



# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor  
Deacon Don Roberts  
Deacon Richard Te  
Melinda Mayo, Parish Secretary  
Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper

## New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Please register by filling out a form available at the back of the church or online.

## Sacrament of Baptism

The desire for Baptism for a child must be accompanied by a very serious commitment to raise the child within the Catholic faith community and to educate the child in the truths of the church. An essential part of the commitment is regular attendance at Sunday Mass. Baptisms are held on the 4th Sunday of every month. Please contact the parish office for a Baptismal package.

## Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning to be married should contact the parish one year in advance. They must also attend a Marriage Preparation Course prior to entering marriage. If either party has previously gone through any form of civil divorce or religious marriage with another person, please notify the priest as soon as possible as the priest is not permitted to set a wedding date until the Bishop's Office has been contacted.

## Sacrament of the Sick

In this Sacrament we celebrate Christ's healing presence among us today. If you, a relative or friend, require this Sacrament at home or nursing home, please call the parish office. For your spiritual needs during a hospital stay, the Archdiocese of Toronto has assigned a full time Roman Catholic Chaplain to each of the two Mississauga hospitals. For the Chaplain, speak to the Nurses' Desk or call the Spiritual Care Office.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM  
Every 2nd & 4th Friday: 7:30 PM  
(or by appointment)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Daily: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

## MASS

Sunday Eucharist  
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM (fulfills the Sunday obligation)  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM & 12:30 PM  
*Children's Liturgy at: 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM Mass*

*Weekday Eucharist*  
Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays 7:00 PM  
Tuesdays / Thursdays 8:00 AM

\* Morning Prayer / Evening Prayer  
(One half hour before Mass)

## DEVOTIONS

*Holy Hour*  
Fridays (excluding holidays) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

*Rosary & Our Lady of Perpetual Help*  
Mondays 6:30 PM

*Divine Mercy*  
Fridays (excluding holidays) 3:00 PM

## PARISH LIFE

Legion of Mary (Wed 7:30 PM) 905-822-8132  
Knights of Columbus (Mike Genua) 416-804-3457  
Social Committee 905-822-8132  
Ministry of Consolation & Hope 905-822-8132 ext. 3  
RCIA 905-822-8132 ext. 4  
St. Vincent de Paul 905-822-8132 ext. 5  
J.O.Y. Social Club joysocialclub@st-ignatius-loyola.com  
Catholic Cemeteries 416-733-8544  
Charismatic Prayer Group 905-822-8132 Ext. 3  
(Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.)

## SCHOOLS

St. Francis of Assisi 905-822-3183  
St. Margaret of Scotland 905-820-5115  
Christ the King 905-569-0220

# SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 19, 2017

**“Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect”**



If someone insults you or tries to take advantage of you, how do you respond? Do you repay in kind? Jesus approached the question of just retribution with a surprising revelation of God’s intention for how we should treat others, especially those who mistreat us. When Jesus spoke about God’s law, he did something no one had done before. He gave a new standard based not just on the requirements of justice - giving each their due – but based on the law of grace and love. Jesus knew the law and it’s intentions better than any jurist or legal expert could imagine. He quoted from the oldest recorded law in the world: *If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye,*

*tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe* (Exodus 21:23-25). Such a law today seems cruel, but it was meant to limit vengeance as a first step towards mercy. This law was not normally taken literally but served as a guide for a judge in court for assessing punishment and penalty (see Deuteronomy 19:18). Jesus does something quite remarkable. He transforms the law of mercy with grace and loving kindness. Jesus also makes clear that there is no room for retaliation. We must not only avoid returning evil for evil, but we must seek the good of those who wish us ill.

What makes Christians different from others and what makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is **grace** – treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated – with loving kindness and mercy. Our love for others, even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us, must be marked by the same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us. It is easier to show kindness and mercy when we can expect to benefit from doing so. How much harder is it when we can expect nothing in return. Our prayer for those who do us ill both breaks the power of revenge and releases the power of love to do good in the face of evil. How can we possibly love those who cause us harm or ill-will? With God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who believe and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and grief. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good.

Was Jesus exaggerating when he said we must be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect? The original meaning of “perfect” in Aramaic is “completeness” or “wholeness” - not lacking in what is essential. God gives us every good gift in Jesus Christ so that we may not lack anything we need to do His will and to live as sons and daughters (2 Peter 1:3). He knows our weakness and sinfulness better than we do. And he assures us of his love, mercy and grace to follow in his ways. Do you want to grow in your love for God and for your neighbour? Ask the Holy Spirit to change and transform you in the image of the Father that you may walk in the joy and freedom.

## COUNTDOWN TO LENT

On March the first we begin the Holy Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday formally inaugurates this holy season of spiritual growth as we receive ashes on our foreheads and hear the words “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”. I invite you to heed the Lord’s words during Lent: “Return to me with all your heart”. One of the highlights of our Lenten season here at St. Francis of Assisi will be the Mission preached by Fr. Fred Mazarella, OFM. Please mark your calendars (March 11-15) and stay tuned for more details. May this Lent be a time of spiritual growth for all of us so that, with hearts renewed, we may celebrate Easter with great joy.

*Fr. Bernard*

## PARISH LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Mark your calendars! Beginning Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, St. Francis of Assisi Prayer Group will be hosting our annual Parish Life in the Spirit Seminars. The seminars will start at 7:30 in the Parish hall and run for six weeks, ending just before Holy Week. More announcements are to follow as we come closer to the event. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish office or speak with Deacon Don after Mass.

### DON'T FORGET

If you have a change of address or telephone number, please call the Office at 905-822-8132.

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 – 7:00 P.M.**

*Intention Available*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 – 8:00 A.M.**

+ Tom & Dean McMullen

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – 7:00 P.M.**

*Intention Available*

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – 8:00 A.M.**

In reparation for offences committed against the Most Holy Eucharist

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – 7:00 P.M.**

*Intention Available*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 – VIGIL MASS**

5:00 P.M. *Intention Available*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 – EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

8:00 A.M. S.I. Parish Community

9:30 A.M. *Intention Available*

11:00 A.M. *Intention Available*

12:30 P.M. + Jose and Lourdes Jayme  
S.I. Forrest Family  
S.I. Benson Nguyen

## Dynamic Women of Faith Conference and Calling all Girls

Dynamic Women of Faith is holding two events. The first is Catholic Women's Conference which is on March 25, 2017. There will be a number of speakers and His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins will celebrate the opening Mass. The second is Calling All Girls on March 24, 2017. This is an evening of short, high powered talks for mothers and daughters. For further information on these events go to [www.dynamicwomenfaith.com](http://www.dynamicwomenfaith.com)

## 25th Annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally Saturday, March 4 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Metro Toronto Convention Centre 255 Front St. W., Toronto

Join us for the largest single-day Catholic event in Canada! Hear inspired testimonies and talks by Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck and keynote guest speaker Bishop Scott McCaig. There will be a Eucharistic Adoration procession and Holy Mass with Cardinal Thomas Collins. There will also be a separate youth event (13-18 years) with great music, dynamic talks, inspirational skits, Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass with Bishop Scott.  
[www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca](http://www.lift-jesus-higher-rally.ca)

### Income Tax Receipts

We thank you for your contributions to the Church in 2016 and advise you that income tax receipts are available in the basement of the church

### Rosary Apostolate

The Rosary Apostolate in the Schools is seeking volunteers who have great devotion to the Mother of God and who are willing to visit our elementary schools to pray the Rosary with the children once a month for a total of 8 days in the year. Training and screening will be provided. If you are interested please contact the Parish office.

### Lenten Retreat with Fr. Jacques Philippe

Fr. Jacques Philippe is a world-renowned spiritual leader and author who works as a Spiritual Director and a preacher of retreats. This spiritual retreat will include Mass, spiritual talks, time for prayer and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It takes place at the Newman Centre in Toronto on Friday March 3 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information please email [info@st-josephsworkshop.com](mailto:info@st-josephsworkshop.com)

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

March 17-19 is a weekend of discovery for a lifetime of love! Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a weekend for couples to spend together. It allows couples time to take a fresh look at their marriage and to re-discover themselves as individuals and as a couple. The weekend format helps couples to communicate openly and honestly without group sharing, therapy or marriage counselling. For more information contact Gerard & Marge at 905-792-1925 or go to [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org).

### Retreat Day for Ministers of Care Finding Jesus in Those Who Suffer

On Saturday March 25, 2017, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Retreat Day for Ministers of Care will take place at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 101 Malta Ave, Brampton. Contemplate the face of Jesus in those who suffer. Time for personal reflection, group sharing, fellowship and Mass with Cardinal Thomas Collins. This retreat is intended for new or experienced ministers of care seeking ongoing formation in caring ministry. Pre-registration and payment required by March 20, 2017. For more information contact Sally Amaral, Office of Formation and Discipleship 416-721-3741 or email at [samaral@archtoronto.org](mailto:samaral@archtoronto.org).

*"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." - St. Catherine of Sienna*

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