

Mackenzie and Joelle are the best of friends while having fun together at Silent Voice summer camp.



**Silent Voice**, a ShareLife-supported agency in Toronto, served over 600 deaf adults, youth, children, and their families in a sign language environment last year.



**Please give generously.**

**2014 Parish Campaign**  
Next Sunday, March 30  
is ShareLife Sunday

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## LENTEN DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Wednesday – Holy Hour 6 -7 pm.  
followed by Mass at 7 pm.

Every Friday – Stations of the Cross - 6:30 pm.  
followed by Mass at 7 pm.  
Parish Mission/Retreat – 4 Days  
from Sunday April 6 – Wednesday April 9  
at 7 pm. each evening with Fr. Paul Nicholson

Parish Lenten Reconciliation  
Thursday April 10 beginning at 7 pm.  
with several priests available for confession

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on  
Sunday April 13

### LETTER TO PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN

*I have a friend from days gone by when he lived in Canada, Patrick Coffin. We met when I was studying for the priesthood over 20 years ago as he was taking some of the same Theology classes I was enrolled in. Now Patrick is married, has a daughter and is living in California. He is a Catholic author, speaker and hosts a Catholic radio show as well as having appeared on EWTN and other talk shows. I recently was perusing his website and came across this poignant and beautifully written article about the late screen actor, Philip Seymour Hoffman. Patrick wrote it as if he was writing to a friend, Philip Hoffman, although he was already dead. It speaks so powerfully of the emptiness often found in those who are believed to have everything.*

“Dear Phil: Forgive me for addressing a stranger as a friend. The cliché holds true: I feel like I know you. For 11 years now you’ve been the guy who was born to play blogger Mark Shea in a TV movie-of-the-week



biopic. You’re one of those Completely Inhabiting the Character kind of actors. And what a range of characters you inhabited. You never got the girl at the end, but very few actors can bring to life the sheer variety of different characters you did: a dumpy baseball manager (*Moneyball*), a mincing novelist (*Capote*), an accused priest (*Doubt*), a megalomaniac cult leader (*The Master*), a shy caregiver (*Magnolia*). I could go on.

You won the coveted Best Actor Oscar award. You were nominated three times for Best Supporting Actor. How did you get to work with the best of the best (start the list with David Mamet, Sidney Lumet, the Coen brothers, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Ralph Fiennes)? Easy. Because that’s what you are. You were unusually good at your day job.

I thought that the news of your death would have flowed past my eyeballs and gotten lost this week along with the other news items. How quickly I go on with life after reading about ships that sink, kids with cancer, and genocide by machete. I got that pang of sadness that attends such news as the needless death of celebrity, and moved on. But the pang kept coming back.

So I wanted to write you an open letter on the day of your funeral.

Some will wonder what the point is of writing to a dead guy. But I’m a Catholic. I believe in the communion of saints. And so I strongly suspect you’ll somehow get my drift from beyond this vale of tears.

First of all, since your name is Philip Seymour Hoffman, I presumed you were Jewish. But the obituaries say your mom was Catholic, your dad Protestant. (A lot of stories about your mother; zip about your father.) I’m not a betting man, but chances are good that someone who loved you had you baptized. Piecing your life together from interviews you gave and the obituaries that continue to roll out, the stand-out event for me was the divorce of your parents when you were nine.

Nine is an awfully tender age. A nine-year-old boy is supposed to be perfecting his slap shot in winter, and his campfire-building chops in summer: living the life boisterous and rowdy, and viscerally eager to feel the affirming clasp of his dad. The social science data on the psychic wounds from divorce has a 60-year plus track record now. The news is not good. The trauma inflicted on small children by divorce must be faced and accommodated by them somehow, they say. If not, these heirs of sorrow must find a sense of equilibrium through escape and pain management.

It’s no longer a secret that heroine was your escapist pain management of choice. Your long-suffering girlfriend Mimi, according to “insiders,” had had enough of witnessing your self-destructive downward spiral in front of the kids and asked you to leave last fall. You can’t blame her. I’m certain she prayed you’d hit that coveted rock bottom and would bounce upward.

All moot.

Your spirit was slowly strangled by the hellish tentacles (helped along by you, let’s be frank) otherwise known as shooting horse directly into your veins. The news hounds are now eager to announce that the usual suspects in overdose cases—your supplier—have been rounded up. As if they’re the real culprits.

I watched your last TV interview a few short weeks ago, after a long spell of sobriety, you looked exhausted and adrift. That mischievous sparkle in your eye was long gone. You even confessed to a stranger recently that you’re a heroin addict. Talk about signs of someone in total free fall. St. Augustine famously said *amor pondus meum* (love is my weight), meaning that what one loves deeply will determines deeply one’s choices. We know what your deepest false love was, and where it got you: on The List. I don’t mean just dead celebrities who die early through accident or illness. Listers are those who seem to throw it all away on purpose—quickly by gun or by noose, or slowly by heroin or its lesser imitators. A small sample of The List would include, in no particular order: Chris Farley, Elvis Presley, John Belushi, Marilyn Monroe, Heath Ledger, Kurt Cobain, Whitney

## MARCH 23, 2014

Houston, Sid Vicious, Corey Haim, Janis Joplin, Cory Monteith, Michael Jackson, Jimi Hendrix, Freddie Prinze, Dee Dee Ramone, River Phoenix, Jim Morrison, Chet Baker, Judy Garland, Amy Winehouse *et al.*

Notice any commonality? Most are eternally cemented in our minds as legends. They're also the object of nausea inducing Hollywood hypocrisy. The same tinsel-draped town that normalizes—nay, lionizes—drug use as a matter of “private entertainment” then turns around and is shocked, *shocked*, at your lonely deaths.

The signs were as obvious as bright neon that you were sliding down a Vaseline-slicked slope. You practically shouted it out to anyone who would listen. Only two years ago you told *The Guardian* you “had no interest in drinking in moderation. And you still don't. Just because all that time's passed doesn't mean maybe it was just a phase. That's, you know, who I am.”

Wrong, Phil. That's not who you are, it's merely how you behaved. By Christ's saving work on the cross, you, are a son of God. The sting of your heroin needle is nothing compared to the agony of his nails, freely accepted on your behalf and mine.

One of the fall outs of that little thing called Original Sin is that human beings, fragile mortals all, are simply not equipped to handle the level of fame that comes with rising as a super celebrity despite outwardly sunny appearances. Looking at you, Phil, we saw worldly acclaim, an out-sized pile of cash, adoring children, and the highest plaudits of your peers and critics. None of it, as you knew all along, is enough. Only the unseen Spirit of God is enough.

I am joining in prayer those you left behind—especially Mimi, the sorrowing three kids who will pay the price of your addiction in tears for years to come, and your parents—as they get through your funeral Mass today in the same cold city where you died.

*Requiescat in pace.* May God speed your plow Home.”

### PARISH WEEKLY COLLECTION UPDATE:

#### LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

- Envelopes, Loose bills and change - \$3957
- Pre-Authorized Giving (PAP) - \$1940 (February)

➔ TOTAL COLLECTION LAST WEEK: \$5897

### MASS INTENTIONS

Tues., Mar. 25 – 8:30 am – For the intentions of John Vander Wyst  
Req. by Madelaine Vonk

Wed., Mar. 26 – 7:00 pm – Desmond O'Dwyer+ Req. by Dula O'Dwyer

Thurs., Mar. 27 – 8:30 am – Maria Gutherc+ Req. by Valerie Hotner

Fri., Mar. 28 – 6:30 pm – Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm – For the intentions of Rev. Mr. John Perdue

Sat., Mar. 29 – 5:00 pm – Ignac Korosec+ Req. by the Utrosa Family

Sun., Mar. 30 – 9:00 am – Anna Svetek+ Req. by Milan Svetek

Sun., Mar. 30 – 11:00 am – Nina Podesta+ Req. by Mary Betteridge

**The St. Vincent de Paul Society** (Brooklin Conference) will have their annual “Bundle Sunday” on Saturday, April 27 (4 pm to 6 pm) and Sunday, April 28 (8:30 am to 1 pm). There will be a truck parked in the Parish parking lot to receive your donations of clothing, shoes, and linens (only these items, please) in support of the charitable work of the Society. Please remember to bring your gently-used clothing, shoes and linens. We ask that no bags with

items be left on the sidewalk, please take all items to the truck. We thank all the parishioners for their generosity.

**Cherubs Cupboard will be in the vestibule next Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> with religious items for sale.**

### Third Sunday of Lent - March 23, 2014

#### Working wonders in our community...

Last year Mary Centre received a call to assist Robert, a client, when they learned that his sister Theresa, who lives with him, had collapsed and was rushed to the hospital. Due to a previous connection with Robert and Theresa, the agency was able to respond quickly. Mary Centre's respite facility at St. Bernard's is often fully booked a few months in advance but other families were supportive and changed their plans to accommodate this situation. Robert stayed at Mary Centre for 3 weeks until Theresa was able to return home and take care of him. He continues to come to St. Bernard's at least once a month where he has felt welcome and has made friends. Robert and Theresa take comfort in knowing that Mary Centre was there for them. Theresa shared, “To know Mary Centre is to know people who are kind, considerate and thoughtful; thank you for all you've have done for my brother and me.” Last year, over 1,800 people with special needs received assistance from ShareLife-supported agencies.

**Next Sunday is ShareLife Sunday – March 30, 2014**

**Please give generously. You can work wonders!**

### CATECHIST CORNER

**Last Sunday I noticed for the first time that there is something written on the cloth inside the Tabernacle. It was in a different language. What does it mean?**

The writing that you saw is Latin, and it is taken from St. Thomas' Eucharistic hymn to God (13<sup>th</sup> century) with slight alterations. *Adoro te latens Deitas (I adore You, o hidden God.)*

Indeed we do love You, Jesus!

**Catholic Chapter House Event** - Join hundreds of Catholics to be renewed and inspired to live your faith to the fullest!

The theme of the event is “*Put on the Armour of God – Understanding & Defending the Faith Event*”. The topics of the day: Ephesians 6, learning & defending our faith, and how we can live out our faith in today's culture.

The event features 3 talks by Steubenville & Lighthouse Catholic Media speaker, **Steve Ray**. And 1 talk given by Allan Smith, of the Fulton Sheen Mission Society.

**Location:** 50 Gervais Drive, Toronto (Don Mills & Eglinton),

**Date:** Saturday April 12, 2014.

All info and to order tickets :

<http://www.catholicchapterhouse.com/armourofgod>,

[info@catholicchapterhouse.com](mailto:info@catholicchapterhouse.com) or 1-888-522-2070. Student &

Group rates available.


**St. Leo Knights of Columbus Breakfast** – April 6<sup>th</sup> following the 9 am and 11 am masses. Everyone is invited to enjoy another full breakfast of eggs, sausages, baked beans, pancakes, biscuits, coffee and juice in the Church hall. Prices are: Adults \$5.00, Children (ages 4-12) \$3:00, Children (under 4) are free.




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