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PARISH LENTEN CONFESSIONS

This week in Lent is the Week of Reconciliation throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto where all parishes are asked to offer their parishioners opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession).

Our parishioners will have the opportunity to make their Lenten confessions this TUESDAY MARCH 8. If you are not able to come to the times offered here, there are other parishes, dates and times to accommodate your schedule.

ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH

DAY OF CONFESSION

TUESDAY MARCH 8

9 am. – 12 noon

&

6 pm. – 8 pm.

and every Saturday from 4 – 4:30 pm.

Other area Parishes' Day of Confession Times

St. John the Evangelist Parish, Whitby

903 Giffard Street

Sunday March 6

at 7 pm. and

Tuesday March 8:

9:30 – 12 noon, 1 pm. – 4 pm. and 6 pm. – 8:00 pm.

Holy Family Parish, Whitby

91 Ribblesdale Drive

Wednesday March 9

3 – 5 pm. and 8 – 9 pm.

St. Mary of the People Parish, Oshawa

570 Marion Avenue

Friday March 11

10 – 11:30 am., 4 – 5:30 pm., 7 – 8 pm.

St. Bernadette Parish, Ajax

21 Bayly Street East

call the parish office at 905 683-1533 for times.

St. Gertrude Parish, Oshawa

690 King Street East

Wednesday March 9

9 am. - 11 am.; 3 pm. - 5 pm.; 6 pm. - 8 pm.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Oshawa

1100 Mary Street North

Thursday March 10

10 am. - 12 noon; 1 pm. - 5 pm.; 6 pm. - 8:30 pm.

TOTUS TUUS IS RETURNING TO ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH! **SAVE THE DATES!**

For the sixth year in a row our parish has been privileged to host the annual Totus Tuus week-long youth camp. Totus Tuus is a unique and fun-filled program featuring a team of 4 college-age students who will engage our youth with a week-long program focusing on the Catholic faith. The week is packed with skits, songs, Daily Mass and inspiring teaching.

These are the dates to save:

Sunday July 17– Thursday July 21 will be the **Evening program** for students entering grade 7 – grade 12, and

Monday July 18 – Friday July 22 will be the **Day Program** for students entering grades 1 – 6.

ENCOUNTER WITH A SAINT

Saint Andre Bessette of Montreal

I was recently thinking of a man I knew well several years ago – Vianney D'Aoust who was healed by God through the intercession of a Canadian-born man who would later become a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church. Here's the story again.

In April of 2007 a parishioner of St. John Vianney Parish in Barrie Ontario died. He was in his 80's. I think of him now and then, partly because of the kind of man he was but also because of the kind of man he once had an encounter with that saved his life. The parishioner I knew was Vianney D'Aoust and he told me the story about how he once sat on the knee of a saint, though when Vianney shared the story with me the saint he referred to was "in the making". Vianney was raised with his parents, brothers and sisters outside of Montreal and at the age of six he became very sick. In the first part of the last century people who got sick often died due to complications and a general lack of cures for various diseases and ailments of the body. Infant mortality was relatively high. Vianney remembered that his mother tried all kinds of home remedies and trips to the doctors to find help for her 6-year-old Vianney. The doctor diagnosed that Vianney had double pneumonia which was clearly visible on the x-rays that were taken. His mother tried poultices and hot towels and various rudimentary things to try and pull the sickness out of his little chest, but his health only worsened. Finally on a hot August day his mother dressed him up, as sick and weak as he was, he recalled, and told him that she was taking him to see "the little saint". Vianney told me that he remembered so vividly the long line up in the hot summer sun of people waiting to see a man they knew as Brother Andre. He didn't know what this was all about or why they were there except that it had something to do with his sickness. Brother Andre had been sitting in a small wooden building on a hard wooden chair as he, one by one, received each pilgrim who had come to see him and share with him their ills and their need for various favours from God or for healing. Finally, in the stifling heat, it was Vianney's turn to go into the chapel and see Brother Andre. Speaking in French, Brother Andre invited Vianney to sit on his knee and without even

speaking to his mother, he asked Vianney, "Do you like to swim?" Vianney answered positively with a nod. "Well", Brother Andre stated, "this year I don't want you to swim but you may go into the water only as far as the top of your ankles, and then next year you may swim all you want." He gave him a blessing and with that Vianney returned to his mother and they made the trek home again. Vianney told his mother what the Brother had told him to do and wondered why this had strangely made his mother cry with a smile on her face. That summer he ventured into the cool waters only as the Brother had instructed him under the watchful eye of his mother. The double pneumonia left him and the following summer he was as he had been before the sickness, a healthy young boy full of life and play. As he grew in age he left the memory of being so sick behind, though he never forgot the man he encountered that day. During the Second World War, Vianney wanted to join the Air Force with some of his friends from their town. He wanted to help in the war effort and to experience the excitement of flying in a plane. When he went to enlist he was barraged with a series of questions, one of them being, "Have you ever had pneumonia?" When he answered, "Yes, Double Pneumonia", they stamped his papers with X-RAY. He was sent to have x-rays taken and told that they would call him with the results. When the results were in, a doctor asked him, "Who told you that you had Double Pneumonia?" He told them about his family doctors' diagnosis and the x-rays that had been taken when he was six years old. "Well", responded the doctor, "our x-rays show that your lungs are as clear and healthy as a young boy's." And with that, Vianney joined the Air Force, flew fighter planes, had many close calls on several missions and survived to tell the tales. When I met Vianney as a parishioner he walked with a cane but was otherwise in good health. I asked him if he would share his story with the young people from our parish who were preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and he said he would. When he spoke to the young people gathered in the parish hall he couldn't tell the part about his brief meeting with Brother Andre without weeping, though they were tears of joy. He knew that something simple yet extraordinary had happened in that meeting with a little man he didn't know and his simple kind words and blessing. For the rest of his life he would remember that God had reached down and touched him, healed him and restored him through the faith and prayer of a 5-foot man who loved Jesus and St. Joseph. Vianney D'Aoust died in April of 2007, a decorated Canadian war veteran. The man who touched Vianney's life that day long ago would go on to become Canada's first male Saint, whom we now call St. Andre Bessette, canonized a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church in Rome in 2010 along with five others by Pope Benedict XVI. In his homily that day, Pope Benedict highlighted the straightforward faith of the man who is now known as Saint Andre Bessette. "He showed boundless charity and tried to relieve the suffering of those who came to confide in him," the pontiff said. "He had very little education, yet he understood the essence of faith." The pope also quoted Brother Andre, who used to tell pilgrims who sought him out that they shouldn't ask for an end to their suffering, but instead the grace to bear their pain. (Fr. Charles)

Mass Intentions – March 8 –13, 2016

Tues. Mar. 8- 8:30am – All Saints – M. Larocque
 Wed. Mar. 9- 7 pm- Margaret Ann Bunker+ J. Bunker
 Thurs. Mar.10 - 8:30 am – Alberto & Antonietta Colavechia+ –
 The Corvinelli's
 Fri. Mar. 11 - 5:30 pm – Poverty Meal – Hall
 6:30 pm – Stations of the Cross
 7 pm – Mass- Filomena & Carmela Colavechia+ Corvinelli's
 Sat. Mar. 12- 5pm – Kenneth McDonald+ The Blank Family
 Sun. Mar.13-9:00am–Grech Family Members+ req. J. Boland
 11:00 am – Jozef & Karolina Gutherc+ req. J. Hotner

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Tuesday March 22 – No Mass (Fr. Charles at
 Chrism Mass, Toronto)**
Wednesday March 23 – 8:30 am Mass only
THE GREAT THREE DAYS – THE TRIDUUM
Holy Thursday – 7:00 pm Mass
Good Friday – 3 pm Service, 7 pm Stations
Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil – 8pm

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Like the forgiving father of Luke's Gospel, God welcomes us home in spite of our sinfulness, and calls us to a life of holiness. Where are you at home? If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto, 416-968-0997.

ShareLife Sunday March 13/16

Working wonders for people locally and around the world... Pope Francis reminds us that this is the Year of Mercy.

How do we extend the hands of Christ to others in our daily lives? For some, it may be caring for an elderly relative, volunteering at a soup kitchen, or helping to collect food or raise funds for charity. In the Archdiocese of Toronto, our annual ShareLife appeal provides resources to over 40 agencies, bringing much needed programs and services to those both here in our communities and around the world. Collectively, through our support, we share in their success in making a positive difference in the lives of those they serve. Next Sunday is the first ShareLife collection. Please give generously. You can work wonders!

2015 Family of Faith Tax Receipts

The paper receipts are being mailed to those who have requested a receipt in this manner. Parishioners should receive these in the mail over the next few days. For those who requested an e-receipt, we have experienced significant technical issues that have prevented the receipts from being e-mailed. Despite our best efforts, we are unable to resolve these issues at this time, and as such we will send these parishioners a paper tax receipt, which will arrive next week. We are sending an e-mail to parishioners who requested an e-receipt notifying them of this situation. If you have any questions, please call 416-934-3400 x 559 or email apeters@archtoronto.org.




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