# 98 - 3

# St. Mary Immaculate Parish

Established in 1857

10295 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 3B9 Tel: (905) 884-1784 Fax: (905) 884-1883 E-mail: smirh@bellnet.ca www.smirh.com Office Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm



Pastor: Rev. Fr. Robert Reddy Associate Pastor: Rev. Fr. Marco Testa In Residence: Rev. Fr. Jim Adams Deacon: Deacon Joseph D'Amico Pastoral Worker: Michelle Gregory

Secretary: Ida Foch

Hospital Visitations: Anne Roman

Knights of Columbus: Steven Lozinski & Sandy Gerolimon

Catholic Women's League: Boots Montano

CWL meets every 2nd Tuesday after 7:00 p.m. Mass Legion of Mary: meets every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

St. Vincent De Paul: Louise Wilson,

Daniella Ballan 905-717-9827

RCIA: Flavia Silano & Murielle Poirier Sunday School: Elizabeth Follows

Atrium: Anita Markle, Lily McCullough, Marie Lehman

Usher: Roland Leandrosz Homebound: Mary Barry Nursing Home: Peggy Paterson

Parish Volunteer Screening: Antoinette Stirling

Italian Prayer Group: Adele Cremonese & Rosa Marsella

Italian Pastoral Care Giver: Antonia Ciuffetta Italian Committee: Antonietta Miniaci



### **Sunday Masses:**

Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 8:00 am

9:30 am (Italian)

11:00 am 12:30 pm 4:30 pm

Lauds: Monday to Friday: 7:30 am

### Weekday Masses:

Monday to Friday: 8:00 am Friday: 7:00 pm Saturday: 8:30 am

#### Confession:

Saturday: 4:00 to 5:00 pm Sunday: 4:00 to 4:30 pm

Baptismal Class: 2nd Sunday at 2:00 pm

### Baptism:

2nd & 4th Saturday at 10:00 am

#### Marriage:

Contact the priest one year in advance

Friday Exposition & Adoration: 12:00 pm to 6:50 pm

**Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help:** 8:30 am Saturday Mass **Two Hearts Rosary Prayer Group:** Every Wednesday 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Italian Prayer Group: Every Wednesday at 7:00 pm

#### **Schools**

 St. Anne
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 905-884-0223

 St. Mary Immaculate
 905-884-5381
 Fr. Henri Nouwen
 905-884-8086

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 905-770-8713
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#### THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

.... the Baptism of the Lord. It is the Feast which, on the first Sunday after the Epiphany, concludes the Christmas Season with the Lord's manifestation at the River Jordan.

According to the account of the Evangelist Matthew (3:13-17), Jesus came from Galilee to the River Jordan to be baptized by John; indeed people were flocking from all over Palestine to hear the preaching of this great Prophet and the proclamation of the coming of the Kingdom of God and to receive Baptism, that is, to submit to that sign of penance which calls for conversion from sin.

Although it was called "Baptism" it did not have the sacramental value of the rite we are celebrating today; as you well know, it was actually with his death and Resurrection that Jesus instituted the sacraments and caused the Church to be born. What John administered was a penitential act, a gesture of humility to God that invited a new beginning: by immersing themselves in the water, penitents recognized that they had sinned, begged God for purification from their sins and were asked to change wrong behaviour, dying in the water, as it were, and rising from it to new life.

For this reason, when John the Baptist saw Jesus who had come to be baptized queuing with sinners He was amazed; recognizing Him as the Messiah, the Holy One of God, the One who is without sin, John expressed his consternation: he, the Baptist, would himself have liked to be baptized by Jesus. But Jesus urged him not to put up any resistance, to agree to do this act, to do what is fitting "to fulfil all righteousness". With these words Jesus showed that He had come into the world to do the will of the One who had sent Him, to carry out all that the Father would ask of Him. It was in order to obey the Father that He accepted to be made man. This act reveals, first of all, who Jesus is: He is the Son of God, true God as the Father; He is the One who "humbled Himself" to make Himself one of us, the One who was made man and who accepted to humble Himself unto death on a cross (cf. Phil 2:7).

The Baptism of Jesus, which we are commemorating today, fits into this logic of humility and solidarity: it is the action of the One who wanted to make Himself one of us in everything and who truly joined the line of sinners; He, who knew no sin, let Himself be treated as a sinner (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), to take upon His shoulders the burden of the sin of all humanity, including our own sin. He is the "servant" of Yahweh of whom the Prophet Isaiah spoke in the First Reading (cf. 42:1). His humility is dictated by the desire to establish full communion with humanity, by the desire to bring about true solidarity with man and with His human condition.

Jesus' action anticipates the Cross, His acceptance of death for man's sins. This act of

abasement, by which Jesus wanted to comply totally with the loving plan of the Father and to conform Himself with us, expresses the full harmony of will and intentions that exists between the Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. For this act of love, the Spirit of God revealed Himself and descended to alight upon Jesus as a dove, and at that moment the love which unites Jesus to the Father was witnessed to all who were present at the Baptism by a voice from Heaven that everyone heard.

The Father reveals openly to human beings, to us, the profound communion that binds Him to the Son: the voice that resounds from on high testifies that Jesus is obedient to the Father in all things and that this obedience is an expression of the love that unites them to each other.

Therefore the Father delights in Jesus, for He recognizes in the Son's behaviour the wish to obey His will in all things: "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I Am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). And these words of the Father also allude, in advance, to the victory of the Resurrection and tell us how we must live in order to please the Father, by behaving like Jesus....

Dear friends, Baptism is the beginning of the spiritual life which finds its fullness in the Church. At the favourable moment of the sacrament, while the ecclesial community is praying and entrusting to God a new son or daughter, parents and godparents commit themselves to welcoming the newly baptized, sustaining them in Christian formation and education. **This is a great responsibility which comes from a great gift!** Therefore, I desire to encourage all the faithful to rediscover the beauty of being baptized and of belonging to the large family of God, and to give a joyful witness of their faith so that this faith may produce fruits of good and harmony.

Let us ask this through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, to whom we entrust the parents who are preparing for their children's Baptism, as well as the catechists.

(Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 9 January 2011)

FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT begins at 3:00 p.m. with the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Eucharistic Holy Hour will begin at 6:00 p.m. with Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Holy Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. In order for the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed at least two adorers should be present in the Church at all times.

#### THE SANCTUARY LAMPS THIS WEEK BURN:

In Thanksgiving to Our Lord Jesus Christ +Najebeh Salim Zakhem Isa

# **HANDMADE ROSARIES (Brigittine or Dominican)** are available for purchase from the Parish Office.

#### THE SACRED LITURGY THIS WEEK

**Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Anthony Abbot** St. Anthony is considered to be the father of Monasticism. He was born in Egypt around the year 250. After the death of his parents, he distributed his property to the poor, and beginning a life of penance, withdrew into solitude. He attracted disciples and laboured on behalf of the Church. He died in 356.

**2013-2014 SUNDAY MISSALS** are available from the parish office. Cost: \$5.00. The Missals will also be on sale next weekend at the Church entrance.

**TWO HEARTS ROSARY PRAYER GROUP** invites everyone to pray the 4 mysteries of the Rosary on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Church.

**ST. BENEDICT PRAYER BOOK** Published by Downside Abbey in England, this prayer book contains an abridged version of morning (Lauds) and evening prayer (Vespers) as well as night prayer (Compline). This is an excellent prayer book for those who would like to deepen their prayer life and begin to pray in a serious manner. Hardbound. \$21. Endorsed and recommended by Fr. Marco. To order, please call the parish office.

2014 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES are ready to be picked up in the Church hall. Envelopes are organized numerically. For the parishioners who put their donations in previous year's envelopes, plain envelope and/or use loose cheques week after week, please help us record your donation in our accounting system by getting a box of envelopes which will be your envelope number to use. If your box is not there, or if you are new to the parish and wish to use envelopes, please call the Parish Office. Please do not use your old envelopes as they may have been reassigned. Please use 2014 envelopes in 2014. Church support is a precept of the Church undertaken with gratitude to God for His countless blessings.

**ATTENTION ALL CWL MEMBERS AND LADIES OF THE PARISH!** the first CWL General Meeting is on Tuesday, January 14, at 7:00 p.m. Come and join us in Prayer and Action and and be a part of this vibrant Ministry in our Parish community.

**PROJECT RACHEL** Hurting as a result of an abortion? You are not alone, We can help. Healing is possible. Together we can make a new beginning. Email: <a href="mailto:info@stmarysrefuge.org">info@stmarysrefuge.org</a> or call 416-629-8264. **Private and Confidential.** Retreat date: Oct. 18-20.

Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.

-St. Charles Borromeo

THE EXAMPLE OF LU MONFERRATO The little village of Lu, northern Italy, with only a few thousand inhabitants, is in a rural area 90 kilometers east of Turin. It would still be unknown to this day if, in the year 1881, the family mothers of Lu had not made a decision that had "serious consequences". deepest desire of many of these mothers was for one of their sons to become a priest or for a daughter to place her life completely in God's service. Under the direction of their parish priest, Msgr. Alessandro Canora, they gathered every Tuesday for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, asking the Lord for vocations. They received Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month with the same intention. After Mass, all the mothers prayed a particular prayer together imploring for vocations to the priesthood. Through the trusting prayer of these mothers and the openness of the other parents, an atmosphere of deep joy and Christian piety developed in the families, making it much easier for the children to recognize their vocations. Did the Lord not say, "Many are called, but few are chosen" (Mt 22:14)? In other words, many are called, but only a few respond to that call. No one expected that God would hear the prayers of these mothers in such an astounding way. From the tiny village of Lu came 323 vocations! 152 priests (diocesan and religious), and 171 nuns belonging to 41 different congregations. Every ten years, the priests and sisters born in Lu come together from all around the world. Fr. Mario Meda, the long-serving parish priest of Lu, explained that this reunion is a true celebration, a feast of thanksgiving to God who has done such great things for Lu. The prayer that the mothers of Lu prayed was short, simple, and deep: "0 God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest! Amen.

PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE May 5-19, 2014. Join us for an intensely Catholic, fervently Marian, and deeply prayerful pilgrimage to France with our spiritual guide Father Neil J. Roy, S.T.L., Ph.D. Holy Mass will be celebrated daily. Holy sites on the itinerary include: Toulouse (St Thomas Aquinas), Ars (St Jean Marie Vianney), Paray-le-Monial (St Margaret Mary, Nevers (St Bernadette), Tours (Holy Face), St. Laurent-sur-Sevre (St. Louis de Montfort), the Vendée area (Martyrs of the French Revolution), St. Anne d'Auray, Mont St. Michel, LeMans (Bd Basil Moreau), Lisieux (St Thérèse), Rouen (St Joan of Arc), Chartres, Chapel of the Miraculous Medal (St Catherine Labouré), Notre Dame Cathedral, and more. Cost: \$3090-\$3490 (depending on number of pilgrims), plus airport tax. Register early to guarantee a spot on the pilgrimage! For info, please call Maria at 1-800-565-3619 or email pearltam@rogers.com

MASS INTENTIONS		Jan. 12-18
SUN.	9:30 a.m.	+Nicola e Rosa Pileggi
		+Palmerino e Chiarina Cortes
		+Augusto Brunetta
		+Narciso Angelo e Victoria
		Marcone
		+Venera Castronovo
		+Angela Palma e Leonzio
		Donatelli
MON.	8:00 a.m.	+Giuseppe Giusti
TUE.	8:00 a.m.	+Joan Scott
WED.	8:00 a.m.	In honour of St. Joseph
<b>THURS</b>	8:00 a.m.	+Pietro Sarracini
FRI.	8:00 a.m.	+Holy Souls in Purgatory
	7:00 p.m.	In Reparation to the Sacred
		Heart of Jesus
		+Najebeh Salim Zakhem Isa
		+Deceased of Maria Gomes'
		Family
		+Herbert, Catherine & Patrick
		Paxton
SAT.	8:30 a.m.	In Reparation to the
		Immaculate Heart of Mary
		+Emilio e Antonietta Celotti
		Intentions of Giuseppe and
		Graziella Mazzobel
i.		+Francesco Caldarola

Cavallin, Joe Cinno, Alan & Carol Cook, Manuela Clement, Caterina De Grano, Thomas De Souza, Harry Dekharmenjan, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Margaret Gardiner, Jessica Gonzales, Godfrey Gosein, Carmela Harrison, Gertiudes Henriques, Andy Heutehaus, Theresa Hogan, Lawrence Howe, Elena Iacobelli, Rogelia Infante, Maria Iudiciani, Terry

Jennings, Jolanta Karabowicz, Margaret Kelly, Derek

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK: Ursula Addesi, Doris Anderson, Eugene Bomba, Matteo Burbano, Patrick Burke, Rory Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, Victoria Carli, Bruno Cassara, Andrea

Lai, Olivera Lambeta, Mary Malandrino, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Veronica Martin, Marguerite McRae, Paul Melotte, Rachelle (Joy Ann) Mendoza, George Morgan, Anthony Morse, Susan, Nino Naccarato, Lydia, Michelle Antoinette Nedvedskaya, Helen & Catherine, Myola Nunes, Rosemary Palmieri, Lisa, Domenico Pileggi, Kaliopi & Eugenia Pandelopoulou, Esther Reyes, Todd Santaguida, Werner & Lucienne Schachatsiek, Claire Schickedanz, Vincenzo Sorbara, Pat Sullivan, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Nora Waldherr, Abigail Walz, Sandra Weinholdt, Kayla Whelan.

THINKING ABOUT SEPARATION OR DIVORCE? Is your marriage or that of your relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage or do you feel helpless? Retrouvaille, a Catholic based programme, is a program highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples who have already separated or divorced. For confidential information about or to register for the livein weekend and Post sessions, call 416-281-6007 or visit the web site at <a href="https://www.torontoretrouvaille.com">www.torontoretrouvaille.com</a>

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