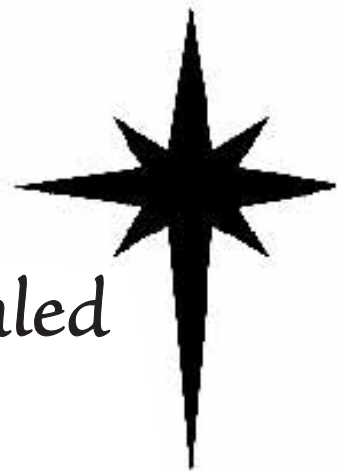
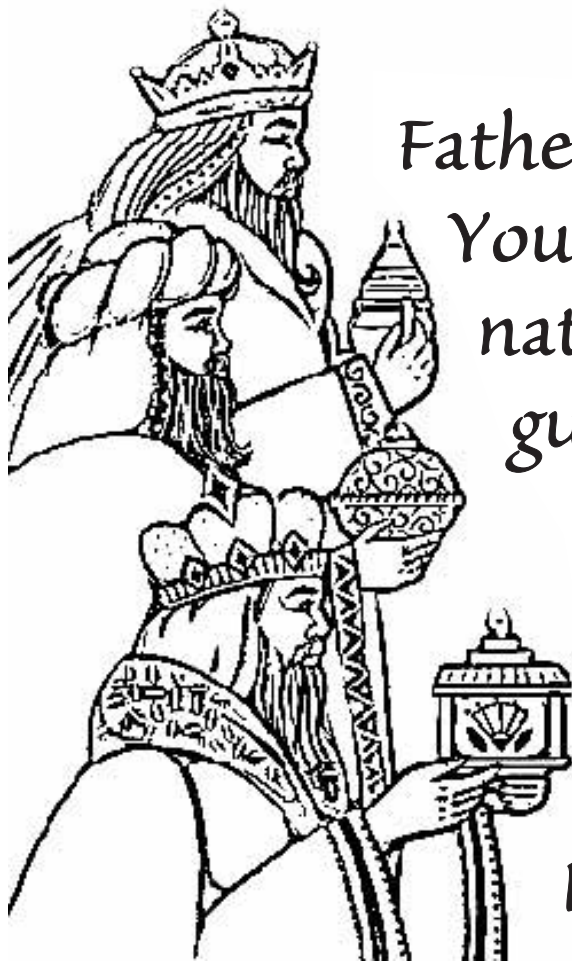


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Pastor: Rev. Charles T. Forget

Parish Secretary: Maureen Holly 905-655-3286 x 101



Father, You revealed
Your Son to the
nations by the
guidance of a star.

Lead us to Your
Glory in Heaven
by the
Light of Faith.



THE POWER OF PRAYER

On Christmas Eve in our parish, following the 5 pm. Mass, a parishioner, Jeff McGrath, along with his family, stopped to exchange Christmas greetings with me and added that he had had an incredible experience where he knew God was present and at work. I've talked to Jeff on many occasions before but I could tell that what he wanted to share with me, while his family waited, was something that had greatly impacted him. Jeff is a Paramedic and after he shared a story with me about God's presence and power in an all-too-familiar situation in his line of work, I asked him if he would consider writing down his account and share it with us in our parish bulletin.

I would call this a 'Glory Story' which is right and fitting before our God because He is the One who has moved in power and let us know through this experience that He is, as Christmas has reminded us, "with us". We can experience the most incredible things when we get in the habit of asking for His help and guidance, when we step out in faith and simply ask Him to assist us in the everyday situations as well as the major crises.

I have been a Paramedic for a little under 12 years now, so suffice it to say, very little surprises me in the way of "jaw-dropping" situations. Recently, I was called to a car accident where a Ford F150 Truck, T-Boned a vehicle on its passenger side door – where a 12 year old boy was sitting. From the second we pulled up in the ambulance and I had my first look at the young boy, I knew he was in a very bad way. Upon my initial assessment, I realized he had suffered a very significant head injury – and we needed to get him to a trauma centre, and fast! By the time the doors were cut away, allowing us to extricate the boy from the vehicle, things were getting worse and worse. He was unconscious for the first 5 minutes following the accident. When he awoke, he was screaming randomly, could not answer questions or follow simple instructions. When I opened his eyes, to assess his pupils, both were pointing up and to the left with no response to light. Once we had him in our ambulance, I reassessed him again, finding the patient was having a more difficult time staying awake, and he was demonstrating what is referred to as "posturing" – this is when the arms are bent in towards the body and the wrists and fingers are bent and held toward the chest. It is a sign of severe brain damage. Shortly after, this young boy began vomiting continuously.

While all of this was happening – his father was at the head of the stretcher bent down, apologizing to his son, and telling him how much he loves him. It was at this time, that I grabbed the boy's hands and said the Lord's Prayer for him. This is nothing new for me – I often say prayers for my patients, but what happened in the minutes after praying was incredible. Within 15 minutes, the screaming stopped, the vomiting ceased, he would open his eyes when I asked him to, and for the first time in approximately 10 – 12 requests, he finally gave me a full-on squeeze of my hands with both of his hands. This sent chills

down my back. When I asked him a question he "should" have known, and he didn't answer me, I gave him what is called a "pain stimulus" (a rub of the sternum) and for the first time, he pushed my hand away and slowly yelled at me "don't do that again." The improvement he showed in this short time was like nothing I have ever seen before. All the previous signs had led me to think he wasn't going to make it.

We rushed him into the Emergency Room at the Hospital for Sick Children – and about an hour later, I went in to see what the results of the CT Scan was – and they told me the scan came back CLEAR! They said worst case scenario, he will have a nice concussion.

I am not sure if the magnitude of the situation was realized by the young boy's parents – but I know what I saw that day, and the fact that the "turn-around" occurred AFTER my prayer, tells me that what took place was nothing short of a miracle.

I thank Jeff for the privilege of hearing this story which gives due glory to God. Jeff witnessed a great blessing in a young boy's life of which he and his family may not even have been aware – the gift of life itself. We humans are a strange lot. In some ways we'd prefer to be 'creeped out' by some strange phenomena that we can't fully understand or explain over the wondrous things God does in people's lives every day. There is a tendency for people who have touched the miraculous to do one of two things; desire to become a celebrity over what has taken place or to say nothing about it to anyone because it is too personal and perhaps no one would believe them.

As a priest I have seen many beautiful healings and the clear evidence of God's presence and movement in our lives when we but ask for His help. Yet there is no 'magic formula' of prayer that will move God to act or not to act. What Jeff prayed in saying the Lord's Prayer silently and to himself in that ambulance for the sake of this seemingly dire situation over this young boy contained the truths that Jesus wanted us to be aware of when we used the gift of being able to call God, His Father, "*Our Father*". The Lord's Prayer acknowledges the Father of us all who is God, whose name is holy and whose Kingdom will come in its fulfillment according to His plan (not ours). Then we pray for God's will to be done which is the more challenging part of this prayer to our own sense of our own plans. The Kingdom of God will come and God's will shall be done anyway, so why should we bother praying for it? It is because God wants us to participate in it. He wants us to be a part of the Kingdom of God we now walk in and experience the fullness of the Kingdom that is yet to come in eternal life. That prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray was meant to set their sights upon the highest things and to teach them to align their own will with the perfect yet mysterious and unfolding will of God.

To pray the *Our Father* is to acknowledge God as God and to invite the presence and power of God to our lives and any and every life situation we find ourselves in. Our parishioner Jeff did that very thing and witnessed God's power in a wonderful healing and restoration of a young accident victim.

And finally, we do what this bulletin article strives to do: to thank Him for His wonderful work among us. (*Fr. Charles*)

JANUARY 4, 2015

THANK YOU!

On behalf of all our parishioners I would like to acknowledge the tremendous help of those who over the past few weeks hauled out our Christmas decorations, set up and 'fluffed' the trees and assisted in setting up the church for Christmas. The church looked truly festive in celebration of the Incarnation.

Thanks to:

Brian Nicholas; Francesco & Jennifer Bianco; Genalin, Jed and Julie De Leon; Ferma, Stephanie and Adam Collings; Magda, Matthew and Kuba Nowak, Maria, Mark and Daniel Kchik; Fr. Charles, Jigs and Red Forget; Juanita Peters; Sean Foley; Clare, Jeremy and Benjamin Carruthers; John Floris; Paul & Louise MacKinnon; Anabela and Behlen Wardell. Tom and Joan Barker, our parish caretakers, got out the decorations from storage and some members of the **Knights of Columbus** of our parish set up and took down the extra chairs for the church and Allen and Brigid Frank supplied the straw for the baby Jesus.

Each year the church sanctuary and manger scene looks great and this year was no exception. Thank you to everyone's efforts and care for their parish. Thank you also to all those who will assist in packing it all up again once the Christmas season is over.

Thank you to our three music ministries under the leadership of Dennis Wardle, May and Johann Manzano and Bill Targett as well as our ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors who proclaimed Christ among us through service and proclamation. (Fr. Charles)

MASS INTENTIONS – WEEK OF Jan 6- 11, 2015

Masses and Holy Hour Cancelled from January 6 – January 9, 2105 as Fr. Charles is on a week's vacation.

Sat. Jan 10 – 5:00 pm – Matthew Northover+ req. Nellie vanden Boom

Sun. Jan 11 - 9:00 am – Mary Anne Feeney+ req. The Waugh Family

11:00 am – Bogda Zubrzycki+ req. The Nowak Family

Epiphany – January 4, 2015

The Son of God was first manifested to the world through the visit of the magi. Today, God's Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His Church. If you think that God is calling you to a Church vocation, call **Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto 416-968-0997 email vocations@archtoronto.org**

St. Leo the Great – 11:00 A.M. Choir Rehearsals

Please Note: Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the church: January 8 & 15. There will be **NO** rehearsals on January 22, 29 and February 5. Rehearsals will resume on February 12.

Durham Region Catholic Women's League

Parish Executive Training – Saturday January 10, 2015

9:00 am – 3:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Continental Breakfast courtesy of Durham Region CWL. Bring your own bag lunch, soup will be provided. To register contact Jeananne - 905-579-6118 or Donna 905-620-0724.

CONFIRMATION ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION

RITE OF ENROLLMENT and REGISTRATION (at weekend Masses of January 17 & 18, 2015 – choose to attend one)

At all the weekend Masses of Saturday Jan. 17 at the 5:00 pm Mass, and Sunday January 18 at the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses, we will hold the Rite of Enrollment during the Mass with formal registration following in the parish hall. (Choose to attend one of the three available Masses, **(with your sponsor if possible)**).

For Registration you will need to bring:

A photocopy of your child's baptismal certificate

Registration Fee - A cheque in the amount of \$50 payable to St. Leo the Great Parish

Complete the Registration Form after mass and submit it before leaving.

Mary, the Holy Mother of God- listening and reading list

Here are some excellent resources you can use to further develop your relationship with Mary, The Mother of God.

Lighthouse Catholic Media CD/MP3

Discovering the Biblical Significance of Mary – Dr. Scott Hahn

The Virgin Mary Revealed Through Scripture – Dr. Scott Hahn

Meet Your Mother: An Introduction to Mary – Dr. Mark Miravalle

Mary Handmaid of the Lord – Blessed Mother Teresa

Get To Know The Mother of God – Chris Padgett (For teenage audience)

Reading List

33 Days to Morning Glory – Fr. Michael Gaitley

Hail Holy Queen – Dr. Scott Hahn

Walking With Mary – Dr. Edward Sri

The World's First Love: Mary Mother of God – Fulton Sheen

Maria: Pope Benedict XVI on The Mother of God – Pope Benedict XVI

Lifeteen.com/author/markhart/ (Various articles on Mary for teenage audience)




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