## 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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





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Youth Group President, Lauren Chee-Hing 905-770-6764 Friday:

St. Vincent De Paul: Louise Wilson 905-717-9827

Marriage Encounter: 905-470-9590 RCIA: Flavia Silano & Murielle Poirier Sunday School: Margaret Gerritse

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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: 9:00 am

Wednesday Italian Mass: 7:00 pm

### Confession:

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

15 minutes before each Sunday Mass. Weekdays: Appointment with the priest

### Baptism:

2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sunday at 2:00 pm

### 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:** Saturday morning at 9:00 am

Two Hearts Rosary Prayer Group: Every Wed. 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Charismatic Prayer Group: Every Friday at 7:30 pm Italian Prayer Group: Every Wednesday at 8:00 pm

#### **Schools**

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#### THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

On the first day of Lent, ashes are blessed and used to mark the heads of the faithful as a sign of penance. In the fourth century, public penitents wearing sackcloth were sprinkled with ashes as a sign of penitence. As public penance was gradually discontinued, it became customary for all the faithful to receive ashes in beginning Lenten penance as preparation for Easter.

The Holy Season of Lent began with its discipline of fasting and abstinence on Ash Wednesday, March 9th. Holy Mass and distribution of ashes at 8:00 a.m. (English); 12:00 p.m. (English); 2:00 p.m. (Tridentine (Latin)) and 7:00 p.m. (BILINGUAL - English and Italian). Lent is the yearly celebration by the Church of her corporate conversion in Jesus Christ. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and of more fervent prayer, we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery. In this preparation for the Solemn Feast of Easter, the faithful do penance.

The privileged forms of penance of our Church are fasting, almsgiving, prayers, works of mercy, and abstinence from meat. It is evangelical (Gospel) law that a follower of Christ must do penance. While the heart of penance is hatred for sin as an offence against God, external forms of penance are required to deepen and encourage the internal virtue.

All Fridays of the year are days of abstinence **from meat** but Catholics may substitute special acts of charity or piety on this day. Christian fasting obtains its full meaning when we deprive ourselves of food in order to be more open to prayer, to the needs of others, and to save money to give to the poor. Current Church discipline permits one to take a main and two lesser meals which do not equal the main meal. Mandatory fast days are Ash Wednesday and Good <u>Friday</u>, on which days one must abstain from meat and eat only one main meal. Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence and meat may not be taken on these days. The law of abstinence from meat binds those who are 14 and older; the law of fasting binds those from 18 to 59 years of age. Parents are reminded of their duty to introduce children gradually to the understanding and practice of penance. Adult example will be the greatest influence in this matter.

# THE HOLY FATHER'S 2001 LENTEN MESSAGE "You were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him." (cf. Col 2: 12) Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Lenten period, which leads us to the celebration of Holy Easter, is for the Church a most valuable and important liturgical time, in view of which I am pleased to offer a specific word in order that it may be lived with due diligence. As she awaits the definitive encounter with her Spouse in the eternal Easter, the Church community, assiduous in prayer and charitable works, intensifies her journey in purifying the spirit, so as to draw more abundantly from the Mystery of Redemption the new life in Christ the Lord (cf. Preface I of Lent).

This very life was already bestowed upon us on the day of our Baptism, when we "become sharers in Christ's death and Resurrection", and there began for us "the joyful and exulting adventure of His disciples" (Homily on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 10 January, 2010). In his Letters, St. Paul repeatedly insists on the singular communion with the Son of God that this washing brings about. The fact that, in most cases, Baptism is received in infancy highlights how it is a gift of God: no one earns eternal life through their own efforts. The mercy of God, which cancels sin and, at the same time, allows us to experience in our lives "the mind of Christ Jesus" (Phil 2: 5), is given to men and women freely. The Apostle to the Gentiles, in the Letter to the Philippians, expresses the meaning of the transformation that takes place through participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, pointing to its goal: that "I may come to know Him and the power of His resurrection, and partake of His sufferings by being molded to the pattern of His death, striving towards the goal of resurrection from the dead" (Phil 3: 10-11). Hence, Baptism is not a rite from the past, but the encounter with Christ, which informs the entire existence of the baptized, imparting divine life and calling for sincere conversion; initiated and supported by Grace, it permits the baptized to reach the adult stature of Christ.

A particular connection binds Baptism to Lent as the favorable time to experience this saving Grace. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council exhorted all of the Church's Pastors to make greater use "of the baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Sacrosanctum concilium, n. 109). In fact, the Church has always associated the Easter Vigil with the celebration of Baptism: this Sacrament realizes the great mystery in which man dies to sin, is made a sharer in the new life of the Risen Christ and receives the same Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead (cf. Rm 8: 11). This free gift must always be rekindled in each one of us, and Lent offers us a path like that of the catechumenate, which, for the Christians of the early Church, just as for catechumens today, is an irreplaceable school of faith and Christian life. Truly, they live their Baptism as an act that shapes their entire existence. (To be continued...)

**VOCATION SEEDS'** "I am the vine and you are the branches" says the Lord. Are you willing to follow and serve as a priest, or a sister or a brother or a deacon? If so, please call 416-968-0997.

COINS FOR LIFE Did you know that there have been over 3 million recorded abortions in Canada since 1969? Coins for Life, a fundraising initiative is one way of getting involved. Make Coins for Life a family project, share it with your friends, and bring the box to school and work. Please remember to pray for the unborn, and for those who have been affected by abortion. For information or if you are interested in volunteering please visit www.coinsforlife.org

PARISH MOVIE NIGHT

Fr. Steven and the Youth Group of our Parish will be showing the Alfred Hitchcock movie "I Confess" in the parish hall on Sat. March 26th at 6:15pm (right after the 5:00pm Mass). The movie is a suspense thriller & is about a priest who is accused of murder. What he learned in confession can release him from his predicament, but he is not permitted to do this. After the movie Fr. Steven will discuss the topic of confession. The movie is an 1.5 hours long. Tickets: \$5. Pizza, popcorn, pop and other snacks will be available for purchase. All proceeds are to help raise funds for the youth of our parish so they can attend World Youth Day in Spain. Remember, these Movie Nights are for all parishioners; of all ages.

**SVDP & CHURCH INCOME TAX RECEIPTS** for 2010 are ready to be picked up at the parish main entrance.

**2011 LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY** on Saturday, April 9th at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the North Bldg. of the Metro Toronto Convention Ctr. For tickets or for more info, please call 416-251-4255 or 905-270-2510 or visit www.lift-Jesus-higher-rally.org

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE** beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>, the 40 Days for Life Campaign is a prayer focused pro-life campaign that has generated measurable lifesaving results. Toronto's Campaign will be at the same location, which is "The Women's Care Clinic" at 960 Lawrence Ave., W (near Dufferin St.) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day. Participants will pray across the street from the medical building (same side as the villa Columbo). St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church is allowing us to use a 'tea room' to warm up and washrooms are available. Please join us. For info, www.40daysforlife.com/toronto. or call 416-204-9749.

#### **NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH**

St. Joseph, I, your unworthy child, greet you. You are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that I have special confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, I place all my hope of salvation in you, for you are especially powerful with God and will never abandon your faithful servants. Therefore I humbly invoke you and commend myself, with all who are dear to me and all that belong to me, to your intercession. I beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon me during life and to assist me at the hour of my death.

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: (Mention your request). Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

### 9<sup>a</sup> del tempo ordinario - 6 marzo 2011

Se la nostra fede non può essere ridotta al «dire», ad una preghiera staccata dalla vita, bisogna, tuttavia, ricordare che essa non coincide neppure con il «fare». Questo va ricordato specialmente oggi, quando tutto nella società ci porta a misurare i valori e gli avvenimenti e le persone in base al *criterio dell'efficienza*, del successo, del profitto, dell'avanzamento nella carriera..., in base cioè ad un «fare» che non ha niente di evangelico. Il «fare» del vangelo non ha nulla a che vedere col concetto di «efficienza» e di «riuscita», anzi, molto spesso è un «fare» che, dal punto di vista umano, è coronato dall'insuccesso e dallo scacco più paradossale.

Umanamente parlando la vita di Cristo non si concluse col successo, ma con il più umiliante fallimento: la condanna, l'abbandono dei discepoli, la morte infamante sulla croce. Ma è proprio in questo insuccesso che affonda le sue radici il mistero della salvezza e il trionfo della Pasqua.

"Chi mi farà riposare in te? Chi mi concederà che tu venga nel mio cuore, così che io possa dimenticare i miei mali e abbracciare te, unico mio bene? Che cosa sei tu per me? Abbi misericordia, perché possa parlare. Che cosa sono io per te, perché tu mi comandi di amarti, e se non obbedisco ti adiri contro di me e mi minacci grandi sventure? E forse piccola questa stessa sventura, il non amarti?

Oh, dimmi per tua misericordia, Signore mio Dio, che cosa tu sei per me. «Dimmi: Sono io la tua salvezza» (Sal 34, 3). Parla così, e io ascolterò. Ecco, il mio cuore ti ascolta, Signore; rendilo disponibile e dimmi: «Sono io la tua salvezza» (Sal 34, 3). Inseguirò il suono di questa tua parola e ti raggiungerò. Non nascondermi il tuo volto: che io muoia per non morire, per vedere il tuo volto. (S. Agostino, *Confessioni*)"

#### **AVVISI**

- 1. Vi si invita a prelevare le vostre ricevute fiscali al retro della chiesa.
- 2. Si programmano i seguenti pellegrinaggi: Fatima (14 maggio), Midland (19 giugno), S. Anna (25-28 luglio), Santi Medici (24-25 settembre). Per ulteriori informazioni chiamate Antonietta (905-737-3210) o Ezia (905-884.3896).

MASS INTENTIONS Mar. 6 - 12 +Antonio & Orazia Pacitto SUN. 9:30 a.m. +Giuseppe defunti Giancola Family +Antonio Glli le anime del purgatorio +Raffaele Spagnuolo MON. 8:00 a.m. Spec. Int. of Daniel TUE. 8:00 a.m. Calcaterra WED. 8:00 a.m. +Therese Vincent 12:00 p.m. +Holy Souls in Purgatory 2:00 p.m. +Holy Souls in Purgatory 7:00 p.m. In honour of St. Joseph +Louis Pomeroy +William John Riordan le anime del purgatorio Spec. Int. of Kristen Chow THURS. 8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. +Adele Molella FRI. +Holy Souls in Purgatory 8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. In reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus +Mary J. Paxton & deceased members of the Ryan Fam. +Louis Pomeroy Special Intention +Deceased Members of the Naughton Family +Mauro Caldarola +Ernesto Vettese Holy Souls in Purgatory SAT. In reparation to the 9:00 a.m. Immaculate Heart of Mary +Louis Pomeroy +William John Riordan Deceased Members of the Paxton & Ryan Family

## PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK

Holy Souls in Purgatory

Winifred Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, David Canivet, Esmy, Peter Christoff, Manuela Clement, James Davidson, Caterina & Dominic De Grano, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Godfrey Gosein, Gertiudes Henriques, Theresa Hogan, Margaret

Kelly, Olivera Lambeta, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Margaret McConnell, Paul Melotte, Anthony Morse, Susan, Myola Nunes, Michael & Michelle Osborne, Domenico Pileggi, Todd Santaguida, Sarah, Vincenzo Sorbara, Linda

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