of you is Catholic and a member of our parish, we recommend contacting the parish one year in advance of your planned wedding date to meet with the pastor and discuss the details. Adequate time is necessary to fulfill the requirements for marriage preparation.

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Eugene Chianain

Upcoming Baptisms

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



Mia Pagnani

Congratulations to their parents and godparents.

Information Regarding the Jubilee Year

How to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence

For those able to make a pilgrimage to one of the Jubilee churches in Rome, that is certainly an option. Otherwise, there are nine Holy Doors in the Archdiocese of Toronto. Going through one of these Holy Doors is a spiritual journey that shows, as the Holy Father said, "the deep desire for true conversion."

In addition to passing through a Holy Door, each pilgrim is to:

1. receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation,
2. receive the Holy Eucharist while reflecting on God's great gift of mercy,
3. make a profession of faith (recite either the Apostles' or the Nicene Creed), and
4. pray for the Holy Father and for his intentions (an Our Father and a Hail Mary are recommended).

For those who are elderly, confined and the ill, Pope Francis said that they may obtain the indulgence:

1. by "living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial" and
2. by receiving the Eucharist or by attending Mass and community prayer, "even through the various means of communication" (for instance, a Mass offered on television).

Indulgences may be obtained for the dead by the carrying out of these same acts by the Faithful with the intention of offering the indulgence for someone who is deceased.

And finally, **for all Catholics**, this jubilee indulgence may also be obtained when a member of the Faithful personally performs a spiritual or corporal work of mercy

Source: Archdiocese of Toronto

Pilgrimage to St. Padre Pio Parish

As part of the Jubilee celebrations, our parish will be organizing a pilgrimage to St. Padre Pio Parish – one of Holy Doors in the Archdiocese of Toronto – on **Thursday May 8, 2025 at 7pm**. Further details to follow in the coming weeks. Mark this date in your calendars.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday March 31

7pm	Anna Palermo
8pm	Giuseppe Zambito

Tuesday April 1

7pm	Alida Iacobucci
8pm	Loreto & Maddalena DeGasperis

Wednesday April 2

7pm	Peter Mantione
8pm	Guido Meschino

Thursday April 3

7pm

Friday April 4

7pm	English Mass & Stations of the Cross
8:15pm	Via Crucis

Friends of Fr. Monti Movie Night

The Friends of Fr. Luigi Monti would like to invite everyone to a screening of "The Passion of Christ" in the church hall on **Friday, April 4, 2025 at 7:00pm**. Tickets are being sold in the parish office for \$10 including popcorn, water and coffee along with an entry into our door prize raffle for a \$100 Walmart Gift Card. Pizza and pop will be sold at the event along with tickets for a 50/50. Doors will open at 6:30pm.

2025 Golf Tournament

The 18th Immaculate Conception Parish Charity Golf Tournament will be held on **Thursday June 5, 2025 at Glen Eagle Golf Club**.

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 registration fee is \$75.

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.

Lenten Confessions

Our priests will be available for confessions on **Thursday April 3, 2025 from 2-6pm**.