

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

2473 Thorn Lodge Dr., Mississauga, ON L5K 1K8

Tel: (905) 822-8132 Fax: (905) 822-6620 [www.st-francisofassisi.ca](http://www.st-francisofassisi.ca)

## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor

Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te

Emily Nail, Youth Coordinator Mabel Mendes Parish Secretary Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper

## *Let us be thankful ...*

*Let us be thankful for  
the blessings we receive.*

*Let us be thoughtful of others.*

*Let us remember dear and close friends.*

*Let us have faith in tomorrow.*

*Let us live life as a Golden Rule.*

*Let us find sunlight through the clouds.*

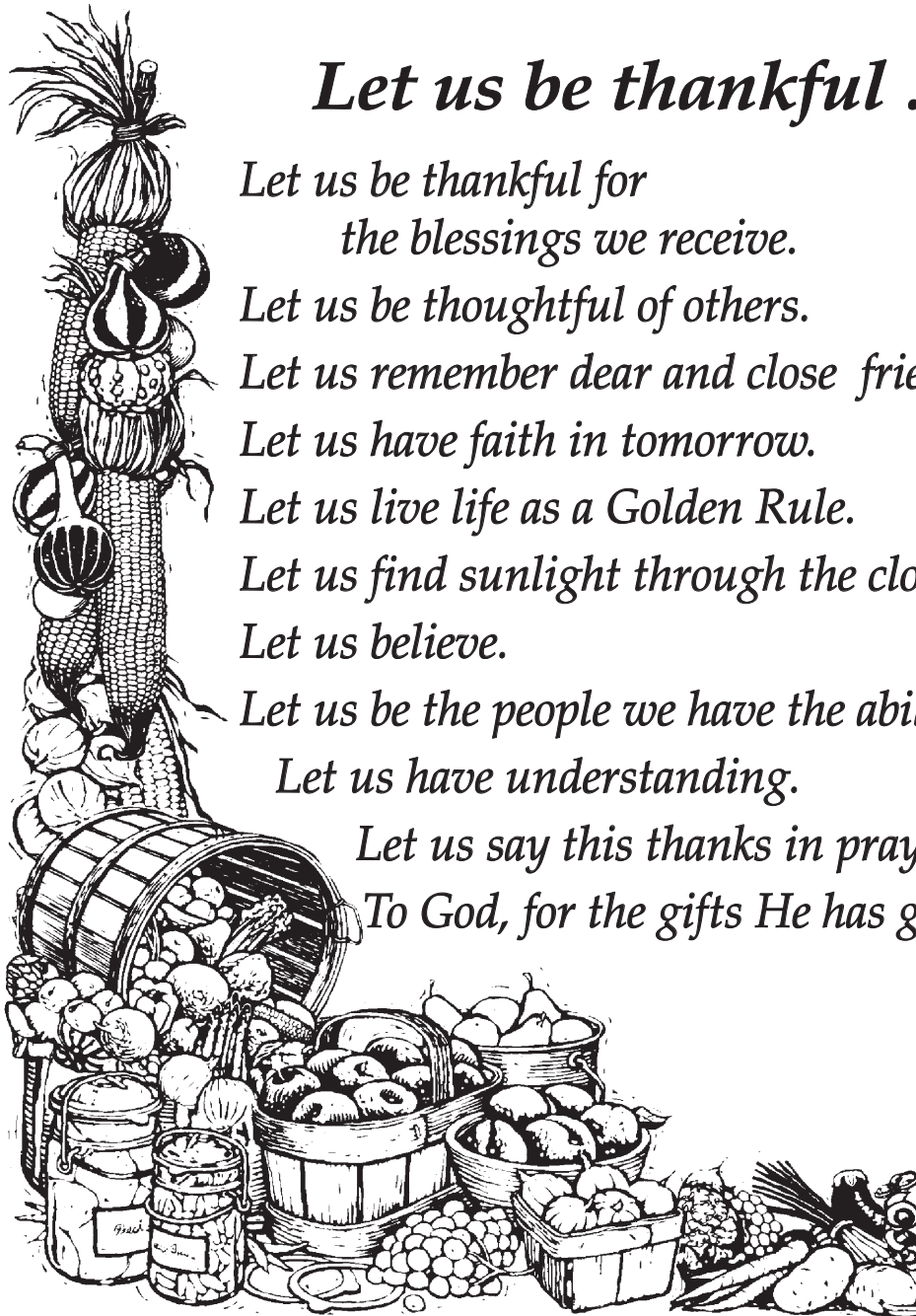
*Let us believe.*

*Let us be the people we have the ability to be.*

*Let us have understanding.*

*Let us say this thanks in prayer*

*To God, for the gifts He has given.*





# TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 9, 2016

## "He fell at Jesus' feet giving thanks"



What can adversity teach us about the blessing of thanksgiving and the healing power of love and mercy? The Book of Proverbs states: *A friend loves at all times; and a brother is born for adversity* (Proverbs 17:17). When adversity strikes you find out who truly is your brother, sister, and friend. The Gospel records an unusual encounter between two peoples who had been divided for centuries. The Jews and Samaritans had no dealings with one another even though Samaria was located in the central part of Judea. Both peoples were openly hostile whenever their paths crossed. In this Gospel narrative, we see one rare exception - a Samaritan leper in company with nine Jewish lepers. Sometimes adversity forces people to drop their barriers or to forget their prejudices. When this band of Jewish and Samaritan lepers saw Jesus, they made a bold request. They didn't ask for healing, but instead asked for mercy.

### Mercy is heartfelt sorrow at another's misfortune

The word mercy literally means "sorrowful at heart". But mercy is something more than compassion, or heartfelt sorrow at another's misfortune. Compassion empathizes with the sufferer. But mercy goes further - it removes suffering. A merciful person shares in another's misfortune and suffering as if it were his or her own. And such a person will do everything in his or her power to dispel that misery.

Mercy is also connected with justice. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), a great teacher and scripture scholar, said that mercy "*does not destroy justice, but is a certain kind of fulfillment of justice. Mercy without justice is the mother of dissolution; (and) justice without mercy is cruelty.*" Pardon without repentance negates justice. God's mercy brings healing of mind, heart, and body

So what is the significance of these ten lepers asking for mercy? They know they are in need of healing, not just physical, but spiritual healing as well. They approach Jesus with contrition and faith because they believe that he can release the burden of guilt and suffering and make restoration of body and soul possible. Their request for mercy is both a plea for pardon and release from suffering. Jesus gives mercy to all who ask with faith and contrition.

Why did only one leper out of ten return to show gratitude? Gratefulness, another word which expresses gratitude of heart and a thankful disposition, is related to grace - which means *the release of loveliness*. Gratitude is the homage of the heart which responds with graciousness in expressing an act of thanksgiving. The Samaritan approached Jesus reverently and gave praise to God.

### Ingratitude leads to lack of love and kindness, and intolerance towards others

If we do not recognize and appreciate the mercy and help shown to us we will be ungrateful and unkind towards others. Ingratitude is forgetfulness or a poor return for kindness received. Ingratitude easily leads to lack of charity and intolerance towards others, as well as to other vices, such as complaining, grumbling, discontentment, pride, and presumption. How often have we been ungrateful to our parents, pastors, teachers, and neighbors? Do you express gratitude to God for his abundant help and mercy towards you and are you gracious, kind, and merciful towards your neighbor in their time of need and support?

*"Lord Jesus, may I never fail to recognize your loving kindness and mercy towards me. Fill my heart with compassion and thanksgiving, and free me from ingratitude and discontentment. Help me to count my blessings with a grateful heart and to give thanks in all circumstances."*

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that Fr. Bernard will be attending an Archdiocesan Priests' Seminar from October 24 – 27 inclusive, and therefore Holy Mass will not be celebrated here at St. Francis of Assisi on these days.

### WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

Women's Fall Retreat at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga for the weekend of October 21-23. The theme for this retreat will be "*The Road to God is Mercy*", preached by the Centre Team. For further information or registration please call 905.278.5229.



## Mass for the Intentions Week

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 – 7:00 P.M.

*Intention Available*

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 – 8:00 A.M.

*Intention Available*

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12 – 7:00 P.M.

*Intention Available*

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 – 8:00 A.M.

*Intention Available*

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 – 7:00 P.M.

*Intention Available*

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

### VIGIL MASS FOR 29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 5:00 P.M.

S.I. Parish Community

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 – 29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 a.m. + Joao Dos Santos

9:30 a.m. + Teresa Babiarz

+ Josef Niedzwiedz

+ Siu Lan Wan & Kwong Yu

11:00 a.m. + Angelo & Buenita Angco

12:30 p.m. + Neil Shevlen

## THANK YOU...

The Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Council #8668 would like to thank all parishioners who supported the **Roses for Life** campaign. Through your generosity, a cheque for \$1200.00 will be presented to Anna Jushkevich from Birthright Mississauga.



**St. Christopher Parish** is hosting **Dr. Moira McQueen**, Executive Director of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute, on Sundays, October 16, 23 & 30 at 3:00 p.m. Dr. McQueen will be speaking on the Principals of Catholic Morality and the two Papal Encyclicals. All are welcome.



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*“The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.”*

*Psalms 98*

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

If you believe that you are being called to become Catholic, please join us for evenings of Catholic teaching and spiritual formation which are designed to lead to the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. This process begins on **Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to welcome inquirers. If you are interested, please call the parish office (905) 822-8132, Ext. 3, and leave your name and telephone number.



## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COUPLES BRIDGE CLUB

We are starting a new year of Couples Bridge and are looking for new members. Any couple, (mixed, two women or two men) are invited to join. If interested, please call Jo Guild at 905.823.1973.



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BUNDLE SUNDAY

There will be no Bundle Sunday at St. Francis of Assisi Parish this fall. A list of Parishes having a Bundle Sunday is posted on the bulletin board.



## Supporting those entering the priesthood ...



*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18)*

In the Archdiocese of Toronto, we are fortunate to have priests in most of our parishes, in some cases supported by an associate pastor and/or a Deacon. Retired clergy often help out by celebrating Mass when there is a need for assistance. In many parts of the world, there is not always a priest available to say Mass each weekend. In some Dioceses in India or Africa, parishes have many mission churches that they visit on a regular basis, but not necessarily every week.

Matthew Gunnarson, a second year student at St. Augustine's Seminary, notes 'This year and last I had the privilege of speaking at parishes during the Sunday Masses about ShareLife. I told them we would not be able to run the seminary without your generous support of St. Augustine's. This was my way of saying thank you to ShareLife. I truly appreciate all you do for us.'

Your support of ShareLife is helping to educate seminarians and candidates for the Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Toronto, who will one day carry out their ministry parishes. Currently, there are 65 seminarians and students in formation either at St. Augustine's Seminary or Serra House, with another 22 individuals participating in the Diaconate program.

Thank you for providing for the education of future clergy in our archdiocese!



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