



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor
Deacon Don Roberts
Deacon Richard Te
Emily Nail, Youth Coordinator
Mabel Mendes, 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)

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
First Fridays (excluding holidays) 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

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
Youth Group	905-822-8132 ext. 6
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
Iona Catholic Secondary	905-823-0136

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 11, 2016

"Your brother was lost and is found"



If you lost something of great value and importance to you, wouldn't your search for it until you found it? The joy of finding a lost loved one, a precious member of your fold, and your hard earned savings to feed your hungry family are vivid illustrations which Jesus uses to describe what God's kingdom is like. God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone. He earnestly searches for the lost until they are restored and

joyfully united with the whole community of heaven. Jesus told these three parables right after the scribes and Pharisees expressed dismay with Jesus' close association with people of bad reputation.

Finding and restoring what has been lost

Why were many tax collectors and sinners drawn to Jesus? Jesus offered them forgiveness, mercy and healing, and the promise of full restoration with God the Father and the whole society of heaven - God's kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy. When the Pharisees began to question Jesus' motive and practice of associating with sinners of ill-repute, Jesus responds by giving them a three-fold lesson in the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son.

What is the point of Jesus' story about a lost sheep and a lost coin? In Jesus' time, shepherds normally counted their sheep at the end of the day to make sure all were accounted for. Since sheep by their very nature are very social, an isolated sheep can quickly become bewildered and even neurotic, and become easy prey for wolves and lions. The shepherd's grief and anxiety is turned to joy when he finds the lost sheep and restores it to the fold.

Restoring the lost to the community of faith

Both the shepherd and the housewife "search until what they have lost is found." Their perseverance pays off. They both instinctively share their joy with the whole community. The poor are particularly good at sharing in one another's sorrows and joys. What was new in Jesus' teaching was the insistence that lost sinners must be sought out and not merely mourned for their separation from God and the community of the just. God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone, but desires that all be saved and restored to fellowship with him. That is why the whole community of heaven rejoices when one sinner is found and restored to fellowship with God. Seekers of the lost are much needed today. Do you persistently pray and seek after those you know who have lost their way to God?

The father's extravagant love and mercy

What is the main point or focus of the parable of the lost (prodigal) son? Jesus contrasts the father's merciful love with the eldest son's harsh rejection of his errant brother and his refusal to join his father in welcoming his brother back home. The parable also contrasts mercy and forgiveness with its opposite - an unwillingness to forgive and be reconciled. The refusal of the eldest son to forgive turns into contempt and pride. And his resentment leads to his isolation and estrangement from the community of forgiven sinners.

In this parable Jesus gives a vivid picture of God and what God is like. God is truly generous, kind, and forgiving towards us. He does not lose hope or give up when we stray from him and his commandments. He searches our hearts to lead us in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:1, 23-24). And he always rejoices in finding the lost and welcoming them home. Do you know the joy of the heavenly Father who welcomes you home to his kingdom of everlasting righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit?

"Lord Jesus, may your light dispel the darkness of sin, deception, and ignorance, so that all who are lost or confused may find their way to the Father's home and be united with him in a bond of peace and friendship. Transform my heart with your merciful love that I may point many others to the good news of joy and new life which you offer to all who put their trust in you, the Good Shepherd and Savior of the world."

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

As we begin a new school year, I would like to encourage parents to be faithful to their promise to God (at the baptism of your child) to raise your child in the Catholic religion. The canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta is a reminder to us that God is calling all of us to be saints. We must not buy into the cultural misconception that no matter how we live, "everyone goes to heaven" when they die. It is our daily faithfulness to Jesus Christ and His Church that allows us to enter eternal life.

Parents of children in Grade Two and up are invited to consider the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for their children. These sacraments are proper to the Catholic Church, NOT the school system. If you would like to enroll your child in the preparation programme, please call the parish office at (905) 822-8132 extension 3 and register for a meeting with Fr. Bernard. For your convenience, these meetings are scheduled on Saturday mornings and will last about one hour. As these meetings are for parents only, kindly do not bring your child to the meeting. The deadline for registering for a meeting is September 30, 2016.

Mass for the Intentions Week

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 – 7:00 P.M.

S.I. Fr. Tim Hanley

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – 8:00 A.M.

+ Scarlett Johnston

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 – 8:00 A.M.

Intention Available

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 – 7:00 P.M.

Intention Available

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

VIGIL MASS FOR 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 5:00 P.M.

S.I. Fr. Lester Mendonca

+ Baby Lily Liston

S.I. Kevin Colaco

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 a.m. S.I. Parish Community

9:30 a.m. + James O'Neill

+ Dorotea Di Benedetto

11:00 a.m. S.I. Philippine Choral Society of Mississauga

12:30 p.m. + Rufino Gagatam

+ Hilaria Sotes Rayon

+ Simplicio Rayon

The Beauty of Mercy: Pope Francis and Confession

To support your celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we recommend a free new resource prepared by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. *"The Beauty of Mercy: Pope Francis and Confession"* is a collection of quotations on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in four topics: (1) God never tires of forgiving us through Jesus (2) Who entrusted to Bishops and their Priests the ministry of forgiveness of sins (3) Through the accompanying ministry of Confessors, (4) we may once again recognize the Sacrament of Confession and Penance as central to our experience of the grandeur of God's infinite mercy.

For more support, see additional resources and our 2016-2017 programs at

www.archtoronto.org/discipleship/Documents/OFD_Services_2016-2017.pdf



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD

Liturgy of the Word for Children resumes Sunday, September 18 at the 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. All children ages 4 through 8 are invited to participate. To help the children get the most out of this time, we thank you for respecting the minimum age requirement.

Welcome Back!

OPENING SCHOOL MASSES

St. Margaret of Scotland School

September 19, 2016 – 8:45 a.m. - School

St. Francis of Assisi School

September 23, 2016 at 9 a.m. - Church

Christ the King School

September 26, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. - School



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 will begin at the end of September to welcome inquirers. Come and join us, and grow in your love and knowledge of God and of the Catholic Church. If you are interested, please call the parish office (905) 822-8132, Ext. 3, and leave your name and telephone number. **SPONSORS** are also needed and if you are willing to share your faith and spend time with these inquirers please leave your name and telephone number at the parish office and we will contact you.



2016 ACTS RETREATS

St. Francis of Assisi is this year's parish for the upcoming 3-day retreats at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga.

A – Adoration – God's Call, your acceptance and answer
C – Community – love and caring for each other
T – Theology – "studying" through scripture and our faith

S – Service – to God and his people
Come to renew yourself spiritually, to strengthen your Faith and to apply it to your daily life.

Women: October 27 – 30

Men: November 10 – 13

Register at the Parish Office or call Queen of Apostles at 905.278.5229 or Email: qoa.ca



SAVE THE DATE - BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, our patron Saint, is on October 4th, 2016. Our annual blessing of our furry friends will take place on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**, after the 5 p.m. Mass. in the back of the church parking lot. There will be a barbecue to follow, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.



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