



Mass Intentions

Due to the cancellation of all Masses we will begin rescheduling Mass Intentions as soon as the celebration of Mass is permitted.

If you would like a particular date please call or email the parish office and we will accommodate your request.

Thank you for your understanding.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

O Mary,

you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.

Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

✠ "Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him" - Jn 9: 37
 The use of our senses to be in communion with God is an intriguing aspect of our being. In this Gospel passage, Jesus heals a man who has been blind since birth. Jesus heals him and the man regains function of his eyes. The once blind man now realized that He was a prophet but did not recognize the healer as Jesus until it was revealed to him. The man never saw Jesus until this encounter towards the end of the passage for Jesus had ordered him to wash off the mud and saliva mixture at the pool of Siloam. The healed man saw and interacted with various others, including his parents before he laid eyes on Jesus, and that too occurred when Jesus found him. St. Augustine said it well when he wrote, "Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth to anoint the man born blind. We are of Adam's stock, blind from our birth; we need him to give us light." In his expounding of John's writings, Augustine quotes St. Paul, which I find to be a perfect conclusion to this Gospel passage; "Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face." (1 Cor. 13:12) This is exactly our goal as Christians - to be present on this earth with the hopeful anticipation of seeing God for who He is. I don't think that I am ready to comprehend the full majesty of the Heavenly Father but I take hope in the understanding that I am being prepared daily to behold that beatific vision, and this is where the Church comes to play. As members of the body of Christ, we are meant to support each other in our pursuit of eternal life. We are called to reflect the light that is Christ, and that begins with an internal revelation; what more perfect time than the Lenten season to allow ourselves to be enveloped in Christ, the light of the world.

Ann Sairah Mathew

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Each one of you has to be God's microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet. The church will always exist as long as there is someone who has been baptized... Where is your baptism? You are baptized in your professions, in the fields of workers, in the market. Wherever there is someone who has been baptized, that is where the church is. There is a prophet there. Let us not hide the talent that God gave us on the day of our baptism and let us truly live the beauty and responsibility of being a prophetic people.



St. Oscar Romero (1917-1980), Archbishop and Martyr, Feast Day, March 24

The life and death of the Archbishop of San Salvador will be forever connected to the land and turbulent times in which he lived. Mounting tensions across Central and South America between colonial "Right Wing" wealthy rulers and the indigenous and impoverished class were reaching boiling point. The Church found herself in a very difficult position. The period was marked by trying to define and implement what was referred to as "liberation theology." From Rome's perspective, a fine line needed to be articulated and maintained in showing a preferential option and solidarity for the poor and not yielding to the temptation of a Marxist ideology that sought to stir class-conflict through violent means. Guerilla warfare (from the Spanish word for war, "Guerra") was seen as a dangerous betrayal of Jesus' non-hostile confrontation with evil.

History records Archbishop Romero as courageously walking that fine line. While not wanting to agitate and stir aggression to "Conservative" government and military rule, he, at the same time, spoke out vociferously and boldly against cruelty and crimes acted out upon the people. Though threatened numerous times, he fulfilled his vow that he would offer his blood for the renewal of the country and people he loved. He was killed, while celebrating mass, by an assassin's bullet.

Fr. Robert

March 17, 2020

My dear faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto,



I wish to provide you with a further update on our response as a Christian community to the COVID-19 situation which is evolving rapidly. Today, the Premier of Ontario has declared a state of emergency. Once again in the history of our archdiocese we are in the midst of an epidemic. I am deeply grateful for the priests, deacons and lay pastoral workers of the archdiocese who have acted in this emergency with such loving pastoral care.

We are called to ensure that this continues even more in the time ahead. For example, I encourage all pastors to organize the members of their parish to assist those who are isolated and vulnerable, especially the elderly, while always following the directions of the health authorities.

For the duration of this health emergency, I decree that the following be implemented in all parishes, missions and chaplaincies throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto:

Mass – In view of the requirements of the Government of Ontario, during this medical emergency, beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020, I instruct that all public Masses be cancelled, both during the week and on the weekend. Churches will be available for individual private prayer. The priests of the archdiocese will celebrate Mass every day privately for the intentions of the people.

The faithful will be able to watch, [via livestream](#), a Mass which will be celebrated every day at 7:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, which will be followed by the Angelus and the Rosary. I will personally celebrate this Mass as much as is possible.

This Mass, Rosary and Angelus will also be available on the [Archdiocese of Toronto's YouTube channel](#) for those who cannot join at 7:30 a.m. These Masses and prayers will be offered for the intentions of everyone as we go through these trying times. In addition, Mass will be broadcast daily on [Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation](#), [VisionTV \(Daily TV Mass\)](#) and [EWTN](#).

So many of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are deprived of the opportunity to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, for many reasons. Due to this health emergency we also will now experience their suffering. Perhaps this sacrifice will help us to cherish more profoundly the great gift of the Holy Eucharist. There is no substitute for personally participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is the source and summit of our life in Christ, and we pray for the time when this may be universally available once more.

It is important to follow carefully the provisions of the health authorities, but it also essential that our spiritual life be enhanced and strengthened all the more during this crisis. At this time, when we are reminded of the brevity of life and of our own mortality, we are called to go deeper to our spiritual foundations. I encourage all people who remain at home and who are cut off from regular social interaction to engage in prayer – to pray the Rosary, to read the Scriptures and to offer prayers for those who are suffering the most in this crisis. We should also pray for the health care workers and others who are engaged in fighting this pandemic on the frontlines.

Baptism – At this time, communal celebrations of Baptism are not allowed. Individual Baptism is allowed with immediate family and following the regulations established by the health authorities.

RCIA – I dispense the catechumens from the scrutinies. Information will be sent out later on the Triduum and reception into the Church.

First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation will be postponed for the duration of the emergency.

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation are not allowed at this time. All those who wish to receive the sacrament should contact a priest. The sacrament is to be celebrated not in a confessional but rather in another location, where confidentiality may be ensured and where the distance required by the health officials can be maintained.

Marriage – Marriages without Mass may take place with the immediate family members, provided they follow the regulations established by the health authorities. The postponement of the wedding may be requested given these circumstances, but if this is granted there may be a need for revision of the canonical requirements.

Marriage Preparation is very important. At this time, however, marriage preparation classes are cancelled and pastors are to arrange for individual couples to be prepared properly for marriage.

Visits to the Sick and Homebound should continue as much as possible. As previously communicated, visiting clergy and volunteers should take direction from the health care facility. Parishes should also take care to contact the homebound and vulnerable.

Funerals – During this emergency, there will be no vigils or wake services. The Rite of Committal will take place with the immediate family at the cemetery. There will be no funeral Mass at this time, but we encourage the celebration of a funeral Mass at a later date when it is possible.

Parish Meetings and Events are cancelled at this time.

Parish Offices – While parish offices may offer more limited operating hours, they should maintain an active presence in the community and be accessible to the faithful. Parishes are encouraged to follow the direction of the Archdiocese of Toronto's Human Resources department, providing flexibility for staff as appropriate. The Archdiocese of Toronto's Catholic Pastoral Centre will also follow this practice, ensuring that offices remain accessible. We will review our emergency provisions regularly in accord with the requirements of the public health officials and we will provide updates at: www.archtoronto.org/covid19.

While it is a painful moment in the life of the Church to take these extreme measures, we pray that they will aid in combating the pandemic that has affected so many in our own community and around the world.

Once again, we pray for those suffering and for those who are caring for the sick. We are facing many trials during our Lenten journey this year. We take these to prayer, and look for opportunities to be the face of Jesus to all those whom we encounter. May God continue to bless you.

In Christ,

Thomas Cardinal Collins Archbishop of Toronto